



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. 8 NO. 4

C.W.V.H.A.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1995

9TH ANNUAL C.W.V.H.A. ENCAMPMENT

MANSFIELD, OHIO

May 5-7, 1995

See page two for details



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dennis Loba

Hello everyone and as always, welcome new members! Well the holidays are over and I want to wish all of you and your families a great upcoming New Year! Now is the time to start thinking about planning to attend our 9th annual National Encampment held in conjunction with the Ohio Civil War Show held at Mansfield, Ohio. We hold our annual dinner/business meeting/program on Saturday evening. I strongly urge if possible for you to attend and join your fellow C.W.V.H.A. members in some unsurpassed fellowship devoted entirely to veteran memorabilia.
More details located on page 2

The G.A.R. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AUGUSTUS GORDON WEISSERT 1892-1893

By Dennis Loba and Dave Klinepeter

Augustus Weissert was born in Canton, Ohio on August 7, 1843. When he was six, his family moved to Wisconsin. Although under age when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in September 1861 as a private in Co. K, 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry commanded by Capt. William P. Lyon.

This regiment was also known as the "Eagle Eighth" because of its well known mascot an eagle "Old Abe". (Refer to page 3 for illustration's of "Old Abe".)

Weissert attended high school in Racine, Wisconsin and after the war received a bachelor
continued on page 3



A. G. WEISSERT.

C.W.V.H.A.

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

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

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

“The VETERAN”
Editor Rance Hulshart

“The Veteran” is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and Nov. and is the official publication of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association. Copyright 1995. All rights reserved.

gratuity included (make checks payable to George Finlayson). The choices of meals catered by Damon’s are their specialty barbecue ribs and also chicken cordon bleu. Seating is limited so please reserve your spot as soon as possible. I urge all members to attend as many events as they can, you will be glad you did. In attendance will be some of the most knowledgeable people in the field so if you have an item you need information, etc. about bring it along. Also most any question you may have can be answered by numerous members in attendance. I will be having a display table and I urge all members to stop by and chat. Also stop by our club’s registration table and sign in. Good luck in finding that elusive item you have been searching for.

Friday May 5 3PM-9PM
set up for exhibitors and dealers

Saturday May 6 7AM-9AM
set up for exhibitors and dealers

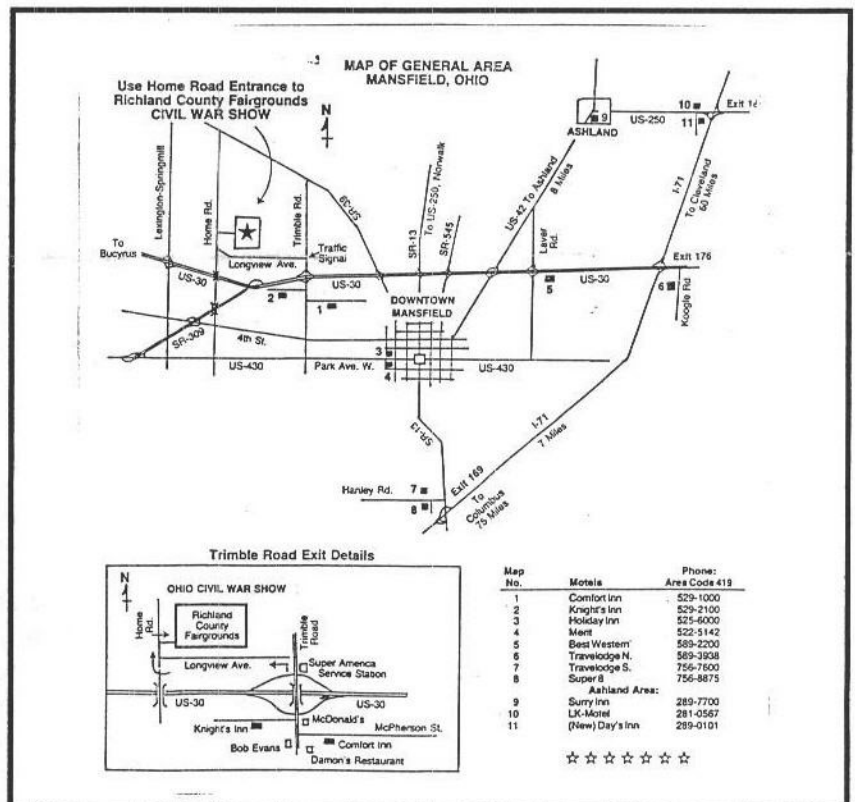
Saturday May 6 9AM-5PM
show open to the public

Saturday May 6 6:30PM
start gathering in the Comfort Inn banquet room, cash bar 6:30- 7:00, dinner at 7:00, business meeting and program to follow. Bring an unusual item along to share with the membership.

Sunday May 7 9Am-3PM
show open to the public

**CWVHA ENCAMPMENT
Schedule of Events
May 5-7, 1995**

Our association will once again be gathering at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, Ohio from May 5 - 7, 1995 for our Ninth Annual Encampment which will be held in conjunction with the Ohio Civil War Show. Illustrated is a map of the area including fairgrounds, area lodging (others within a 20 mile radius if these are booked full) and the location of our dinner/meeting/program being held at the Comfort Inn. Anyone interested in a dinner Saturday evening please prepay and reserve your dinner with George Finlayson, 98 Parkwood Blvd., Mansfield, Ohio 44906. The cost is \$16.50 tax and



Continued from page 1

of laws degree from the University of Michigan (1872). He served almost the entire war until he was seriously wounded on December 16, 1864 at the Battle of Nashville, Tenn. He was discharged from the army at wars end as a Sgt. Major with a Captains Brevet rank for meritorious conduct on the battlefield. Weissert was later appointed to West Point but declined due to his war wound. It was said that he suffered from it for the rest of his life.

He was admitted into the Wisconsin bar in 1869 and practiced law for a half of century. Weissert was well respected by his friends and foes in the courts alike and for many years was a contributor to the press with an abundant amount of literary talent. He was a school commissioner for the city of Milwaukee and a member of the National Military Park Commission representing Wisconsin at the Vicksburg Battlefield.

Weissert was always affiliated with the Republican Party and served as Republican presidential elector at large from Wisconsin. In 1904, he was appointed by the President to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors for the United States Military Academy at West Point. For many years, he served without any compensation as one of the commissioners who distributed funds appropriated for the relief of soldier's families.

Weissert was a God fearing man who it is said had a beautiful blended faith which included his love of country, home and church and it could truly be said of him

that he was a patriot and a Christian. In reviewing his own life he had told a friend; "If I had to do it all over again, I would do the same thing. I would follow the same course. Life is made happy only by friendship and service, and I always felt that service for my fellow men, so far as ability lay, brought me the greatest reward."

Weissert's G.A.R. service began in 1866, and lasted almost sixty years! He served as Wisconsin Department Commander 1888-1889, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief 1889, and Commander-in-Chief 1892-93. For a number of years before his demise he had the distinction of outliving all of his predecessors with the exception of Robert B. Beath and also twenty of his successors holding the office of Commander-in-Chief.

Augustus Weissert died at Milwaukee on April 24, 1923, and was laid to rest at the Forest Home Cemetery there. E.B. Wolcott Post No. 1 G.A.R. located Milwaukee, Wisconsin conducted his funeral services. It was said that Wolcott Post once very strong and numerous had dwindled to "almost a corporal's guard" at the time of Weissert's death. He left behind his wife and one daughter.

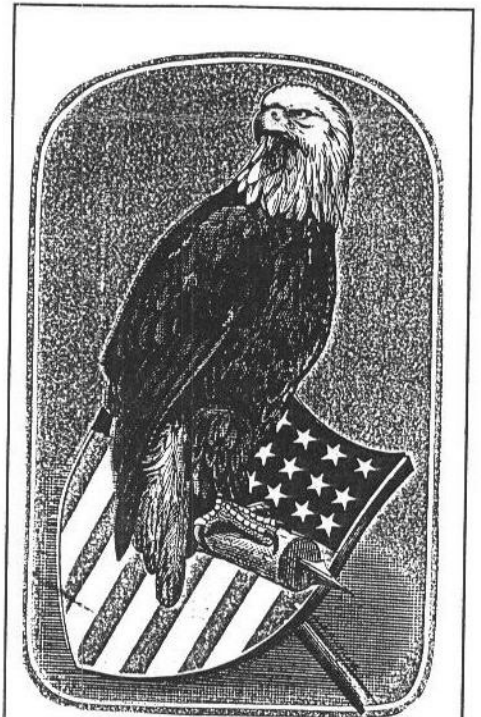
Many things including photo's memorabilia, etc. of Weissert's are part of the Wisconsin G.A.R. Memorial Hall Museum in Madison, Wisconsin. I believe that this

museum has recently been relocated nearby and it was once a member of the C.W.V.H.A.

Sources:

G.A.R. National Encampment Journal 1923

Souvenir booklet, "G.A.R. 23rd National Encampment Milwaukee, Wis.", Swain & Tate Printers, Milwaukee, 1889.



The New Picture of the Eagle.
(From a photograph taken in March, 1865.)

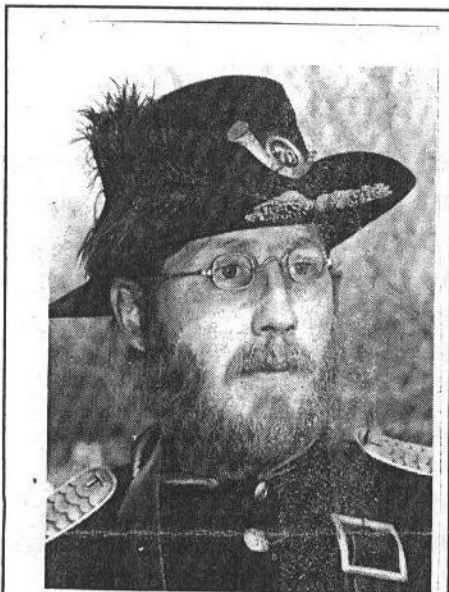
Album Portrait of "Old Abe" the Live Eagle which was carried through a three years' campaign, and many battles, by the 8th Wisconsin Regiment.

These pictures are sold for the benefit of the Great Sanitary Fair in Chicago, which opens May 30, 1865. Price, 15 cts. each. Ten for one dollar. Nine dollars per hundred. Sent free of postage.

We are also preparing, for sale for the benefit of the Fair, a complete and authentic history of the Eagle, which will be ready for delivery a week or two before the Fair opens.

ADDRESS—ALFRED L. SEWELL,
of DUNLOP, SEWELL & SPALDING, Chicago, Ill.

Illustrated above is a copy of the obverse and reverse of a CDV of "Old Abe"



Rance Hulshart of York, Pa., is with the SUV National Color Guard. His ancestor was in the 9th Maryland (U.S.) Infantry. (Vanessa Brown photo)

Secretaries Message

By Rance Hulshart

Greetings! I hope everyone's holiday's went well. I recently purchased a new computer and will be formatting the newsletter myself. This being the first issue that I have done this you will have to excuse any errors or inconsistencies in the formatting. It will take a while until I master the software program.

As most of you well know Dave Maloney has formatted our newsletter for the past five year's and has done an excellent job in this capacity. We all owe him a special thank you for a job well done.

I can still use some researched articles for our newsletter, particularly any concerning Confederate veterans or their memorabilia.

Included above this article is a

photo of your's truly. I know many of you have written me or spoken to me on the phone but have never met me. Now when you cross paths with me at shows, etc. you will know who I am. Get my attention and we can chat about veteran activities and memorabilia. I will have a display table at Mansfield, those of you that can attend please stop by and chat. I look forward to meeting and conversing with many of you. I am going to keep my display a mystery but I feel certain everyone will enjoy it.

#85 Philip Lamb
P.O. Box 15850
New Orleans, LA 70175-5850

#231 Ronald Barker
4151 Gale Road
Granville, Ohio 43023

#156 Peter Willetts
55 Zina St.
Orangeville, Ontario, Canada
L9W1E5

CAMP VANDERVOORT RIBBON

Illustrated below is a nice early red ribbon with silver print and fringe from the 17th G.A.R. National Encampment held at Denver, Colorado in July of 1883. Apparently as with many of the earlier encampments, more so than later ones, they had a camping area at this national and it was named "Camp Vandervoort" in honor of the outgoing National Commander.



NEW MEMBERS

#245 Keith Ashley
34465 Crew Road
Pomeroy, OH 45769
G.A.R. and AUX. Ohio
& W. Va. in particular

#246 Noel Preston
200 Scully Road
Somers, CT 06071
GAR, UCV, UVL, UVU,
CT in particular

#247 Richard Fox
40 Thoroughbred Lane
Cartersville, GA 30120
U.C.V., S.V., Gravesites

ADDRESS CHANGE'S

#101 Miles Huskey
109 Oakland Lane
Sweetwater, TN 37874

A "REAL" DAUGHTER

By Dennis Loba

We met truly by chance....I was sitting there at my table at the 1994 Ohio Civil War Show reading when Show Chairman Don William's came up to me and said, "There's a lady over here that wants to talk to you or a member of your group about veteran stuff." Okay, I thought, she's probably doing some research on a relative and wants to find out something about the Archives or G.A.R. records. I walked up to her and introduced myself and she told me her name "Melvina Keeler," and then quickly added, "...and my father was in the Civil War."

She was dead serious and while at first I thought she was kidding me it soon became apparent that she was the daughter, yes, the daughter of a Union soldier! Well needless to say, Melvina and I got to talking and I found her an extremely nice and interesting lady. We must have conversed for an hour about her and her family before she said that she had to go. I then thought wouldn't it be great to do an article about her for "The Veteran". So I just asked.... would it be possible for her to get a history together about herself and send it to me? She said that she would gladly do it so we said good-bye and I told her I'd wait to hear from her.

Once Mrs. Keeler was gone I thought how fortunate I had been and how I had just experienced probably a once in a lifetime type

of encounter. I had even taken her picture in hope of getting a response from her so "her" article could be written and her picture included. Needless to say, she did write and here is her story....

Melvina Sommers Keeler was born on November 6, 1902 in Mitchell, South Dakota. She was to be the only child of George H. Summers and Arra May McPherson. Born on April 11, 1842, her father had originally grown up in Wisconsin. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the 4th Wisconsin Infantry on July 1, 1861. He was later a member of Company A, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. Born George Henry Ehler, he would be adopted by a family named Miller, who would rename him Henry Denancy Miller. He would later change his name (for unknown reasons) to Summers when he enlisted in the Union army. Summers would be captured and escape as well before his discharge at the end of the war.

He moved to South Dakota in 1873, after learning the machinist trade and running a plant of his own in Beloit, Wis. Once in Mitchell, he built the Mitchell Iron Works and ran it for most of the rest of his life. Summers was a member of the G.A.R. and probably belonged to the Ransom Post No. 6 G.A.R. in Mitchell, South Dakota. He died during the summer of 1927 in Arizona at the age of eighty-five.

Melvina's mother, Arra May had visited Mitchell in the early fall of 1900 and was so pleased

with the surroundings that she chose to remain. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William McPherson of Prospect, Ohio, she had graduated from Prospect University and was twenty years old when she married George Summers after a brief courtship on October 18, 1900. They honeymooned on a trip up the Missouri River "among the Indians and on the stock ranches".

The Summers were married a little over two years when Melvina was born. Several years later, after suffering through some severe marital problems, Mrs. Summers and Melvina moved back East to Marion, Ohio. There, Melvina spent her childhood and graduated from high school. She then attended Denison University on a scholarship as a Latin major. While at Denison, she helped pay her way through school by playing the piano (she started taking lessons at age nine) for voice students, gym classes, and dorm "sings". All of this exposure and her love of the piano led her to a second major in music. Melvina graduated from Denison with honors in 1924, and then joined the faculty of her alma mater as its youngest teacher in theory and piano. Also while at Denison, she became a member of not one, but three fraternities; The Honorary Athletic Society, The Honorary Delta Omicron Music Fraternity, and Phi Beta Kappa. Later, she left Denison to head the Music Department at Keuka College in Keuka Park, New York. After teaching at Keuka several years, she returned to the Denison Conservatory.

In 1931, Melvina married Clyde E. Keeler of Marion, Ohio and Harvard University. They lived in Cambridge and Boston and had one child, Majorie May. While in the Boston area, she was a member of the Cambridge Music Music Club, the Boston Musical Guild, and the Harvard-Radcliff Choral Group of Musicians. In 1936, Clyde and Melvina were divorced and she moved to Cape Cod to teach Latin and Music at the Sea Pines School for Girls located Brewster, Mass. While at the Sea Pines she became head of the children's unit and taught there for nine years. Her next move was to nearby Orleans where she became Principal of the elementary school there.



Above, Melvina Summers Keeler, refer to page 7 for more photo's

Returning to Ohio in 1947, Melvina and her daughter located in Marion and she taught in the Wellington and Oberlin schools. She also helped train Oberlin College students in the Master's Program for public school teaching. After teaching the last two full years of Latin at the Oberlin High School and also doing disability tutoring Melvina retired but continued to substitute teach in Lorain County as well as to do home tutoring for Oberlin Schools and some private tutoring. She retired from substituting in 1992, but still did some tutoring.

She is active at both the Oberlin and Elyria Christian Science Churches, plays piano occasionally for the Rotary Club, and was a member of the Oberlin A.A.U.W. . She was listed in the 1989 International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women

and her education over the years includes work at such schools as the Eastman School of Music at Rochester, N.Y., Ohio, Cleveland State, and Ashland Universities, and the College of William and Mary. She also received a scholarship with Heinrich Gebhard (former teacher of Leonard Berstein) in Boston.

Melvina also has traveled extensively in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Alaska, Hawaii, and in Central and South America. Even today, (now shortly after her ninety-second birthday) she enjoys playing the organ at her church, does a little tutoring, and busies herself taking care of her home and yard! She is really a very special person and one of very few actual "daughters" around today! I want to thank her tremendously for sharing her story with the C.W.V.H.A.!!

FOR SALE

A catalog of items for sale is available to C.W.V.H.A., cost two 32 cent stamps by writing. It mostly contains veteran items and C.W. CDV's. Write Michael Albanese, 1661 Kendall Road, Kendall, NY 14476

C.W.V.H.A. MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Club membership badges are still available from Dr. Siglag. They are made of brass and enamel. The basic design of the badge is illustrated on the top left corner of page one. Cost is \$10 postage paid. Be sure to make your check out to Howard and NOT C.W.V.H.A. Write Howard Siglag, MD, 183 Hazelwood Drive, Westbury, NY 11590



Left George Henry Summers, taken around 1916-1917, right George H. Summers, Melvina Summers, Arra May Summers taken in Marion, Ohio about 1906

1886-THE LAST G.A.R. MEMBERSHIP BADGE

By Howard Siglag, M.D.

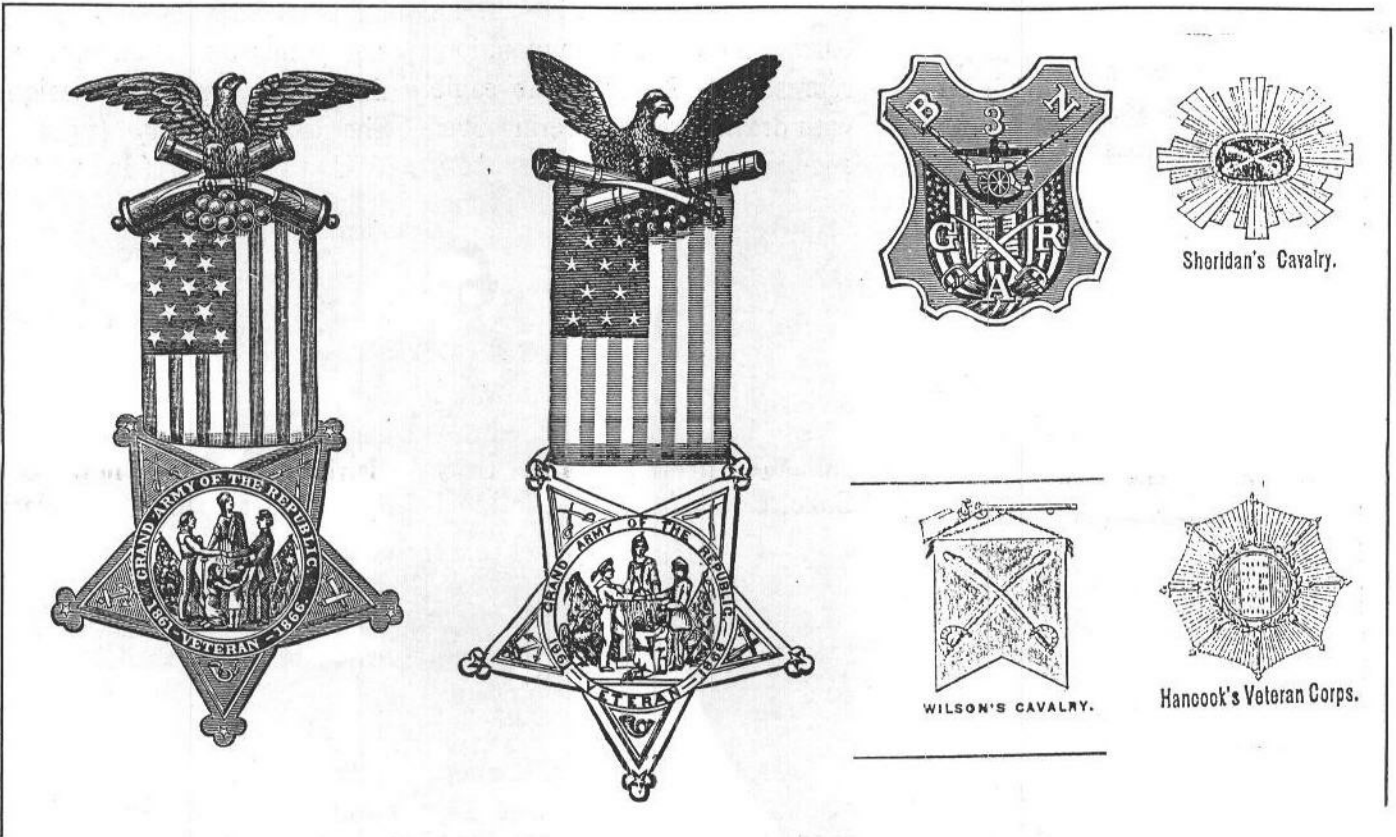
There have been many varieties of the G.A.R. membership badge with both subtle and significant changes since the original badge was adopted in 1866 (the "3 BN GAR" badge). A future article will include all the known varieties made but I will limit this to the last G.A.R. badge of 1886. (figure #0)

At a special session of the council of administration at the national encampment held in New York on October 27, 1869, A. Demarest of New York recommended and patented a new design for the G.A.R. membership badge (figure #1). It was drastically different from the 3 BN GAR badge of 1866 (figure #2) and that of 1868 (figure #3). It is easy to see the similarity to the coveted Medal of Honor (figure #4). This new "badge is of bronze, made from cannon captured in different decisive battles during the late

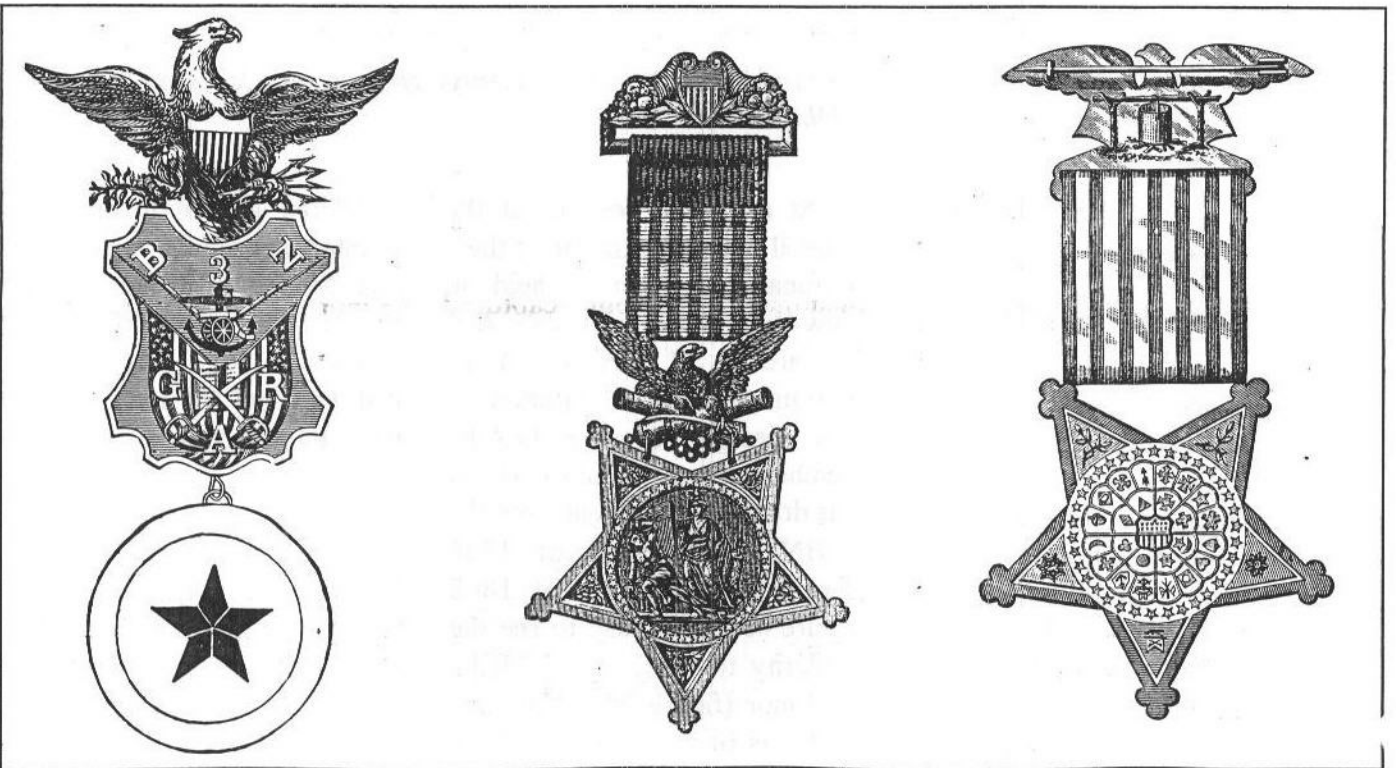
rebellion, and in form of a five pointed star, similar in design to the two Medals of Honor authorized by act of Congress to be given to soldiers and sailors most distinguished for meritorious and gallant conduct during the late war. The design, as here given, and adopted by the Grand Army of the Republic, was arranged by General F.A. Starring, Inspector-General of the order. The obverse: In the center of the badge is the figure of the Goddess of Liberty,

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7



Left to right illustration #0, #1, top right #2 and #5, bottom right #6 and #7



Left to right illustrations #3, #4, and #8

Continued on Page 9

Continued from page 8

representing LOYALTY; on either side a soldier and a sailor clasping hands, representing FRATERNITY, and two children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the comrades, representing CHARITY. On each side of the group is the National Flag and the Eagle, representing FREEDOM, and the axe of Bundle of Rods, or Fasces, representing UNION. In each point of the star is the insignia of the various arms of service, viz.: the bugle for Infantry, crossed cannon barrels for Artillery, crossed rifles for Marines, crossed swords for Calvary and an anchor for Sailors (Navy). Over the central group are the words, "Grand Army of the Republic", and under, the words and figures, "1861 - Veteran - 1866", commemorating the commencement and close of the rebellion, and also the date of organization of the order. The reverse side: Represents a Branch of Laurel, the crown and reward of the brave, in each point of the star. The National shield in the centre, surrounded by the twenty-four recognized corps' badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together, showing they are united, and will guard and protect the shield of the nation. Around the center is a circle of stars, representing the states of the Union and the Departments composing the Grand Army of the Republic. The Clasp: Is

composed of the figure of an eagle with crossed cannon barrels and stand of ammunition, representing Defense; the eagle with drawn sword hovering over and always ready to protect from insult or dishonor the national flag, which is also the emblem and ribbon of the order.

Demarest retained his patent until it expired on December 28th, 1876. J.A. Joel, a grand army comrade and editor/publisher of the Grand Army Gazette and the National Guardsman located at 82/84 Nassau Street, New York City, published an article in October of 1885 entitled "Another Waste-Basket Order" responding to General Order #6 by Commander-in-Chief John Kountz written September 14, 1885. Kountz's order attempted to eliminate the production of spurious membership badges. Joel wrote, "there is only one place where comrades can obtain these badges with full assurance that they are just what they are represented to be"--from me. Joel thus guaranteed that his membership badges were in fact manufactured from captured cannon material and those badges sold by National Headquarters could not give the same guarantee! In an attempt to eliminate both the production and distribution of any spurious badges, the Grand Army of the Republic, at the 20th National Encampment, patented a "new" membership badge through Joseph K. Davison of Phila., Pa. thus preventing its duplication.

This new badge the replaced the laurel wreaths on the interior three star points on the reverse side of the star drop with designs of Sheridan's Cavalry (figure #5), Wilson's Cavalry (figure #6) and Hancock's 1st Veteran Army Corps (figure #7). In addition, on the reverse of the eagle pin-back can be found a campfire scene (figure #8) and stamped "Pat. May 4, 1886 June 22, 1886". This new patent guaranteed the production and distribution of the "new" G.A.R. membership badge by National Headquarters. In a resolution presented at the 20th National Encampment, the Council of Administration resolved to "decline any proposition" made by J.A. Joel "for the manufacture of Grand Army badges not having any confidence whatever in any insertion or declaration that he may make on the subject". In 1886, the G.A.R. membership consisted of 326,499 comrades in 5,765 posts from 38 departments. National Headquarters issued 66,393 "new" membership badges at a cost of 27 cents each!

(Editors note; Various changes occurred in styles of Medals of Honor over the years which is a story in itself. A good book concerning recipients and their deeds for receiving this honor is "The Congressional Medal Of Honor The Names The Deeds" by Sharp & Dunnigan. According to this source 1200 Army, 310 Navy and 17 Marine MOH medals were given to Civil War personal.)

MOLLUS ARTICLE REQUEST

I would like to request that any member who has knowledge of or access to documented information to write and submit an article concerning "Military Order of the Loyal Legion" membership badges. If possible please include the variations in ribbon colors and the reasons why, numbers on broach attachments and reason why some have two numbers stamped on it, variations of content of metal they were made from, classes of membership, etc., etc. I feel this would be of interest to all members. I would write it myself but the information I have is only sketchy and I would not be able to write a scholarly article.

VICTORIAN G.A.R. PHOTO ALBUM

By Rance Hulshart

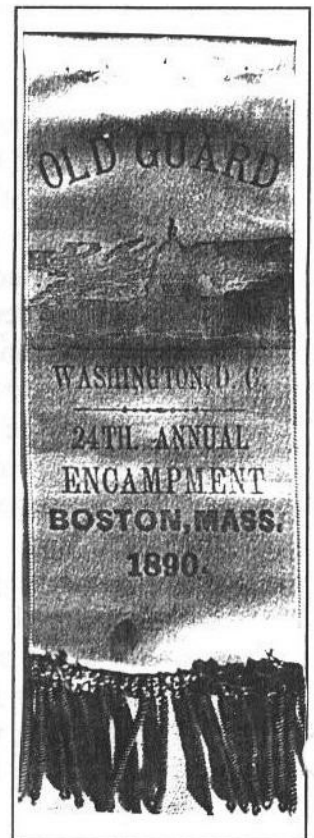
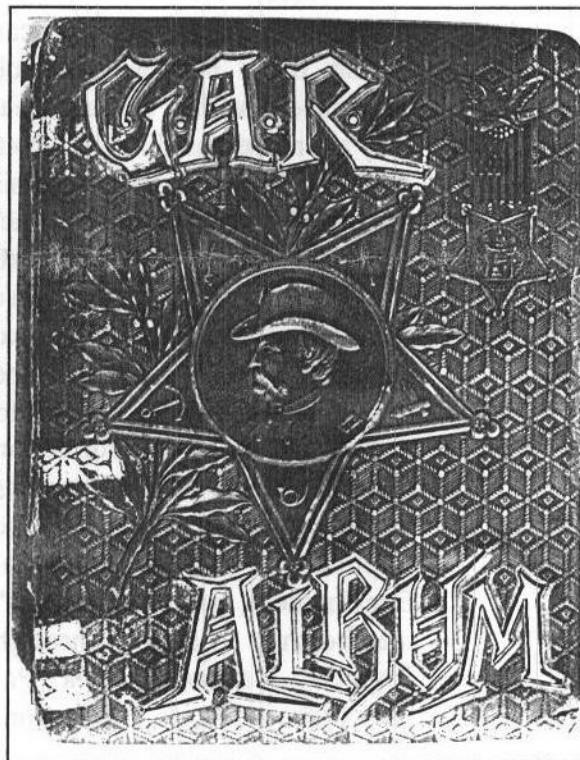
In Vol. 5 No. 3 and 4 and Vol 7 No. 1 of "The Veteran" an unusual photo album catering to the G.A.R. was featured. Illustrated is another variation of this basic album. This one is brown leather covered with star and membership badge impressed as opposed to the others having a partially affixed badge and totally affixed star. The lettering is of white ivoroid. The other albums were in red, blue and brown/gold velvet.

Illustrated to the right is the leather covered G.A.R. photo

OLD GUARD

By Rance Hulshart

In Vol. 8 No. 2 page 2 of "The Veteran" was an article concerning the "Old Guard" of the Dept. of the Potomac. Illustrated to the right is the badge they wore at the 26th National G.A.R. Encampment held at Washington, D.C. in 1892. This is the same badge as seen in the previously illustrated cabinet card. The year 1892 is in the proper era for cabinet card style photography. The ribbon is R-W-B striped and the pin bar and badge bronze. No manufacturers markings are present. Also illustrated below right is the ribbon the Old Guard wore at the 24th G.A.R. national. It is white with blue print and gold fringe at the bottom, marked Old Guard/ U.S. capitol motif/ Washington, D.C./ 24th Annual/ Encampment/ Boston, Mass./ 1890.



FIRST NEW YORK DRAGOONS

By Byron Weed

Illustrated below and to the right is the regimental association membership badge and text describing this badge. My Great Uncle Sergeant Seth Henry Weed was a member of Co. I 1st N.Y. Dragoons and was killed at Todd Tavern, Va. May 7, 1864. There was a G.A.R. post named in his honor the S.H. Weed Post No. 296 G.A.R. located Canaseraga, N.Y., Allegany County. I am very much interested in obtaining their regimental association badge and any items from this post.

Please contact me if you have anything for sale or information which you will share. Byron Weed, 1212 Birk Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or phone (313) 994-8977

REGIMENTAL BADGE

The Badge of the First New York Dragoons, a copy of which appears upon the title page, was adopted by the Regimental Association as its official badge under the following specifications, and description: viz.: The badge to be struck in bronze, upon which appears the figure of a mounted dragoon; a circle surrounding the figure, on which appears "First New York Dragoons, 1802-1863." Over the circle, on an extended scroll-like design, appears "130 N. Y. Vol.," and upon a half bastion also appears "19 N. Y. Cav.," and a cauteen. The upper scroll and lower half bastion are connected by sections of a bronze wreath. This combination is the badge proper, and is suspended by two bronze chains to a bar upon which is engraved the name of the member of regiment to whom badge is issued.

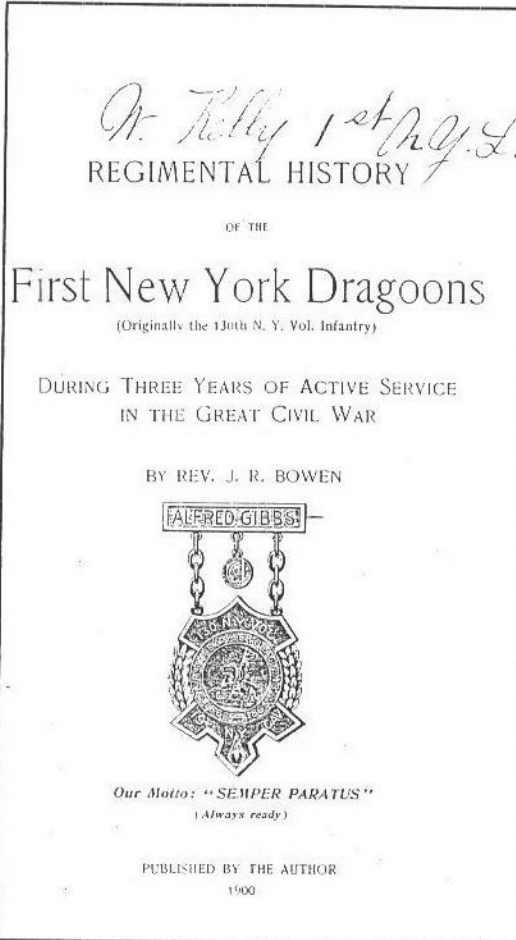
Attached to the bar is a bronze pendant, circular in form, upon which to engrave the company letter. The Field and Staff members of regiment may or may not have pendant as they prefer. The pendant may be used to designate their rank instead of company letter.

No badge to be furnished to other than living members or the representation of deceased members, and in no case to a deserter. In each instance the name is to be engraved upon the badge before being issued, thus making it distinctively official and an heirloom keepsake.

The badge struck from same dies in white metal or gilt may be issued to duly elected honorary members, without the pendant, but in each instance the name of such honorary member engraved upon the bar.

A. B. LAWRENCE.

Committee in charge of dies and issuing of First New York Dragoon Badges.



G.A.R. CANNON BARREL CANE

By Rance Hulshart

Illustrated to the right is an unusual cane, the head of which is cast white metal and in the shape of an inverted cannon barrel with G.A.R. membership badge motif along with branch of service motifs. The wood body is black painted with a brass end tip. This same type of cane was also made with a bronze cannon barrel head.

WANTED

I would like to correspond with any member who collects or has a accumulation of G.A.R. coat and cuff buttons for a book I plan on writing.
Rance Hulshart

WANTED

I am looking for a G.A.R. cane of any style and also a U.C.V Southern Cross of Honor, preferably named. Please write with description and price.

Dick Flournoy, Box 1331, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



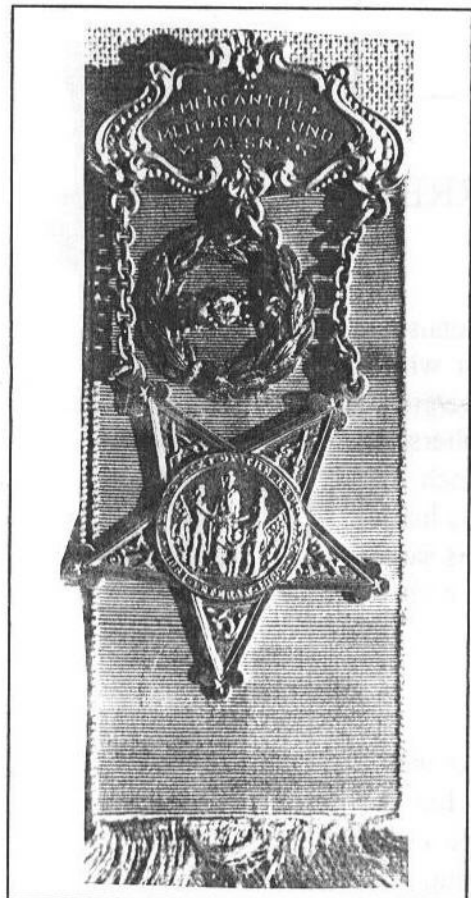
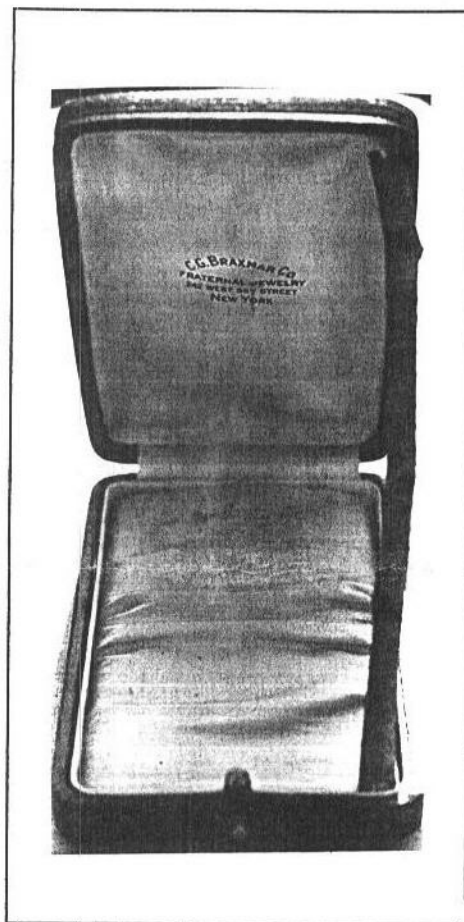
GOLD MERCANTILE G.A.R. PRESENTATION BADGE

By Rance Hulshart

Recently I purchased an unusual gold and jewel presentation badge complete in its original box. Perhaps it was given to the merchant who donated or raised the most money to be used on Memorial Day by the Phila., Pa. G.A.R. posts?

Illustrated below is the gold presentation badge. The pin bar is engraved "Mercantile/ Memorial Fund/ Assn". Inside of the wreath hanger are three semi-precious stones. The doubled over ribbon is half blue and half yellow which is the colors of the City of Philadelphia. The reverse of the star is engraved "Presented/ To/ Isaiah B. Langstadter,/ By The Posts Of The/ Grand Army Of The Republic,/ Of Philadelphia,/ Memorial/ Day/ 1896".

Illustrated to the right is the original brown leather covered snap hinged case. The inside is white silk lined and marked in blue print "C.G. Braxmar Co./ Fraternal Jewelry/ 242 West 55th Street/ New York". All badges, etc., gold or otherwise that I have observed which were made by Braxmar were of very high quality and this badge is no exception.



31st NATIONAL SOUVENIR CALLING CARD TRAY

By Rance Hulshart

Illustrated to the right is an oval silver G.A.R. calling card tray? It has four short legs on the bottom and also a fancy cutout interlocking ring edge. The center has an applied 1869 "Medal of Honor" style G.A.R. membership badge motif and motto (this is proof that when no dates are present the presence of this style badge does not necessarily make it an early piece). Engraved above this GAR, to the left AUG, to the right 1897, below Buffalo/ NY. It measures 5 1/8 inch long and 3 inch wide.

