



Volume 19, No. 3

*The Veteran*

January - March 2006

**C.W.V.H.A. Officers**

**President**

Dan M. Mitchell  
874 S. Lakehurst Drive  
PO Box 56.  
Franklin, IN 46131-0056  
[dmitc874@aol.com](mailto:dmitc874@aol.com)

**Vice-President**

John Mullay  
181 Beach Street  
Wollaston, MA 02170-2310  
[jj318@aol.com](mailto:jj318@aol.com)

**Recording Secretary**

Jack Buchert  
PO Box 33367  
Indialantic, FL 32903-0367  
[JHBuchert1@aol.com](mailto:JHBuchert1@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

Dave Aeberli  
9372 Almar Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4872  
[dla9372@nauticom.net](mailto:dla9372@nauticom.net)

**Editor, Printing & Distribution**

George G. Kane  
123 Springfield St  
Chicopee, MA 01013-2627  
[gkane1@prodigy.net](mailto:gkane1@prodigy.net)

**Contributors**

Noel B. Preston \* Janet T. Preston  
Randy Long  
George Finlayson  
Mark A. Hyde \* Jeffrey Floyd

**The G.A.R. Tire Badge  
by George G. Kane**

Many collectors of G.A.R. badges and other memorabilia specialize when it comes to collecting G.A.R. Dept. Badges. Often collectors will try to acquire all the Department badges from their home state. There are a few department badges, however, which because of some unusual trait, is sought after because of its idiosyncrasies and not from its point of origin. One of these badges is the 1917 Akron Grand Army of the Republic, Dept. of Ohio Encampment Badge. The badge is distinctive because of its miniature tire pendant. It is also unusual in that it is made up of four different materials, bronze, ribbon, rubber and plastic. Plastic badges had just started to emerge, probably due to their low cost and lightweight.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, many cities had become specialized in manufacturing. This was particularly true of Akron, Ohio, which had become the automobile tire capital of the world. In 1869, B.F. Goodrich built its first rubber plant in Akron. In time, Goodrich would become the number one automobile tire company in the United States. Other tire companies would also settle in Akron including Goodyear and National Tire. Akron holds many firsts including the first  
*(continued on Page 27)*



**1917 G.A.R. Dept. of Ohio  
Delegate Badge**

**The President’s Message**

**Fellow Members:**

It’s time to start making plans to attend our annual meeting in Mansfield, Ohio on May 6th. I would really like to see a large turnout. If you have not attended one of our meetings or the Ohio Civil War Show, I think that you are missing a rare opportunity to view items and collectibles that you would have a hard time finding anywhere else.

This year, Barry Crompton, will present our program. His topic will be “American Civil War Veterans in Australia.” Barry is from Melbourne, Australia. As you can see, we have gone nearly half way around the world for our guest speaker for the banquet this year. Thanks to George Kane for finding our speaker.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting on Saturday night. Don’t forget to make your reservations.

**Dan M. Mitchell** .....

**The Editors Message  
by George Kane**

As usual, *The Veteran* is late again. As a tax accountant, the period from February through April 15<sup>th</sup> is my busiest time of the year. This year has been complicated by the sale of my latest book, *The History of the United Spanish War Veterans, etc.* I thank all members who purchased a copy. I hope you enjoy it. Printing and binding these books has taken up a large part of my time. Due to the large amounts of color print in this book, farming it out to a printer would be cost prohibitive.

Again I am asking the membership to submit articles for the newsletter. In the last year I’ve received a lot of promises, but few actual articles. Thanks to those who did send in photos, scans, stories, etc. This is your newsletter. Let’s keep it fresh and new.

I’m anticipating the trip to Mansfield again this year. Hope to see you there.

George

**20<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the CWWHA**

The 20<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the CWWHA will be held at the Comfort Inn, Mansfield, Ohio, Saturday, May 6, 2006.. A cash bar will open at 6:00 pm and the dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. The entrée choices are Chicken Breast, Harvest Style or ½ rack of Damon’s ribs. Either dinner choice is \$17.00. Please mail a check with your selection to George Finlayson, MD, 98 Parkwood Blvd., Mansfield, OH 44906-3218. Early reservations are greatly appreciated.

Our featured speaker this year is Barry J. Crompton of Melbourne, Australia. Barry is an charter member of the Melbourne Civil War Roundtable and librarian of the Archer Memorial Civil War Library. Barry’s topic will be American Civil War Veterans who immigrated to Australia after the civil war.

**Table of Contents**

The GAR Tire Badge .....	25, 27
President’s & Editor’s Messages .....	26
A Soldier Writing Home .....	27
Capturing the Flag.....	28-29
A GAR Spiked Helmet.....	30
Little Dave, Our Youngest Confederate Soldier .....	31
A UCV Boy Scout Medal .....	32
Boy Scouts and Veterans.....	32
A G.A.R. Canteen by Wanamaker.....	33
Society of Loyal Volunteers .....	34
A G.A.R. Box.....	34
Soldier Homes’ Souvenirs .....	35
The G. A. R. and the Grasshopper .....	36
A Badge to Dine With .....	36

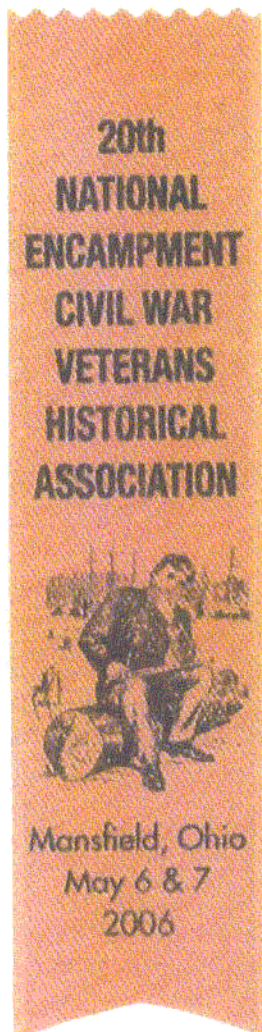
**The Veteran**

*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.

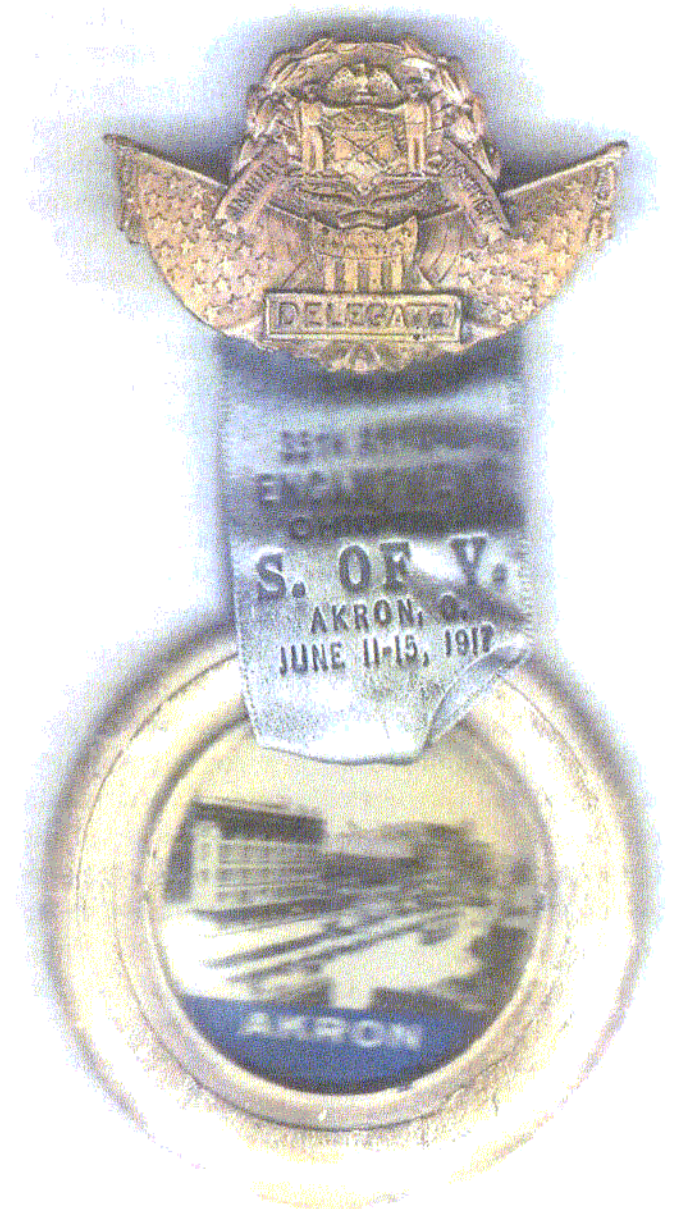
**A Soldier Writing Home**by **George Finlayson**

I've recently received the ribbons for the next CWVHA encampment from the manufacturer. I was quite pleased with this year's logo, "a soldier writing home." Many pen and ink drawings do not transfer well to cloth for a number of reasons. Anyone who has been in the service has contemplated while writing home to his Mom. My folks kept every one of my letters home during WWII. I recently went through these letters after 55 years in storage. The common thread running through my letters to my family was "I'm fine" and that I was not in combat. The clear definition of this soldier pondering his letter is a universal photograph of soldiers everywhere away from their families. It was true in 1865, 1945 and 2005. This snapshot will repeat itself endlessly, as long as there is war.

**Tire Badge**  
(continued from front page)

balloon tire and the first automobile tires manufactured in the United States.

The G.A.R. tire badge is 3½ inches tall and width of the tire is 2½ inches wide. The affiliated groups used hangers with their logos. The Sons of Veterans badge below has a very large hanger for this badge. Their logo is at the top encircled by a wreath. The G.A.R. badge did not have a "delegate" designation on this badge. The Sons have the word "delegate" on the badge hanger.



### Capturing the Flag By Randy Long

The act of capturing an opponent's flag has been with us since the invention of military standards. The ability to wrest away an enemy's flag has been a byword for great courage down through the ages. It reached its peak during the nineteenth century. In the British military, there were few chances for an enlisted man to advance into the officer corps. Most British officer positions were purchased. Men of wealth or nobility swelled the officer ranks. An enlisted man's chances of a promotion to an officer were limited to members of a "Forlorn Hope" detachment, a suicidal attack on an entrenched enemy position, or the capture of an enemy's flag. The capture of a French Eagle Standard, presented personally to a regiment by Napoleon, would no doubt mean promotion and prestige for a lowly British soldier. The loss of such a flag by a French regiment would be a mark of shame against the whole regiment. Consequently, such captures were rare.

In the American Civil War, flag captures, were raised to a new art form. During the war, Medals of Honor would be a reward for flag captures. Although it was usually of little strategic military value, the capture of a Confederate flag sometimes was the result of insane bravado on the part of a soldier. Tom Custer, brother of George, once charged an enemy unit, took a bullet to the head, but was still able to shoot the rebel standard bearer with a pistol in one hand and grab the flag with the other hand and stay in the saddle. Custer would become one of only a few men to be awarded the Medal of Honor twice. His second medal was also for a flag capture. In the closing days of the war, Custer's unit would capture 37 rebel flags. All 36 men responsible for the captures' received the Medal of Honor.

In the spring of 1865, the war was drawing to a close. The 37<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was engaged with the enemy at Sailor's Creek on April 6<sup>th</sup>, nine days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Charles A. Taggart

was a member of Company B of that unit. During hand to hand combat, a comrade of Taggart's tried to wrestle the rebel flag away from its bearer. When the man fell seriously wounded, Taggart jumped in and captured the flag. For this moment of bravery, Taggart was awarded the Medal of Honor a month later. The citation on his award certificate says only "capture of flag".



A Civil War Army  
Medal of Honor  
(Not Taggart's)

Taggart had joined the 37<sup>th</sup> in 1862 and had been baptized under fire at Fredericksburg. He was later wounded at the battle of Gettysburg. Before the war, Taggart had worked on a farm in Otis, Massachusetts. He had been born in nearby Blanford, Mass. in 1843. The capture of that flag would change his life forever. After the war, he became a pension agent in Albany, New York. He would also become very active in the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union civil war veterans group. He would die at the ripe old age of 95 in 1938 in Dayton, Ohio. He is buried there in the National Cemetery.



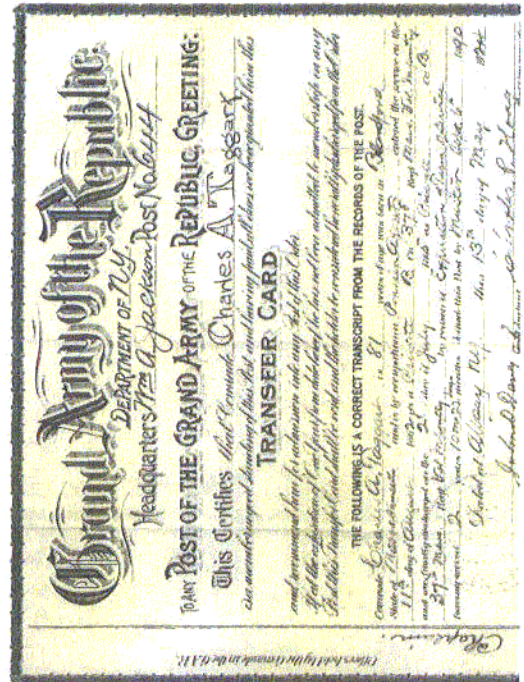
### Capture the Flag (continued from previous page)

Over the years, I have been lucky enough to acquire many mementos of Charles A. Taggart. Taggart became a member of William A. Jackson Post No. 644 of Albany, NY on September 6, 1890. He may have been a member previous to this date. As a pension agent, it would have been in his best interest to join as many veteran organizations as possible. As a Medal of Honor member, he was able to join the Legion of Valor, of which he was an active member. I have several photos and letters from the LoV down through the years.

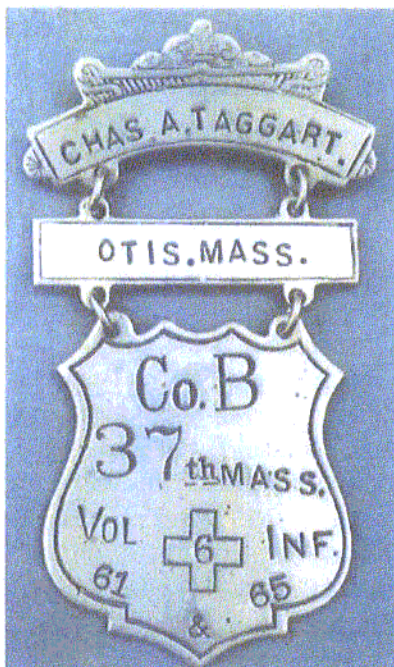
Taggart left New York in 1924 moving to Dayton, Ohio. His "Transfer Card" from Post No. 644 documents his departure.



Presidential MOH Award Certificate



Below is one of many images I have of Charles Taggart. This photo shows him with his GAR membership badge and his Original Type 1 Civil War Medal of Honor.



## A G.A.R. Spiked Helmet by George G. Kane

The picture directly below is of post commander, S. Herbert Appelton and his staff. The commander and his staff were from Dahlgren Post #2, GAR of South Boston, Massachusetts. This picture was taken on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1892. The photo would be a typical GAR post photo, except for one detail, the headgear of the men. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1883, the members of the post voted to adopt the White spiked helmet as their ceremonial headgear. A GAR fatigue hat was selected as the headgear for meetings and non-public functions.



The helmets were similar to the spiked helmets worn by the U.S. Army at that time. The front of the helmet has a large number 2 and the initials GAR below the number, but above the chin strap. A recent e-bay auction had a similar helmet with the number 2, but without the GAR lettering and the spike was missing. A number of the men have their civil war corps badge insignias on the side of their helmet. The man in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row with the long beard has his helmet sideways on his knee. There is a colored square with a diamond in the middle. Another photo has a member with a Maltese cross on the side of his helmet. The post marched at most of the GAR National Encampments as well as their own department encampment parades. Although this was not a sanctioned piece of GAR uniform, these alternative uniforms were often tolerated, especially at National Encampment parades. Some of the Philadelphia posts wore a very tall Busby and very elegant uniforms at many of the National Encampments. The more glamorous the uniform, it seemed, the better place in line. The Dahlgren post parade unit was often the Department Commander escort at department and national functions. In 1892 the post voted to change the uniform except for the white spiked helmet. Evidently the post used the helmet until the post's eventual demise in 1939.

**“Little Dave”:**

**Our youngest Confederate Soldier**

By Mark A. Hyde

Email: [mah3522@students.kennesaw.edu](mailto:mah3522@students.kennesaw.edu)

The American Civil War is full of outstanding heroes, remarkable tales, and unforgettable legends. Many people may not know, however, that a large number of these forgotten heroes were only teen-agers; some were even pre-teens. “I hadn’t lost any war and wasn’t hunting any, but it rather came to me through circumstances not of my ordering” David Bailey Freeman wrote in 1923 in an address to the Atlanta chapter of the United Confederate Veterans, nearly 60 years after his service in the War Between the States. David was not much different from the thousands of other young southerners enlisting in 1861 who were full of the “military spirit” except in one regard: he was barely 11 years old! Yet, he did indeed enlist, and he served 3 years in Company D of the 6<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry, CSA. Known affectionately by members of his company as “Little Dave,” his fellow comrades would later recall that although “he was quite young, [he] made a good soldier.”



Little Dave was born here in Ellijay, Georgia on May 1, 1850, one of ten children (8 boys and 2 girls) born to Beverly Allen Freeman and Mary Ann Reynolds Murray. According to Alan Freeman, great-great-grand-nephew of David, Beverly and his family were well to do, quite religious, and prominent citizens in the communities they lived in. Beverly led a somewhat adventurous and interesting life. Besides serving and attaining the rank of Major in the Creek Indian War, Beverly moved to Dahlonega seeking his fortune during the Georgia gold rush, was a practicing attorney in

Ellijay, and was a founding member and officer of Ellijay’s Oak Bowery Masonic Lodge #81. Beverly died in 1851, leaving a widow and several children ranging in ages from infant to adult. Little Dave was only 4 years old when he lost his father.

How David Bailey Freeman came to be the youngest Confederate soldier is quite a remarkable story. Four of his seven brothers eventually joined the Confederate Army; however, his brother Madison Montgomery played the most important role in David’s young military career. Madison was afflicted with “White Swelling,” known better today as Phlebitis, an inflammation of the veins in the legs. This burdensome disease did not stop Madison’s patriotic duty however. As David later wrote, Madison was “crippled from white swelling, but from having been a member of the Fulton Blues previous to the development of the disease, he possessed the military spirit. He went into his native county, Gilmer, and was the main spirit in the raising of a cavalry company, of which he was elected first lieutenant.” Madison was uncertain whether he could stand the service and asked their Mother if David could go with him into camp to be of help to him if needed. Without knowing the circumstances, we can only speculate on the conversation and stipulations concerning the agreement. The end result was Mrs. Freeman’s consenting to let her Little Dave go to camp with Madison with the understanding that he would be allowed to return home any time the Colonel saw fit after drilling days were over. David enlisted as a Marker on May 16, 1862, at Camp Felton near Cartersville, just two weeks after his eleventh birthday. (Markers “marked” the position of troops by carrying a pennant at either end of a long line of mounted cavalry).

David was recuperating from an illness in an aunt’s home in Fayetteville when General Johnston’s army surrendered on April 26, 1865, less than a week before his fourteenth birthday. But no matter what contributions David made to the Southern cause, it was enough to earn him a Confederate pension after making application in 1917. After the war, David began a successful life-long career in the newspaper business. He was active in the United Confederate Veterans organization where he eventually earned the rank of “General”.

He died quietly and peacefully of a heart attack in Atlanta on June 18, 1929, just a few days after attending a UCV reunion in North Carolina. His body was transported by train from Atlanta. He was 77 years old.

### A United Confederate Veteran Boy Scout Medal by Jeffrey Floyd

Last year my auction company sold a medal with an unusual combination. The medal below was presented to the Boy Scouts of Dallas, Texas at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans in that city.



(enlarged 250 %)

The bronze and enameled medallion is 35 mm. The box at the top of the obverse has the inscription "35<sup>th</sup> Annual / Reunion / Dallas 1925". A center monogram of "UCV" is flanked by a bust portrait of Robert E. Lee and a local UCV monument. A Confederate battle flag with an enameled cross is at the bottom of the obverse.

On the reverse is inscribed "Presented / To The / Boy Scouts / of Dallas / In Recognition Of / Services Rendered / During The / Confederate / Reunion 1925". The Boy Scout logo appears just below the inscription.

Because of the size of this medal (approx. 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches) it is speculated that each Boy Scout that attended the Reunion was given a copy. A presentation medal to an organization would likely have been considerably larger. The Boy Scouts became a fixture at civil war veteran reunions for the next 25 years.

### Boy Scouts and Veterans by George G. Kane

The Boy Scout movement was founded in England by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in 1908. Baden-Powell was a veteran of the Boer War of 1898-1902 and a hero of the defense of Mafeking. The Boy Scouts of America were incorporated in 1910 in Washington, DC.

Founded by a war veteran and instituted during a period of constant warfare culminating in World War I, veterans and boy scouts were a natural match from the beginning.

The following pictures were taken at the 1938 Reunion of the Blue and Grey at Gettysburg. Over 200 Boy Scouts, Scoutmasters and assistants took part in this encampment.



Veterans spin "war yarns" for a group of Boy Scouts during last Reunion.

Union Veterans "Spin Yarns" for Boy Scouts



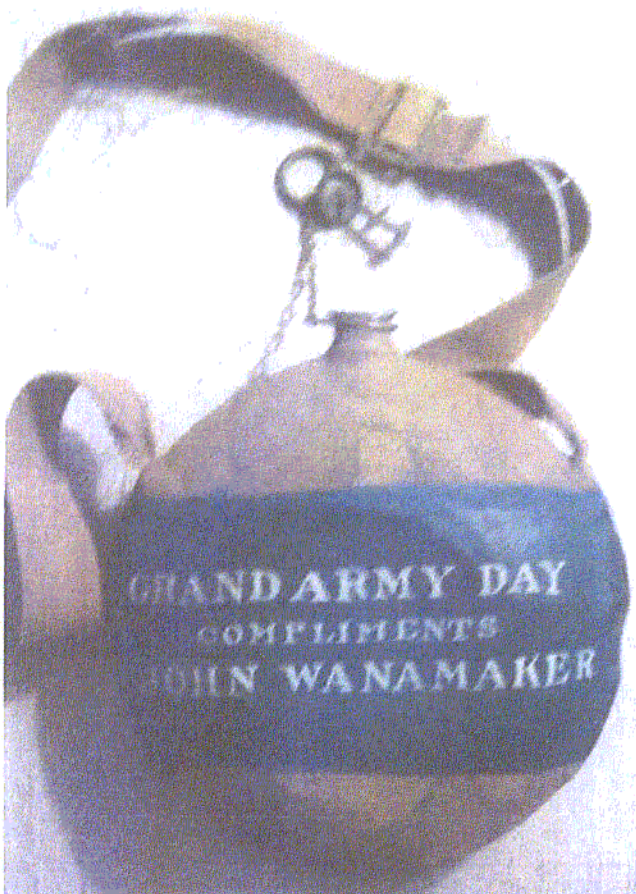
A Confederate Veteran with a Boy Scout escort strolls through the Confederate camp.

The photos are from Paul L. Roy's *The Last Reunion of the Blue and Gray*, published 1950.

### A G.A.R. Canteen by Wanamaker by Randy Long

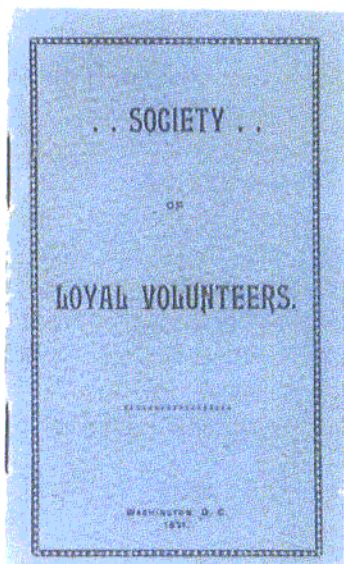
In the last few issues of *The Veteran*, there have been a few articles on John Wanamaker of Philadelphia, the noted merchant. Besides inventing the modern department store and the "Money-back Guarantee", Wanamaker was fond of civil war veterans. Although not a soldier himself, his role on the battlefields of the war with the Christian Sanitary Commission gave him a unique perspective on the courage and patriotism of the average civil war soldier. His friendships with the veterans after the war had brought the G.A.R. National Encampment to Philadelphia in 1899. At that convention, Wanamaker spared no price making the veterans comfortable in his city. As we have seen in the past few issues, he created a number of souvenirs for members of that encampment.

A couple of years ago at an antique mall in Wichita, Kansas, I bought the canteen shown below. I'm not sure if this is a civil war canteen or from a later period. Maybe a fellow member of the CWWHA can enlighten me. The canteen is of the "bulls-eye" style with its original cover and strap. Both the cover and strap are made of a canvas type material. The strap has a brass buckle with no marks on it. The top is original and appears to be pewter attached by its original chain. The back side of the canteen has three stencils in a black ink. The number "1" is at the top, with a "G" in the middle and an "H" or number "11" at the bottom. As you can see, the front is marked with the words "GRAND ARMY DAY / COMPLIMENTS / JOHN WANAMAKER" in white ink or paint with a dark blue painted background. The canteens were likely created for the "Grand Army Day" that was held at the local Wanamaker department stores during the 1899 National Encampment. Wanamaker showered the veterans who attended with food and souvenirs. He probably bought the canteens from Army Surplus and had them painted locally. How many were produced? Will probably never know. Anyone who has any knowledge of the history of these canteens should contact me through the Editor. Thanks.



### Society of Loyal Volunteers by George G. Kane

Yet another obscure Union civil war veteran society has come to light. While searching for another article, I came across a small 3"x 5" booklet entitled the "Prospectus and Constitution of the Society of Loyal Volunteers".



Allen R. Foote and other civil war veterans founded the society July 4, 1891 apparently over the viciousness of the military pension system. The societies main aim was to effect "a revision of the pension system so that only persons actually in need should receive the Government's bounty."

The membership of the society was to be broken down into six classes. The first class was made up of any loyal union veteran of the civil war. The second class was the wives of class 1 members. The third class was the father, son or brother of class 1 members. The fourth class was the mother, daughter or sister of class 1 members. The fifth class was any government employee during the war. The sixth class was any pro-union citizen alive during the war. So, basically any pro-Union citizen could join. Unfortunately, no one did.

Congress had just passed one of the most all-encompassing pension plans for civil war veterans. Virtually every union veteran would receive a pension. It's doubtful that veterans would join a society whose main aim was to take money out of their pockets. The weekly magazine *The Nation* wrote "...nothing but good can result from such utterances as these..." Not until 1933 was any pension legislation reversed. And this was restored a year later.

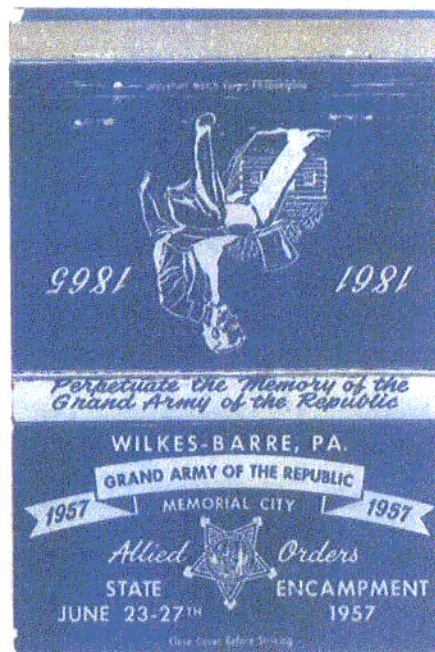
### A G.A.R. Box by Noel B. Preston

The box shown below was once the property of Garfield Post No. 3, G. A. R., Portland, Oregon. This post would later merge with Lincoln Post No. 4, Portland, Oregon to become Lincoln - Garfield Post # 3.



The box, which has a hasp, was probably used to keep sensitive post documents. Unfortunately the box was empty when I acquired it.

### 1957 SUVCW Match Cover



### Soldier Homes Souvenirs by Noel B. Preston

It must have been boring at times to reside in an Old Soldier' Home, so it seems only natural that some of the Comrades would resort to crafting items. This not only helped the hours go by, but also gave the veterans a chance to acquire some pocket money by selling the items at fairs and reunions.

Shown below is an octagon shaped piece of 1/2" thick marble with an eagle/flag transfer in the center. Painted on the marble is, "SOUVENIR SOLDIERS HOME, HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA, 1916." Some flowers are also painted around the circumference.



Another interesting crafted item is a 8" x 15" x 7 1/4" high wooden stool with a painted 3" high G.A.R. membership badge on the top center surrounded by fancy scroll work. Both the front and back of the stool are hand lettered, "SOLDIERS HOME."



**The G.A.R. and the Grasshopper**  
by Janet T. Preston

For years I speculated on the origins of the combination of the grasshopper and the sunflower on the badge below, which was marked Kansas just below the grasshopper. I had been told that it was the official G.A.R. Department of Kansas badge. A rough drawing of this badge appears in Roger Heiple's "Great Republic", Vol. 1, No. 3, page 6 along with department badges from other states.



Recently I was able to acquire a similar badge without the grasshopper. The Hanger reads "OFFICIAL DEPT. OF KANSAS BADGE"



Other badges of this particular construction have been spotted with the letters "G.A.R." printed on the ribbon in large gold letters.

**A Badge to Dine With**  
by Noel B. Preston

The badge shown below incorporates items appreciated by an Army that travels on its stomach.



The badge consists of a spoon pin bar with a metal dinner plate hanging below which is marked, "G.A.R., Nat'l Enc, 1892, Washington D.C." A piece of hardtack is present in the middle of the plate pendant with a knife and fork overlay. The plate is a painted silver wash while the fork and knife appear to be brass. A small chain hooks the two pieces together. There is nothing printed on the back of either piece.

The 1892 National encampment produced a large number of souvenir pieces. It's location near Philadelphia and Baltimore where many badge manufacturers were located probably led to the plethora of souvenirs at this encampment. After the civil war, Washington became a tourist Mecca. The large influx of tourists spawned the souvenir market that still exists there today.