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The Veteran

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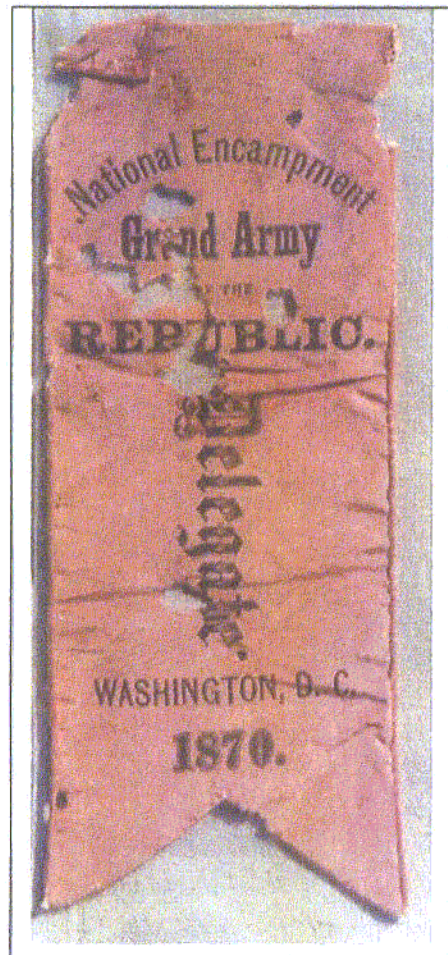
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Tom McCrory * Randy Long
Noel B. Preston * Everitt Bowles
George Finlayson

**The First Delegate Badge of the
Grand Army of the Republic
by David Klinepeter**

The rather ragged, moth holed ribbon shown below is probably the first Delegate Badge issued by the Grand Army of the Republic for a National Encampment. The pinkish ribbon has probably faded over the years. It was probably a darker reddish color.

Despite its wrinkled, moth eaten appearance, this ribbon is probably the only remaining example of the delegate badge issued for the 4th National Encampment of the Grand Army. John A. Logan had been elected Commander-in-Chief in 1868 and 1869 and would be reelected, yet again, at this encampment. A total of 52 delegates were present at this national encampment. After a meteoric start, cracks in the G.A.R.'s armour were starting to show. Four departments had disbanded during the past year. By 1871 the organization would count only 30,124 members. Politics and Logan's infamous three-grade membership system had dealt the G.A.R. a telling but not fatal blow. It would be another ten years before the organization would begin to attract union veterans back into its fold.



**1870 G.A.R.
Delegate Badge / Ribbon**

The President's Message

Fellow Members:

I want to wish all of you very happy holidays. May the season be filled with all of the Civil War memorabilia that you need, well maybe not need but want, to complete your collection!

Best wishes for good health, friendship, and happiness in 2006 to you and your family. I hope to see all of you in five months at the annual encampment of the Civil War Veterans Historical Association in Mansfield, Ohio. Until then, God bless and good hunting.

Sincerely,

Dan M. Mitchell

**The Editors Message
by George Kane**

With Veterans' Day falling in this quarter, I thought we'd look at America's first veteran society, the Society of Cincinnati. A fine article by Dr. George Finlayson on this society is found on page 8.

Anyone who has an article, or a group of related badges, ephemera, etc. for any Union or Confederate Veteran that would like to share with his fellow members, please forward to the editor. Don't worry about the prose; we'll fix it up. Articles on Southern Veteran memorabilia are especially needed. Don't delay, share your knowledge now.

A few years back, I bought a box of GAR papers from a Pennsylvania Post. Among the papers were close to a hundred memorial 4-page handouts. Actually they're one sheet of paper folded in half. Anyone who wants an original should send me a dollar and 83 cents S/H. You can't get an original GAR piece for cheaper than this deal.

George

"The Veteran" Reprints

For years, members have asked me if reprints of *The Veteran* will be made available. Well thanks to Dan Mitchell, our CWVHA President, reprints will finally be offered. Dan has provided his own personal copies to be scanned and printed. The first couple of years are very rough. Remember these were done on a typewriter and then photocopied. The name "The Veteran" did not appear until the 4th year. Prior to this the society organ was called the "4th Battalion". I have the first two years complete. This will be spiral bound with index covers, \$10 postpaid. If you'd like to wait, I should have the first 5 years done in a month or so. This will be \$15 + \$2 s/h. Check made out to "C.W.V.H.A.". Mail to me at: George G. Kane, 123 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013-2627.

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.

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Rehabilitation or Cleansing? A G.A.R. Post in Massachusetts

by George G. Kane

The City of Worcester and the State of Massachusetts are really proud of themselves. A local landmark in the Central Mass. City of Worcester has been renewed and a property has been restored to its former glory and the property tax rolls.

In 1876 one of the richest men in the state, Daniel Baird Wesson, gave his daughter a most unusual wedding present. Wesson had made his fortune in gun manufacturing with the Smith & Wesson Co. of Springfield, Mass. Wesson's gift was a Victorian Gothic Mansion. The mansion was built for \$125,000, designed by the well-known New York architect Calvert Vaux. The Pearl Street residence became known as the Bull Mansion. Dr. George Bull was Sarah Wesson's husband. The four-story building with its granite exterior and high-pitched roof and dormers is an unusually fine example of late-nineteenth century American architecture.

In 1912, the building was sold for \$21,000 to the local G.A.R. Post. George H. Ward Post No. 10, Grand Army of the Republic was no common veteran organization. This post had the largest membership of union veterans in the nation at several times during its history. The post added meeting and banquet halls at the rear of the building. These were designed by Worcester architect Stephen C. Earle. The construction of the additions cost the post \$18,685.29.



Post 10 Hall, circa 1915

On November 7th, 1930 the post transferred ownership of the building in the form of a deed of trust in perpetuity to the City of Worcester. In August of 1937, the post held its last meeting. The post had hoped that the building would be used as a meeting place for future generations of veterans and to serve as a Memorial for the Union Veterans of the civil war.

In the 1970's, the building began to fall into disrepair. In 2003, it was included in the city's list of "most endangered" buildings. In 2004, the city sold the building to a local businessman who used state and federal rehabilitation tax credits to renovate the structure. In December of this year, an upscale Italian restaurant opened in the G.A.R. Hall on Pearl Street. Local and State politicians fell all over each other in praise of the renovations. Many are unaware that the only thing G.A.R. in this G.A.R. Hall is the name. All artifacts and records of the Grand Army of the Republic were removed and placed in the local Historical Society and a National Guard armory. Among the artifacts cleansed from the Hall were nineteen bronze "Memorial Tablets" engraved with the names and civil war units of 2,323 members of Post 10. In 1916 George F. Fuller bought the tablets in memory of his father, a deceased member of the post.



Post 10 Membership Badge

Fortunately for Massachusetts, the General Lander Post #5 building still stands in Lynn, Mass. It is one of the best-preserved GAR Halls in the nation. The meeting room has photos of members of the post lining the walls. That hall is preserved to look just as it did in its "hay day", circa 1910. Hopefully Lynn politicians support historical preservation over property tax rolls..

A Confederate Glass Canteen By Randy Long

I recently purchased the canteen pictured below at a flea market. The canteen is 8 inches high and 6 inches in width at its furthest points. The canteen is made of opaque glass with a bluish tint. The tint is bluer at its detail such as the simulated rope, rope guides and mouth. The printing on the front of the canteen is a little hard to read. Because the letters and graphics are blue and the tint is blue, a photo does not pick up these letters readily.

At the top of the canteen, between the rope guides is printed "2nd B. 2nd D." I'm assuming this means 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division. Just below this is a heart bordered by two branches of leaves standing upright. Below the heart and branches is printed "12th Virginia 24th!" Again, I have to assume that this stands for the 12th and 24th Virginia Infantry of the Confederate States of America.

Simulated rope begins and ends with the two rope guides at the top and passes through the rope guide at the bottom. The mouth does not have a stopper. The other side of the canteen is blank.

Glass canteens are particularly rare and I don't think I've ever seen a Confederate example of this type of memorabilia. I'm afraid I'm making a few assumptions here, but I don't think I'm far off. I searched the index of the 40 volume 1893-1932 "Confederate Veteran" and did not find any reunion or encampment where both the 12th and 24th Virginia Infantry are mentioned together. Did these two units fight together?

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System of the US Park Service not only is a good web site to look up the civil war unit of a certain union or confederate soldier, but it is also has a history of each regiment including battles in which they participated. The web site is:

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

The site lists five battles in which both regiments participated. The battles are Seven Pines, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Petersburg and Appomattox.

The 12th Infantry Regiment was organized at Norfolk, VA in May 1861, using the 4th Battalion Virginia Volunteers as its nucleus.

The 24th Infantry Regiment was assembled in June 1861 with men from a number of counties.

As far as I can see neither regiment was attached to the same brigade.

If anyone can unravel this mystery, could they please contact the editor? Thanks.

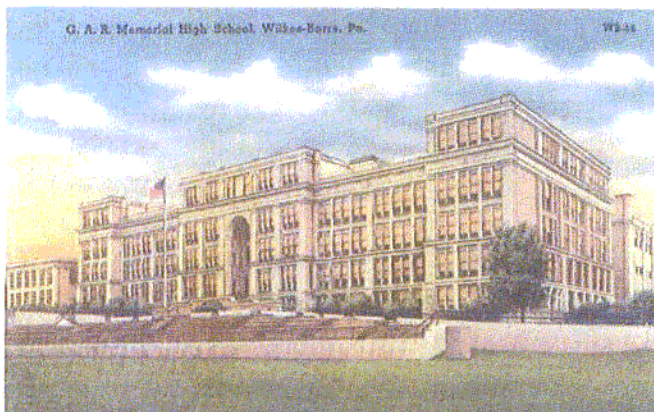


A G.A.R. Patch by George Kane

The patch shown below is topped with the initials G. A. R. The head of a man wearing a Kepi would seem to be that of a civil war veteran. The term booster club would be unusual for the G.A.R. The two footballs on each side of the letters “G. A. R.” would lead one to believe that this patch was not worn by a union veteran.



Most likely, this patch came from the “G.A.R.” Memorial High School located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. A post card with the high school pictured is shown below.



A 1917 G.A.R. and U.C.V. Pin by Everitt Bowles

The pin shown below is unusual, as it appears that the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans united for a short time to back patriotism in the First World War.



The pin states “We answered the call in 1861-65”, “We’ll Answer again if needed.” It suggests that union and confederate soldiers would enlist in the armed forces if they were needed. Civil War veterans would, by average, be seventy years old. The civil war was a young man’s war with most of the troops not having reached the age of twenty-one. All wars are fought primarily by young men.

The G.A.R. held its National Encampment in Boston, Mass. in 1917. In the same year, the U. C. V. held its National Reunion in Washington, D.C. More than likely, this pin was not issued by either of these groups, but by a pin manufacturer who saw a chance to make money by appealing to the patriotism of the two groups. Why make two pins when you can make one. Between 1913 and 1938 there were several attempts to have a combined National Encampment, but none materialized.

The Society of The Cincinnati
America's First Veteran Association
 by George Finlayson

The Order of The Cincinnati was founded on May 13, 1783 by a group of Continental and French Army and Navy Officers at Fishkill, NY. Their wish was to perpetuate the camaraderie created during the American Revolution. They also sought to ban together to pressure the Continental Congress to grant pensions to soldiers of the War for Independence. Congress had been lax in paying soldiers and sailors. Many of these men had no private source of income and were close to destitute.

They chose "Cincinnati" as the society's name, honoring a 5th century Roman warrior, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, who, after defeating invading armies, had rejected civil power and returned to his farm. The principles of the new organization embraced financial, fraternal and patriotic concerns.

The general society was divided into 13 state societies and a French society, under the direct patronage of Louis XVI. The French society was dispersed during the Reign of Terror in 1793.

Membership in the organization was limited to officers of the American Army and Navy who had served to the end of the war or who had been honorably retired by Congress. French Army Officers who had attained the rank of colonel or higher while attached to the armies of Count d'Estaing or Count de Rochambeau or French Naval Officers who had commanded a French fleet or ship of war on the American coast were also eligible for membership. Those selected to become members were required to contribute a month's pay. When a charter member died, succession would pass to his "eldest male posterity", or to another descendent judged worth.

Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, late of the Continental Corps of Engineers, was commissioned to design the society's badge. The badge would have a blue ribbon edged in white, which coincidentally were the French colors. For the pendant, L'Enfant chose the American bald eagle

for the medal's basic design. A wreath surrounded the eagle's head. In the center of the eagle's chest was a circle with a view of Cincinnatus being presented with a sword. The other side of the eagle had a view of Cincinnatus being crowned with a wreath by the Roman mythical figure, "Fame".



In 1784 French Naval Officers presented a jewel-studded version of this badge to George Washington, who had been unanimously voted the first President-General of the society. This version (see photo on next page) hung from a cravat of blue and white and had an extra drop added between the ribbon and the eagle pendant. The extra drop had flags of both France and America, separated by a fleur-de-lis. It also had crossed cannons and other military insignias all made up of diamonds. The pendant was made of gold with diamonds covering the eagle's head, wings and tail. A green enamel coated the leaves of the wreath. The badge contained 137 separate gems. The motto surrounding the scene of Cincinnatus being called to arms translates to "He left all to preserve the Republic". This badge would be handed down to the subsequent President General's and is worn by them on occasions of high ceremony.

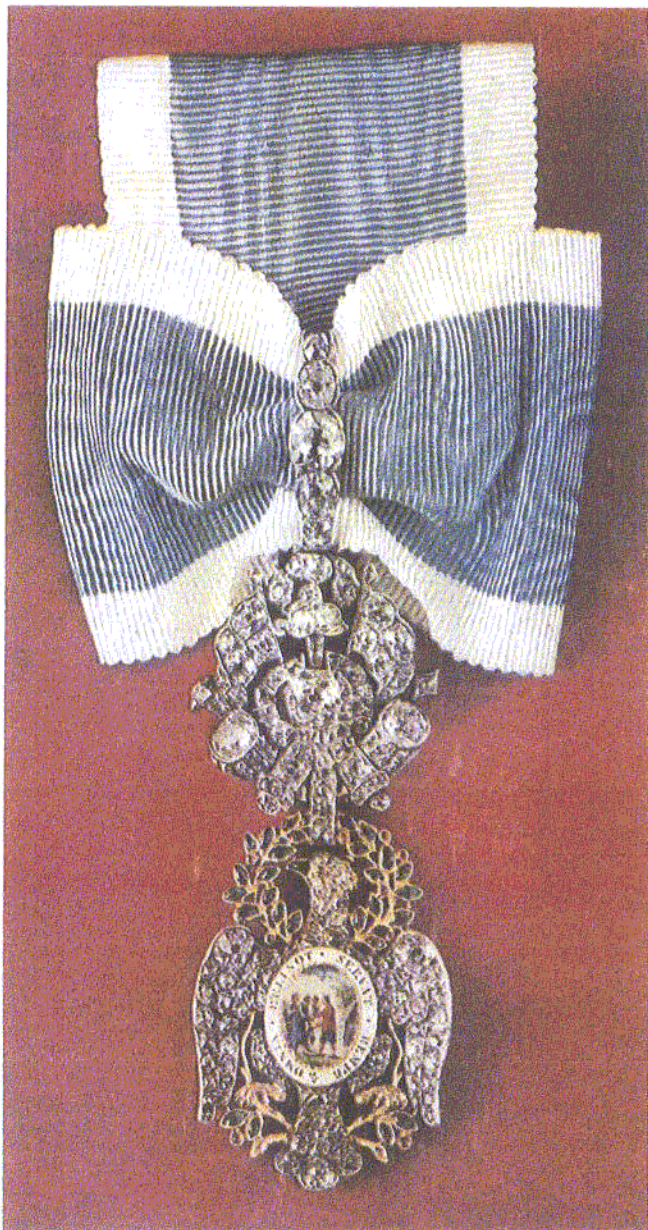
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The Society of the Cincinnati

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Original membership totaled 2,400 out of 6,000 eligible officers. Among the original joiners were Nathaniel Greene, John Paul Jones, Thaddeus Kosciusko, James Monroe, "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Anthony Wayne.

Almost immediately there was opposition to the society due to "its unnatural distinction of noblemen and commoners." Old Sam Adams accused it of "a rapid strike toward an hereditary military nobility." Why hadn't these officers also championed the rights of the rank and file veterans?



Washington had come to Virginia to retire. He had not formed the society and he was now embarrassed by the general outcry against the organization. Thomas Jefferson urged the men to distribute their funds and renounce the society's existence. Jefferson had not fought in the Revolution and was therefore not eligible for membership. Washington reviewed the society's constitution and struck out any word, sentence or clause that had a political tendency. Other attempts to abolish the hereditary descent were requested, but because of the time and distances involved for all the societies to ratify changes, they were never passed. By 1787, when the society met in Philadelphia, newspapers showed little interest and the public outcry had subsided. By 1789 state societies held meetings and picnics, usually on the 4th of July, where reminiscences and noble sentiments were the order of the day.

As the Revolutionary survivors grew old or ill, Cincinnati provided funds for widows, children and dependents. The order itself was never a significant political force. It supported a plan to give ½ pay for life to officers in Washington's army. By 1826, Congress finally granted full pay to officers still around to collect it. In 1854 the last original member died and only six of the original state societies were still active.

Many officers and their descendents moved west but the society refused admission of any other state society than the original thirteen. The society was in decline and the order slumbered. The society revived in the 1880's and '90's spurred on by the badges and new uniforms. The past became fashionable. Collateral societies such as the Sons of the Revolution and the Daughters of the Revolution were chartered. It became a kind of first of the first families of America. Much ceremony and pomp attended the meetings, which was certain to draw satiric attention to its activities.

The Society flourished and took an active interest in American history and led the fight to preserve the USS Constellation. By the mid-1960's it housed a valuable collection of Revolutionary documents, gave fellowships to colleges and financial aid to needy members. And it all began on a day in May 1783.

Vanderbilt vs. the U.D.C. by George Kane

The defenders of Southern Heritage had a rare victory earlier this year. An appeals court ruled that Vanderbilt University could not change the name of one of its dormitories, Confederate Memorial Hall. In 2002, Vanderbilt had dropped the word "Confederate" when it claimed that the name would hinder the recruitment of black students and affect its ability to seek donations. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Tennessee Division filed suit to have the name change reversed.

In 1933, the UDC raised \$50,000 to build a dormitory for the George Peabody College of Teachers. Considering that the United States was in the middle of a crippling depression, the amount raised was incredible. The contract signed by Peabody College and the UDC stipulated that the name of the hall would be "Confederate Memorial Hall" perpetually. In 1979, Peabody merged into Vanderbilt University. The University agreed to assume control of the assets and legal responsibilities of Peabody College. In 1989, Vanderbilt University placed a plaque on the building, acknowledging the UDC gift and its original name.



"Confederate Memorial Hall" Plaque at Vanderbilt

The court ruling stated that the university could drop the word "Confederate" if it agreed to repay the UDC. The court would not allow interest to be attached, because the contract had been observed for decades. The court, however, did state that the 1933 money given to the college would have to be adjusted by 72 years of the Consumer Price Index. The CPI adjustment would increase the 1933 donation into the millions. The university capitulated. The decision has no effect on how the university refers to the building in its publications, maps, etc.

A New Civil War Museum by George Kane

The creation of a new civil war museum is under way in Lynchburg, Virginia. Tentatively titled "The National Civil War Chaplain's Research Center and Museum", the museum will be housed on the campus of Liberty University.



Museum Logo

The museum is the brainchild of Chaplain Alan Farley and Scott Hartzell. Another Liberty U. professor, Kenny Rowlette has recently joined the effort. The museum is planning to be open by Fall 2007. The site will honor the 1,400 Confederate and 3,000 Union chaplains who served during the civil war. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish Chaplains will be represented. 5,000 Christian Commission volunteers will also be celebrated. The museum will be located in a 10,000 square-foot area rented from the University's DeMoss Center. Included in this facility will be a 50-seat video theater, various archival displays, a research library, book store, offices, conference room and ministry display.

The object of the research center is "to study the impact chaplains had on soldiers' lives, how members of faiths worked or did not work together, and the chaplains' methods and tools of reaching soldiers."

Museum pieces will include various civil war religious articles, newspapers, chaplain photographs, musical instruments used at services, soldier bibles, and various Christian Commission materials.

Progress reports will be posted at:

www.rmjc.org

Chaplain Farley can be reached at:

chaplainfarley@rmjc.org

Counterfeit or Transitional Badge
by George Kane

Over the years I've received a number of inquiries on various GAR membership badge variations. Recently, one of our members was so sure that he had found a transition badge that he mailed me the badge for my inspection. I told him that I thought that the piece had been put together from more than one badge. He was still sure that this was something different. So I agreed to put the piece before the membership for inspection. The piece is shown below. You'll notice the Type IV eagle hanger and the Type III star pendant. We both agree that the ribbon is a replacement. The eagle is a bright yellow, probably made of brass. The main problem with the type III badge was that it was not made of gunmetal from a captured confederate cannon. Any subsequent piece would not have a brass hanger. Another problem with the type III was the poor workmanship. G.A.R. Members complained that pieces broke off or the metal wore easily. If you look at figures number 2 and 3 you will notice badly formed edges, especially at the trefolds. More than likely this is a counterfeit star. Notice that the space under the seal is blank (fig. 4). The feet of the figures in the seal are blurry. The type III star had been copyrighted by the original manufacturer, A. Demarest. In 1876, the GAR vacated the contract between them and Demarest. Demarest never made GAR badges again. If the GAR was to make a badge after the type III badge, I doubt they would use the copyrighted Demarest star. After all the complaints, I doubt the GAR would make a star as badly formed as this one. The badge has a lot of its original uncirculated shine (called "red" by coin collectors). Yet the star shows quite a bit of wear, especially around the arms and trefolds. This would indicate that it was not stamped, but poured using a worn original to make the die. The corps badges on the reverse are all badly cut. In fact, the double 12th corps variation is used on the back (see fig. 5). If anyone has any insight into this badge please contact me.



Figure 1



Figure 2

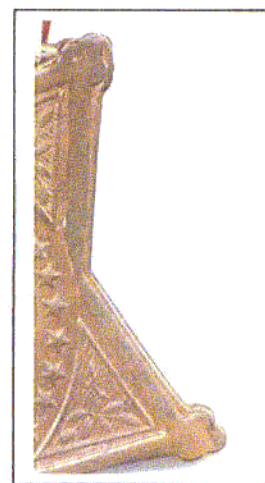


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5 →

10,000 Badges by Tom McCrory

Recently, an unusual Grand Army of the Republic Membership Badge Star appeared on e-Bay. The star was a special piece that was probably made independent of the usual manufacturing process.



The star appears to have been made during 1877. This is evident from the incused star in the obverse trefolds on the star arms. In previous articles we have identified stars with the incused star as the first G.A.R. badge made after the Demarest contract was canceled in 1876. The dies were manufactured by John Gleaves of New York. D. B. Howell manufactured the badges.



These badges had serial numbers on the edge with the letter prefix "H". This was the first time serial numbers were placed on the edge. The incused star is only found with the letter "H" prefix.

The star in question does not have an "H" prefix serial number. This star has only the capital letters "BB".



The letters are probably the initials of whoever created this special star. The reverse of the star does not have the usual die strike of the G.A.R. membership star. Instead, there is an inscription. The inscription reads:

*This Star
Contains Metal
Filed From over
10000
G.A.R. Badges*



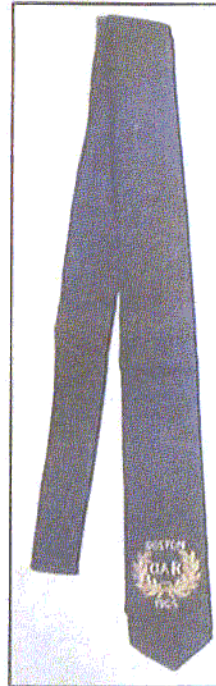
The inscription has line dashes above, below and between the lines. There are dashes before and after the number 10,000.

It's doubtful that we will ever know the mystery of this star. The dies for the 1877 badge were the property of the G.A.R., who probably transferred them to J. K. Davison when that company acquired the rights to manufacture the G.A.R. membership badge in 1878. It's doubtful that Howell created 10,000 badges. Davison created its own dies and didn't use the incuse star in its dies. We can speculate that an employee made this star with old unused dies. Was it presented to someone?

A G.A.R. Souvenir Neck Tie By Noel B. Preston

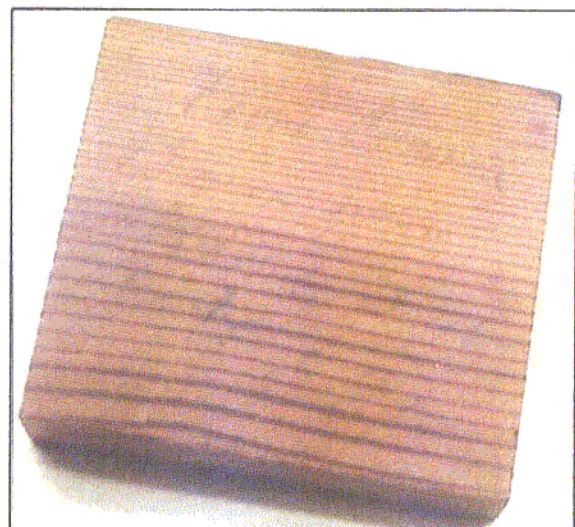
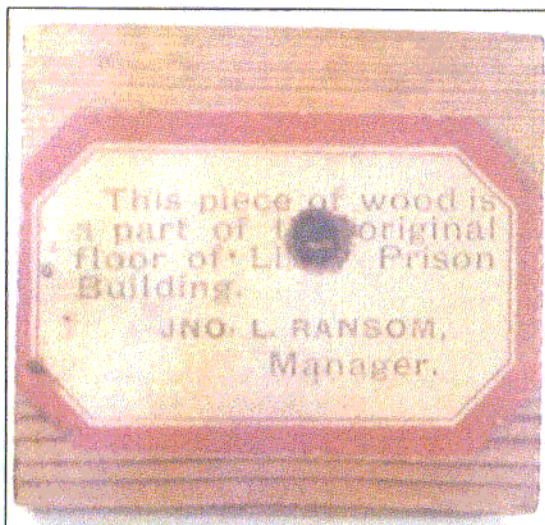
Neckties have been with us for several hundred years. Modern neckties evolved from neck handkerchiefs worn by Croatian Officers in the Austro-Hungarian Army of the Seventeenth Century. When Louis XIV, King of France, was reviewing a crack unit of Croatian troops, he noticed the brightly colored handkerchiefs worn by the officers of the unit. Louis, a slave to fashion, was immediately taken by this military accoutrement and soon the necktie was the rage of Paris. Neckties have been very popular with western societies ever since.

In 1904 at the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, a souvenir tie was offered for sale with the G.A.R. hat wreath logo with "Boston" above and "1904" below the wreath. The tie is 44 inches long and 1½ inches at its widest point. The tie does not have a manufacturer's label on the inside.



A Libby Prison Souvenir By Noel B. Preston

The photos below are of a ½ inch x 2¼ inch block of wood with a label stating "This piece of wood is a part of the original floor of Libby Prison Building. Jno L. Ransom, Manager". In 1888 Libby prison was dismantled, moved to Chicago and rebuilt by Sept of 1889 to be used as a war museum. J. Ransom, once a Belle Isle prisoner, was at one time the manager of the Libby Prison War Museum. There is a faded pencil inscription on the other side of the flooring souvenir, which states, "From Comrade Baron who obtained it at Chicago".



G.A.R. Souvenir Boxes
by Noel B. Preston

Small ornate tabletop souvenir boxes, made partially of pot metal, were available at a number of G.A.R. National Encampments. . The box below shows a 3/4-inch x 2 inches x 3 1/2 inch box from the 28th National Encampment. The lid of the box is marked, "SOUVENIR - ENCAMPMENT - G.A.R., SEPT, 1894 - PITTSBURGH, PA" and is illustrated with crossed sabers, stacked muskets and crossed cannon and cannon balls.



Below, another box 2 1/2 inches high x2 3/4 inch in diameter is supported on three ornate legs. (Figure 5) The box lid shows a GAR Type III Membership Badge and is marked, "ENCAMPMENT - GAR - CINCINNATI, O". (Figure 6) It's most likely a souvenir of the 1898 National Encampment held in the Queen City..

