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The Veteran

January - March, 2004

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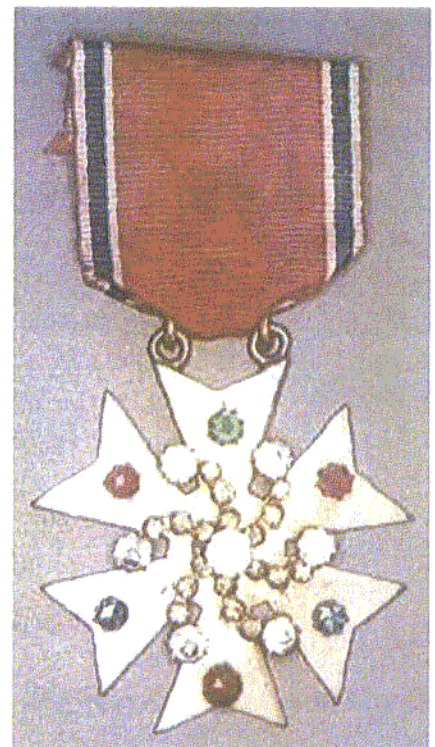
Jeffrey B. Floyd
Noel .B. Preston
Janet Tompkins Preston
Tom McCrory – Everitt Bowles

The Order of the First Volunteer
by Jeffrey B. Floyd

The Order of the First Volunteer is a unique medal. Only one such medal was ever manufactured and only one such medal was ever awarded. The medal was awarded to Charles Franklin Rand by the State of New York to recognize him for being the first volunteer of the Civil War. On May 13, 1861 he was at the Eagle Hotel in Batavia when President Lincoln's telegram calling for 75,000 volunteers for the Union Army was read. Rand immediately volunteered and his name was first on the list that was telegraphed to Washington just ten minutes later. Rand enlisted as a Private in Company K, 12th New York Infantry. Rand received the Medal of Honor for his conduct on 18 July 1861, when he remained in

action when part of his regiment broke in disorder at Blackburn's Ford, Virginia. Rand joined another company and kept fighting through the remainder of the engagement. The Medal of Honor was not presented to Rand until October 23, 1897, thirty-six years after the battle. As a member of Company K, 12th New York Volunteers, Rand took part in every major battle until he was severely wounded in the right shoulder in the battle at Gaines Mill, July 17, 1862.

(continued on page 27)



The President's Message

By Dan Mitchell

Fellow Members:

It seems we are at the midpoint of our collecting year and with this issue of "The Veteran," we are only five months away from our next meeting of the CWVHA. I would like to urge all of our members to make an effort to sift through your collection for items that you would like to learn more about or perhaps share items that you have with the rest of us. Remember, there is still a lot of material, badges, ribbons, etc., that most have never seen or heard of.

I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukah. I hope that 2004 will be a great collection year!

Sincerely,

Dan M. Mitchell

The Editors Message

by George Kane

The last couple of issues featured a number of articles on Confederate memorabilia. Unfortunately, the well has run dry. The only Southern article in this issue is a one-column piece on the last page. Any member who would like to share an article on a Rebel badge, ribbon or whatever, with his fellow CWVHA members, please contact the Editor.

I went to my first Civil War Round Table meeting last night. The speakers were excellent. If there is a Round Table in your area, I suggest you give it a try. There is a web site that lists all Civil War Round Tables:

I am working on a book on National Encampment Badges of the United Spanish War Veterans. I am missing five badges/ ribbons:

1904, 1920, 1942, 1952, 1954

If any member has one or more of these badges, please contact me. I hope to have the book completed by the Mansfield Show. There will be a CWVHA member discount. The USWV worked closely with GAR and UCV veterans during the 1920's and 1930's.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

February is almost here and May is just around the corner. It's time to start thinking about renewing your membership. Our fiscal year for the CWVHA begins and ends with the Mansfield Show / Encampment. For those members who haven't renewed and would like to remain in the association, please send a check for \$15, made out to the "CWVHA" to Dave Aeberli at:

9372 Almar Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4872

One of our members, Ray Thompson, has decided to sell his collection of New Jersey GAR badges, ribbons and related items. Interested? Send a S.A.S.E. to

Ray Thompson
3 Durell Dr.
Jackson, NJ 08527-4851

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The Veteran

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Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or electronically (e-mail or disk) MSWord, or Excel is the preferred software choices. All materials will be returned. If you have questions, please call George Kane at 413-592-2166. Postal and e-mail addresses are listed on the front page.

Order of the First Volunteer

(continued from front page)

He was captured and spent a short time in Libby prison before being exchanged. He then joined the One-Hundred First New York Infantry as a Lieutenant. He served in Washington, D.C. for the duration of the war. He was discharged as a Captain of that unit.



The picture of Captain Rand above shows him wearing numerous medals including the Medal of Honor and the Order of the First Volunteer. Because he did not receive his Medal of Honor until 1897, he did not receive the Civil War Type MOH, but a later issue, which was worn with a cravat around the neck. The Civil War type MOH's were worn on the left chest, as were most medals of the time.

After the war Rand studied medicine at Georgetown University and practiced in Washington and in Batavia where he also started the Batavia Carriage Wheel Company. Dr. Rand died on October 13, 1908 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Louise, who died in 1911, is buried with him.

The Order of the First Volunteer is a gilt six-armed cross set with 25 white, green and red stones in a spiral pattern. The medal was sold at auction in November 2000 for \$4,300. Photocopied service records and several original news clippings relating to Rand in later life were included in the auction lot.

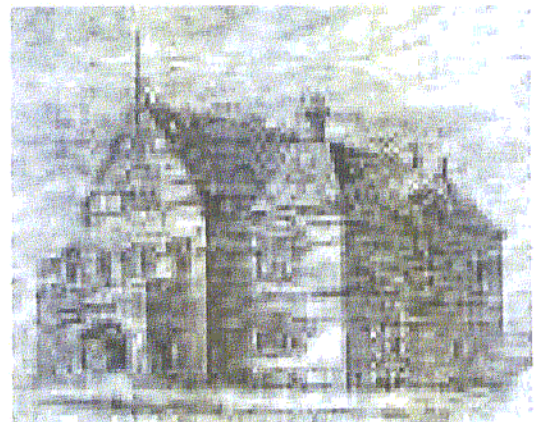
A G.A.R. Shingle

By Noel B. Preston

Below is a picture of a souvenir G.A.R. shingle sold by a local G.A.R. post to help build their new Grand Army Hall. The shingle is actually a cardboard-like material. It measures 3" x 5" and is blank on the reverse. The shingle is colored to look like wood and actually has wood grain running throughout the obverse of this piece.



The shingle doesn't list the actual post that is soliciting these construction funds, but does have an artist's sketch of the proposed building.



If any member can identify this G.A.R. Post building, please contact the Editor. At only 10 cents a shingle, it would be interesting to know how many shingles were actually sold.

The shingle proclaims, "Buy one and help the cause along". It looks like it would need quite a few dimes to pay for this structure. Most likely, this would be only one of many promotions to raise money to build this hall. Fairs and other types of fundraisers were popular with G.A.R. posts.

A GAR Bowler Hat

by Noel B. Preston

The hat on the head of the man in the cabinet card pictured below is commonly called a "Bowler".



The unknown dapper middle-aged man had this photo taken by a photographer named Howe in the Maine town of Pittsfield, probably in the 1880's. He wears a GAR uniform with a Type IVa or Type V GAR membership badge. A GAR lapel pin can be seen in his right lapel. He was probably a member of Stephen Davis GAR Post No. 11 of that community. What makes this photo unusual is not the rustic wooden fence, or his long thick beard, but the hat on his head. Although common head gear in the Victorian age, the use of a Bowler hat, as a piece of a GAR uniform is almost unheard of. No such type of hat was ever sanctioned by GAR uniform regulations.

The first bowler hat was designed by the hatters James and George Lock of St. James Street in London in 1850 for their client William Coke II, later the Earl of Leicester. The hat makers, Thomas and William

Bowler produced the Locks' design in their factory in Southwick, England. William Bowler produced the prototype and his last name became the name of the hat, although the Lock family has always insisted on calling it a "Coke" hat. The hat is made of felt and has a large crown dome and a brim that is rolled upwards. The bowler was a particular favorite of businessmen in England and America. The popularity of the hat in America waned early in the twentieth century, but it was a favorite in England through the 1950's. A complete history of the Bowler can be found in Fred Miller Robinson's book, *The Man In the Bowler Hat: His History and Iconography*, (1993).

A close look at the bowler on the man in the photo shows that the GAR initials in the hat wreath are slightly tilted.



It was not unusual for GAR posts to adopt non-standard headgear for their post, especially for marching units. A post in Massachusetts adopted the spiked helmet as their headgear, while the giant busbies of the GAR "Old Guard" of Washington, D.C. are pictured in many national encampment parades. Although a variety of uniform styles were often found in any GAR post, posts that participated in a large number of departmental, national or civic parades were usually identically dressed. The GAR was a military fraternal society and as such, sought uniformity in dress. By the end of the GAR, the floppy brimmed campaign hat became the *defacto* headgear of the organization, even though this type of hat was rarely used in the Civil War.

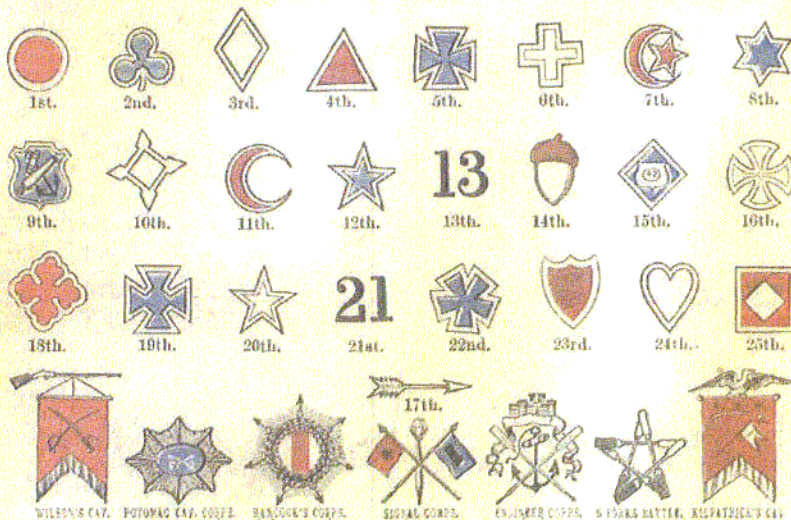
An Advertisement for G. A. R. Corps Badges – 1887
 by George G. Kane

The handbill shown below was passed out to G.A.R. veterans at the 21st GAR National Encampment held in St. Louis, Missouri in 1887. Underneath the name of the company, this paper proclaims, "Manufacturers of the only official medals of the 21st National Encampment". The handbill depicts all the corps badges used during the civil war. The three different colors represent the three divisions of a corps. Any individual corps could be enameled in any of the three colors or could be left in its original bronze. This company could have manufactured the 7th NYVA badge to the right. There is no maker's mark, but this badge resembles the badge shown at the bottom of the ad. The dates are close (1887 vs. 1885). The borders on the rim are both wide. The stem of the shamrock angles in the opposite direction. The connection eyelets appear similar. The handbill proclaims that the badge could be "gotten up in Special and original designs of ribbon or metal". A simple reproduction of the badge shown was priced at 25 cents, postpaid.



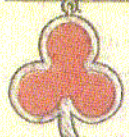
G. A. R. CORPS BADGES.

A full assortment on hand, including all divisions, sent postpaid on receipt of price, 25 cents each.



COLD and SILVER Corps Badges made to order; enamelled in color of any Div. to swing from pin bar which may be engraved as desired. 14K. Gold, \$4 each; Solid Silver, \$2.50 each.

CO. G. 25th INF.



BADGES for Posts, Delegations or Departments gotten up in Special and original designs of ribbon or metal. Give us an idea of what you want and we will send samples and prices.

HASKELL ENGRAVING COMPANY,

Manufacturers of the ONLY OFFICIAL MEDALS of the 21st National Encampment.

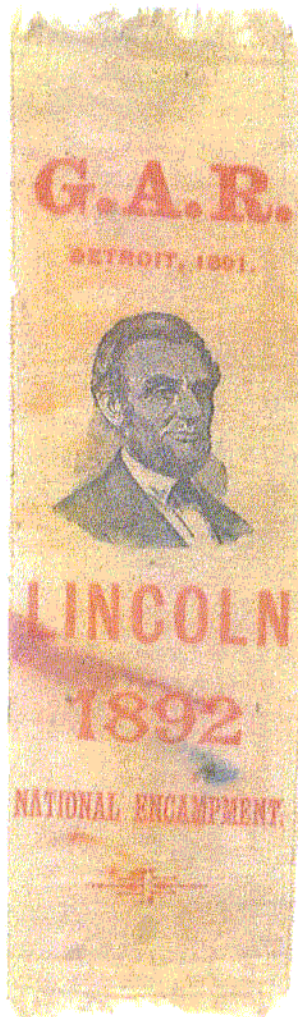
HEADQUARTERS FOR **G. A. R.** MEDALS & BADGES.

713 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Lincoln, Nebraska for 1892

by George G. Kane

At Detroit in 1891, the ribbon shown below was worn by supporters of Lincoln, Nebraska as the site of the 1892 GAR National Encampment. At first glance, it would appear that Lincoln would have no chance against its opponent, Washington, D. C.



The leaders of these opposing groups were both former GAR Commander-in-Chiefs. Paul Vandervoort of Omaha, Nebraska, led the Lincoln supporters while Samuel S. Burdett of Washington, D.C. led the Washington supporters.

In the end, Washington would get the most ballots, 366 (51.8%), but Lincoln would finish a close second with 340 (48.2%). Western delegates, not wanting to travel the entire width of the country to the next encampment, put their support behind Lincoln, and came up 26 ballots short

More Veteran Cover Art

by George G. Kane

Evidently, the *Comfort* magazine published a Memorial Day cover for every May issue. Of the four May issues I have seen or have in my collection, all have veterans and / or boy scouts pictured on the cover.



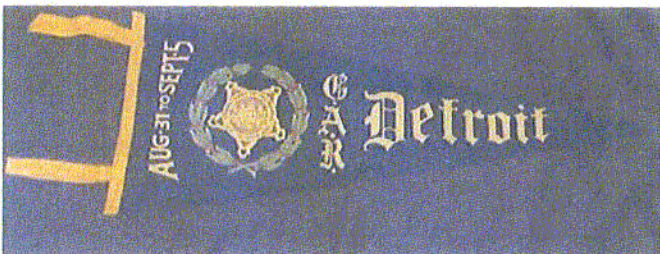
The May 1927 issue pictured above depicts 4 veterans decorating graves on Memorial Day. The two civil war veterans are the same characters that appear in other covers from this magazine. The GAR veteran wears his membership badge, GAR uniform and campaign hat with GAR wreath. The UCV veteran is similarly dressed with a UDC Southern Cross of Honor on his chest. The United Spanish War Veteran holds a number of flags, while the "doughboy" pushes a flag into a grave marker. The *Comfort* magazine was primarily a "woman's" magazine.

G.A.R. Pennants

by Everitt Bowles

Pennants have been popular since the Middle Ages. They were originally used as identification for regiments or companies within an army. Certain pennants identified officers of staff rank. During the civil war and Indian wars, pennants were often called "guide-ons". Around the turn of the 20th century, pennants became commercial. Sports teams, vacation spots, amusement parks, holiday parades, military units and fraternal organizations discovered the advertisement value of souvenir pennants. These felt pennants were also an income producer. Below are a number of GAR encampment pennants from my collection:

Detroit 1914



Washington, D.C. 1915



Los Angeles 1912

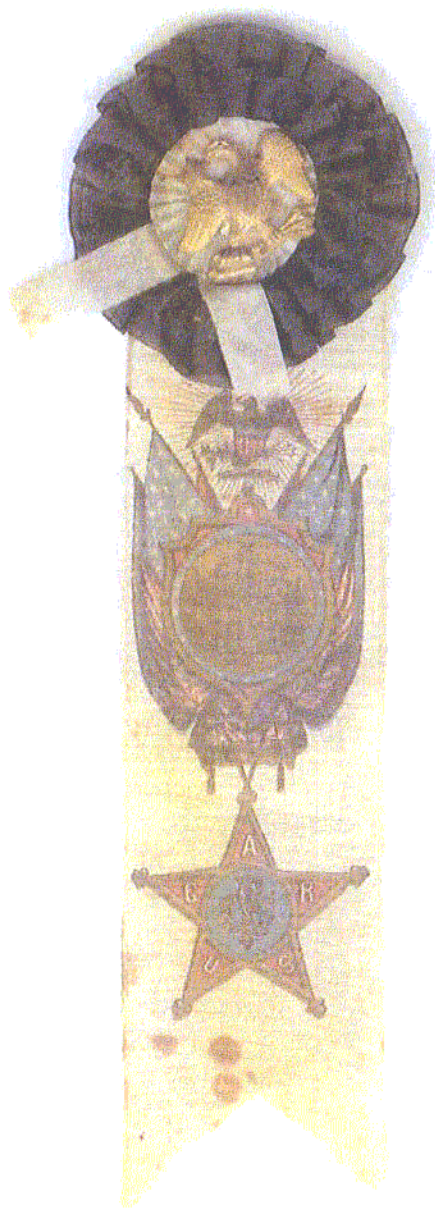


A 3BN Ribbon Revisited

by Tom McCrory

Editor's Note: The following article is in response to Dan Mitchell's article in the last issue of The Veteran.

It was interesting to see the photo in The Veteran of the early G.A.R.U.S. ribbon that Dan Mitchell recently purchased. I also have one of these ribbons in my collection.



I went back and reread the article on this ribbon by Rance Hulshart that appeared in the September – October 1993 issue of The Veteran. He made six points as factors in determining this as a 3BN era ribbon.

1. Multi-color. Although some later ribbons used this style of printing, it was more prevalent on earlier ribbons.
2. The use of "U.S." following GAR is a common feature of many 3BN era ribbons.
3. The kneeling girl in the seal section of the ribbon has her back to the viewer. Later examples have her facing to the side.
4. No Pin-bar. Many of the early ribbons had no pin-bar. They used a simple pin to attach the ribbon.
5. Swallowtail shape. This is a common feature of most early ribbons.
6. Edges of the ribbon are reinforced to prevent fraying.

I agree with Dan's assessment that this ribbon is from the very early years of the Grand Army of the Republic. The fact that several of these ribbons exist, however, should remove it from the prototype category.

The "G.A.R.U.S." helps date the ribbon to the 3BN era. At the bottom of the next page is a GAR Transfer Card from my collection. It is dated May 16, 1868. At the top is the title "Grand Army of the Republic U.S."



It also contains a drawing of the 3BN membership badge at the bottom, left.



The G.A.R. was in its infancy, indeed!

We all know that the Post badge evolved over the years eventually becoming two-sided with the parade / identification badge on one side and the *In Memoriam* / funeral side on the reverse. The practice of the two-sided badge may have evolved from this ribbon. A close examination of Dan's badge reveals vertical pin marks at the top. This would be an unusual way to attach a ribbon to a members clothing. I believe the pin marks

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are from the Memorial rosette. The ribbon in my collection has this rosette still attached and as you can see, the pin runs vertically. Note the interesting style of the eagle used in the center of the rosette.

So, what do we have here? Is this a transitional membership badge between the 3BN and the type 1. Was this a badge created by a post for funerals and parades?

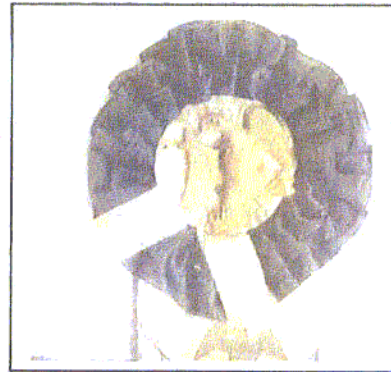
I would be interested in hearing from any CWWHA members who have one of these early ribbons in their collections. Please e-mail me at:

tmccrory@charter.net

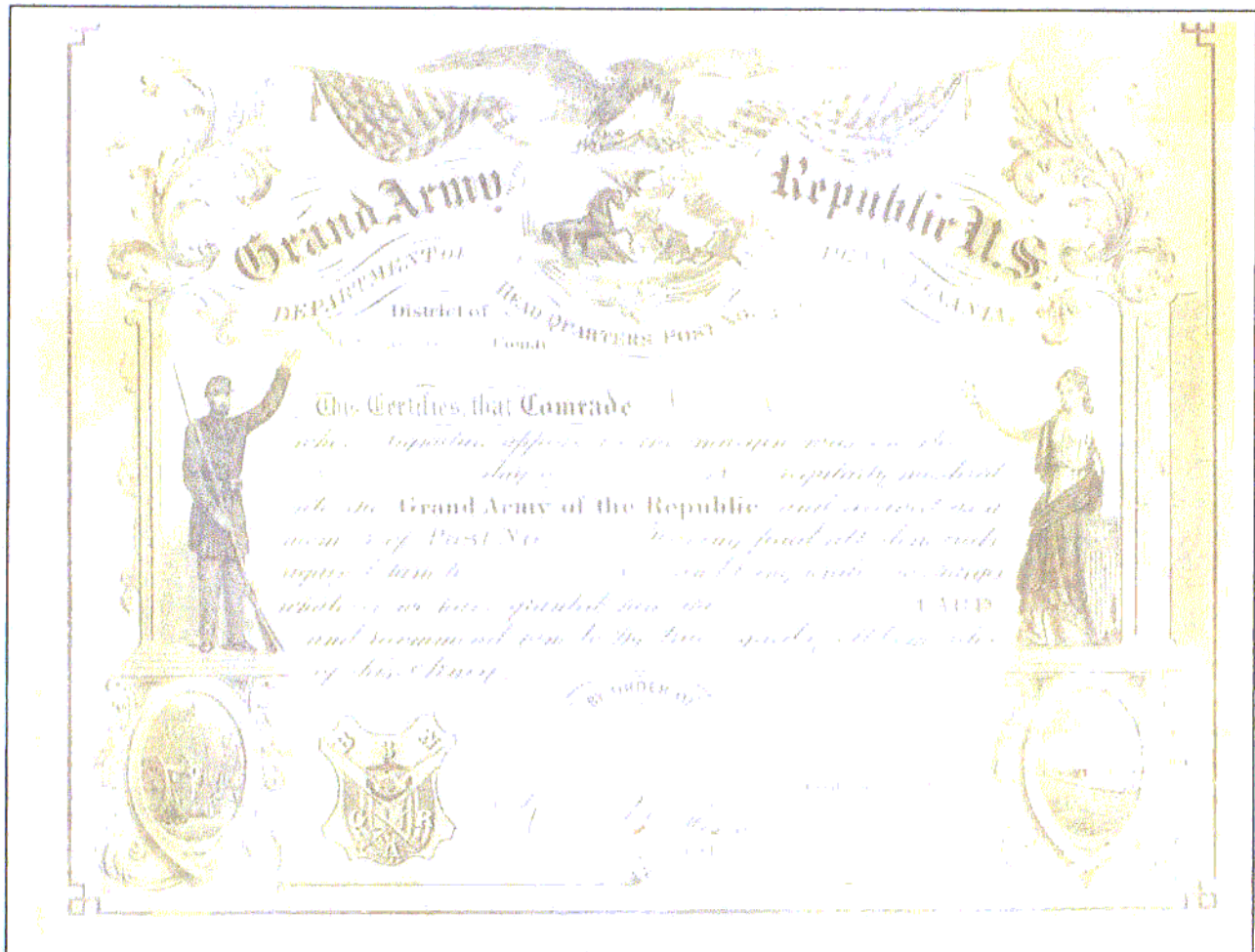
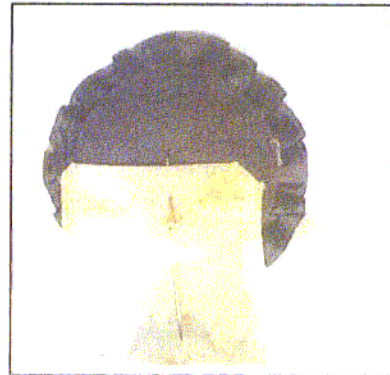
Or write me at:

Tom McCrory
5062 Malibu Cove
Oshkosh, WI 54904-9300

Obverse of
Rosette



Reverse of
Rosette
Note:
Vertical Pin



Major Tompkins and the Ceremonial Spade

by Janet Tompkins Preston

Abraham Hunter Tompkins was born January 2, 1844 in New York City. While he was a teenager, he worked in his father's so-called Cabinet Shop in New York. His father made the well-known and somewhat famous Tompkins Drums. They made bass and snare drums. Around 1860, Abraham began to run away in an attempt to join the Union Army. His father managed to catch up with him on three separate occasions. Finally, at the age of 18, and on his fourth attempt, Abraham was able to join Company K, 168th New York Volunteer Infantry on October 13, 1862. He immediately became the Drum Major due to his musical skills learned in his fathers drum business.



Abraham H. Tompkins in Drum Major uniform

He recruited and trained a group of drummers and fifers. Tompkins musicians performed so well that he was complimented in Virginia by General H. H. Howard. The General declared that Tompkins group produced the best music in the Fourth Army Corps and promoted Tompkins to Chief Musician of the Corps.

The 168th regiment skirmished all over Virginia. On their way to Gettysburg, the steamer transport broke

down and the unit reached the battle on the third day, too late to participate in the action.

After the civil war, Abraham became active in the GAR and was a charter member, Commander, JV Commander, Chaplin, Adjutant, Quartermaster, and officer of the day of Kitching GAR Post No. 60 of Yonkers, New York.



Tompkins with three GAR badges

He also served as New York GAR Senior Department Commander in 1929. Additionally, he was a New York Delegate to the 1902 National Encampment held in Washington, D.C. He also served as the New York Department Patriotic Instructor in 1921.



Two of the Major's Badges
Left: Post 60 Ribbon
Above: Civil War Musicians

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Major Tompkins marched in all the Yonkers Memorial Day parades and at age 83, he was the parade Grand Marshall. The ribbon at right depicts the major as Grand Marshall. The year 1929 was an eventful year for the Major. On January 2nd, he turned 85. On April 26th, he broke ground with a ceremonial spade for the construction of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Monument at Memorial Park in Yonkers. On May 30th, he marched in the Yonkers Memorial Day parade. On June 14th, Major Tompkins was elected Senior Vice Commander of the GAR Department of New York at Utica, NY. On July 2, 1929, Major Abraham Hunter Tompkins passed away. He was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Yonkers, NY, with full military honors. Three months later, on October 12, his widow received the engraved ceremonial spade shown below. The inscription reads: "This spade was used by Major Abraham H. Tompkins when ground was broken for the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Monument in Memorial Park, Yonkers, NY on April 26, 1929. Presented to Mrs. Eliza N. Tompkins at the unveiling of the Monument, October 12, 1929". (see spade plaque below, right). The Spade is 38" long. The plaque, below, is 3" x 2 3/4". The spade's handle and shaft are made of oak. The metal part of the shovel is chrome plated.



Tompkins' presentation badge for Past Post Commander is shown at left. There are diamonds in the obverse arm tips of the star and rubies in the eagles' eyes. His name is engraved on hanger banderole and reverse of the star, dated Jan. 10, 1899

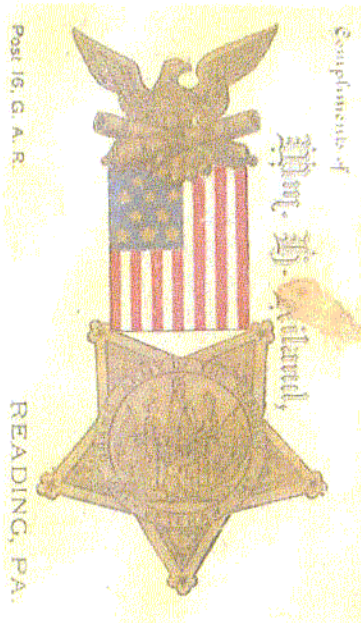


**Presentation Badge & Spade
courtesy of Bruce Tompkins**

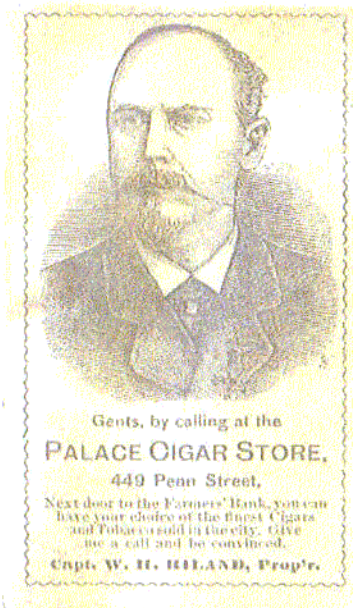
A GAR Advertising Card

by George G. Kane

The card pictured below is an advertising card.



The card was issued by William H. Riland, proprietor of the Palace Cigar Store located at 449 Penn Street, Reading Pennsylvania. Mr. Riland was a member of McLean GAR Post No. 16 of that city, which he noted on the front of the card..



Although the GAR had rules against the use of GAR regalia in business advertising, Mr. Riland used a GAR membership badge on the front of this card and an ink drawing of himself wearing a GAR membership badge on the back of the card. So much for rules!

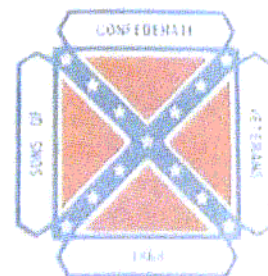
Sons of Confederate Veterans Model Race Car

by George G. Kane

The car pictured below is a 1994 "Sons of Confederate Veterans" Revell 1/64th scale limited edition #62 Ford Thunderbird. Only 10,080 of these die-cast car models were ever produced. This rare collectible also features roof rails and Goodyear Eagle racing tires. The phone number "1-800-My-Dixie" is painted on the rear panels. Sponsor decals are shown between the front wheelwell and the #62 on the door. Among the sponsors is Dixie Gun Works.



The model car is an exact replica of a car that was suppose to race on the NASCAR circuit. NASCAR would not let the original full size racecar enter any of their races because of the rebel flag painted on the hood of the car. The Confederate battle flag was part of the logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, shown below.



This collectible was created for RSDK Racing by Accurate Miniatures, Inc. CWVHA members can purchase this model at a special price of \$20, postpaid. The dealer address is:

John Posey

PO Box 4724

Blue Mountain, AL 36204-4724

FCSL2@juno.com (4th letter is "L", not "1")

web site: www.scvnascardiecast.com

Be sure to mention the CWVHA when ordering.