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*The Veteran*

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**Frederick Jackson's 1926 Department  
Commander Presentation Badge  
by Jerry D. Sills, Sr.**

Frederick Jackson was born in the State of New York, February 6, 1843. At the age of 19, he traveled to Camp Morgan, Buffalo, NY and enlisted with Company A, 116<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry in the fall of 1862. The Regiment traveled to Baltimore, Maryland on September 5, 1862 where it was attached to Emery's Brigade, 8<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

After a few trips into Pennsylvania looking for Stewart's Cavalry, the brigade boarded the Steamer "Atlantic" and sailed to Fortress Monroe in November. In December, the Brigade joined Banks Louisiana Expedition and landed in Ship Island, Mississippi. In February 1863, the Expedition moved to Louisiana where it participated in the siege of Port Hudson. In 1863 it participated in the Sabine

*(continued page 15)*



**The President's Message**

Fellow Members:

I hope all our members are having a great collecting year. I have found several interesting items, nothing of any great value, including a few more variations in the GAR membership badge. I also found some interesting items of other Union Civil War Veteran's organizations, the Union Veterans Legion and the Union Veterans Union. Yet another organization I have discovered is The Army and Navy Union, USA, which was formed in 1886 by Indian Wars veterans. They eventually admitted veterans of all wars of the United States. The A&NU still exists.

I must once again point out what a fine publication we have in *The Veteran*. I belong to many organizations relating in some respect to military collecting, and our publication is flat out the best! Thanks to George Kane and his predecessors who have edited, printed, and distributed this fine publication. I also want to thank all of the contributors who have submitted articles for each publication.

Dan M. Mitchell .....

**ATTENTION MEMBERS**

**The Veteran needs you. If you have an unusual badge, ribbon or other piece of memorabilia you'd like to share with the rest of our organization, please forward it to the editor. We are especially looking for articles on the United Confederate Veterans or any other Confederate organization.**

**Antiques Road Show**

A recent edition of PBS's *Antiques Road Show* featured a G.A.R. grave marker. The marker was a GAR star with two posts instead of the usual one. The appraiser startled the owner by telling him that the marker could not be appraised because it could not, by law, be sold. He suggested that the owner donate the marker to a local camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He pointed out that there are many states with laws governing the sale of funeral artifacts, especially those of U.S. military veterans.

**Table of Contents**

Fred Jackson's 1926 Dept. Commander Presentation Badge . .	1,3
President's & Editor's Messages .....	2
The Last GAR Department Commander .....	4
A Colorful 1903 Confederate Ribbon .....	5
Another Colorful Ribbon .....	5
A Grant Memorial Badge Update .....	6
Teenagers in Blue.....	6
GAR Bicycle Race Plates .....	7
Patents for the Type V, G.A.R. Membership Badge of 1886.....	8
Winners and Losers .....	9-11
GAR CIC Testimonial .....	12

**The Editors Message  
by George Kane**

The package you receive *The Veteran* in, will be different for many of our members. Most will receive this issue of *The Veteran*, an encampment ribbon for the May 2004 CWVHA National Encampment at Mansfield, Ohio, and a copy of the handout from my lecture on GAR membership badges presented at the annual banquet. Members who attended the encampment and the banquet and received the ribbon and handout, will find only this issue of *The Veteran* in their envelope.

Gary Dunaenko has agreed to be the guest speaker at next year's banquet in Mansfield. Members who attended other presentations by Gary will especially remember his slide show on veteran memorabilia, punctuated by his catch phrase "Gotta Have It!"

With the holidays quickly approaching, please remember to drive safely. Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Congratulations, Boston Red Sox

**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.

**1926 Presentation Badge**  
*(continued from front page)*

Pass Expedition and the Red River Expedition in 1864. In July of 1864, the regiment was returned to Fortress Monroe. During the next year, the regiment would participate in a number of battles including Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. The regiment was mustered out June 8, 1865, and discharged at Buffalo, NY, June 26, 1865.

Private Jackson served the entire three years in Company A. After the war, Jackson became a businessman. His obituary in the 1931 GAR "Journal of the 65<sup>th</sup> National Encampment" said that although he was "self-educated, he was a faithful man of large business affairs almost to the time of his death."

In 1875, Frederick Jackson moved to Kansas, where he became involved with the GAR. In 1925 at the Department Encampment at Salina, KS, he was elected Department Commander for the 1925-6 year. At the end of his term as Department Commander, Frederick Jackson was presented with the jeweler-made Past DC presentation badge shown on the front page. The badge is made of 10K gold with blue enamel on the star and red enamel on the 10<sup>th</sup> Corp drop. The drop has a one-carat mine run diamond in the center.



Both the drop and the star are engraved on the reverse. The drop engraving is separated onto the four arms of the Maltese cross. The top arm is engraved



"Co. A". The right and left arms spell out "116<sup>th</sup> REGT.", while the bottom arm has "NY VOL".



The engraving on the reverse of the star reads:

*Presented  
to  
Fred Jackson  
Commander  
Dept. of Kansas  
G.A.R.  
1926*

The initials above the inscription, J.K.D., are those of the manufacturer, J. K. Davison, who also produced the membership badges for the GAR.



**Fred Jackson (Circa 1864)**

On August 28, 1930, Fred Jackson "crossed the last pontoon and camped on the other shore". These were his own words for the GAR dead during his administration from his Dept. Commander report of 1926.

## The Last GAR Department Commander

by George G. Kane

On a late April afternoon in 1952, the last act of an old ritual was playing itself out in a Van Nuys, California home. An encampment of one, not unlike similar meetings throughout the country in the last ten years, was quickly here and gone. William A. Magee, the last civil war veteran in California, opened the encampment with a prayer. He gave a quick Department Commander's Report; nominated and elected himself; and adjourned the encampment. What had happened so quickly was the last department encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Department Commander Magee would not live to see another encampment.

William Allen Magee was born in Findlay, Ohio, August 19, 1846. At the age of 13, Magee joined Company M, 12<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry as a drummer boy. He would later become the company bugler. His regiment would fight in numerous battles and skirmishes, including Gettysburg and Sherman's March to the Sea. At one point in the civil war, Magee and a number of his comrades were captured and incarcerated at the infamous Libby Prison. Magee escaped and made his way back to Union lines with the aid of "Negro slaves". After the war, Magee returned to civilian life for a short time before rejoining the Army. He served for 38 years, 7 months, retiring in 1898 as a Master Sergeant. During that time, he fought Indians, the James Brothers, and Poncho Vila, retiring in Tampa, Florida at the end of the Spanish American War, where he served in Co. H, 2 US Infantry. In 1946, the US Army recognized his long service by making him an Honorary Recruitment Sergeant. During his lifetime he had four daughters, one who predeceased him, eight grand children, and twelve great grand children. In the 1930's, Magee joined the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a member of Stanton GAR Post No. 55 of West Los Angeles, California. In 1935, the post formed the "Last Man Club". 42 members, all over 90 years old bought a single bottle of wine. Only one member would taste that wine. In 1952, William Magee was the man drinking that wine and saluting his old

comrades soon after the death of Douglas T. Story. Magee was now alone, the last Union Veteran in California. The Stanton Post had four members as late as 1948. In May of 1949, the John C. Fremont Post No. 729 of Alliance, Ohio held its last post meeting. The post's last member, Past Commander-in-Chief John Henry Grate, died the next month at 103 years old. The Stanton Post was now the only active GAR post in the country. At that time, Charles L. Chappel was the commander of Stanton Post. He would pass away in September of 1949.

The last GAR National Encampment in 1949 did not make any provisions for future department encampments. The encampment merely froze the condition of the National officers. They would hold their current title until they died. There was a notation hoping that Comrade Chappel would hold post meetings as long as he could, but nothing was said about departments

In 1950, at least three departments held their encampments. Oregon and Wisconsin would hold their last department encampments in that year. The Dept. of California would continue to hold encampments through 1952

On January 23, 1953, William Allen Magee passed away, the last survivor of the battle of Gettysburg and the last Grand Army Department Commander.

CALIFORNIA  
AND  
NEVADA  
*Woman's*  
*Relief*  
*Corps*



*W.A. Magee*  
Department Commander

SEVENTIETH  
NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
Boston, Mass.  
August 17-21, 1952

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**RUTH JOHNSON**  
DEPT. PRESIDENT

### A Colorful 1903 Confederate Ribbon

by R. L. (Dick) Flournoy

I think it was the colors that drew me to this 1903 Confederate ribbon. The cream color background contrasts radically with the bright red text and graphics.

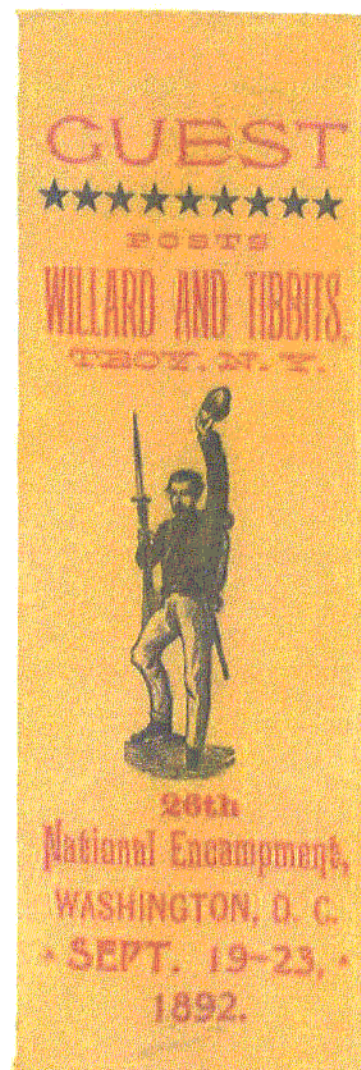


This 2 ¼ x 7-inch ribbon has been in my personal collection for several years. I never fail to get a chuckle out of it! Could you help but notice the reference "Re=Union". Hard to miss the Southerners play on words. Don't you just love the "Southern Confederacy" with "I WAS IN IT"? Can't you just picture an old rebel proudly wearing this ribbon, smugly displaying the fact that he was in it! The only thing that would make it any better would be to know which particular rebel from the Pelican State sported it thirty-eight years after the cessation of the War of Southern Independence.

### Another Colorful Ribbon

by George G. Kane

If you liked the color contrasts of the Confederate ribbon in the first column, then you're going to love this ribbon pictured below.



Two Department of New York posts joined together to produce this wonderful ribbon for their guests at the National Encampment in 1892. George L. Willard Post No. 34 and William B. Tibbets Post No. 141, both of Troy, New York, handed these ribbons out to their friends and families that accompanied them to Washington, DC. The colors of yellow, red and the black steel die graphic have eye-catching appeal. The graphic shows a soldier waving his kepi, celebrating a triumph of some sort. Yellow was the color that symbolized the National Encampment. The red text was a departmental color symbolizing spilt blood..

**A Grant Memorial Badge Update**

by Vann Martin

As I read the last issue of *The Veteran*, I realized that I have a complete copy of the 1887 badge that was pictured in the article about Grant's Memorial. The badge below is a complete copy of that badge.



Below is a photo of a GAR veteran from St.Louis Missouri, wearing his Grant Memorial souvenir badge.



**Teenagers in Blue**

by George G. Kane

While I was researching an article in the Connecticut State Library, I came upon this article that talked of a recent statistical release from the Veterans Administration in the National Tribune of May 18, 1944, page 6. The title of the article was: "Stats Prove Civil War fought by Teenage Boys". The stat that they illustrated was in an awkward form. The first column had rows that stated "10 years old or less". The next line substituted the 10 with an 11 and so forth up to 21. For some unexplained reason, the years 19 and 20 were not shown. Each line after "10" was cumulative, a sum of the lines above it. I have recreated the stats below, but I have added a third column showing the actual number of boys in each group and a fourth column showing the age group percentage to the entire army.

Age	Cumulative	Actual	%
10 years older or less	25	25	
11 years older or less	38	13	
12 years older or less	225	187	
13 years older or less	300	75	
14 years older or less	1,523	1,223	
15 years older or less	104,987	103,464	3.72
16 years older or less	231,051	126,064	4.54
17 years older or less	844,891	613,840	22.10
18 years older or less	1,151,438	306,547	11.03
21 years older or less	2,159,789	1,008,351	36.29
Total Union Soldiers	2,778,304	2,159,789	77.74

The first five ages are statistically irrelevant. It's with the 15 year olds that the first significant spike in percentage occurs. Another noticeable jump in figures occurs at the 17 year old level. Today, we would find the 126,064 boys 16 years and younger (8.32%) intolerable. In the antebellum period, boys achieved manhood earlier, giving up school for work. In the rural America of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, quitting school to help support your family was a socially acceptable norm. Schooling outside the North Atlantic states during this period was minimal at best. Building schools was not always a priority for municipalities in the Midwest and South. Teachers were also at a premium. The first Normal School (Teacher's College) was not instituted until 1842 in Barre, Mass. Many schools were one-room with a single teacher educating more than one grade at a time. Industrialization did not end this type of schooling, child labor laws did.

Over 3/4's of the Union Soldiers were 21 years old or younger. This affect on post-civil war history should not be underestimated.

## GAR Bicycle Race Plates

by George G. Kane

I'm not exactly sure what these tin plates are, so I'm going to dabble in a little speculation. Anyone who has any idea as to what these are, please drop me a line.



The plates appear to be tin with blue and white enamel. The blue enamel is on both sides. The white enamel is just on the letters, numbers and obverse outside trim. The two holes would appear to be for attachment to the front column of a bike just below the handle bar. The numbers 50 and 250 probably signify miles or kilometers, the length of a race. The years on the plates coincide with the civil war centennial. The circle plate has a diameter of 3 inches. The heart is 3½ high and 3½ wide. Ephrata is a small town in Eastern Pennsylvania, between Reading and Lancaster in Amish Country.

## Confederate Seal Lapel Pins

by George G. Kane

The lapel pin shown below has the seal of the Confederacy on its face.



For many years, the confederate seal has been used by a number of groups as an addition to just about anything to raise charitable funds. The seal has graced everything from beer trays to wall hangings. The center of the seal has an engraving of George Washington on horseback from a statue in Virginia. The pin measures 9/16" and has a modern squeeze-type clasp.

The original seal was engraved in England in 1864 and was received in Richmond, VA just before the evacuation of the city in April of 1865. The fleeing government left the seal behind. A few Southern gentlemen owned it until it was presented to the State of South Carolina in 1888.

This lapel pin does not have the Latin phrase "*Deo Vindice*" (God will Vindicate) at the bottom. This was probably due to size problems. The original was made of silver and was four inches in diameter.

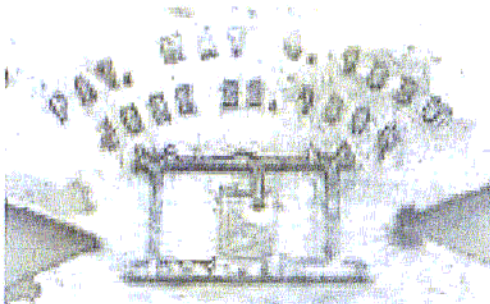


Actual Size Comparison

**Patents for the Type V,  
G.A.R. Membership Badge of 1886**

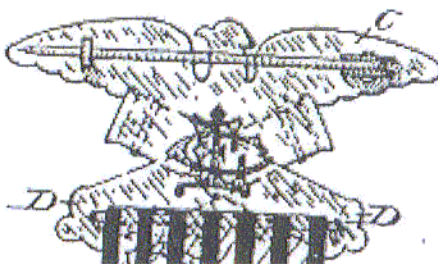
by George Kane & Bob Wolz

There have been a number of articles in *The Veteran* about G.A.R. Membership Badges, but very little on the patents that gave ownership of these patents to the G.A.R. As most of us know, the patent dates for the Type V membership badge are on the reverse of the hanger above the campfire scene.



Patent 16,671 dated May 4, 1886 and patent 16,745 dated June 22, 1886 were design patents granted to Joseph K. Davison of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who was the manufacturer of the badge and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. It is not known whether Davison transferred the rights to these patents to the G.A.R. at a later date. With all the problems the G.A.R. had with the last manufacturer, A. Demarest of NYC, who owned the patent to the type III badge, you would think they would have patented the badge themselves. Evidently they trusted Mr. Davison or had some other legal agreement with him.

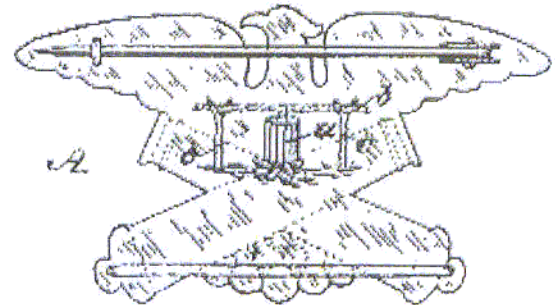
So why is there two patents on this badge. The second patent, Patent No. 16745 of June 22, 1886, is for the reverse of the hanger only. The original patent had the monogram "FCL" (Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty) on the reverse of the hanger.



Patent Drawing of Hanger with "FCL"

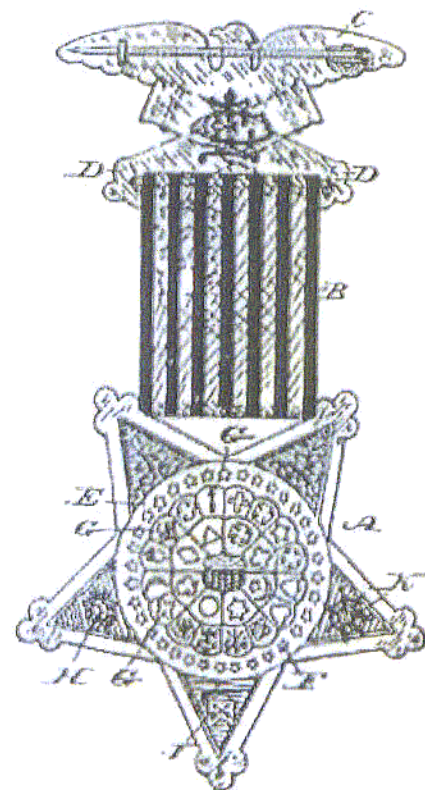
Sometime between May 4 and June 22, the design was changed to a campfire scene and patent dates.

Evidently, they couldn't just correct that patent, but had to create a new patent for the change. The new patent (16,745 of June 22, 1886) pictured and described only the reverse of the hanger of the badge.



Patent Drawing of hanger with campfire Scene

This was still not the final design as the patent dates were printed in two arched rows over the campfire scene. The accompanying specifications of the patent described the campfire scene as "a representation of a camp-kettle, a cross-pole, and crotch-poles sustaining the same, suggestive of army life". "Beneath the kettle is a representation of fuel". Below is the complete drawing of patent 16,671 of May 4, 1886.



**GAR Politics: Winners and Losers**

by George G. Kane

Every four years in November, the citizens of the United States vote to elect a President. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic went through a similar process every year. Although the G.A.R. appears to be a military outfit, its command structure was very democratic. Members voted for leaders and delegates who would elect a department level of officers. Every year, each department would elect delegates to attend the National Encampment and represent the interests of the department's members. Politics is as old as the ancient Greek democracies and just as vicious. G.A.R. politicking was not much different than national political campaigns. If a post had a member who was deserving and qualified to serve on the department level, they would often create a flyer that would be mailed to all the other posts in the department. The flyer would be a legal size piece of paper laid horizontally and folded in half, creating four pages.

Headquarters  
 Campaign Committee of  
 HAMLIN POST NO. 219  
 Department of Ohio G. A. R.  
 Wellington, Ohio



**SALONAS WILLIAMS, Age 77**  
 Civil War, Co. A, 60th O.V.V., I.  
 Command - Hamlin Post No. 219, Department of Ohio, G. A. R.  
 Mustering Officer, Department of Ohio, G. A. R.  
 Member I. O. O. F. since 1872 —; Member F. & A. M. since 1909.

To All G. A. R. Posts of Ohio and Comrades, Greetings:—  
 We are announcing our post commander, S. A. Williams, as a candidate for Department Commander at the Department Encampment at Findlay, Ohio, next June, beginning on the 16th.

The front page would have a large picture of the candidate, the name and location of his post, his civil war unit, offices he held on the local level, and a short announcement of his intentions to seek a particular

departmental or national office. The inner two pages would have a biography of the candidate as well as pictures of him during the civil war. If he had sons in the service, they would also be pictured.



FATHER AND SONS  
 Salonas A. Williams

Corp. Russell Miller Williams  
 World War, Ambulance Company  
 Born 1894

Louis Archie Williams  
 Spanish War, 3rd O. V. I.  
 Born 1876

The back page would highlight whom he knew. This candidate would boast that he was a “personal friend of the late President Warren G. Harding”. It’s not like Harding was going to say he wasn’t. He would go on to list all the Representatives and Senators with whom he was chummy. A snapshot with a heavyweight politician was always a plus.



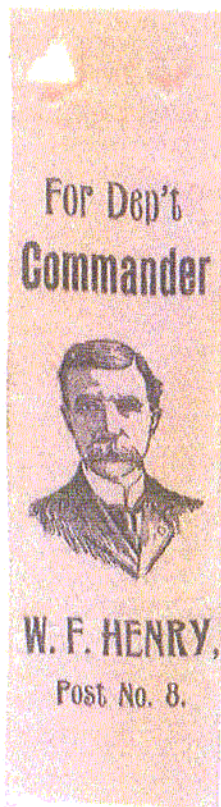
Here the candidate is pictured with US Senator Frank B. Willis, who, unfortunately, is also dead. He receives two unqualified testimonials from the grave. How can he lose? The last part of the flyer announces his campaign committee and other posts that support him.

(continued on next page)

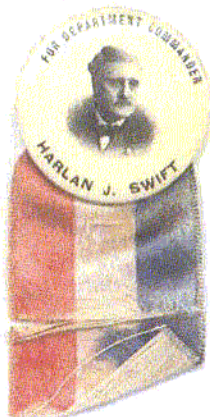
**GAR Politics: Winners & Losers**  
(continued from previous page)

The nominee for a GAR Department Commander position would generate a number of ribbons, pins or paper ephemera. A number of variations are shown on this page:

**Winners:**

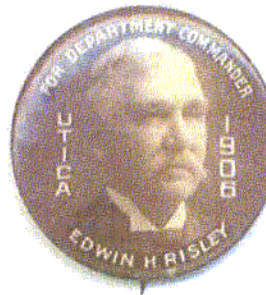


1. Wilbur Fiske Henry, Missouri, 1900
2. John C. Shotts, NY, 1894



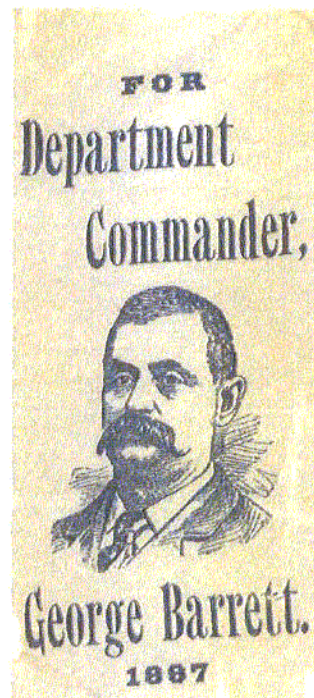
1. Joseph Emerson Ewell, NY, 1919
2. Harlan J. Swift, NY, 1907

**Losers:**



Frederic Cossum, NY, 1912  
William S. Bull, NY 1910  
Edwin Hills Risley, NY, 1906

**Winner & Loser Winner & Delegate**



Barrett lost in 1897, but won in 1899, New Jersey



Common position of election ribbon.

### Winners & Losers

*(continued from previous page)*

The ultimate prize for any politically astute GAR comrade is the position of Commander-in-Chief. Of the thousands of GAR members, only one could hold this office every year. In the early years, comrades held the CIC position for multiple years. After 1879, the position became a one-year office. Only Robert McKee Rownd (1939 & 1948) held the office for more than one year. His second administration is due more to the small pool of candidates, all centenarians.

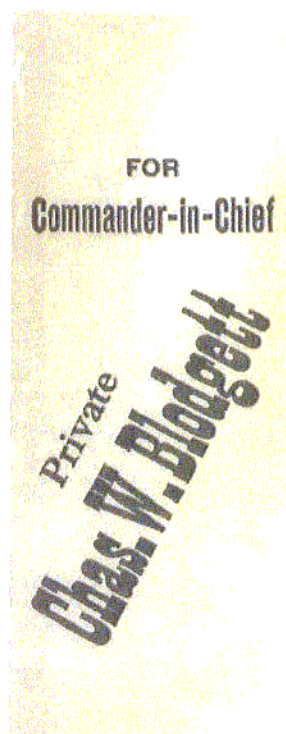
In many military fraternal organizations, those elected SVCIC and JVCIC moved on to the next level almost without a fight. This was not always true in GAR politics. Some candidates were given the Senior and Junior spots to gain votes for a CIC candidate.

The political battles for the three CIC positions generated many political ribbons, pins and badges. Many comrades ran for these positions even though their chance of success was poor. In American politics, these can be likened to the "Favorite Son" candidates of various states. As in the department level, loser ribbons and pins are more rare than winner's memorabilia.

#### Winners



#### Losers



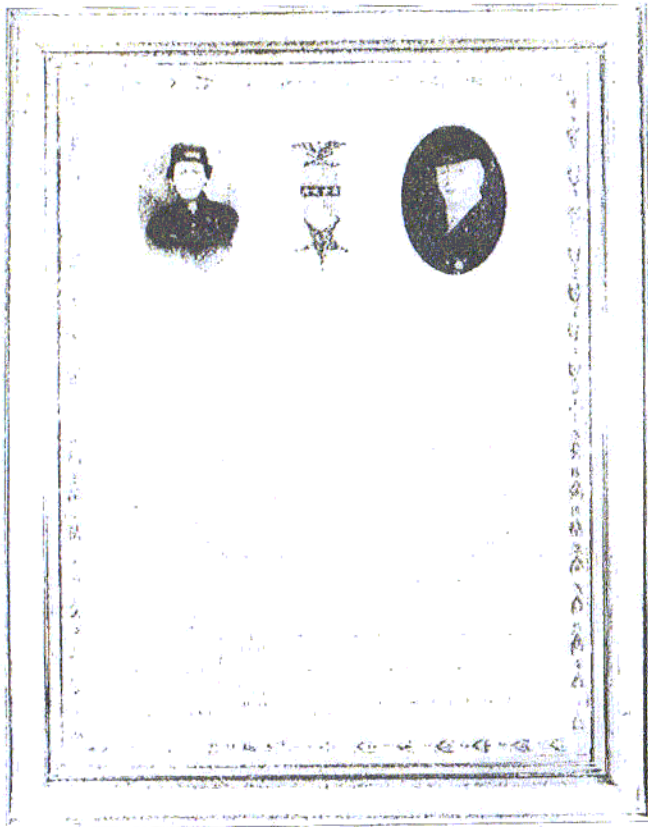
Losing GAR candidates can be hard to identify. The McElroy pin above has the date and a picture of the candidate with a GAR Officer badge. The Blodgett ribbon gives neither a date nor an organization. Many losing candidates held other national offices. Private Blodgett was Chaplain-in-Chief in 1924. His unsuccessful run for CIC came in 1914. A list of National officers can be found on the SUVCW web site.

<http://suvchw.org/garcinc/officers1866-1949.pdf>

## 1927 GAR CIC Testimonial

by George G. Kane

While looking up some information in the 1928 G.A.R. National Encampment "Journal", I came across a photo on a glossy page inserted between pages 126 and 127. It was a photo of a framed testimonial that was presented to Past CIC Frank A. Walsh.



Across from the photo on page 126, Comrade Silas H. Towler of Minnesota read the following:

*The Sixty-first National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 15-16, 1927, by resolution duly adopted, appointed a committee and directed the making and presenting of a testimonial expressive of the esteem in which the retiring commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Frank A. Walsh is held by the comrades.*

*An in accordance with said resolution, your committee respectfully reports that it caused to be prepared such a testimonial in the form of an illuminated panel, hand wrought in gold and oil colors on parchment paper, covered with glass for protection*

*and framed in hand-carved gold frame in size approximately 16 by 20 inches.*

*The testimonial includes a portrait of Commander Walsh made when he entered the Union Army, and a portrait of him made last year, and also the emblem of our order.*

*A photograph taken of this testimonial is herewith attached and made a part of this report. It was the intention of your committee to personally present said testimonial to Past Commander in Chief Walsh at Christmas time at his home in Milwaukee, but owing to the serious illness of two members of this committee this was not done, and the testimonial was forwarded to Comrade Walsh direct. Respectfully submitted.*

*Ell Torrance, Silas H. Towler, S. R. Van Sant"*

I had never seen or even heard of such a testimonial for any of the other Commander-in-Chiefs. It was then that I looked for an answer in the previous year's "Journal". The reason CIC Walsh received this framed testimonial is because he asked for it.

QM General Cola D.R. Stowits, speaking before the 1927 National Encampment, gave this explanation:

*"The commander-in-chief absolutely refuses to accept the usual testimonial, but he did suggest that if the encampment so desired that he would like an engrossed resolution that he could keep it ever after, and that is why this committee is asked for, to see that that is properly engrossed, framed and delivered to Comrade Walsh".*

The testimonial was approved by the encampment and sent to Comrade Walsh. As far as I know, no other such testimonial has been presented. The "usual" CIC testimonial was presented to the retiring CIC, with his Past CIC medal just before the swearing-in of the new CIC. It was usually on regular sized paper and signed by the committee.

The body of the testimonial to CIC Walsh lists his civil war unit (Co. H, 67 Illinois Infantry). The rest of the testimonial is very vague and patronizing.

*... you with persistent industry and intelligent mind reaped the rewards of this world's goods, unsullied, retaining at once the respect and good will of your associates.*

*... you have been distinguished by Patriotism and uprightness.*

*Among your many illustrious Predecessors in office, none has excelled you in Courage and Fidelity.*

Quite the testimonial, considering the CIC's that had preceded him included a number of Medal of Honor recipients and high-ranking officers.

One has to wonder if this testimonial still exists and in what condition it has survived.