

# The Veteran

Newsletter of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association

Volume 10, Issue 5

Founded 1987

March-April, 1997

## The Society of the Army of the Cumberland Membership Badge

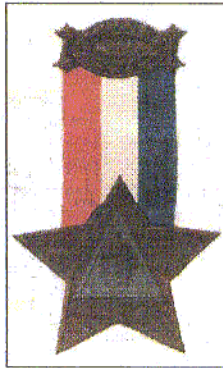
In December, 1867, a circular was issued by a number of former officers of the Army of the Cumberland, describing the committee of arrangements for the first meeting of the society. This first meeting of the society took place in February, 1868.

The badge adopted for the society was the badge of the Army of the Cumberland. This badge was first mentioned in General Orders No. 41, Headquarters Department of the Cumberland, on June 19, 1865, when the following committee was appointed: Gen. E. Opdyke, Gen J.L. Donaldson, Gen. W.H. Greenwood, Col. W.L. Foulke, and Capt. R.H. Litson. It was stated in the orders that any member of the Army of the Cumberland was entitled to

wear the badge as a symbol of previous service. This points to the fact that actually two categories of badges exist.

One that was manufactured for the veteran and another for members of the society. Of the badges inspected, the only clear identification of a "veterans" badge is of jeweler manufactured badges.

These are found with engraved inscriptions and names of the veterans. The society badges are uniform in manufacture.



### Specification of Badge

**Star:** Five pointed. Suspended, point upward. Frosted, gold or silver, with polished edge 1/24th on an inch wide. Points of Star blunt or very slightly rounded. Radius of Circle of outer points, 9/10th. of an inch; of inner points, 4.5/10th of an inch.

### C.W.V.H.A OFFICERS

#### President

Dr. George Finlayson  
98 Parkwood Blvd.  
Mansfield, OH 44906

#### Treasurer

Julieann Brighenti  
RD #2 Box 61  
Belle Vernon, PA  
15012

#### Acting

#### Secretary

Roger L. Heiple  
P.O. Box 16  
South Lyon, MI 48178

### The Veteran Staff

#### Editor

Roger Heiple  
Distribution  
Dennis Loba

#### Regular Contributors

Peter Bertram  
Howard Hoffman  
David Klinepeter  
Dennis Loba

### Contents of this issue of the Veteran

<i>The President's message and Association News</i>	50
<i>Still Standing - H.B. Frost Post</i>	52-53
<i>Confederate Corner by Peter Bertram</i>	54-55
<i>Memorial to Russel A. Alger, G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief</i>	56

# The President's Message

Dr. George Finlayson



With the Ohio Civil War Show just around the corner, it seems appropriate to trace its origins. Don Williams, the show originator and promoter, began his military collecting in 1943 in Bedford County, Pa., with the purchase of early rifled weapons, the long rifle. After two years in the Air Force, he was graduated from Penn State U. with a degree in civil engineering. His professional career was spent in Pennsylvania and Ohio building roads and highways as a project engineer. In the 1960's as a reenactor, Don helped form D Battery, 1st. Ohio Light Artillery, an ongoing interest. By the time Don put on his first military show in 1978 with 60 tables, he had enough collectibles to fill 25 of them. Several of the CWAHA charter members started then with him and our association has been a solid contributor to the show and is featured each year in his advertising. The show

outgrew the Ashland facilities and moved to Mansfield in 1993. Dons collection includes GAR uniform buttons and a prosthetic arm used by his great grandfather, a member of Co K 208th. Pa. Vol. Inf., who was wounded at Petersburg. In May, stop by Don and his family and thank them for keeping up the high quality of the OCWS. Best wishes to all, good hunting, and good health.

**LAST CALL**  
Ohio Civil War Show & National Encampment  
of the  
**Civil War Veterans  
Historical Association**  
Mansfield, Ohio  
May 3-4, 1997  
**CWVHA Dinner Meeting**  
Saturday May 3rd.  
Chicken Cordon Bleu or Damon's Ribs  
\$17 for either dinner  
Send check, with entree preference to  
George Finlayson, M.D.  
Annual Meeting and presentation on *GAR Posts  
and What Happened to Them*, by Don  
Limpert, a charter member, will follow dinner.  
Evening invited to attend the meeting after dinner.  
Friday Night - Tour the Mansfield GAR Post -  
see Roger Heiple following dealer setup

## Membership Badge of the Society of the Army of West Virginia - Continued

**Triangle:** In center of Star, point upward. Frosted gold or silver, with polished edge 1/24th of an inch wide, elevated above the Star one 1/32 on an inch, or engraved, if wearer chooses. Triangle of such size as to leave space around it in frosted part of the Star.

**Acorn:** In center of Triangle; polished, gold or silver, with frosted cap and polished stem, *in alto relevo*, or engraved. Acorn of such size as to leave space around it in frosted part of Triangle. Enameled natural color, if the wearer chooses.

**Ribbon: Silk** - Red, White, and Blue - Three quarters of an inch wide, one

and one fourth inches long.

**Pin:** Concave, oval, five-tenths of an inch long, two and a half tenths of an inch wide. Frosted, gold or silver, with polished edge raised. Laurel wreath surrounding oval, which is supported at both sides by pillars. Oval to be one-sixteenth of an inch above wreath, with "Army of the Cumberland" engraved therein. Entire oval between pillars seven and a half tenths of an inch.

The membership badge of the Army of the Cumberland is considered very desirable and rare.

## The Veteran

The Veteran is published bi-monthly and is the official publication of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association.

All articles, photographs, and art is copyrighted

Nothing may be reprinted or copied without permission of the

### C.W.V.H.A

Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or electronic (MS Word or Word Perfect on a 3 1/2" disk). Art work or photos may be sent and will be returned after scanning.

Please attach your name to all materials to insure return and proper credit.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss an article, please call Roger Heiple at 810-437-7311 after 8pm weekdays or anytime on weekends.

# The Post Medical Descriptive Book



## New Members

Fredrick Becker #319  
24 Spring Street  
Calais, Maine 04619

Edson Strobbridge #320  
6924 Live Oak Lane  
San Luis Obispo, Ca.  
93401

Jonathan Linn #321  
2704 S. Glenwood  
Independence, Mo.  
64052

Michael Moore #322  
17 Centennial Drive  
Webster, N.H. 03303

Don J. Williamson #323  
P.O. Box 816  
Hurley, N.M. 88043

Thomas R. Landis #324  
P.O. Box 255  
Tylersport, Pa. 18971  
(GAR, Dengler Post #622  
1st Pa. Cav., 104th, 138th,  
& 118th Pa. Vols.)

Steve Spearman #325  
7 Jade Street  
New City, N.Y. 10956  
(GAR Nat'l. Enc. badges  
N.Y. Dept. and Membership  
badges)

Cassandra Virzi #326  
325 N. Bel Air Street  
Anaheim, Ca. 92801  
(GAR)

## Records of the GAR - The Post Medical Description Book

By Roger L. Heiple

The most common question I receive is about the records of individual GAR veterans and where to find those records. To answer that question, I would first like describe the various records the GAR and what happened to them.

I divide the GAR records between those that were sent to the Department, in the form of reports, and post records that remained in the post building or with the post secretary.

Records that when to the Department have been, in most cases, turned over to the various state libraries or historical museums. In some cases these reports and other correspondence have been carefully filed by post and placed in the collections. I suspect that these department files were sorted, either by the department secretary or the librarian, at the time they were given to the state. Only the documents that seemed important were filed and the vast pieces of correspondence and other papers were discarded. After looking at many collections in libraries and museums, it appears they have been "sorted" and many discarded. This is only my personal conclusion.

The documents in the post have been scattered in many directions. In some cases, they may be found in the local library or historical museum, being donated by a family many years after the close of the post. I have found many post papers in antique shops, at-

MEDICAL DESCRIPTIVE K. Custer

No. in Use. Bk.	No.	NAME	Age Book	Rank	Post
--------------------	-----	------	----------	------	------

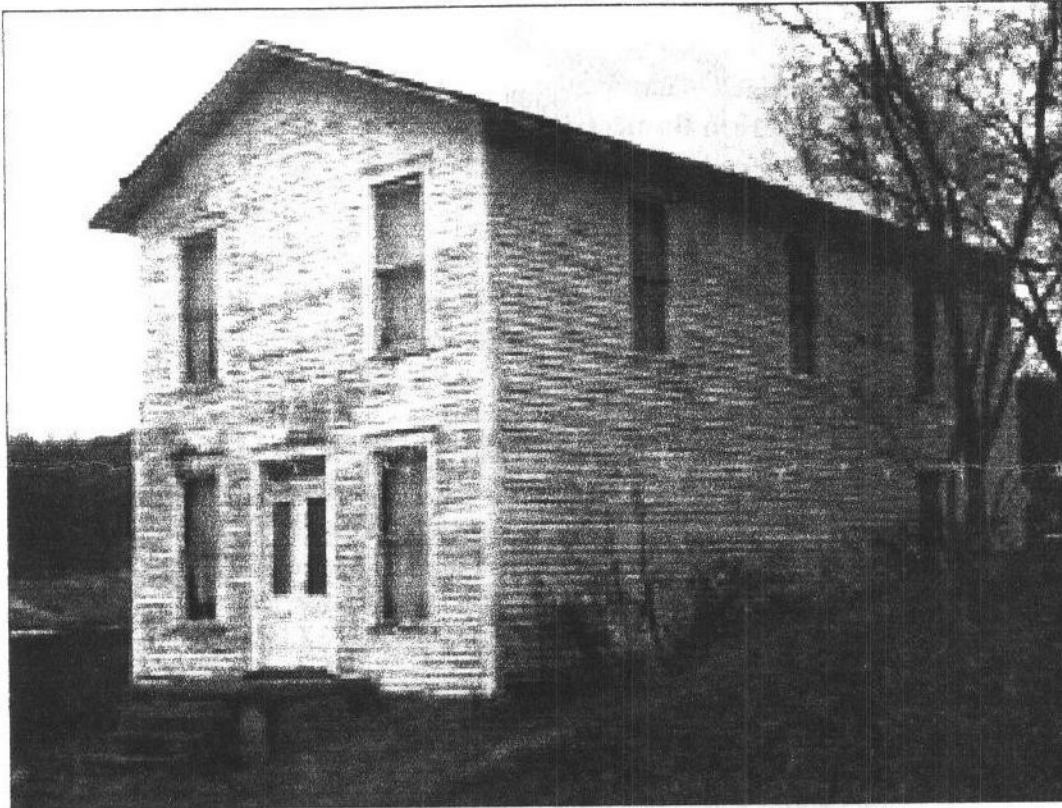
tics, collector shows and in the trash. These papers, journal, and books are very interesting for anyone that wants to know about post activities, but few post records provide the descriptive information about an individual veteran. The two most notable exceptions are the post medical descriptive book and the post record of service book. Not all posts had a record of service book, a large and highly decorative book with one page dedicated to each veteran member's wartime record of service. While not every post had this record of service book, almost every post had the medical descriptive book and that is what I will focus on in the remainder of this article.

## The Post Medical Descriptive Book

This specific book in my collection, measures about 10 inches by 12 inches, and was purchased from the National Encampment. The pages were preprinted with 14 columns and a space for remarks. Variations of this book exist, but I will be describing the most common medical book found. The particular book I am looking at is the medical records of the Custer Post No. 5, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

(Continued on page 60)

## Still Standing - H.G. Frost Post Building



Post Charter

### H.G. Frost Post 341 Frost, Ohio

By Roger Heiple & Dr. Carl J. Denbow

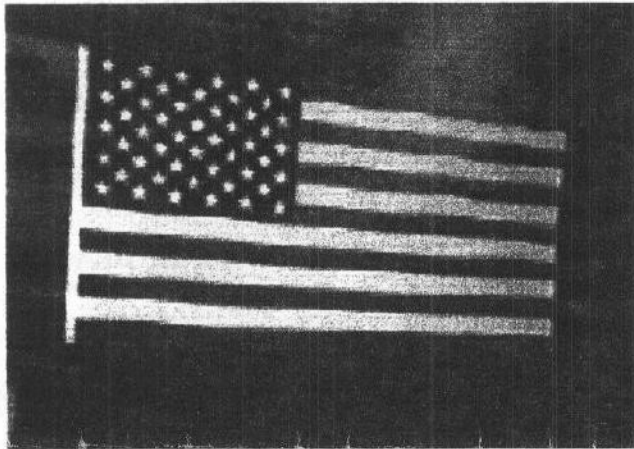
In the GAR homepage on the internet (<http://pages.prodigy.com/CGBD86A/garhp.htm>) a section has been dedicated to GAR post buildings. Included in the page is a request for additional information that could expand the list. About a month ago, the GAR homepage received an E-mail from Dr. Carl J. Denbow asking me if anyone knew about the H.G. Frost Post 341. I didn't know about the post building and replied that we would like more information. A week later I got a description of the post, and the next week three computer disks arrived with photographs of both the exterior and interior of the post building.



Second floor meeting room with original furniture

The building is still being used by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the meetings of John S. Townsend Camp No. 108 and the

## Frost Post - continued



Post flag backed by buckeye wood paneling

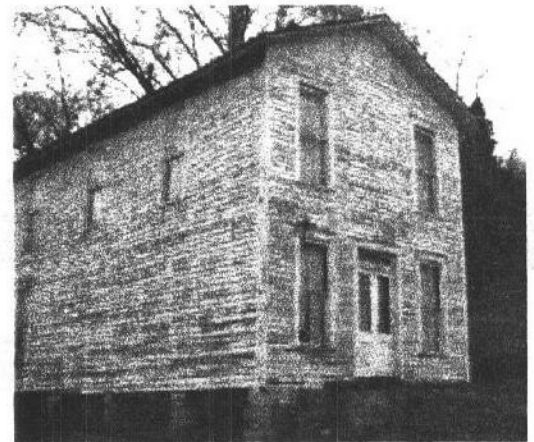
Frost No. 108 Auxiliary to SUVCW. Meetings are held only in the warmer months.

The Frost Post is located on TWP Road 574 in Frost, Ohio in the southeast part of the state, about 20 miles East-Southeast of Athens, Ohio. This two story, white frame building, was constructed in 1896, and contains the original furniture. On the first floor, the walls and ceiling are paneled with buckeye wood, a particular wood found in the midwest. The buckeye nut was used in many of the Department of Ohio delegation badges and souvenirs at the National Encampments. The use of buckeye wood is reported to be a custom among Ohio GAR posts.

The building is not opened on a regular basis for visitation, but you can contact Judy Morgan by E-mail at:

[jmorgan@bobcat.ent.ohiou.edu](mailto:jmorgan@bobcat.ent.ohiou.edu) on the internet and arrange a private tour. Thanks again to Dr. Carl Denbow for adding this fine GAR building to the list of original post buildings.

This demonstrates what an exciting place the internet is for collectors and historians of veterans information.



Post Organ

**CONFEDERATE CORNER #10**

by Peter Bertram - #244

P.O. Box 451421 : Atlanta, GA 31145

Greetings, all! Yeah, I decided to change the name of the column, mostly because I didn't want THE UCV/SCV CORNER to be misleading as a title. I did not intend it to be, but most of the columns have been about non-UCV/SCV items. So I figured that CONFEDERATE CORNER is much more inclusive.

Here's an update to the Confederate Veterans Camp of New York from last issue.....



Bob Albertini Collection

**MBR#:890V5-5203**

illustration at 150%

**Desc:** Member's lapel button, Confederate Veteran's Camp of New York: 1 pc (lapel button): 5/8"?

**OBV:** overall white field; a red Battle Flag in center with blue bars and gold stars; in gold letters C left, V top, C right, N.Y. bottom

**Mfg:** not noted

**Comment:** this member's pin would correspond to the "Sons" pin shown last issue.

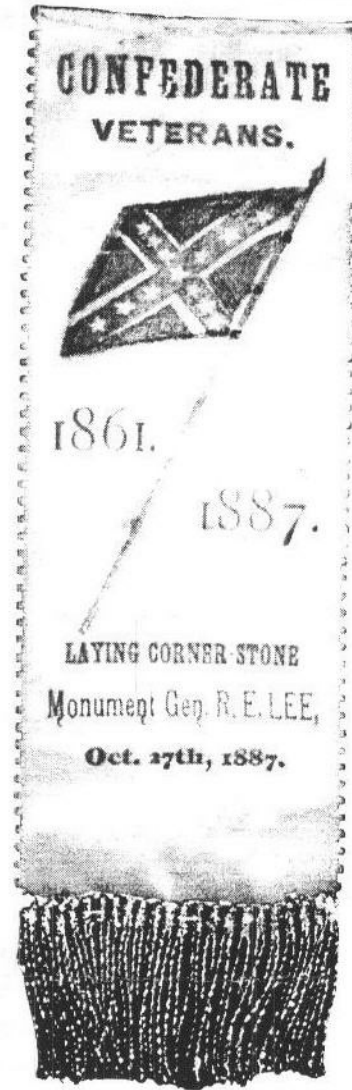
**ROBERT E. LEE MONUMENT: RICHMOND,VA**



J. McGraw Collection

dedication of monument (detail from postcard)

The cornerstone for the Robert E. Lee monument was laid on October 27th, 1887 and was (I think) the first memorial placed on Richmond's magnificent Monument Avenue. Confederate veterans were present at the ceremonies among the various dignitaries and officials and someone sponsored this ribbon to commemorate the occasion.



D. Todd Collection

**MBR#:887A6-4501**

illustration at 75%

**Desc:** Commemorative ribbon, cornerstone laying of Lee monument: 1 pc (White RIBBON): 2-3/8 x 7-1/2

**OBV:** top to bottom: in blue letters, CONFEDERATE/VETERANS/Battle Flag in red, blue, and white with gold fringe/blue letters,1861/1887/LAYING CORNER-STONE/MONUMENT GEN. R.E. LEE/OCT. 27TH, 1887. gold fringe at bottom.

**REV:** plain

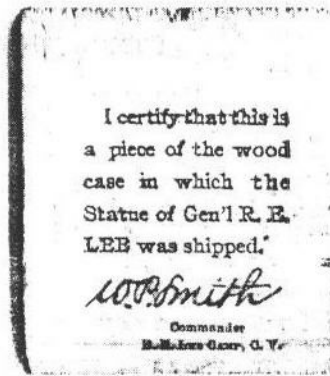
**Mfg:** not noted

**Confederate Corner #10 (cont)**

By this time (late 1887), considerable ground-work had also been done toward the formation of a statewide Confederate veterans organization in Virginia. Those efforts were rewarded the following year with the formation of the GRAND CAMP CONFEDERATE VETERANS OF VIRGINIA, consisting of some thirty one veteran's camps located in cities all across the state. Camp #1 was R.E. Lee Camp in Richmond. They provided these two souvenirs for the dedication of the Robert E. Lee Monument in 1890.



obverse



reverse

*Bob Albertini Collection*

**Desc:** rectangular piece of impressed wood, two sided, estimate 1-5/8 x 1-7/8

**OBV:** bust image of General Robert E. Lee

**REV:** top to bottom; I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS/A PIECE OF THE WOOD/CASE IN WHICH THE/STATUE OF GEN'L R. E. LEE/WAS SHIPPED./signed W. P. SMITH/COMMANDER/R.E. LEE CAMP, C.V.

**Comment:** rather enterprising of them, don't you think? Wonder how long it took to cut up the case, how many pieces they got, how many they sold, etc. Ah well, yet another vast imponderable unanswered!



Compliments of R. E. Lee Camp No. 1.

Confederate Veterans

RICHMOND, VA.  
May 29th, 1890.

*R. Reeves Collection*

**MBR#: 890G6-4501**

*(Illustration at 75%)*

**Desc:** Souvenir item; unveiling of the monument to Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia: 1 pc (RIBBON) 2-3/8 x 7-1/8.

**OBV:** White ribbon, blue letters: at top, LEE MONUMENT/UNVEILING. In center, gray equestrian statue of Lee with red, white and blue flags; two 3rd Nat'l Flags at left and two Battle Flags right. Gold colored plate with \*\*\*/LEE on monument's base. Below in blue letters: COMPLIMENTS OF R.E. LEE CAMP NO. 1, /CONFEDERATE VETERANS/RICHMOND,VA/MAY 29TH 1890.

**REV:** Plain

**Mfg:** Not noted

**Comment:** This veteran's camp was part of the "Grand Camp Confederate Veterans of Virginia", an early organization from 1888.

# Russell A. Alger

FROM THE  
NATIONAL TRIBUNE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1907

## DEATH OF SENATOR ALGER

A career magnificently full of loyalty, good-citizenship, manly work, brilliant courage and high achievement has been terminated by the death of Comrade Russell A. Alger, Senator from Michigan. It was a typically American career, and "one" that can always be pointed to as a stimulus and an emulation for every American boy. Senator Alger died as he had lived, with his harness on, filling his very last moments with the work in life which has conscience commended and his soul aspired to. Up to the last day of his life he was attending punctually to his duties, in the Senate, and his last strength was given to the performance of the work with which he was charged.

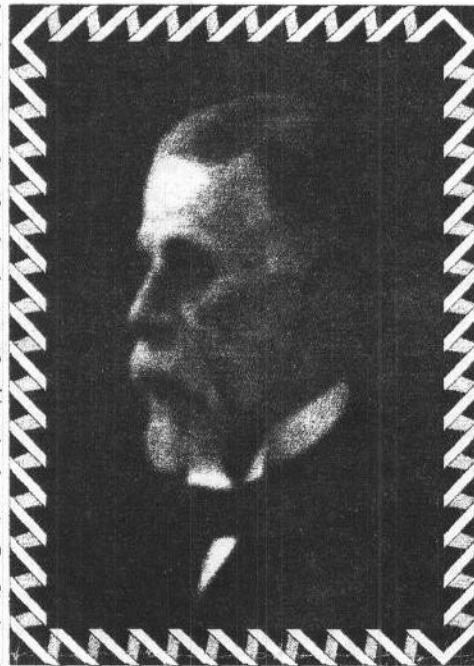
Senator Alger was born in Lafayette Township, Medina County, Ohio, Feb. 27, 1836, and at the early age of 11 was left to struggle with an adverse world by the death of his parents. For seven years he labored on a farm and snatched up an education in such hours of respite as came to a boy drudging at the severest labor of rural life in a new country. He did so well, however, as to

secure sufficient education to qualify him for a school teacher, and then struggling ever upward and onward he studied law and was admitted to the bar. In 1859 he moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., and was thenceforward strongly identified with the development of that State. Ambitious as he was to make his way in the world, he was among the first to hear the call of his country, and early in 1861 enlisted in the Army and was chosen by

his comrade Captain of Co. C. 2d, Mich. Cav. He went into this new progression with the same zeal for performance himself in it that he displayed in all other walks of life. Gen. Phil H. Sheridan, who became Colonel of his regiment, had a quick eye for men of soldierly mettle, and he selected Capt. Alger to perform an important part in the first battle which Sheridan fought, that at Boonesville, Miss. July 1, 1862. Sheridan's plan

was to send Alger with a flanking party around the superior force of the enemy to strike them in the rear, while Sheridan himself struck them heavily in front. Alger performed his part of the work with the greatest gallantry and skill, but lost half of his command in the desperate dash which secured victory and the complete success of Sheridan's plans. He became Major of the 2d. Mich. Cav.

*(Continued on page 58)*



# The 3BN-GAR Column

Early Veteran Activities following the War



Symbol of the Early GAR -1865-68

## First Ad for the Grand Army Badge Company

by Roger Heiple

The first published ad describing a membership badge for the Grand Army of the Republic is found in the January 24th, 1867, issue of the **Great Republic** (Vol. 1 - No. 19). This issue was the first issue that contained Grand Army of the Republic information and the masthead read;

**Official National Organ of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Union League of America.** The Grand Army Adjutant, B.F. Stephenson, had just sent a resolution to members of the Grand Army in December, describing the new relationship between the **Great Republic** and the **GAR of the US**.

The membership badge committee, made up of three Indiana veterans, founded the Grand Army Badge Company of Lafayette, Indiana. Correspondence between the company and B.F. Stephenson support the fact that the company did have an exclusive contract for production of the membership badge. The company was to pay the Grand Army a percentage of its sales to maintain the contract. This percentage was in dispute throughout the contract and correspondence between the parties point out the two differing viewpoints. The contention mainly being about was the percentage to be paid on the "gross sales" or the "net

sales". It is unknown if a settlement was ever made and the Grand Army Badge Company was out of business a little more than a year later.

## G.A.R. Badges! G.A.R.Badges!

The Grand Army of the Republic Manufacturing Company, with headquarters in Lafayette, Indiana, are prepared to furnish Badges of all kinds and quality, at the shortest notice.

*We have been designated by the Commander-in-Chief as the sole and exclusive manufacturers of Badges for the Grand Army. A caveat has been filed and a patent applied for, to protect us from the sharks whom remained in the rear during the war, but are anxious to step forward and reap the profits from our work.*

All the members of this Badge Company are members of the G.A.R. in good standing.

A large percent of the profits are paid to the National Headquarters for charitable purposes. We furnish Badges of the following kinds, and at prices stated:

- Silver Plated Badges .....50
  - Genuine Silver Badges.....\$1.00
  - Heavily Gold-plated Badges.....2.50
  - Genuine Solid Gold Badges made to order from \$10 to \$20, according to the fineness and enamel.
- Liberal reduction to agents. Crippled soldiers should write, enclosing stamp for circular.

This is the only company authorized to make a sell Badges for the Grand Army.

Address

A. ORTH BEHM

Secretary of the G.A.R. Badge Company  
Lafayette, Indiana.

The important information this ad provide is the extent of the badges manufactured and the insistence that the G.A.R. Badge Company was the sole manufacturers of the membership Badge. The badge that were manufactured as the regular line are usually found in two sizes - about 1/2" and 7/8" in height. They are stamped from a base metal and plated either gold or silver, and in most case just the plain base metal finish. The pin on the

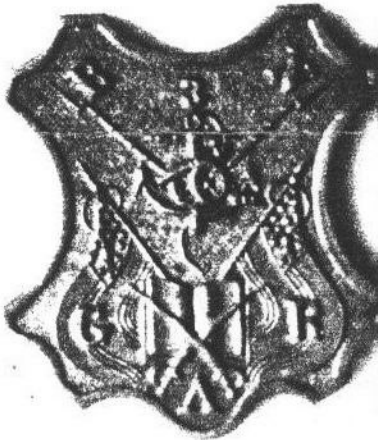
**First 3BN Badge Ad -**

Russell A. Alger

(Continued from page 57)

reverse is usually a straight pin, soldered on the top and bent down. No markings of the manufacturer are found, but after inspection, it is easy to recognize the dies of both sizes.

The fine gold and enamel badges are much more difficult to identify, because a number of jewelers also advertised the GAR badge in gold and enamel. Discussion of these badges will be left for a future article.



A visit to Lafayette, and a search for the building in which A.Orth Behm and his brother practiced law, across from the courthouse in the center of town, revealed that it no longer exists. A

large bank building has replaced the original building of that block. It appears that the Badge Company was both run and the badges assembled in this office building. Records of businesses in the city do not show a company of this name in Lafayette, indicating and supporting the fact that the company was run under the name of the law firm. Because the company was only in existence for a little over a year, most of the records and any remnants of the manufacturing were disposed of and no traces have been discovered.

The most interesting connection with the company are two letters from B.F. Stephenson to A.Orth Behm concerning the "percentage" of the donation to the Grand Army. These letters are found in the original **Headquarters Letterbook of the Grand Army (1866-67)**, presently in the collection of the editor..

(Continued from page 56)

and the Governor of Michigan, pursuing the wise policy of selecting the officers of the new regiments from those who had signalized themselves by previous services, made Maj. Alger Lieutenant colonel of the new 6th. Mich. Cav. He commanded this regiment with distinguished success at Gettysburg and on Sheridan's great raid against Richmond, receiving a brevet of Brigadier-General for his gallantry at Trevillian Station and Major-General for gallantry during the war. He had earned these proud distinctions by superb service in 66 battles and skirmishes.

Physical disabilities and business necessities compels his resignation from the army in the latter part of 1864, and returning home he entered actively into the lumber business, becoming the leader in the development of that great industry in Michigan. He took an earnest interest in politics and the preservation of the results that the soldiers had won upon the battlefield. He was an ardent Re-




**CLUB,**  
Detroit, Mich.



publican, a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1886, and was elected Governor of Michigan. His administration was so satisfactory that he was pressed to accept a renomination, but he felt that he could not do it in justice to his business interests. As a citizen of Michigan and Governor of the State, he was strongly identified with everything that looked to the up-building of the Com-

(Continued on page 59)

Russell A. Alger

*(Continued from page 58)*

monwealth of which he was properly proud. All in that direction found his hand, brain and purse more than ready with assistance. In his prosperity he retained the keenest sympathy with those who were less fortunate, and his benefactions and charities were boundless. He allowed little to be said about these, but obeyed the scriptural injunction in charitable matters not to let his left hand know what his right hand did. He took a warm abiding interest in his comrades of the battlefield, and was unanimously elected Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1889 (sic 1890 Boston). His fame spread beyond Michigan and at the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1888 he received 143 ballots for the Presidential nomination, the State of Michigan voting solidly for him on every ballot. That year he was the first elector-at-large of his state. In March 1897, President McKinley appointed him Secretary of War. The Spanish-American war broke out, and Secretary Alger became the target for the yellow press. This became wildly sensational in allegations as to the food furnished to the soldiers, as well as other matters connected with the management of the war, for which there was little real basis and no reason whatever when we consider the unprepared condition of the country for war and the things that necessarily had to be done in the hasty arming and provisioning of our soldiers. Out of the fierce fire which those papers poured upon the Secretary of War, Gen. Alger emerged unscathed in reputation, and with untarnished personal integrity. The charges were soon forgotten, and the Governor of Michigan was widely applauded by all sensible, patriotic men for appointing Secretary Alger to the Senate to succeed Senator Macmillan, who had died. A little later

the Legislature of Michigan approved this action of the Governor by electing Senator Alger to the Senate for six years. His term would have expired the coming March 4.

Gen. Alger had been in feeble health for sometime, and his physician had told him that he would not live another year. Had it not been for this he would have been re-elected to secede himself. In spite of his physical condition he attended strictly to his duties in the Senate, and was present during the session of the day before his death.

The country loses one of the grand State builders who have left an indelible mark upon the history of the United States for the years succeeding the war. The veterans lose a firm friend and comrade; the State of Michigan and the Senate of the United States lose a man of spotless integrity, high ability and courageous devotion to duty, no matter in what form that duty came. The whole community loses a man who was genuinely American in every nerve and fiber, whose career was illustrative of the best that our schools and churches can teach, and we all mourn a sincere, gentle, widely generous, unfailingly kind-hearted man.

**Mansfield Motel List**

Comfort Inn	419-529-1000
Kight's Inn	419-539-2100
Holiday Inn	419-525-6000
Merit	419-522-5142
Park Place	800-425-7275
Best Western	419-589-2200
Econo Lodge	419-589-3333
Travelodge S.	419-756-7600
Super 8	419-756-8875
Fairfield Inn	419-747-2200
Hampton Inn	419-747-5353
Day's Inn	419-756-6670
Dudgetel (New 97)	
42 Motel	419-884-1315
Ashland Area	
Surry Inn	419-289-7700

(Continued from page 51)

The fourteen columns are spread over two pages and are titled as follows;

1. **No. on Des. Bk.**  
*No.* (an unnumbered column for a second number)
2. **Name**
3. **Where born**
- How and where serving WHEN WOUNDED**  
(printed over 4,5, & 6)
4. **Rank of**
5. **Regt, Battery, or Vessel**
6. **Name of Army or Squadron**
7. **Branch of service**
8. **How often wounded**
9. **Age when wounded**
10. **Date when wounded**
11. **What Engagement Wounded In**
12. **What part of body Wounded in.**
13. **What are the permanent Results of Wound, if any**
14. **What Kind of Missile**
- Remarks**

This book was to be filled out by the post surgeon or medical officer and kept in the permanent records of the post. These records were to prove important in application for service related war pensions. Instructions were provided in the front of the book for the medical officer as follows.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write the name of the wounded or disabled comrade, only once. Do not inter-line, but use an additional line for each time wounded, rank, branch of service, regiment, battle, when wounded.

In column 1 and 8, express the answer in figures only.

In the result of wounds or disability, make special note of case where since discharge, amputation, deformities, insanity, imbecility, loss of sight or hearing, have resulted from, injuries or sickness during previous report.

After a comrades disabilities are once reported on form F, his name is to be omitted in the next years report, which will contain only those mustered since December 31st, 1876. and comrades not named in previous report.

Attention to all details, securing and noting full and explicit answers to each question will avoid delay that may reasonably be expected if this matter is deferred.

The Medical Director must rely on you for exact data for this report.

JAS. I. WATSON, Surgeon General  
Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 1876

With this amount of detail, the Medical Descriptive Book is the most widely kept book of information about the wounded, or those with wartime illness, post members. It would probably only contain information on 10% to 20% of the post comrades, but is the single most important record book in the post.

The Custer Post Medical Record book dates from about 1876 or 1877, when the Post and the Department of Michigan were reorganized.

MENT OF Michigan

12	13	What
What part of body Wounded in.	What are the permanent Results of Wound, if any.	What
Left arm	Loss of left arm	Miss
Right arm	Loss of right arm	Miss
Left leg	Loss of left leg	Miss
Right leg	Loss of right leg	Miss
Left shoulder	Loss of left shoulder	Miss
Right shoulder	Loss of right shoulder	Miss
Left hip	Loss of left hip	Miss
Right hip	Loss of right hip	Miss
Left eye	Loss of left eye	Miss
Right eye	Loss of right eye	Miss
Left ear	Loss of left ear	Miss
Right ear	Loss of right ear	Miss
Left hand	Loss of left hand	Miss
Right hand	Loss of right hand	Miss
Left foot	Loss of left foot	Miss
Right foot	Loss of right foot	Miss