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 Jerry & Lorraine Orton  
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**The Medal of Honor Legion**

by Don E. Limpert

The Medal of Honor Legion was founded April 23, 1890 in Washington D.C. by six recipients of the Medal. In the following years the Legion exposed men who lied about receiving the Medal; pressed for a redesign of the Medal; lobbied for legislation to protect the Medal; sought to remove recipients who did not receive the Medal for combat; and sought a stipend for recipients who had reached the age of 65. All of these demands were accomplished when the Congress passed the National Defense Act of 1916. Section 122 of this Act called for a review of all 2,625 Army Medals of Honor previously issued. For some reason, Navy and Marine Corps Medals were exempted from this legislation. A Board of Generals decided in 1917 that 911 Medals of Honor were

to be stricken from the Roll of Honor. Included in these Medals were 864 from the 27<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry which had been issued as incentive to reenlist in 1863; the 29 members of the Lincoln Funeral Guard in 1865; 6 civilians who were under contract to the Army; and 12 other recipients who were stripped of their Medal for various reasons. One man had written to the Secretary of War in 1872 asking for a Medal as a souvenir. He was awarded a Medal. The six civilians, including Dr. Mary Walker, Buffalo Bill Cody and five

*(continued on page 39)*



**Medal of Honor Legion  
 Second Class Badge**

**The President's Message**

Fellow Members:

We are now approaching the high point of my collecting year, the Mansfield Show. This year, our speaker for the banquet will be George Kane, the Editor of *The Veteran*. I am sure that you will find George a most knowledgeable and interesting speaker.

Our encampment banquet will again be held at Damon's Restaurant followed by a short business meeting and program. See the details below. Thanks again to George Finlayson for making the dinner arrangements and for the printing the annual ribbons given to each member at the meeting.

I do hope that I will see each and every member. If you can't attend the banquet, please stop by my table and say hello. Have a safe trip and I'll see you at the show

Sincerely,

Dan M. Mitchell

**The Editors Message  
by George Kane**

In the last few months, I've received a number of address changes from members. Please send any address changes to Dave Aeberli at the address shown in the "Attention Members" cube to the left. Thanks.

I'll be giving the presentation at the annual banquet this year. I hope many of you will attend. The subject will be G.A.R. membership badges. Hopefully I can pull all the different articles that I've done in the last couple of years together. Many times I did an article, only to find that part of the article was wrong. Then I'd have to recant in the next issue and give the latest correction. Instead of a slide show, I'll be handing out a booklet for your future reference. The booklet will be available to the membership after the banquet for a modest fee.

Thanks again to George Finlayson for his work putting together the banquet for this year. George also provides the C.W.V.H.A. National Encampment ribbons each year.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the CWVHA**

The CWVHA National Encampment will hold its annual dinner/meeting at the Comfort Inn, Saturday, May 1, 2004. A cash bar will open at 6:00 PM and the dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. The entrée choices are Chicken Teriyaki or ½ rack of Damon's BBQ Ribs. Either entrée is \$16.00. After dinner, George Kane will be giving a presentation on GAR Membership badges. Please mail a check with your entrée selection to:

George Finlayson, 98 Parkwood Blvd., Mansfield, OH 44906-3218

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**The Veteran**

*The Veteran* is published quarterly and is the official publication of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association. All articles, photographs, and art is copyrighted, 1996. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reprinted or copied without permission of the C.W.V.H.A.

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.

## Medal of Honor Legion

(continued from front page)

other Indian Scouts would later have their Medals restored.

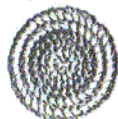
The Legion was instrumental in the redesign of the Army Medal of Honor that would be issued in 1904. Many of the members of the Legion were Civil War Veterans. By the second decade of the Twentieth Century these veterans' deaths were decimating the membership of the Legion. In order to revive sagging membership totals, the Legion granted admission to the society to recipients of the Army Distinguished Service Cross, the second ranking decoration. In 1933, recipients of the Navy Cross were also made eligible for membership. In the same year, the Medal of Honor Legion changed its name to "The Army and Navy Legion of Valor". On August 4, 1955, Public Law 224, passed by the Congress, incorporated the Legion. The official name was changed to "The Army and Navy Legion of Valor of the United States". In 1961, recipients of the Air Force Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross became eligible for membership in the "Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc", the current name of the organization.

The 1910 *Constitution and By-Laws of the Medal of Honor Legion* (pictured to right) lists four classes of membership. The first class is the "Original Companions of the First Class". These were the original Medal of Honor recipients. They also had to be "of good moral character". The second class was the "Companions of the First Class in Succession". These were the sons and daughters or next of kin who had advanced to this class with the death of their relative who had originally received the medal. The third class was any person who had inherited a Medal of Honor, was the lawful possessor of the medal, and a legal descendant of the original holder. The fourth class of membership was entitled "Companions of the Second Class". These were a blood relative or adopted child of the recipient who was nominated by the recipient as his successor and holder of his Medal of Honor. Members of this class received the Second Class Medal\_of\_Honor Of Honor Legion badge shown on the front page.

The constitution also provided for pins to be worn in

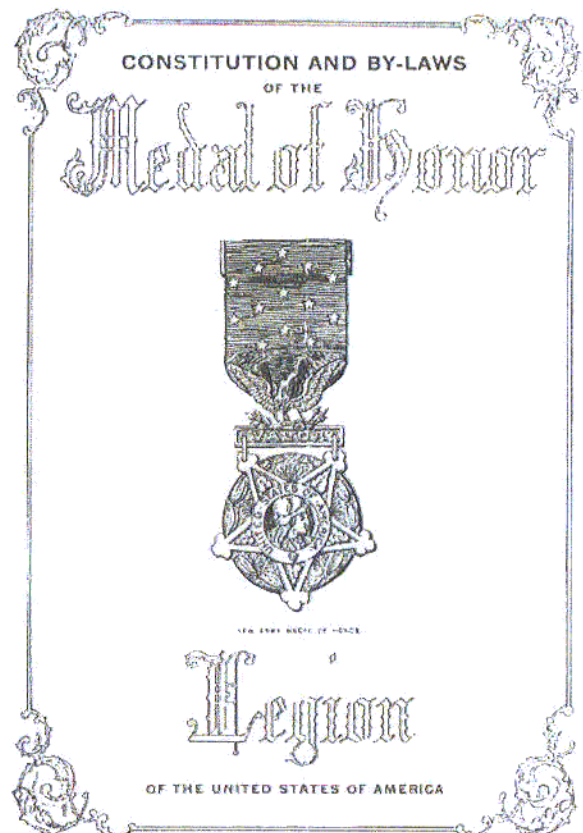


ARMY BOW KNOT.




NAVY ROSETTE.

lieu of wearing the Medal of Honor especially when wearing civilian clothes. The "Army Bow Knot" and the "Navy Rosette" are pictured at the bottom of the first column. These two pins were red, white and blue in color.



The Medal of Honor shown on the cover of the MOHL "Constitution" is the 1904 redesign of the medal. Many societies (including the G.A.R.) had copied parts of the MOH to their membership badges. The Legion pushed for a new design to distance any resemblance between these fraternal badges. A new design by Bertrand, and Berenger, a jewelry firm located in Paris, France was selected by the Legion and Congress quickly approved the change. This version is often called the "Gillespie Medal". General George Gillespie, a civil war recipient, pushed hard for the acceptance of this design. Soon after its acceptance he applied for and received a patent on this design. The next day he transferred the patent to the Secretary of War. This was intended to stop replicas of the medal from being manufactured.

The National Encampment Badge made of Cannon  
by Jerry & Lorraine Orton



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The above heading is from "Information Sheet No. 3" issued by the Citizens' Committee of the 1895 GAR Louisville National Encampment. One particularly interesting section was on badges:

*"In order to prevent the members of the National Encampment and our visitors from imposition, we desire to again call especial attention to the fact that all official badges for delegates of the different national organization are made from the blended metal of the two cannon, given to the Citizens Committee by an act of the United States Congress, February 28, 1895. Both cannon were in actual service during the late war, one used by the Federal and the other by the Confederate forces. These badges will be distributed through the officer having authority and usually in charge of such matters. They are presented to the delegates of the different national organizations by the Citizens Committee, and are not for sale by anyone under any circumstances."*



This 1895 delegate badge is the only national encampment badge made of cannon metal. It is one of only two that did not have a ribbon. 1896 did not have a ribbon attached. The horse pin is actually two pieces riveted together. You can see the rivets just below the pin on the reverse. The rivets are part of the frame decoration that surrounds the GAR monogram on the obverse.



## The National Encampment Badge Made of Cannon

*(continued from the previous page)*

As you can see by the enlarged view of the reverse of the pin, the two rivets are just below the pin. On the lower piece of the pin you can see the maker's mark of the badge manufacturer, Heeren Bros. & Co. Below the maker's mark are two crossed cannons. This probably signifies that the badge was made of cannon metal. The horse and the oval center of the pendant appear to be made of copper. You'll notice the deep chocolate brown of these two pieces as compared to the yellowish color of what is brass cannon metal.



(@250%)

Another unusual part of this badge is the obverse of the pendant. At the top and bottom of this pendant is the Kentucky State motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". The copper center of the pendant shows two soldiers shaking hands. On the left is a union soldier complete with kepi and distinctive union backpack and roll. To the right is what appears to be a confederate soldier with his floppy campaign hat and bedroll wrapped from his left collarbone to the waist on the right side. This would

appear to be a reconciliation of the two factions.



(@175%)

The Citizens Committee that administered the activities of the entire encampment produced the badge. During the war, Kentucky was a border state providing troops to both sides of the conflict. The reconciliation sentiment of the obverse of this pendant was probably the committee's attempt to bring the two sides together. The committee itself would have been made up of various citizens. No doubt a few were GAR men. It's hard to believe that this obverse went unnoticed by the National Officers or delegates of this encampment. A few attempts to convene a joint encampment between the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans met with stiff resistance from many of the GAR members. Although joint reunions were held in 1913 and 1938 at Gettysburg, it took the state of Pennsylvania and the Federal Government to bring the two sides together.

### The Grand Army Stock Co. Certificate by George G. Kane

As we have seen before, the stock certificate pictured below was just an attempt to raise funds to build a Grand Army Hall. The stock certificate is for two \$10 shares issued to a Ray G. Clarke who was a member and officer of the Searle G.A.R. Post # 448 of Brookfield, Madison County, NY. Clarke was the Post's Department Encampment Alternate Delegate in 1899 and Post Commander in 1900. Perry F. Babcock, who was the Post's Senior Vice Commander in 1893 and Post Commander in 1897, also signed the certificate as Treasurer. The Grand Army Stock Company was incorporated in the State of New York in 1897. The certificate lists the Capital Stock as \$1,300, which was probably the amount of money needed to build the new hall. Albert B. King & Co., Litho., NY, printed the rather ornate certificate. Certificate No. 27 has two vignettes. The first vignette is a giant eagle perched on a dome of a building. His wings outspread, he looks back towards the center of the certificate. The second vignette pictures Mercury facing right in the lower center. The certificate was signed on January 4, 1901. No one ever signed as President of the Company and the transfer section on the back of this stock certificate was left blank. One wonders if the building was ever built. Incorporated in 1897, only 26 other certificates were issued when these two shares were subscribed in 1901. Of course, the other certificates could have been for multiple shares as well. Clarke, who was Post Commander in 1900, didn't buy a share until 1901! Maybe this was his second purchase. Maybe somebody in New York can tell us if the building was ever constructed and if it still stands.



## Loyal Legion Week, 1933

by George G. Kane

I recently discovered and purchased the pin pictured below on an e-Bay auction.



(@300%)

The pin depicts a knight on horseback. The horse is reared-up and the knight's lance is pointed straight. The sun is either rising or setting in the background. On the banderole surrounding the knight are the words "LOYAL LEGION WEEK 1933".

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States was founded in 1865, soon after the death of President Abraham Lincoln. This organization was originally open only to Union military officers who served in the Civil War. Over 8,000 civil war officers ultimately joined the Loyal Legion. Eventually, the membership was opened to ancestors of these officers. These members are called companions and are segregated into four groups, Hereditary, Junior, Associate and Honorary. The society still exists. The Legion is often referred in print by its acronym, MOLLUS.

The pin pictured above is very small measuring just slightly over a half inch (14mm). The attaching pin on the back resembles an upside down safety pin. There is no maker's mark.



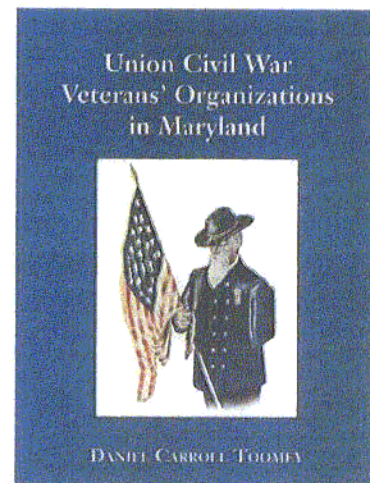
Anyone who might be able to shed some light on the significance of this pin should contact the editor.

## Book Review

by George G. Kane

### *Union Civil War Veterans' Organizations in Maryland*

Fellow member Daniel Carroll Toomey has produced yet another civil war veterans' book. His latest work "Union Civil War Veterans' Organizations in Maryland" was recently released. The book is 57 pages in an 8½" x 11" format. The book details the numerous Union organizations created in the years following the civil war in the state of Maryland. Besides the Grand Army of the Republic and its affiliated orders, the book encapsulates histories of the other major civil war veterans' societies with ties to Maryland, the Union Veteran Legion, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and the Union Veteran Union.



The book also details a civil war society distinctly found in Maryland, the Union Veteran Association of Maryland. The book is profusely illustrated. Unfortunately all the memorabilia is shown in black & white photos. Only the front and back covers are in color. All the badges and ribbons are shown at full size.

The book has three appendixes. They are G.A.R. Department Commanders of Maryland, a roster of G.A.R. posts in Maryland, dates and locations of G.A.R. National Encampments through 1941. 1941 was the final year of the Department of Maryland with the death of its last member, Charles F. Daniels.

Dan has agreed to sell this book to members at the rock bottom price of \$12.00, postpaid with no sales tax.

Toomey Press

PO Box 122

Linthicum, MD 21090-0122

Tel: (410) 766-1211

18<sup>th</sup> Annual C.W.V.H.A. Encampment

by George G. Kane

It's that time of the year again. Time to pack up and head for the middle of Ohio. The Mansfield Ohio Civil War show will be held, Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2, 2004. If you love the civil war, this is the show to attend. Five buildings are filled with everything civil war. Only goods from the American Revolution to the Spanish-American War are allowed. By far the largest quantity of goods is American Civil War.

If you go, make sure you make your way to the main building. After you enter the building, turn left (not into the bathrooms). The final two aisles are predominately C.W.V.H.A. members' tables. Here you'll find one of the largest concentrations of GAR, UCV, UVL, UVU, Regimental and miscellaneous civil war veteran ribbons, badges, medals, ephemera, etc. A number of members have created presentation tables where they present parts of their collections with a theme. Tom McCrory has won the competition the last two years, but Don Limpert, Ron Bellenger, and Jim Schmidt will give him a run for his money. Check out their tables. If you collect other civil war material, then you'll find it here. Nowhere else will you see so many people with firearms, swords, and other weapons walk the floor with little thought of terrorism. Try to be there Saturday. Sunday tends to attract locals who clog up the aisles and are just "lookers". Cannon demonstrations are presented a couple times a day.



## CD Review

by George G. Kane

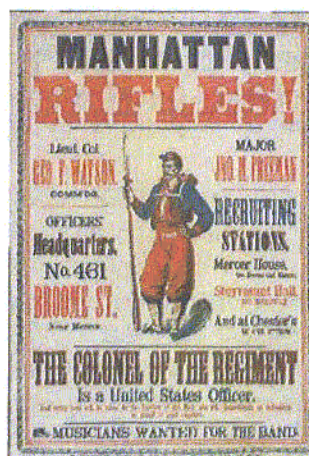
The recruiting posters pictured below are four of hundreds included in a 2-CD package I recently bought on e-Bay for less than \$10.00. The CD also includes

- ▶ Drawings
- ▶ Screensavers
- ▶ Books & Texts
- ▶ Maps
- ▶ Clip Art
- ▶ Propaganda Envelopes
- ▶ Carte-de-visite
- ▶ Stereo-views

Search e-Bay for:

**Remembering the Civil War (2-CD Set).**

A number of dealers sell this package.



**An Alternate Officer's Badge**

by George G. Kane

Often, GAR Officer Badges are viewed in the market place that are not correctly constructed. The problem is usually blamed on an unscrupulous dealer or an uninformed relative. The photo below pictures an incorrectly assembled officer badge, still on the veteran's chest.



M. H. PETERS  
Watsela,  
Chief Mustering Officer.

M. H. Peters was Chief Mustering Officer of the Department of Illinois when this photo appeared in the souvenir program of the 45<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment at Joliet, Illinois, June 13-15, 1911.



It appears that comrade Peters altered his membership badge rather than acquiring an officer's badge. Peters dropped the eagle hanger to mid ribbon and added a rank badge to the top of the ribbon.

**G.A.R. Banquet Souvenir, 1879**

by Noel B. Preston

Souvenirs of the numerous GAR Encampments and Reunions were very popular with the Veterans that attended them. However, finding any souvenirs from very early G.A.R. Encampments has become increasingly difficult. At a recent Gun Show in Massachusetts, I was fortunate to find an item from the 13th GAR National Encampment. It looks like a Civil War cartridge box and measures 3" x 4 1/2" x 1".



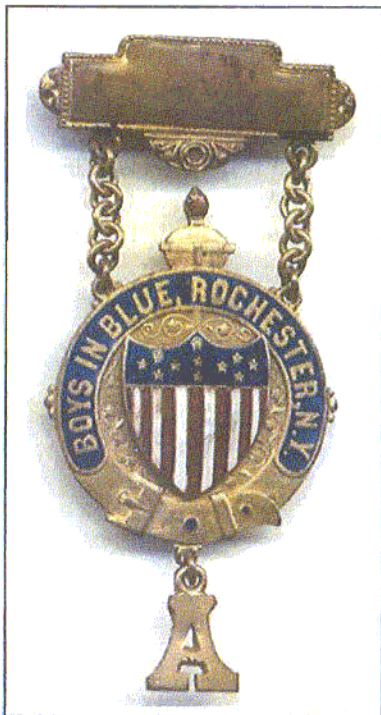
The box is manufactured of cardboard and overlaid with a stippled material giving it a leather-like appearance. The box cover flap has the following gold inscription, "Banquet, Albany, N. Y., June 17, 1879". A GAR monogram is evident in the center of the flap.



The cartridge box actually opens up to show a cavity, which might be for calling cards. The rear of the box has a cloth device attached suitable for hanging it on the wall.

### The Boys in Company "A"

by Everitt Bowles



The "Boys in Blue, Company A" badges shown on this page are the membership and annual reunion badges of this group. For more information, please read Mary R. Dearing's book "Veterans in Politics" at your local library.



All badges are presented at full size.

One of the veteran organizations that emerged after the civil war was known as the "Boys in Blue". The Boys in Blue were a political club closely allied with the "Radical Republicans". The Radical Republicans were a group of abolitionists who sought equality of the races in the "Reconstruction" of the South, especially in the political arena. John A. Logan, one of the leaders of these Radicals was also Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R. from 1868 to 1870. This is the same period of the rise and demise of the Boys in Blue movement. The equality of the races in the political scene was pretty much ended with the rise of the Klu Klux Klan. Terrorized blacks withdrew from Southern politics. The Boys in Blue as a national organization was finished by 1880. The organization in New York State, however, was still strong. In 1880, the local clubs in the Rochester, NY area re-organized, changing their name to "Company A, Boys in Blue".



**More GAR Postcards  
From Members**

**Jeff Dygert**

The postcard illustrated at right is a real picture postcard of a parade in Middletown, CT, November 12, 1912. President William Howard Taft had come to town to take part in ceremonies connected with the inauguration of William A. Shanklin as president of Wesleyan University. Members of Mansfield GAR Post No. 53 of Middletown, tightly encircled the president's car. Behind Taft are 114 members of the Governor's Foot Guard, who would later escort him to Hartford to dedicate a new armory. Among the group of GAR marchers are at least five that are wearing bowler hats, two of which have a GAR hat wreath attached. Only one GAR member is wearing a Kepi. President Taft was wearing a top hat, which he is shown waving. Taft had lost the Presidential Election the week before to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.



**Jeff Dygert**

The postcard illustrated at right is another real picture postcard. This photo was taken at the 49<sup>th</sup> GAR National Encampment. The annual Grand Review took place on September 29, 1915 at Washington, D.C. As in the last card, another American President is in attendance. In the reviewing stand between the first two white pillars is President Woodrow Wilson. Wilson is the taller hatless man in the front row. To his left is General Nelson B. Miles, a civil war Medal of Honor winner. The unit directly in front of the President is probably a drill team. The marchers are too young to have been in the civil war. Most of these marchers are holding a flagpole. Below the president are two US seals with the seal of the president between them.



**Noel B. Preston**

The postcard to the right depicts the parade of the 40<sup>th</sup> GAR National Encampment on August 15, 1906 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The marching unit at the front of this photo is made up of children, possibly all girls. Compare the size of the uniformed man marching along side this unit. They are wearing kilts and white spats with a funky looking hat. They are wearing a fancy white rope belt with sword knot endings. The unit directly behind these girls is an irregular dressed band with Panama Hats. This band appears to be teenage boys. Notice the man in the crowd at the right of the parade sitting on a stepladder looking over the heads of the people in front of him.



U. S. D. PINEAPPLE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., AUG. 15, 1906

## The Major A. P. Davis Badge by Bob Wolz

Major Augustus Plummer Davis was the founder of the Sons of Veterans, USA. This Order of Sons was founded in Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 12, 1881. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic had begun several different organizations of the Sons of Union Veterans. These groups started as early as 1879 in Philadelphia, Albany, New York, Massachusetts and Missouri. Most of these societies had organizational or financial problems and eventually merged into Major Davis' Order within ten years. Major Davis began a series of recruiting inducements as early as 1889. Three special badges (Sons of Veterans Type III, IV and V) were produced as recruiting offers. Around 1893, a bronze oval badge bearing the likeness of Major Davis was issued. This portrait design shows Davis wearing his GAR, Loyal Legion and Sons of Veterans badges.



The pin suspension bar is an eagle with outstretched wings holding an American flag in its claws. Several different ribbons have been found with a largely blue center with gold and red edge and a mostly red ribbon with red and gold edge. No record as to the meaning of the different ribbons has been located in the Son's records. Based upon the 1888 letter that explains the three previous recruiting badges it is likely that one color was issued to a member who recruited 5 members while the other for the recruitment of 9 members, but this is speculation. The reverse says "Major A. P. Davis Born at Gardiner, Maine May 10, 1835." The fact, that there is no death date indicates they were originally issued while Major Davis was still alive.



A third variety can be seen at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Pittsburgh, Pa. That one bears a solid black crape ribbon and was issued by Mrs. A. P. Davis to members of the Sons who participated in Major Davis' funeral on May 21, 1899.

Davis Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, issued a fourth variety on May 21, 1999.



The reproduction was struck to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Major Davis' death. It was struck in pewter then gold plated and antiqued. The pin suspension bar has two clutch pins on back similar to current military badges.