

The Veteran

Newsletter of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association

Volume II, Issue 3

Founded 1987

November-December 1997

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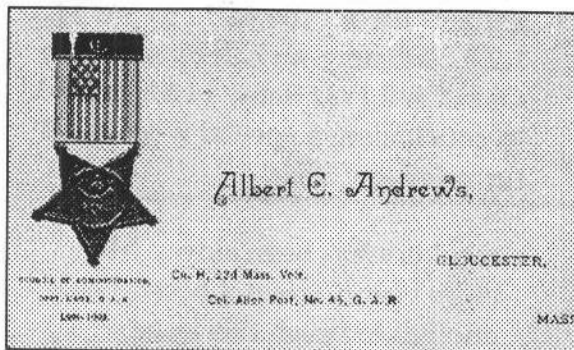
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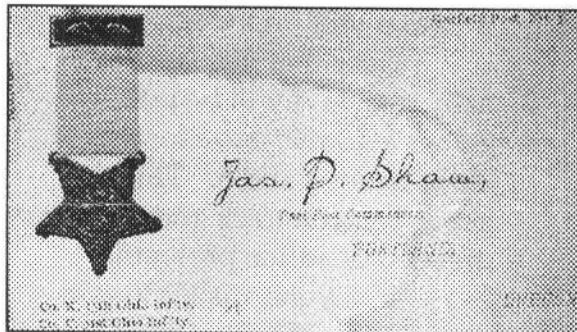
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Veteran Visiting Cards

By Roger Heiple



Albert E. Andrews
Council of Administration
Col. Allen Post No. 45, Gloucester,



Jas. P. Shaw
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One of the very minor collecting areas of veteran artifacts is the *visiting card* or *address card*. These cards range from handmade to beautifully multi-color engraved and embossed. Collecting the cards can lead down various paths. Finding cards of GAR officers, famous veterans, specific regiments, photo cards, and many other categories can be very rewarding. One of the benefits of collecting these cards is that they can be found in a very affordable price range, usually from two to ten dollars. A word of warning, don't expect to find a national commander's card for less than twenty-five dollars, but by the prices of other items today, this is a colorful and interesting area to collect.

The cards started appearing in the mid 1870's and contin-

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The President's Message

Dr. George Finlayson, MD



Greetings to all members and a special thanks to those who pay yearly dues promptly.

After each of America's wars black soldiers who fought for their country were denied equality in civilian life. This was particularly evident following the Civil War when the Louisiana/ Mississippi Department of the GAR refused membership to local black veterans. In this issue, on the next page, the story

of this prejudice and its resolution is told, and 2 excellent GAR National Encampment badges from this Department and that era are shown.

During the new Springfield, Ohio October Civil War Show many C.W.V.H.A members attended. In the future this may offer a Fall opportunity for an informal get together. It's not too early to put May 1,2,3, 1998 on your calendar for the Ohio Civil War Show in Mansfield. In conclusion, a special wish to all for safe New Year.

Note from the Editor:

First, let me apologize for the slow production of the recent newsletters. The blame falls on my shoulders, but I would like to explain the circumstances.

When the previous editor departed without any plans for someone to succeed him, I volunteered to step in and produce the newsletter. As many of you who attended the last Ohio Civil War Show know, my vision was almost zero. I had no vision in one eye and barely enough in the other to tell light from dark. I had taken a medical leave from my job to pursue a medical solution. Since June I have had three operations on my eyes with some success. I now have some vision and awaiting new reading glasses. Reading a monitor has been difficult, holding a magnifying glass with one hand and typing with the other. After the first operation, things did not improve and the operation had to be done again. The third operation took place in December and

recovery has been slow. My close vision has not been good enough to finish this issue.

I have received some harsh criticism from a few members, directed at other officers of our organization. Most members have been understanding realizing this situation will improve.

Now that this issue is finally mailed, I will be putting together a double issue for the Jan-April issues 4 and 5. This will get us back on track and avoid the dreaded deadline problem.

If anyone wishes to take the position of Editor, it's open as of our Mansfield meeting. At that time nominations for officers will be made and I would like to declare the Editor's office open.

Thanks for all the support through a most difficult time of my life. Friends are what make life worthwhile.

Roger Heiple

The Veteran

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Historical
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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 proper return and credit.

Department of Louisiana/ Mississippi

Dennis Loba & G. Finlayson

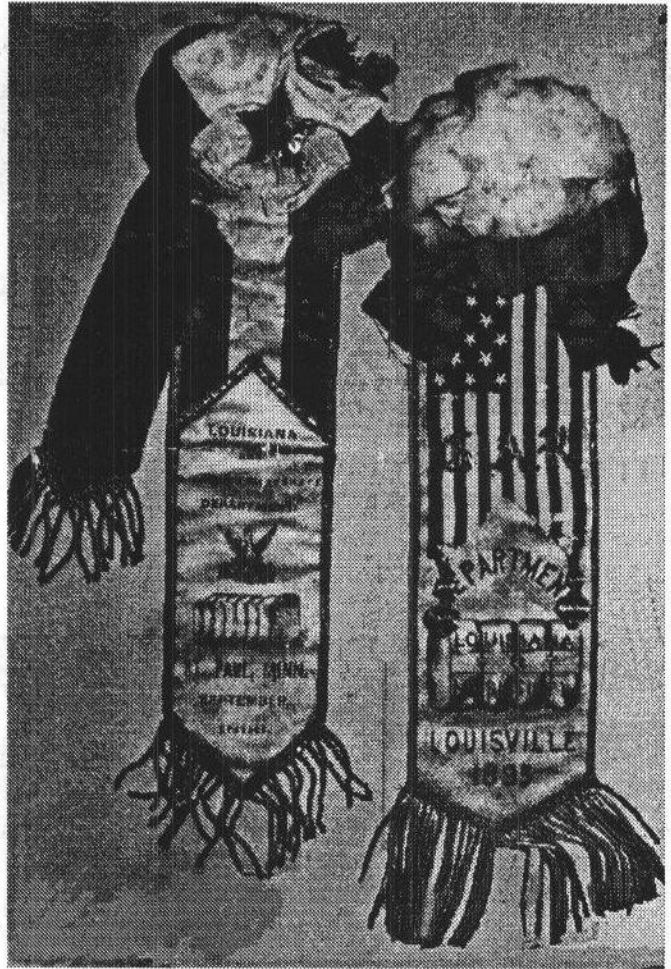
After the Civil War when the GAR saw its greatest gains in membership the Dept of Louisiana/Mississippi with its 8 white Posts refused to recognize the 8 "colored" Posts. At the 26th National Encampment in Sept. 1892 at Washington, D.C. the Commander in Chief, John Palmer, reported how he had finally resolved this longstanding problem.

"A man who is good enough to stand between the flag and those who would destroy it is good enough to be a comrade in any department of the GAR. No department should ever be established for any color or nationality. Posts 9 to 17 (the "colored" posts) reported that at the annual meeting of the Department of Louisiana/Mississippi in February 1892 they were refused admission or representation. The Department Commander was ordered by the Commander in Chief to recognize posts 9-17, which he declined to do"

Palmer suspended the Dept. Commander, but subsequent appointees also failed to comply with the order. Palmer further stated, "the first duty of a soldier is obedience. Every soldier has learned by experience of actual service that, unless rules and discipline are maintained, an organization degenerates into a mob."

The LA/MS Dept. surrendered its charter on May 1892, in direct violation of the Rules & Regulations of the GAR. C.I.C. Palmer then appointed Past Dept. Commander A.S. Badger Commander protempore and ordered him to recognize Posts 9 to 17.

"After the reorganization I or-



dered a thorough inspection of the Posts and the report shows each comrade produced either his discharge, pension certificate or satisfactory evidence of service."

The department was reorganized in New Orleans on August 6, 1892 where delegates from 13 posts were present. The encampment apparently was harmonious. "The Department is represented today in this (26th) National Encampment by a full delegation, regardless of color or nationality, with the gratifying assurance that there are no contests except to see who can best serve the interests of the Order." So passed a turning point in the history of the GAR.

VETERAN VISITING CARDS



A. E. Potter
 Junior Vice Comman-
 der, Dept. of Calif.
 Gen'l Miller Post No.
 110, Colusa, Calif.
 An interesting use of the
 20th. National
 Encampment Souvenir
 Badge (gold tone)
 which used the same die as
 the Delegates



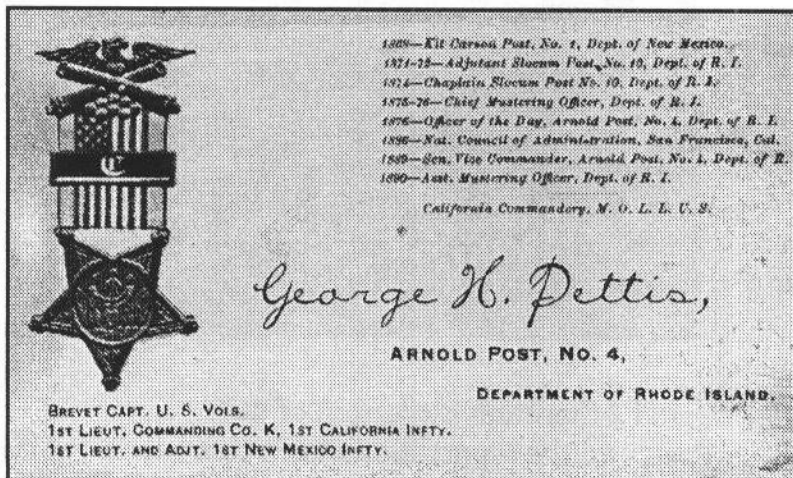
(Continued from page 1)

ued to be printed until the early 1940's. One of the most interesting collections of cards was a bound book of visiting cards collected during the 1886 National Encampment. Over 100 cards were collected and pasted into this book. Howard Siglag and I purchased this book, along with many other paper items, and following the flip of a coin, the book went into Howard's collection. We believed the book was put together by two WRC women during the Encampment.

One specific area of cards, is the GAR officers and past officers card. The officer badge cut, of the highest rank the veteran had attained, was embossed in the upper left hand corner of the card. Both acting officer and past officer cards can be found from National, Department, and Post. Dating the cards is difficult, but the plain color ribbon within the officer badge being key to an early card, and the flag ribbon the indicator of a latter card. Cards from the 1930's on are usually much plainer and most often one color.

Famous veterans used cards and GAR members saved them. Because of this they are not as difficult to find as expected. Cards of Generals, National Commanders, Dept. Commanders, and

(Continued on page 5)



George H. Pettis

National Past Council of Administration

Arnold Post, No. 4, Dept of R.I.

Brevet Capt. U.S. Vols, 1st. Lt. 1st. California Infty

This veteran not only was a member of a very interesting unit, but also had early membership in the GAR. In 1868, he was a member of the Kit Carson Post, No. 1, Dept of New Mexico, then moved to R.I. to serve in a number of offices in the Slocum Post No. 10 and Arnold Post, No. 4. The embossed cut on his card represents his national past officer rank of member of the Council of Administration in 1886, meeting in San Francisco. The card date from about 1890. Because of the unusual regiment connection, National Council of Administration, and his long service in the GAR, the card is one of the better finds in this field.

VETERAN VISITING CARDS

(Continued from page 4)-

leading politicians are fun to find, but command a higher price. Occasionally a card was used for an autograph and that moves the item into the world of autograph collecting.

Photo cards are fairly rare. Usually the veteran's picture is in his GAR uniform with membership badge, but some can be found with a wartime photograph. These photographic cards with a wartime portrait are extremely hard to find. Even with some type of cards hard to find, what makes this area of collecting so interesting, is the wide variety of cards that can be found.

Catalogs and flyers of the printers are most difficult to find. So, the best information regarding visiting cards can be found in ads by the printers. One of the leading printers was the Veteran Publishing Company of Columbus, Ohio. The following was printed by the Veteran Publishing Company in 1883.

We are now prepared to do all kinds of Grand Army of the Republic printing, for post or individuals. We are fully equipped with the latest designs in G.A.R. printing Material and respectfully solicit your patronage.

GAR address cards with badge, one color, per 100 - \$1.00

Address cards with corps badge, in colors, per 100 - \$2.00

Address cards with corps and regimental designation per 100 - \$2.25

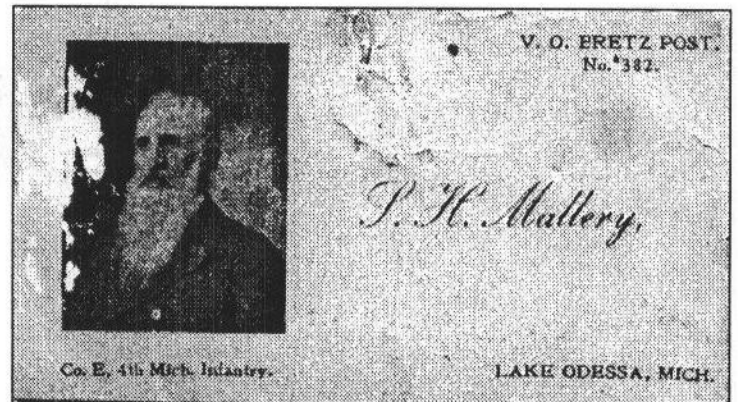
A supplier of Sons of Veterans material in Michigan advertised the following visiting cards for the Sons of Veterans.

Our visiting Cards are fine Bristol Board, Emblematic and Beautiful. Printed Cards only are supplied. Style No. 1 is a

(Continued on page 8)



Dr. J.R. Stephenson
Aide-De-Camp
and Past Commander of Custer Post, No.5,
Grand Rapids, Michigan
A card from about 1936. This is typical of the cards used in the latter years of the GAR. The card is a simple black type, without embossing or color GAR logo.



P. H. Mallery
Eretz Post, No. 382, Dept. of Michigan
Co. E. 4th. Michigan Infantry



Stock card with handwritten name of
Col. S.L.O. Swan.

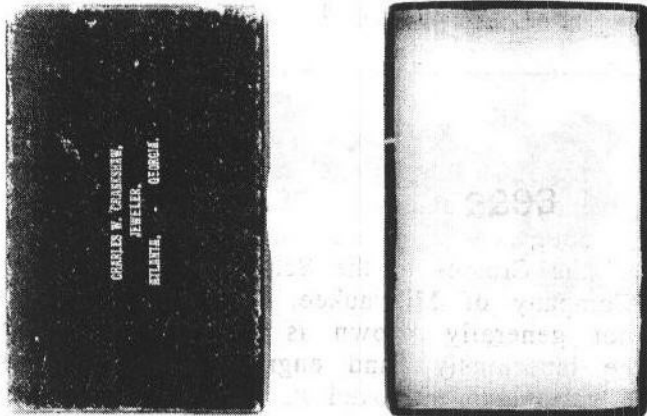


**CONFEDERATE
CORNER #14**
BY PETER BERTRAM #244
P. O. BOX 451421 : ATLANTA, GA 31145
[e-mail:PeterBA1@aol.com]

Well, friends, another year is about gone. Seems like the older I get the faster they go! Got a couple nice letters complimenting the new column layout/logo and asking about the flags I show. On the right is the 1st Nat'l Flag, also known as the "Stars and Bars". At left is the 3rd Nat'l Flag with the red "blood stripe" down the outer edge. The 2nd Nat'l Flag is not shown but was identical to the 3rd except it had a solid white field, i.e no blood stripe. It was feared that when hanging limp from its staff, it would be mistaken for a flag of truce, thus the addition of the blood stripe to the 3rd National. The center flag shown was the Battle Flag, the most commonly seen flag today.

**THE SOUTHERN CROSS OF HONOR,
Update: Rarest of the Rare!**

Back in *The UCV/SCV Corner #3* (V9#4 Jan/Feb '96), I noted that I'd not been able to get an image of a **TYPE 1** Cross. Well I finally located not one, but three specimens! Those of you who take my Newsletter saw the first ever illustration of a numbered Southern Cross of Honor last issue. Here's another:



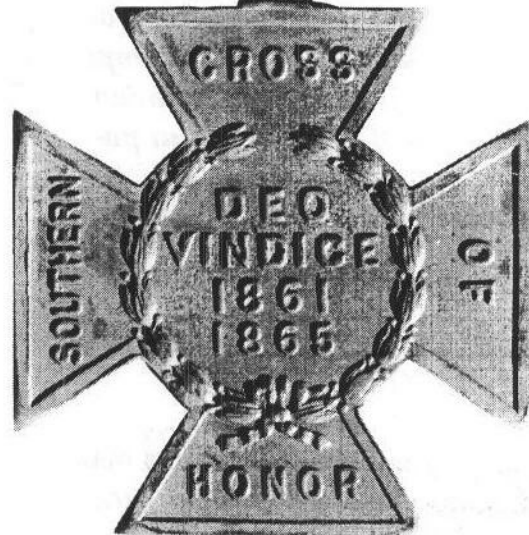
Original Box! (illustration at 75%)
Top: maroon paper wrap, silver text
Bottom: white cardboard, red number



hand engraved number



first pin clasp style



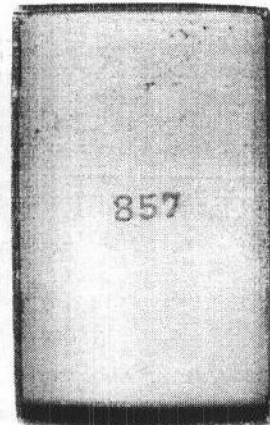
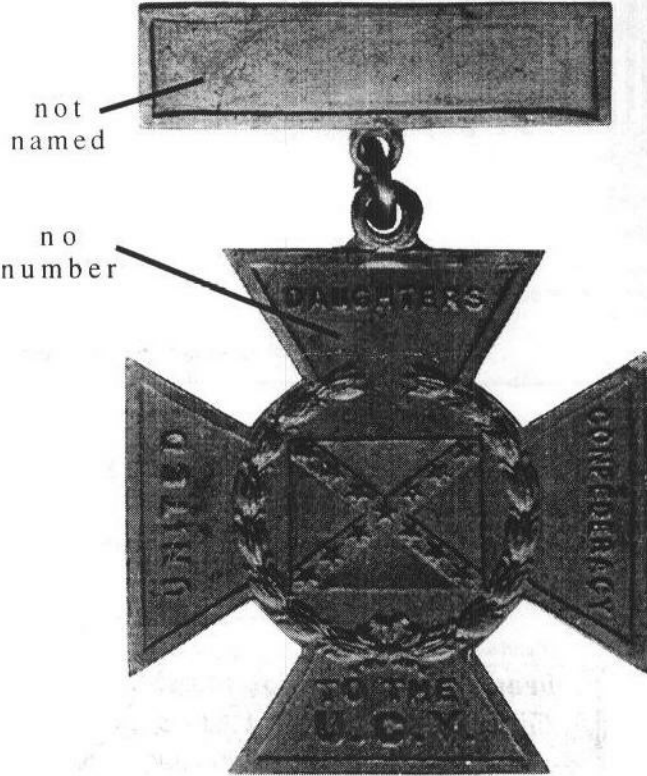
illust at 200%

MBR#: SCH-111

Courtesy United Daughters of the Confederacy: Richmond, Virginia
Photography by Katherine Wetzel

Confederate Corner #14 (cont)

Box #857 to Elisha Harris Cochran
Co. D, later Co. F : 8th, later 5th Georgia



box bottom-interior



box bottom-exterior



slip sheet

Southern Cross
of Honor, Type 2
with Type 1 Box



first pin
style
clasp



Everitt Bowles Collection

MBR#:SCH-212

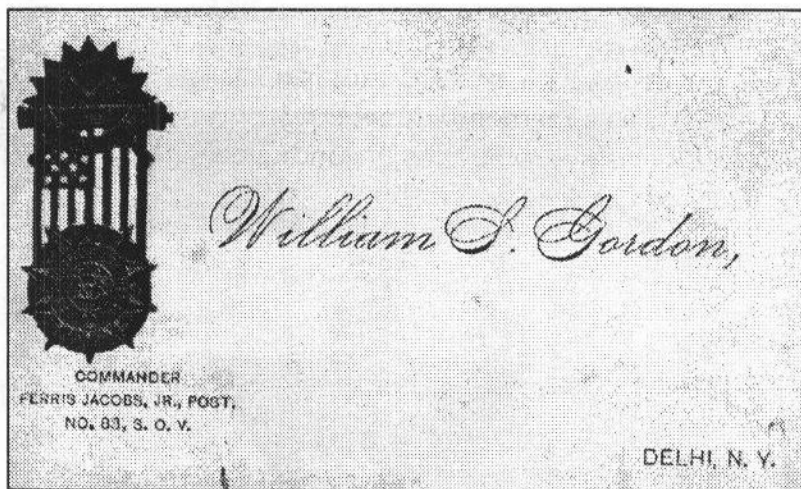
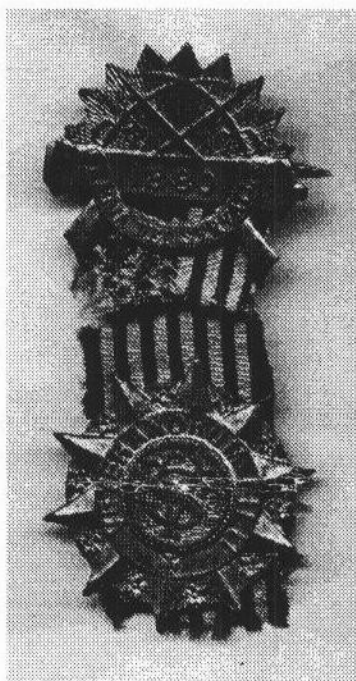
Cross illustration at 200%

Box and slip sheet illustration at 75%

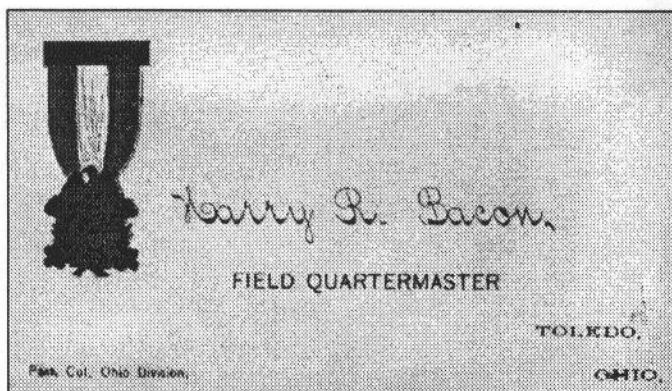
Now we know that the first 2500 Crosses were numbered. The most logical explanation is that Cochran lost his original Cross and this one is a replacement. It is an early Cross (Pin Clasp A), produced in 1900. The box lid was unfortunately lost.

It is now fairly well known that when the first 2500 Southern Crosses of Honor were ordered through Mr. Charles Crankshaw of Atlanta, he assigned the actual production of the Crosses to the Schwaab Stamp & Seal Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. What is not generally known is that after delivery he laboriously hand engraved a number on each Cross and boxed it. The Cross was then attached to a slip sheet and the number was stamped in the box bottom and at the bottom of the slip sheet.

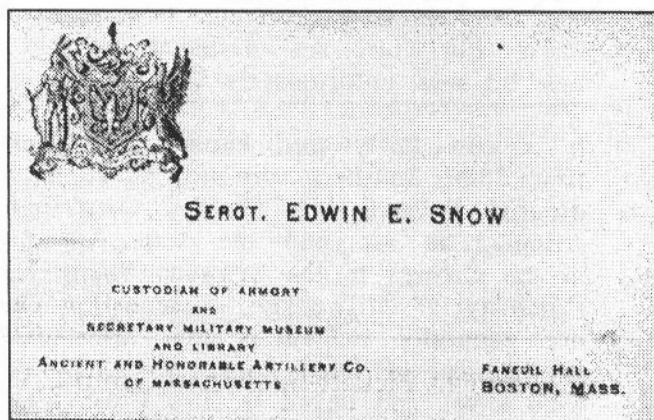
VETERAN VISITING CARDS



William S. Gordon
Commander Ferris Jacobs, Jr., Post No. 83, S.O.V.
 Picture of the first membership badge of the Sons of Veterans on left and on card. Both considered very rare items.



Harry R. Bacon
Field Quartermaster, Sons of Veterans
 Toledo, Ohio



Sergt. Edwin E. Snow
 Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Boston

(Continued from page 5)-

beautiful combination in colors of the National Colors, Stack of Arms, Cannon, etc.

- No. 1 Illuminated, Plain Edge
- No. 2 Illuminated, S.V. Badge in Gilt and Colors
- No. 3 Same as No. 2, but with Gilt Edge
- No. 4 Embossed S. V. Badge in Bronze and Colors, Plain Edge
- No. 5 Same as No. 4, but with Gilt Edge
- No. 6 Embossed S.V. Coat of Army in Bronze, Plain Edges.
- No. 7 Same as No. 6, but with Gilt Beveled Edges

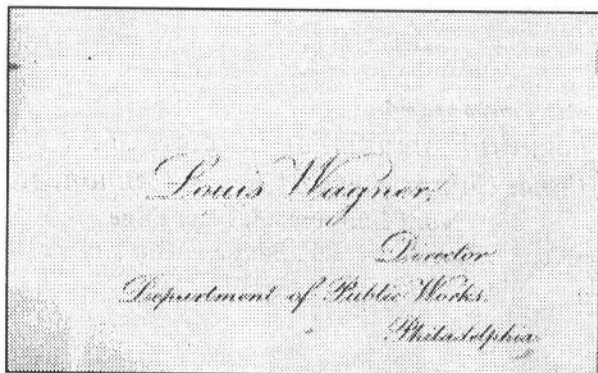
One note of warning, the cards are sometime called "business cards" by the novice collector or a dealer with little knowledge of veterans materials. This is understandable as they are in the form of a current business card. A more savvy collector knows that the name was not used for this type of card, or by the veterans themselves. Business cards were in use, although this particular card with a veterans GAR rank, regiment, or other Civil War link was not usually used for busi-

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VETERAN VISITING CARDS

(Continued from page 8)-

ness purposes, rather to communicate an address or as a memento of meeting Business was not to be openly conducted within the GAR, so a GAR business card was not considered in good taste. This was the general rule, and when variations are found it always is challenges whatever we think the limits of good taste were and how the cards were used. I would suggest that the use of the name *visiting card* or *address card* would keep you on firm historical footing, and would recommend the use of "business card" be limited to those cards that are actually cards of commerce.



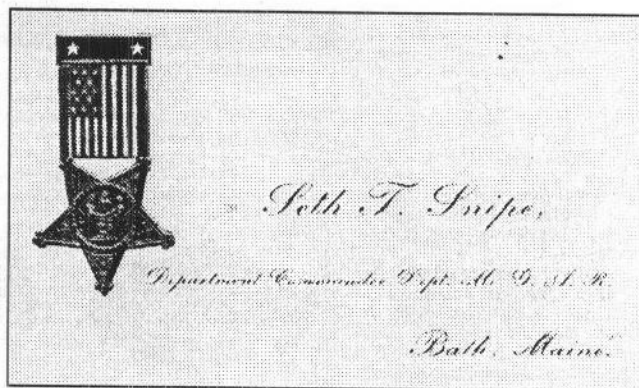
Louis Wagner
Commander-in-Chief GAR
 His personal card as Director of Public Works in Philadelphia, Pa.



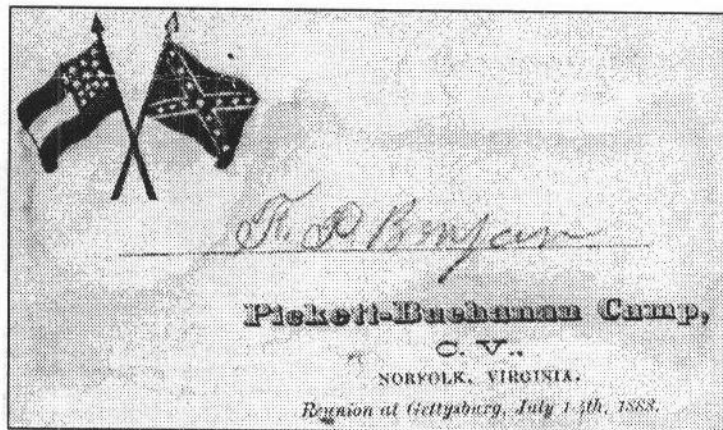
J. H. Madole
 Ransom Post No. 131, St. Louis, Mo.



Louis Schmitt
 U.S. Grant Post, No. 28, Chicago, Illinois



Seth F. Snipe
 Department Commander, Dept of Maine
 Bath, Maine



F.P. Benjar, Pickett-Buchanan Camp C.V.
 Norfolk, Virginia
 A rare stock card with hand written name for use at the Gettysburg Reunion, 1888

Antique Week

CENTRAL EDITION

Weekly Antique, Auction & Collectors' Newspaper

Vol. 30, No. 42 (Whole 1498)

Monday, January 12, 1998

☆☆

GAR relics pay homage to Civil War veterans

by Lynn Wenzel
for *AntiqueWeek*

*All quiet along the Potomac tonight
No sound save the rush of the river;
While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead—
The pickets off duty forever.*

Founded by Dr. B.F. Stephenson in 1866, The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was formed to advocate and care for Union Civil War veterans, widows and orphans. Brothers, fathers and sons had marched off from towns and cities in July 1861, proud, excited, dedicated. Over one million of them died—more than in any other war our country ever fought. And those who did return were often maimed for life.

State and federal leaders had little idea of how to meet the needs of thousands of returning veterans, and, according to Pennsylvania GAR collector Glenn B. Knight, Civil War expert and member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, there was little political pressure to keep promises that had been made to the soldiers. Also, says Knight, veterans had developed a unique bond that they wished to maintain—a "trusting companionship" and a sentimental connection they kept by creating an organization within which to honor their own service and that of their comrades.

Many veterans groups organized after the Civil War, but the GAR emerged most powerful. By 1890, it had over 400,000 active members. Five U.S. presidents came from its ranks, as well as many senators and representatives. At one time, no doubt due to the political pressure of GAR constituents, one-fifth of the national budget went to soldiers' pensions. The GAR founded soldiers' homes for the permanently disabled and was active in relief work. According to chroniclers of the 24th National Encampment in Boston, in 1890, the GAR had, by then, established orphan homes in seven states, preserved Gettysburg as a national battleground and given more than \$2 million in charity to veterans and their families whether or not they were members of the GAR. For a time, says Knight, it was impossible to be nominated on the Republican ticket without the endorsement of the GAR, and the organization was a huge force to be reckoned with in American political and social life.

"Civil War veterans controlled so much in this country and had such a political voice," says GAR collector and expert Roger L. Heiple. "Among other things, they used their power to see that May 30 was adopted as Memorial Day. "to cherish tenderly the memory of our heroic dead who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes...[and to] aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon the Nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan." Civil War General John A. Logan became the third National Commander of the GAR and was a senator when Andrew Johnson was president (1865-1869). In the early days, says Michigan resident Heiple, "GAR members were pretty militant. Members thought the South might rise again. They were radical Republicans and their ceremonies often reflected this. Later, as officers and lead-



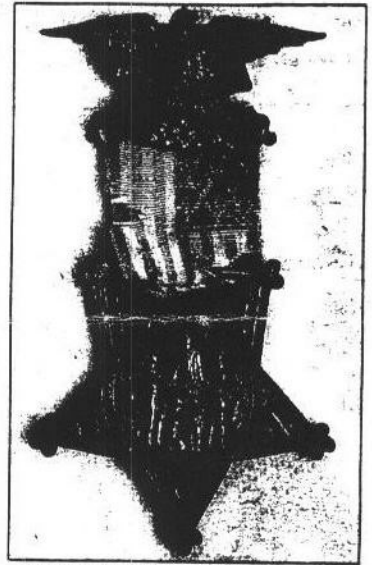
GLASSWARE featuring the GAR name and logo can be found. One of the etched glasses is from the 1889 National Encampment held in Milwaukee.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)



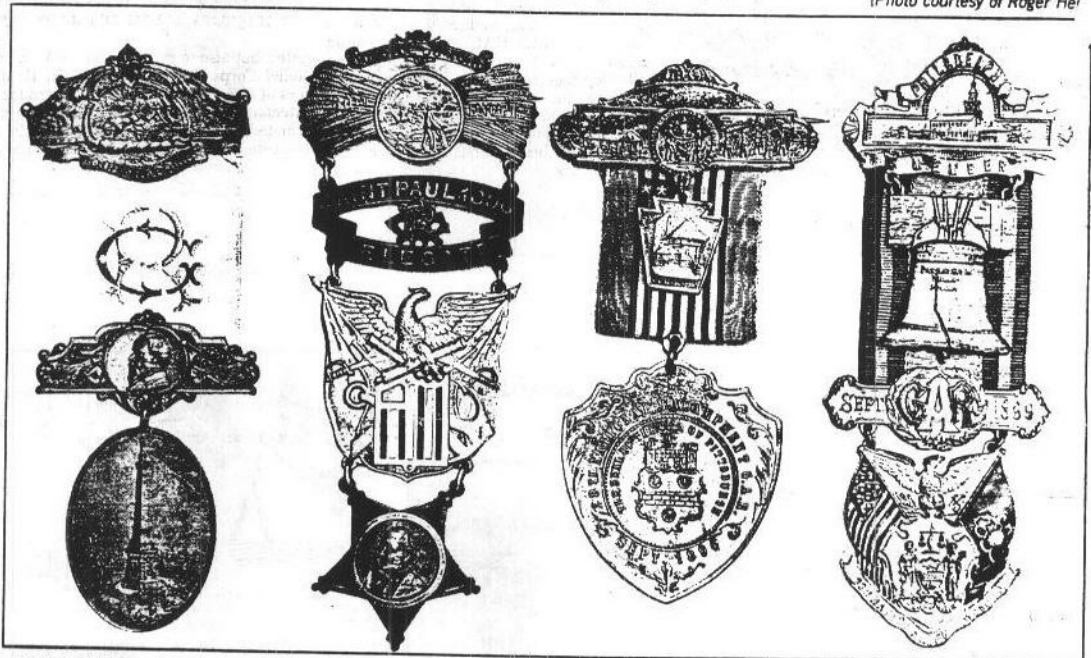
MOST POSTS purchased a banner, even though they were quite expensive. The banners were often heavily embroidered silk.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)



THIS GAR medal and ribbon features an American eagle in the pointed wings style.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)



HOST CITIES took great pride in designing badges for their GAR National Encampments. Badges usually represented not only the host city but also the state itself. The St. Paul, Minn., badge (second from left) has the words, "L' Etoile du Nord," meaning Star of the North, above sheaves of wheat. Pittsburgh's badge is cast at a famous foundry there from an actual Union cannon, and the Philadelphia badge on the far right shows the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. The Indianapolis badge at the far left has a medal that pictures Monument Circle.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)

ers who had served in the war grew older and died, the GAR became more ceremonial. Over its 83-year existence, the composition of the GAR radically changed."

Living History

Collectors of GAR memorabilia are, generally, scholars and historians. They begin collecting because of their interest in the Civil War and its aftermath, and they are

anxious that people know this. They have resisted popularizing collecting because they don't want it to be ruled by prices. "It's such a rich field to collect in," says Heiple. "The variety of material is amazing. But, this is a serious subject," says Heiple. "There was a passion for the GAR, the regiments and each other that is hard to understand now. You might see that in World War II veterans today, as they greet

each other with tears streaming down their faces. Death was so random," says Heiple. "For instance, in my area (Michigan—the 24th Michigan Brigade, Regular Army, under General Reynolds) 85 percent of the soldiers were dead in the first two years of the war. The veterans were the survivors of a great army who

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Gar relics . . . (continued from page 2)

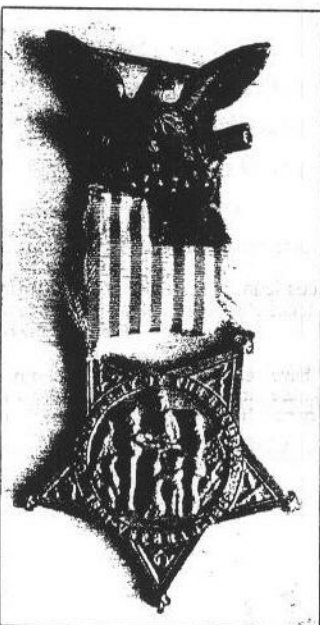
Ohio badges had a picture of a buckeye. Some Departments combined two or more states. One early Department was called the Indian Territory and badges from it are rare. To further complicate badge collecting, each Department also had special delegate badges and ribbons. Pay attention to the ribbon colors, usually made from silk. Department (state) badges had red ribbons. Post badges had blue ribbons, and National badges always had a yellow/buff ribbon.

According to Heiple, the most interesting GAR ribbon badges were woven ones created by the Stevens Company of England, often referred to as Stevensgraphs. These portrait silks have extremely fine detail. Other companies, such as the B.B. Tilt Co., the United States Badge Co. and the Son of Paterson (N.J.) all made badges, but they are not as easily identified or as finely wrought. According to Heiple, only the Stevens ribbons can be identified by the name printed on the lower reverse and only the Stevensgraphs have embroidered portraits in silk in addition to text. These



ULYSSES S. GRANT was presented five of these solid gold GAR badges. The eagle, cannon and cannonballs and the medal below are gold. The circle with words "Grand Army of the Republic" is blue enamel. The flag is red, white and blue on gold. Value of this badge is more than \$750.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)



THE 1869 STYLE (small) GAR badge

are some of the most colorful and fragile items that can be collected from the GAR, says Heiple. "Condition is very important, as is careful display. Restoration of the ribbons is almost impossible but if a ribbon is in very poor condition, a backing of similar silk can be attached."

Swords, Sheet Music & Spoons

In addition to badges, there were other items used by GAR members and sought by collectors. These include swords with nickel-plated steel scabbards, gold-etched diamond blades and brass guards; drums used for special events; leather belts with GAR buckle plates, some trimmed with gilt and embroidery (a general's belt could cost up to \$50 in 1886); banners, corps and Post flags made of silk painted with oil (these were expensive, costing up to \$125); slides of Civil War battles and the exhibitors' lantern used to project the images; sheet music; spoons with handles shaped like flags or guns or bearing the GAR symbol with engraved bowls; and grave markers, including those with the GAR star on a metal staff with a flag atop, and the less-common stoneware marker. Other collectible items include uniforms, caps and gloves, muskets, bullet boxes and gavels, to name a few. Brass buttons are also sometimes found decorated with the initials GAR. A wonderful find for the collector and a good source for historians are veterans newspapers published during the late 1800s. Some titles include *The Great Republic* (New York), *The Grand Army Advocate* (Des Moines, Iowa), *The Canteen* (Washington), and *The Grand Army Record* (Boston). Old catalogs are the best original source of information for collectors of GAR memorabilia.

Heiple's collecting bug began with an interest in the Civil War, and the purchase of such Civil war artifacts as swords and guns that were quite expensive. Then he began to notice all kinds of veterans' badges that no one seemed to know about. "They were really cheap," says Heiple, "and I thought they were beautiful. Then I saw that collecting badges was a way to learn all about the GAR and to become an expert on it. It took me 20 years to put my collection together. Today it combines my interest in the Civil War and in veterans. I started a Civil War Veterans Association, began publishing a newsletter and made some of the best friends I've ever had. Now we have a network that meets once a year in Mansfield, Ohio, for a huge Civil War show. A good part of that show is dedicated to GAR items."

Heiple advises potential collectors of GAR memorabilia to study diligently, to take the time to see the market, to go to shows before beginning to buy. But, he says, there are definitely items available to collect. "You can find badges and other memorabilia at yard sales, flea markets and antique shows. The silk ribbons deteriorated, but people kept the medals. So look in sewing boxes. You may find an old shoebox full of badges," he says. "People should define their collections. I know someone who just collects Gettysburg material. Choose a specific glassware or a specific Encampment. Then let other collectors know. They will help you build your collection with the items they don't want."

GAR items can be found all over the United States, because aging veterans often moved to warmer climates, to "colonies" developed and built by other veterans. So, for instance, a collector might find a Department Badge from Minnesota in California, Georgia or Florida. Pennsylvania collector Julie Brightenti echoes Heiple's advice. "Go to Civil War shows or flea markets where you may find a GAR item owned by someone who doesn't know what they have. Also, go to auctions and specialize," says Brightenti. "I've decided to get rid of tangential material and just collect badges. Some people I know just collect ceramic canteens, some just lapel pins. Provenance is important," she says. "If a badge were a presentation piece given to a famous general, it will be worth more than one worn by a Post member. Post badges are less expensive than Department badges which are cheaper than National badges. And, of course, scarcity determines value as well." But, Brightenti assures us, there is plenty of GAR material out there. "I'm still coming across things I've never seen before!"

The final National Encampment was held in Indianapolis in 1949. By then, total



EMBROIDERED silk badges from various National and Department Encampments feature portraits with amazingly fine detail. These portrait badges are highly collectible Stevensgraphs and are difficult to find in good condition.

gates, but also to members of the Women's Relief Corps, Ladies of the GAR, Daughters of Union Veterans and other groups in attendance. In total, about 1,500 were distributed. According to Heiple, with only six GAR members in attendance, many novice collectors have thought the "last badge" in their possession had great value. It is, says Heiple, an important one, but not one of the most difficult ones to obtain. During this last National Encampment, there was a memorial service, an open house, the presentation of special badges to the last commander-in-chief, Theodore A. Penland, and a final business session in which a resolution was passed to close the affairs of the GAR and hand its property over to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. The last annual parade took place with six veterans riding in cars. Following the parade, the final campfire took place. And with this, a chapter in American history was closed forever.

For your information

The Veteran: Newsletter of the Civil War Veteran Historical Association, may be subscribed to by contacting Editor Roger L. Heiple, P.O. Box 16, South Lyon, MI 48178. It is full of historical articles and pictures about the GAR as well as other Civil War information.

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic has active local groups called "Circles" across the country open to female descendants of Union Veterans. Write Mrs. Elizabeth Koch, National Secretary, 119 N. Swarthmore Ave., Apt 1-H, Ridley Park, PA 19078.

For complete history of the GAR, check your library for a copy of *Veterans in Politics: The Story of the G.A.R.* by Mary R. Dearing. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1952. It is out of print.

There are collections of GAR materials across the country. This is a good way to familiarize yourself with badges and other items. Museum locations include: GAR Museum & Library, 4278 Griscom St., Philadelphia, PA 19124-3954; Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703, 608-264-6086; The Civil War Museum of the Women's Relief Corp., Springfield, Ill.; The Blue Gray Museum, Municipal Building, Fitzgerald, GA, 31750, 912-423-5375 (a unique collection reflecting a Union Veteran Colony in the south)

down), Lynn, Mass. (Gen. Landers Post 5, 58 Andrew St., open for tours), St. Cloud, Fla. (Mitchell Post 34, Mass. Ave., not far from Disney World), Marshall, Mich. (Colgrove Post, Michigan Ave./Business I-94, open for tours by appointment), Sunfield, Mich. (Sunfield Post, has cannons in front of the white frame building, open by appointment), Aurora, Ill. (Post 20, downtown next to river, sandstone building, displays of uniforms and badges), Litchfield, Minn. (Frank Daggett Post 35, the only GAR Post building left in Minnesota, looks like a fort, recently restored, open T-S noon-4p.m.); Worcester, Mass. (George H. Ward Post 10, stone building located at 22 Pearl St.), Frost, Ohio (H.G. Frost Post 341, built in 1896, open by appointment, contact Judy Morgan at jmorgan@bobcat.ent.ohiou.edu).

Representative Prices

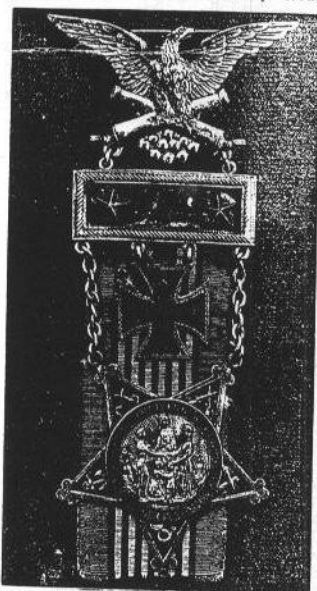
- Souvenir of Boston 1915 National Encampment, two-piece, bronze finish badge with Faneuil Hall on top bar, GAR badge on drop, \$30.
- Department of Kansas Membership Badge, two-piece, grasshopper top, sunflower drop, red ribbon, excellent condition, \$75.
- Department of Nebraska Membership Badge, two-piece, red ribbon, excellent condition, \$95.
- GAR banner, 12 by 16 block printed in red and blue on white cloth, "Welcome G.A.R." with GAR badge in center. Printed about 1910, excellent condition, \$25.
- Representative Department of Montana Ribbon, silver printing, Missoula 1898, rare, 100.
- GAR Campfire Ribbon, white with black printing, orange printed in center, Los Angeles 1903, good condition, \$45.
- GAR buttons, four large, approximately 1 inch, and 12 smaller, approximately one-half inch, marked "Scovill Mfg. Co., Waterbury Ct" and "Goodwins," very good to like new, \$80.
- Sterling silver spoon, small demitasse with GAR emblem on handle, thought to be souvenir of 1903 San Francisco National Encampment, \$95-\$75.

GAR relics . . . (continued from page 1)

suffered as they fought against their fellow countrymen. Most were never the same. It has been said that 20 percent of the women in the U.S. were widows. It was a common sight to see men without legs and arms in every city. I collect to honor these men, as do other serious collectors."

The fact that the GAR was such a powerful political organization and that its members represented all walks of life, makes collecting its memorabilia extremely compelling. Each badge, goblet and canteen speaks silently of a war so horrible and a camaraderie so binding that, to hold an object is to feel living history. It is impossible to actually know how it felt to have fought at Antietam or to have been one of the 45,000 Union soldiers imprisoned at Andersonville, living in an unimaginable squalor. Or to watch 100 of your comrades die every day. But this unimaginable experience created the bond that is remembered today through those objects that collectors now covet, eagerly search out and proudly display.

Items available to be collected connected with the GAR are unbelievably broad



TWO STARS and a red ribbon distinguished this as a Past Department Commander's Badge. (Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)

ranging. There are clocks, ballot boxes from local, state and national elections, and engraved glassware. There are souvenirs from each National Encampment, including tin cups, placemats, goblets, spoons and specially designed canteens. There are ashtrays, canes, fans, plates, fringed Bible covers, good luck horseshoes and coffin covers. There is carved furniture such as chairs with legs made to look like cannon. And, of course, most important to collectors, there are badges. Badges represented all three levels of the GAR, the local, or community level called a "Post," the state level called "Departments" which encompassed all the posts, and the National level. Post commanders and other officials were elected by ballot, and all wore badges specially designed for their level and position.

Each year, the National level of the GAR met and held a National Encampment, open to all past and present members and auxiliary groups. Encampments became huge events lasting days, and included Reunion Day, camping out, formal dinners, memorial events and grand parades with floats and bands. The GAR National Encampment of 1888 was held in Columbus, Ohio. The *Daily Journal* blared, "Scores of Thousands Of Boys in Blue in Line in the GAR Parade: About 75,000 March in Review." The article goes on to describe a "continuous line of Grand Army men, in platoons in close column, marching for five hours. On the reviewing stand were...Gen. W.T. Sherman, ex-President Hayes, ex-Senator Thurman...Gov. Foraker and state and federal officials...Among the features of the parade was the Monitor float...The Merrimac was also represented by a large model, as well as full-rigged men-of-war and smaller craft. The vessels were large enough to carry full crews upon their decks...On one of these was a mortar, which throughout the day fired bombs in the air, out of which unfolded all manner of figures, which floated in the air to the delight of thousands...There were army mules and mounted cavalymen, whales swimming in air, eagles, the goddess of liberty...All through the procession...there were old and battle-worn flags, which brought tears to the eyes of veterans and cheers from all...Ohio was out in force and buckeyes were numerous, being used as trinkets and as canes...Commander-in-Chief J.P. Rea received a beautiful gold badge. Adj. Gen. Daniel Fish was presented with a massive solid silver server on which was worked a beautiful GAR emblem and with which was a beautiful tea set. Quartermaster Gen. John Taylor received a solid silver

canteen...There are probably 250,000 strangers in the city..." No wonder cities vied for the honor of hosting a National Encampment. Participants filled hotels and hostels, purchasing badges and trinkets by the thousands.

Collecting Badges

One of the most interesting areas of GAR collecting is delegate badges from National Encampments. First created after the 1883 encampment in Denver, and continued in 1949 when the GAR folded (except in 1884 when no badge was made), badges were created and furnished by the city that hosted the event. They reflected the city itself, including local history and state symbols as well as an image of the current commander-in-chief, and are considered among the finest badges manufactured. Collecting National Encampment badges requires study because, as the years went by, there were more and more badges given out. There were the official ones, commissioned by the host city given to all delegates, past delegates and allied orders (such as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Women's Relief Corps and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, as well as later, the Daughters of Union Veterans); the semiofficial staff badges; and the souvenir badges such as a 1908 example from the Toledo Encampment—a tin cup badge that could be used for coffee from the canteen. There were also testimonial badges, given to officers at the end of their service period. (They were also given silver bowls and tea services.) Many of these badges were 14 or 18K gold, sometimes studded with diamonds. They are exquisite and have intrinsic as well as historic value. Roger Heiple has about 12 of these in his possession, including one attributed to Grant that was found in upstate New York. It is valued at more than \$750. For those wishing to begin collecting National Encampment badges, Heiple warns, "The first three badges from 1883, 1885 and 1886, and the last badges from 1939 to 1948 are extremely difficult to find. There are only three complete collections of National Encampment badges extant." Heiple has the first set ever assembled and it took him 20 years to achieve. There is a second complete collection on display at the Women's Relief Corps Museum in Springfield, Ill.

In addition to National Encampment badges, there were two-sided Post badges, with one side red, white and blue and the other in black with the words "In Memorium," to be used when a member died. There were other unique Post badges as well, including those with a detachable metal top piece from which a large metal



SOUVENIR spoons were made for GAR National Encampments. This spoon from the turn of the century is valued at \$25-\$35. (Photo courtesy of Roger Heiple)

star or disk was suspended. All were ordered every few years, so there are many variations in badges from a single Post. "There were 6,000 to 7,000 Posts," says Heiple, "and you could just collect Post badges." Heiple has between 200 and 300 Post badges, worn to funerals, Memorial Day programs and Fourth of July parades, among other events. There were also Post ribbons just for delegates going to a National Encampment, as well as past officer badges that can be recognized by horizontal rank straps with one or more stars on them.

A collector could specialize just in Department (state) badges. This would make a fascinating collection, as each state incorporated its flower, animal or symbol into the badge designs. So, for instance, Massachusetts had a pot of beans, New Hampshire had a piece of granite on it and

The article reprinted, on pages 10-12, was recently printed in *Antique Week*. The author spent considerable time researching her subject. The editor and secretary of the CWVHA were given an opportunity to assist. Most importantly, the author understands the GAR/UCV collectors interest in the materials they collect and it shows clearly in her article. This type of publicity is important to our field of collecting for it provides information not only on the items we collect, but the extent of our commitment to our collections. New collectors will be encouraged not only to find items, but to research the things he/she finds.

Notice of Dues

Every May the CWVHA starts a new year. At the annual meeting in Mansfield, we elect our new officers and the new year begins. At the meeting dues are collected, and members who can't attend are asked to send in the \$10 for dues to the **Secretary-Treasurer**. It seems every year the new dues roll in over the following six months, causing problems with delivery of the newsletter, etc. Dennis Loba sent a reminder card this year and we will probably do that again. The dues are low and we think they represent a good value for the six newsletters, so your co-operation is appreciated