



# The Veteran

Volume 13, Issue 1

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Spring 1999

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## The Charles A. Partridge Collection

By George Finlayson, M.D.



Sgt. Major Charles A. Partridge, a native of Virginia, served in Co. C 96th IL, Vol. Inf. from September 1862 to June 1865. Prior to service he had been a schoolteacher in Illinois. The 96th IL, Vol. Inf. served under Gen. Gordon Granger, commanding the Reserve Corps at Chickamauga, Gen. Steedman's division. On September 20, 1863, the Reserve Corps played a major role in helping Gen. George Thomas earn the title, "The Rock of Chickamauga". During the battle Partridge received a minie ball wound to the right hip, disabling him for combat for four months and causing him lifelong pain.

Following the war, Partridge owned and operated the Waukegan Weekly Gazette and became postmaster and mayor of that town. He was also active in politics and served in the 35th, 36th, and 37th general assemblies of the Illinois State Legislature. His great devotion was to the GAR, where he rose in ranks to Aide de Camp, and successively became Illinois GAR Assistant Quartermaster General and, later, Assistant Adjutant General, the latter post he held from 1880-1893. At the 1890 GAR National Encampment in Chicago, Partridge was named Assistant Adj. General for the National GAR.

— continued on page three —

## In this issue of *The Veteran*

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"I know this boy, and believe he is very  
brave, manly and worthy."

— A. Lincoln, January 10, 1865

## The President's Message



May 5, 1999

Greetings,  
Fellow Members,

May 1st, at our annual meeting, 50 or more members attended.

Several important matters were covered. These will be forthcoming in the Minutes of that meeting.

The election was held and no one was interested in being president, so I consented to being president for the coming year. I have asked for volunteers for a committee to compose a proper set of rules and bylaws to be presented at the next annual meeting for consideration.

I have received several written suggestions concerning the adoption of bylaws and these will be shared by the committee. All members are welcome to express their ideas and suggestions to me.

Our collecting membership continues to grow and to welcome all new members.

Sincerely,  
Don Limpert

Fellow Collectors,

Recently, Roger Heiple, current editor, indicated he would have to give up putting together the newsletter for health reasons. He said the May 99 issue was ready to be sent to the printers and mailed; however, it was sent in disk format and no one was able to take the information off the disks. I agreed to take over and with the help of other interested members will get the newsletter "back on track." I have someone who is working with Roger to decipher the disks but as of August 3rd, it is not yet done. I will ask for articles, comments, news, etc. to be used in the coming issues.

This current issue is being put together to cover the issue due the first of May. There will be an issue that will be sent to members on time in September. I need your help with articles.

I do not have a computer yet so will depend on "snail mail" and the telephone. Is there a member out there who has the time, interest and willingness to work with me and perhaps take over?

Sincerely,

Don Limpert

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Address: P. O. Box 524

Manchester, MI 48158-0524

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## *The Veteran*

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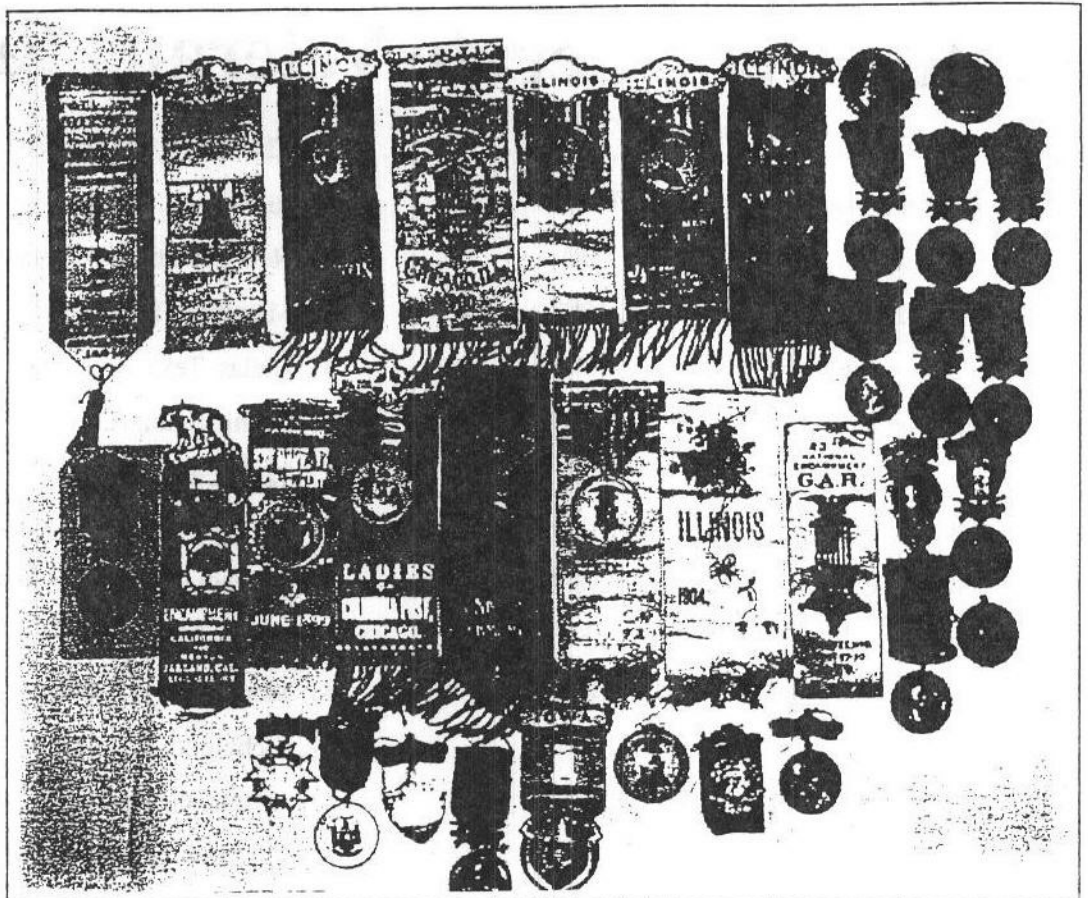
Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or via electronics by MacIntosh disk. Art work or photos may be sent and will be returned after copying. Please attach your name and complete address to all materials to insure proper return and credit.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss an article, please call Acting-Editor Don Limpert at 734-428-7400. *The Veteran* is your newsletter and members are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

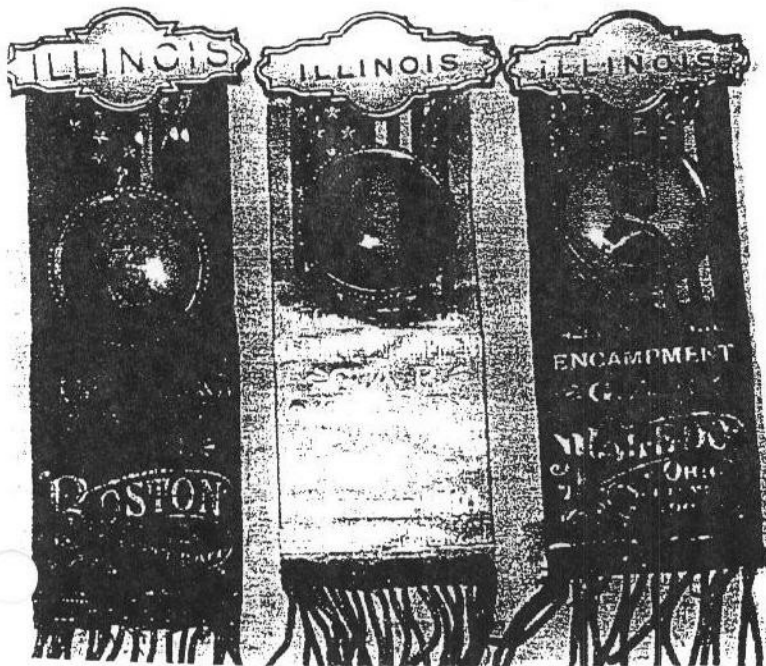
**Charles A. Partridge  
continued from  
front page**

In the early 1880s, he wrote a history of the 96th IL Vol. Infantry's participation in the Battle of Chickamauga.

Charles Addison Partridge, prominent citizen, city, county and state official, historian and national officer of the GAR, died at 67 in Chicago in 1910. The GAR collection that came down through Partridge's family to a great-grandson includes two five-foot GAR Ass. Adj. Gen. sashes, two cabinet photos, GAR paper votes,



GAR business card and Veteran's ladder badge, a Libby prison survivors invitation, a copy of his 96th IL Vol. Inf. battle history, 50 sheets of National Archives information, his obituary and an extensive collection of badges relating to his years of service to the GAR. This is truly a remarkable set of records from one Civil War soldier



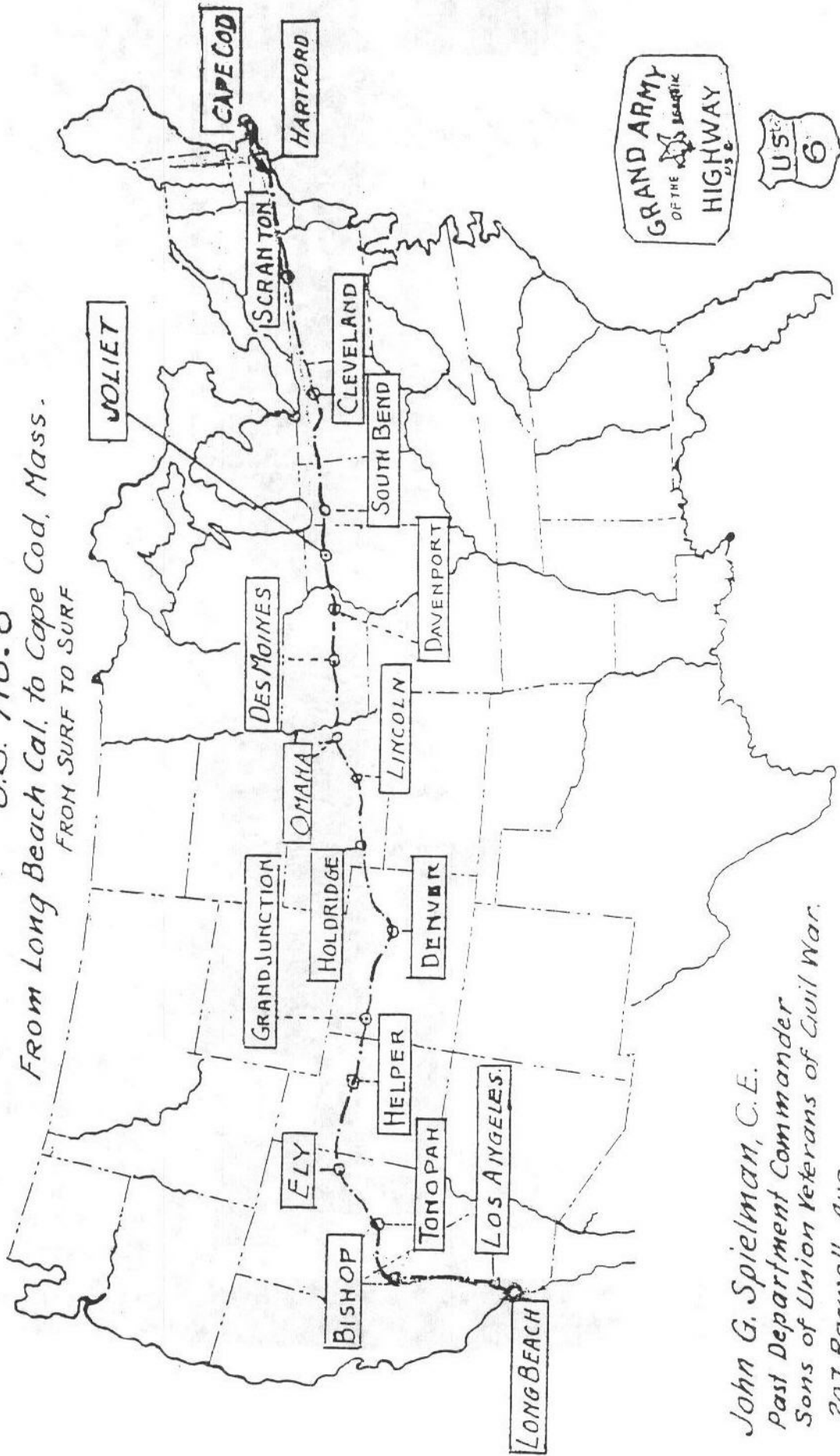
# United Confederate Veterans Reunions

Organization	June 10, 1889		
1. Chattanooga, Tennessee	July 3, 1890	31. Chattanooga, Tennessee	October 24, 1921
2. Jackson, Mississippi	June 2, 1891	32. Richmond, Virginia	June 19, 1922
3. New Orleans, Louisiana	April 8, 1892	33. New Orleans, Louisiana	April 10, 1923
No Reunion due to financial depression	1895	34. Memphis, Tennessee	June 3, 1924
4. Birmingham, Alabama	April 25, 1894	35. Dallas, Texas	May, 1925
5. Houston, Texas	May 22, 1895	36. Birmingham, Alabama	May 18, 1926
6. Richmond, Virginia	June 30, 1896	37. Tampa, Florida	1927
7. Nashville, Tennessee	June 22, 1897	38. Little Rock, Arkansas	May 8, 1928
8. Atlanta, Georgia	July 20, 1898	39. Charlotte, North Carolina	June 4, 1929
9. Charleston, South Carolina	May 10, 1899	40. Biloxi, Mississippi	June 3, 1930
10. Louisville, Kentucky	May 30, 1890	41. Montgomery, Alabama	June 2, 1931
11. Memphis, Tennessee	May 28, 1901	42. Richmond, Virginia	June 2, 1932
12. Dallas, Texas	April 22, 1902	43. Atlanta, Georgia	July, 1933
13. New Orleans, Louisiana	May 19, 1903	44. Chattanooga, Tennessee	June 5, 1934
14. Nashville, Tennessee	June 14, 1904	45. Amarillo, Texas	September 8, 1935
15. Louisville, Kentucky	June 14, 1905	46. Shreveport, Louisiana	June 9, 1936
16. New Orleans, Louisiana	April 25, 1906	47. Jackson, Mississippi	June 9, 1937
17. Richmond, Virginia	May 30, 1907	48. Columbia, South Carolina	August 30, 1938
18. Birmingham, Alabama	June 8, 1908	49. Trinidad, Colorado	August 22, 1939
19. Memphis, Tennessee	June 8, 1909	50. Washington, D.C.	October 8, 1940
20. Mobile, Alabama	April 26, 1910	51. Atlanta, Georgia	October 14, 1941
21. Little Rock, Arkansas	May 15, 1911	52. Chattanooga, Tennessee	June 23, 1942
22. Macon, Georgia	May 6, 1912	53. Atlanta, Georgia	1943
23. Chattanooga, Tennessee	May 26, 1913	54. Montgomery, Alabama	1944
24. Jacksonville, Florida	May 6, 1914	55. Chattanooga, Tennessee	1945
25. Richmond, Virginia	May 31, 1915	56. Gulfport, Biloxi, Mississippi	October 7, 1946
26. Birmingham, Alabama	May 15, 1916	57. Chattanooga, Tennessee	1947
27. Washington, D.C.	June 3, 1917	58. Montgomery, Alabama	October 5, 1948
28. Tula, Oklahoma	September 25, 1918	59. Little Rock, Arkansas	October, 1949
29. Atlanta, Georgia	September 6, 1919	60. Biloxi, Mississippi	September 27, 1950
30. Houston, Texas	October 5, 1920	61. Norfolk, Virginia	May 30, 1951

# GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC HIGHWAY

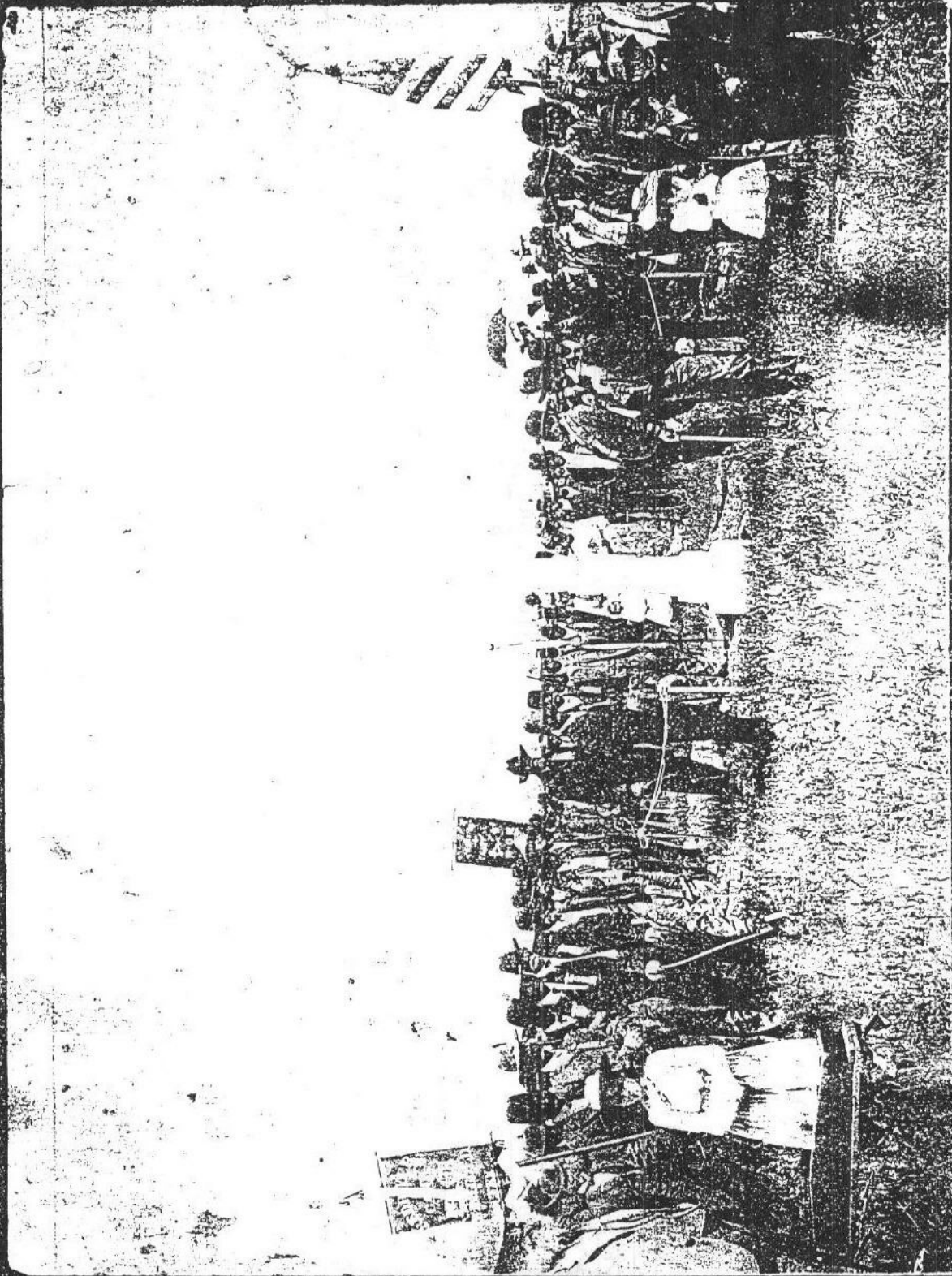
U.S. No. 6

From Long Beach Cal. to Cape Cod, Mass.  
FROM SURF TO SURF



John G. Spielman, C.E.  
Past Department Commander  
Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War.  
207 Roswell Ave.  
Long Beach, Calif.

1943. 11-1-1944



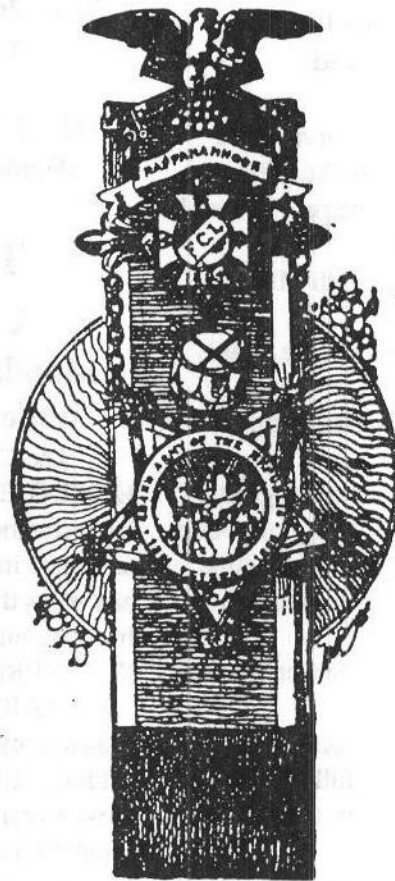
FEDRIVER CAMP No. 475 RINGGOLD TEX.

# R. H. Hendershott, the Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock



**Robert Henry Hendershott**

11 years of age at the time he went to the front with the 9th Michigan Infantry, October 25, 1861, and the youngest enlisted soldier in 1861.



*HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE*

The Badge presented to Maj. Hendershott at the National G.A.R. Encampment at Indianapolis, IN, Sept., 1893 by the W. R. Corps and the G.A.R. of the United States



Photograph taken of R. H. Hendershott, the Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock, February 1863, the day that Horace Greeley presented him with the Silver Drum.

## A RESOLUTION

At a meeting of the surviving members of the eighth Michigan Infantry on the 16th day of June, 1915, it was —

RESOLVED, That after careful examination of the records, army discharges and testimonials of Robert Henry Hendershott, that he is the only original Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock and that he is the only one entitled to such honors and that any other person claim in these honors are frauds and imposters and be it further

RESOLVED, That these resolutions be spread on the minutes of this association and a copy be sent to Robert H. Hendershott, and his name be added to the list of membership of this association.

The above resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote.

(Signed) CAPT. GEO E. SWINCOE, President  
D.C. SPAULDING, Secretary and Treasurer

**NO OTHER PERSON EVER CARRIED  
THESE TESTIMONIALS OR THE DRUM**

**A Few of the Many Testimonials that  
Major Hendershott has received:**

"Robert Henry Hendershott entered the service as a drummer boy of the 9th Michigan Infantry in 1861. He was always brave, gallant and worthy, and is of the proper metal to make a good soldier."

— J.G. Parkhurst, Late Colonel 9th Mich. Inf.

"I know this boy, and believe he is very brave, manly and worthy."

— A. Lincoln, January 10th, 1865

Washington, D.C., 1863 — "It affords me the greatest pleasure to testify to the great gallantry and loyalty of young Hendershott. He served under me faithfully for some time, and at the battle of Fredericksburg displayed most distinguished courage."

— A. E. Burnside, Major General

Headquarters Armies of the U.S., City Point, Va., January 14th, 1863 — "I would most respectfully recommend this boy for a cadetship at West Point for the coming year."

— U.S. Grant, Lt. General

Treasury of the U.S., Washington, D.C., January 1st, 1865 — "Aside from Major Hendershott's good conduct in the military service, of which I know, I have seen evidences of his great personal bravery. I think him made for the military service."

— F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the U.S.

Letter from Horace Greeley to Major Hendershott's mother — "Mrs. Hendershott: I have just received your letter and photograph. I assure you the little we did for your son in presenting him with a drum was prompted solely by admiration for his heroism and by hopes of his future usefulness which are still strong and high. In the firm trust that he will live to favor and comfort you, I remain, yours truly,

Horace Greeley

Those Desiring to Communicate with MAJOR  
R.H. HENDERSHOTT, address Post Office Lock  
Box 266, Oak Park, Illinois.

N.B. — WRITE US QUICK IF YOU  
WANT US THIS SEASON

**A TREAT for our CITIZENS**

The Two Great Entertainers

**Maj. R. H. HENDERSHOTT**, the Original  
Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock  
and his son,

**H. B. HENDERSHOTT**, One of the Most  
Wonderful Drummers and Fifers in the World  
Fun for Young and Old

**THE OPERA HOUSE  
CANBY, MINNESOTA**

**Monday Evening, November 2nd, 1914  
under the auspices of G.A.R. Post 94**

The Committee has positively engaged MAJOR R. H. HENDERSHOTT, the Original Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock, and his son, the most wonderful Drummer and Fifer in America, to furnish the audience with music and solos that our citizens have never before heard brought out of a drum and fife. THEIR PLAYING IS WONDERFUL. Everyone should see and hear them.

MAJOR HENDERSHOTT enlisted in the United States army as a drummer boy in the ninth Michigan Infantry at Detroit, Michigan in 1861, before he was eleven years of age. He and his son have a world-wide reputation as being high-class entertainers, and those who have heard the Major's imitation and explanation of an engine and his imitation of a battle say that these two pieces alone are worth more than the admission to the entertainment.

The Major brings with him and uses the original Silver Drum presented to him by Horace Greeley through the hands of General Winfield Scott for gallantry displayed at the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 11th, 12th and 13th, 1862; the Drumsticks presented by George W. DeLong Post GAR Honolulu; the Garfield and Arthur Drumsticks of 1880; the Diamond Badge and Drum presented to him by the WRC and GAR of the United States at the National Encampment at Indianapolis, IN, September 1893. The Major's son uses the Gold-mouthed Fife presented to him by the WRC of the United States at the National Encampment at Indianapolis, IN, September 1892,

**The Committee Guarantees Our Citizens the  
Grandest Treat of the Season**

General Admission .....25 Cents  
Reserved Seats.....35 Cents  
Children under 13 years of age.....15 Cents

*Program begins at 8:15 Sharp*

# MAJOR R. H. HENDERSHOTT

The Original Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock,  
Expert Drummer, Soloist and Entertainer  
and His Son H. B. Hendershott

One of the Most Wonderful Drummers and Fifers in the World  
THE TWO GREAT AMERICAN ENTERTAINERS  
For Any Respectable Society.....1914

The enclosed literature will explain our business and our terms. WE WILL TAKE PART IN ONE EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT FOR A CASH SUM OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS; OR HALF OF THE GROSS RECEIPTS.

Should your society engage our services on the percentage plan, you must furnish four or five selections of local talent, as a quartette, vocal or instrumental selections to fill in the program so that we can rest. A church choir or high school can render the required selections.

IF YOUR SOCIETY CANNOT FURNISH THESE SELECTIONS OF LOCAL TALENT WE CAN RENDER THE EVENING'S PROGRAM, AND SHOULD WE GIVE THE ENTIRE PROGRAM, OUR TERMS ARE A CASH PRICE OF THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS. WE ARE ALWAYS ENTERTAINED WHERE WE PLAY.

There is nothing in our parts of an entertainment that would be objectionable to holding the program in a church; we play in churches as frequently as we play in halls or opera houses. We have played in the finest churches in America and abroad. There is no danger of a failure if your society will do their parts in advertising and let your people see your program, also by selling your tickets in advance of the entertainment. In the last two years we have taken part in over five hundred entertainments and our audiences averaged from two hundred to eight hundred people each night. The society giving the entertainment making from \$25 to as high as \$275. Your society can do likewise. On our return engagements in the same town, the second and third time we have full houses. We have had twenty-five years' experience in this line of work. Our part of an entertainment consists of martial music, such as your people have never listened to before, produced on these instruments, the fife and the drum, numerous solos on these instruments and several others that we bring with us; songs that are original and a lengthy repertoire of entertaining recitations that always please the audience. We will give your audience a chance to laugh many times on good clean fun. Our work is very unique and pleases nearly everyone. Read the enclosed program which will convey an idea of our work as well as the parts of the local talent. Excepting express charges, I will furnish you with posters and hangers to advertise your entertainment. Our advertising matter is first class and attractive. I will give you a date in reply to your letter, and learn which of our terms you accept.

If you engage us we are coming there to please your people, and I shall expect your society to do their duty in advertising to make the entertainment a success. I do not furnish the programs for the entertainment. There is a printer in Chicago who prints these programs, as per sample enclosed, for \$2.50 per thousand. If you prefer to have your programs printed in your town take our parts from the enclosed program. You should have programs distributed in the country and in every residence in your town to make the entertainment a success.

For the benefit of those engaging our services, it is well for them to understand that we are artists in our profession and gentlemen and not dissipated people. We make our engagements by letter. If you want us this season, write soon, as we keep booked several weeks ahead.

## Minutes of May 1, 1999 Meeting

Don Limpert, president, opened the meeting and thanked George and Betty for their work. He then discussed the purpose of the guidelines that he mailed out and the newsletter.

Don Limpert suggested that the duties of secretary and treasurer be separate. A vote was taken and it was agreed upon.

Julieann Brighenti, secretary/treasurer, read the minutes from the previous meeting, a letter of response, and the treasurer's report. There is \$3,223 currently in the account, but she has not received and paid all the bills yet. She reminded everyone that if they are owed money for a service, they need to send her the bill. Harry and his staff were thanked for all their work in printing and mailing the newsletter. The minutes and finance reports were approved.

The nominations and election of new officers were held. The results are as follows:

President — Don Limpert — Unanimous ballot — Agreed to serve one more term.

Recording secretary — Everett Bowles — Unanimous ballot

Treasurer — Julieann Brighenti — Unanimous ballot

Editor of Newsletter — Roger Heiple — Unanimous ballot — Accepted but asked if other members would "Adopt a Page."

### Old Business

1. Newsletter — A discussion was held on whether the newsletter should be mailed 6 or 4 times a year. The final vote was for 4 times a year. Timeliness was also discussed and it was decided that the newsletter is to be mailed within 15 days of each quarter (i.e. January 15). Roger will put the schedule in the next newsletter along with a schedule for articles to be sent in. Articles can be done in WordPerfect. The President's letter regarding reservations for the dinner has worked out fine.

2. Honorary Memberships — Roger Heiple nominated three small organizations to receive complimentary subscriptions of the newsletter (which was agreed upon at last year's meeting). A discussion followed. The motion to send complimentary subscriptions to the three small organizations was defeated. A motion to send one complimentary copy and a formal invitation to join from the president was approved.

### New Business

1. Ribbons — A motion was made for the cost of the annual ribbons to be absorbed by the organization (currently George has been paying for them) and to send them out with the April newsletter. The motion was approved.

2. Dues — A motion was made to increase the dues to \$15 per year. A discussion followed and the motion was amended to raise the dues to \$20 per year. The amendment for \$20 was defeated. The motion to raise the dues to \$15 per year was approved.

3. Bylaws — A motion was made to adopt formal bylaws. The motion was discussed and approved.

4. Bylaw Committee — The following persons have volunteered or been appointed to serve on the bylaw committee: Dan Mitchell, Warren Barber, Howard Hoffman, Everett Bowles, and Jerry Sills.

5. A discussion was held as to whether the guest speaker should talk prior to the meeting or after the meeting. It was decided that the guest speaker should talk prior to the meeting.

Gary Dunaenko presented "Gotta Have 'Em, the Collectors' Disease." Prior to starting his presentation, Gary presented each individual with a badge (including guests).

After the presentation, Julieann Brighenti thanked everyone for helping her price and sell Howard's collection.

Gary Dunaenko was thanked by Don Limpert, president, for the entertaining presentation and for the badges.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.