



Volume 20, No. 1

The Veteran

July - September 2006

**This is NOT a G.A.R. Badge
by George G. Kane**

For more than fifteen years, a degree badge of a Masonic organization has been masquerading as a badge of the Grand Army of the Republic. In the 1960's, the centenary of the American Civil War jump-started the fairly dormant collecting of memorabilia from that war. In 1990, Ken Burns PBS miniseries *"The Civil War"* also helped to popularize civil war collectibles. Between these two events, a small badge emerged that no one could identify. Because it had an all-black ribbon, it was thought to have something to do with funerals. The Maltese cross pendant had no hint to its origin. Only the US seal in the center with its eagle and "E Pluribus Unum" inscription gave any hint to its beginnings. The use of the seal seemed to point towards its use by a military society. The misidentification of this badge gained steam as two small booklets on civil war veterans' memorabilia were published. In 1990, Brad Long, pastor of an Illinois parish, noticed that no collectibles book had ever been written about the Grand Army of the Republic. Rev. Long made an attempt at creating an all-encompassing listing of the various facets of this civil war fraternity, producing a 40-page booklet, *"Collecting Grand Army of the Republic Memorabilia."* The booklet was designed with the beginning collector

in mind. Common examples of badges, books, uniform regalia, postcards, photos, and stamps illustrated the various segments of GAR memorabilia. Unfortunately, a time bomb lurked in the pages of this booklet. On page 34, a small badge with a black ribbon and a Maltese cross was pictured. On the opposite page, Rev. Long labels this badge as the "Death Medal". His description of the medal states, *"The medal is perhaps mistaken for a Masonic Order or VFW device. The medal was usually given to the widow or surviving family upon the death of a GAR member. When family members were not available, the medal was buried with the veteran. ... This medal was also used extensively by non-GAR fraternal organizations."* Although he gives an extensive bibliography, no provenance is ever given on the history of this badge. Soon after the publishing of this book, Rev. Long attended the Civil War Show in Ashland, Ohio, where various dealers and collectors informed him that this badge was Masonic and not GAR. In 1992, Reverend Long published a second edition of this book with a weak attempt to correct the badge description. The photo of this badge, unfortunately, remained in the book.

(continued on page 3)



**The Malta Jewel of the
Knights Templar**

The President's Message

Dear Members:

George Finlayson has informed our treasurer and myself that the restaurant, Damon's, raised the cost of next year's banquet diner. After contacting our Vice-President and Secretary, we voted unanimously to have George sign the contract for next year's banquet at Damon's. The price has been raised to \$20. This year we did not meet the minimum attendance required by the restaurant. We are not charged for the use of the room because we eat there. Damon's location is very convenient for those of us who attend the civil war show.

At the next meeting we may also have to address the rising costs of printing the newsletter. If you have any ideas concerning these issues, please contact me.

I'm wishing you all good collecting and an enjoyable remainder of the summer.

Dan M. Mitchell, President

The Editor's Message by George Kane

Welcome to our 20th year as the Civil War Veterans' Historical Association and its newsletter, *The Veteran*. We have a special treat for the members in this issue. All **paid up** members will receive a ribbon for the June 2006 Rededication Ceremony for the Maryland Monument at Antietam, compliments of a member Dan Toomey, who has authored an article on the subject, donated the ribbons (See Pages 8-10).

For all those who ordered the reprint of the first five years of the newsletter, I have finished scanning and creating the copy for printing. You should receive your copies in the next week or so. Unfortunately I had to cut back the issues to the first four years. I drastically underestimated the size and cost of this reprint. Luckily only five members ordered in advance. The new price for the book is \$26. Postage is included in the price. The price of my book on USWV History is now \$55 plus \$4.05 USPS Priority Mail.

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Members

Due to the fact that I didn't mention the current cost of membership dues, all those members who still owe for the 2006-07 year will receive the first issue of our 20th year. Any member, who still owes dues, will receive a notice attached to their newsletter. Dues are still \$15.00. Thanks for your attention.

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The Veteran

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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. 123 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013-2627.

An e-mail address is listed above.

This Is NOT a G.A.R. Badge

(continued from the front page)

The description was changed to:

"This is not an official badge. Likewise, it was not standardized but some departments and more than a few posts within the GAR made use of them. Its purpose was to be respectfully submitted to the surviving widow or family members of the veteran. This is little doubt the origin of this badge can be traced to other fraternal organizations, to include, but not limited to, the Masonic orders."

For some reason the Reverend decided to blur the origin rather than declare it totally Masonic and having no GAR usage. Both editions of his book sold out, 1,000 copies for each edition.

A year after Reverend Long's first edition, a second author published a similar book. The result was a 33-page booklet by the retired founder of the Dixie Gun Works of Union City, Tennessee. Turner E. Kirkland had founded Dixie Gun Works in 1954 and it had become the largest producer of black powder gun supplies, parts and reproduction guns in the world. Kirkland was an avid collector of Confederate veteran memorabilia. He also collected medals and badges of Union civil war veteran societies. In 1991, Kirkland photographed pieces in his massive collection and created a booklet, which he entitled, "Civil War Veterans' Organizations, Reunions, and Badges." The book has been selling ever since. Unfortunately, the book has errors of fact and omission throughout the book. At one point Kirkland describes the GAR seal in the center of the GAR star as having the "likeness of a Union and a Confederate soldier shaking hands with a Confederate and a Union flag in the background and two children kneeling in front of the two men." Yikes!!!!

On page 21 is illustrated four Malta Jewels, similar to the one pictured on the front page of this issue of the Veteran. The following is Kirkland's description of the badge:

"Four Gold Edged Union Medals with black ribbon given to a soldier's family upon his demise. This practice was not standardized in G.A.R. and varied by region of county and/or by department. Some feel areas with heavy Masonic population influenced this medal."

It seems strange that Kirkland and Long, in his revised edition, both use the words "was not standardized" in their description of the badge. It appears that Rev. Long in the interim between his two editions had read Kirkland's book. Unfortunately, Turner Kirkland died in 1997. He never gave a reason for classifying these badges as GAR badges. He doesn't use the term "Death Medal", so I assume he didn't see Long's book. Rumors state that Mr. Kirkland purchased a number of G.A.R. collections. Within these

collections he found Malta Jewels and assumed that there was a relationship between the badge and the G.A.R. This was probably the only known case of "guilt by association" perpetrated upon a civil war society and a badge. Multi-war Collections of badges often have badges of competing societies. GAR members often were members of the UVL, UVU or even the Knights Templar. Below is the GAR Chaplain in Chief for the years 1913-14. Horace Merwin Carr has a GAR Officer's badge, a MOLLUS badge, and the Malta Jewel. He obviously belonged to all three societies. This begs the question; why would he be wearing the "Death Badge" if he didn't die for ten more years? Obviously its because he belonged to the Knights Templar and this is his 2nd degree badge, the Malta Jewel.



HORACE M. CARR, D.D.
1850 - 1914

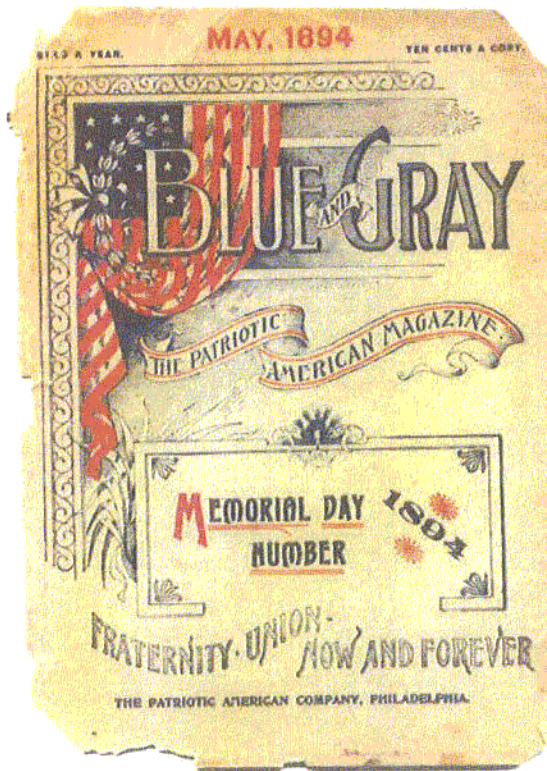
Just when you think its over, a third book, "American Society Medals" by Bishop & Everitt lists the Malta jewel as the "GAR Death Badge". Lee Bishop told me he used the Long book as the source for his information. He promised a retraction in a second edition, but none has ever been published.

Now that we know what this badge isn't, lets discover its true calling. In reality, the badge has a closer relation to the "DaVinci Code" than it does to the Grand Army of the Republic. The badge is the second degree of a Masonic order called the Knights Templar. The first degree of the Knights Templar society is the Order of the Red Cross. The second is the order of Malta. The third degree is the Order of the Temple. More information on these degrees can be found at the web site: <http://www.yorkrite.com/degrees/>.

(continued on page 11)

BLUE AND GRAY

By Roger L. Heiple



It was certainly an interesting find. Four copies of a monthly publication called “**The Blue and Gray**”, published by the *Patriotic American Company* of Philadelphia, Pa. The publication appears to be a monthly, priced at ten cents and issue or one dollar per year. The issues were for years 1894 and 1895.

This unique publication was dedicated to veterans of both sides at a time when thoughts of some type of reunion were still in a formulative stage. The UCV had recently been organized and the veterans of the GAR and UCV were just becoming accustomed to dealing with each other. There was no question of the mission of this magazine, as it was prominently printed on the cover, Fraternity,

Union, Now and Forever. It is also interesting that only the Stars and Stripes are printed on the cover. This theme of reconciliation, with limited display of the old Confederate banners and uniforms was to continue through the great reunions at Gettysburg in 1913 and 1938. The GAR took a strong stand that since the United States were again united; the flag of the nation should be paraded and honored. Confederate veterans went along with this idea and wore the uniform of the UCV in place of the old service uniforms.

The advertisement section is one of the most interesting areas. Two ads for

Richmond, Fredericksburg
...and Potomac R.R.
The connecting link between
The PENNSYLVANIA R. R.
...AND...
ATLANTIC COAST LINE
...AND...
SEABOARD AIR LINE
TO ALL POINTS SOUTH.

THIS IS THE DIRECT ALL
RAIL LINE TO FLORIDA...
E. T. D. IYERS, President. C. A. TAYLOR, Traffic Manager.

Souvenir 24th Annual Encampment Dept. of Oregon, G.A.R.

By Rance Hulshart

Illustrated below is an unusual rectangular (3 1/4 X 5 3/8 inch) aluminum souvenir piece with black electro printing. The obverse has a G. A. R. membership badge in a center circle. Above the badge is marked "Souvenir". To the left of the badge is "24th Annual/ Encampment / Department / Of Oregon / G.A.R." To the right of the badge is printed "Oregon/ City, / Oregon, / June 20, 21, 22, / 1905." Below the badge is marked "Compliments Of Mead (sic Meade) Post No. 2." On the reverse is a view of a long, but not real high waterfall. Above the falls is printed "Falls of the Willamette." Below the falls is the location, Oregon City, Ore. In small print to the lower right is the maker's mark, The Morgan Co./ Portland/ Ore, Meade Post No. 2 was located in Oregon City.



Harriet Beecher Stowe & a G.A.R. Star

By George Finlayson

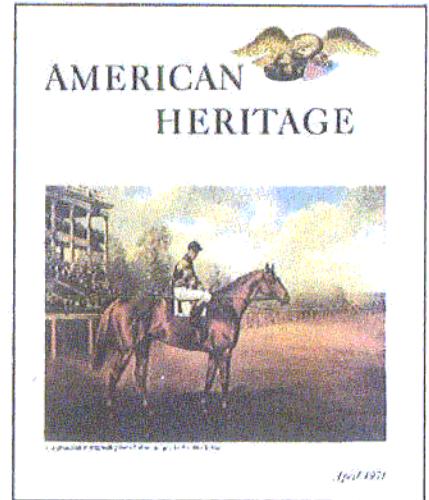
Recently, I was looking through a number of old copies of the history magazine, "American Heritage," when I spotted the large G.A.R. star painting on the back cover of the April 1971 issue. Inside there was an article entitled "The Old Vets" by Robert Merrill Dewey. The article was the memories of Dewey from his boyhood that dealt with "Decoration Day" or what we now call "Memorial Day."

After reading the article, I revisited the painting on the back cover. A short description was under the star:

"The last bugle call had barely died on the wind when this emblem, painted by an unknown hand, appeared in the G.A.R. Hall at Bath, Maine. In the center medallion Harriet Beecher Stowe presents a Negro child to the Union."

My mind quickly reexamined all I've been told about the G.A.R. seal in the middle of the star. I retrieved a magnifying glass to check out the allegations presented by the magazine.

Read Robert Merrill Dewey's article "The Old Vets" at:
http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/ah/1971/3/1971_3_54.shtml



The child is facing with his back to the observer. A kneeling woman faces the boy while a Union soldier, shaking the hand of a Union sailor, has his other hand on the lad's head. The boy is wearing a white shirt with vertical blue stripes. A collar is visible and a white neck can be seen between the collar and his black hair. The author obviously took literary license and changed the figure of a widow and an orphan, protected by the Union and willed "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author Stowe into the painting with one of her characters from the book.

Just goes to show that even a great old magazine like AH can make a mistake.

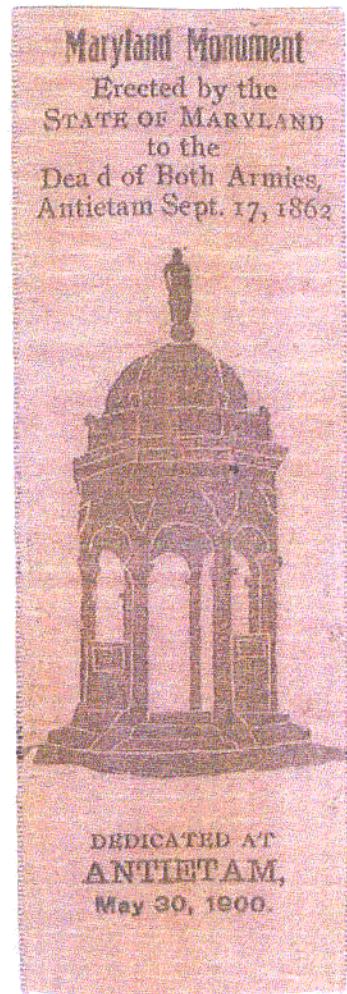


The Maryland Monument at Antietam by Daniel C. Toomey

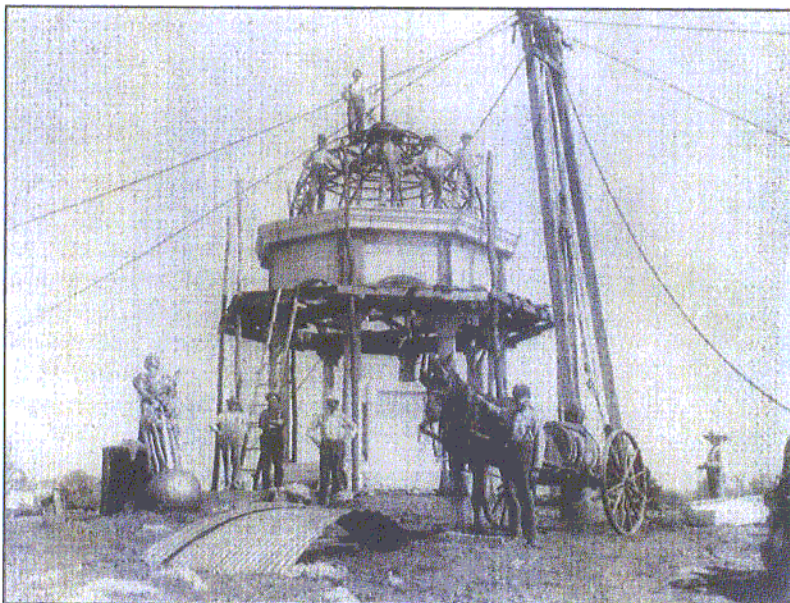
A history of the Battle of Antietam needs no retelling here, but an incident in its aftermath may be worth a second look. In 1890 the Antietam National Battlefield began to take shape under the jurisdiction of the War Department. Not only was this battlefield significant for its military history, but also for its geography. Located in the border state of Maryland, it epitomized the tragedy of a divided nation with batteries and regiments from that state serving in both armies and virtually fighting each other on their native soil.

In 1898, the Maryland Legislature appropriated \$12,500 for the erection of a state monument on the battlefield to honor its soldiers who had fought in both armies on the bloodiest day in American military history. A commission of nine men, six from the Union Army, three from the Confederate Army and all veterans of the battle was formed to design and erect the monument. They chose a small rocky knoll across from the Dunkard Church from which nearly two-thirds of the battlefield could be viewed.

The design of the monument was carefully chosen to depict the valor of both sides during the battle and the reunification of the state during the post war years. Unlike any other design on the battlefield, the Maryland Monument is a small octagonal Greek temple. Eight granite columns support a copper dome topped with a bronze statue of Peace. Each column represents one of the Maryland commands present during the battle, two of which were Confederate and six Union. Inside the structure are eight bronze plaques that recount the war records of the eight commands. The date chosen for the dedication was May 30, 1900, Memorial Day.



**Original 1900 Official
Dedication Ribbon**



The concept of reunification so eloquently depicted in the Maryland Monument was not lost on a nation struggling to bind the wounds of a civil war.

(continued on next page)

**Left. Photo of 1900
construction of the
Maryland Monument**

*"Maryland Monument"
(continued from previous page)*

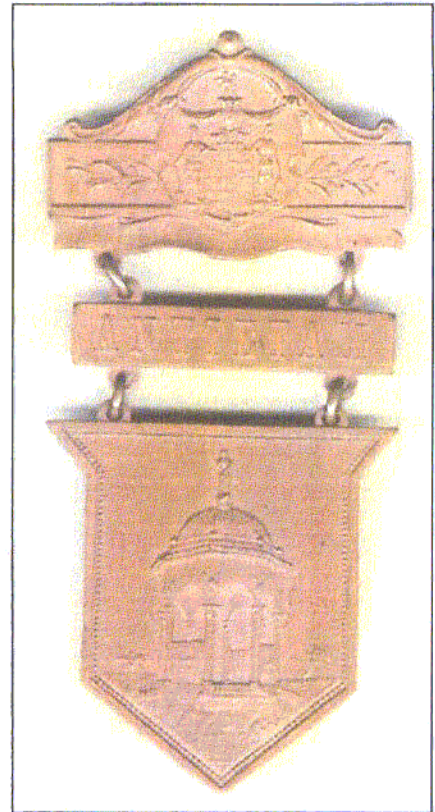
Over 20,000 people attended the dedication ceremony including President William McKinley, most of his cabinet, and a vast assortment of politicians and generals. Each veteran of the battle, including the President, received a survivor's badge. The 3-part bronze badge consisted of a pin bar containing the Great Seal of Maryland. Suspended from the pin bar was a second bar containing the word "ANTIETAM." A five-pointed drop contained a relief image of the monument. The reverse of the drop contained a list of the eight Maryland units present during the battle. Various other Souvenir ribbons were given out that day.

The ceremony began when the president of the Monument Commission, Colonel Benjamin Taylor, formerly of the Second Maryland U.S. Infantry, introduced the master of ceremonies, Henry Kid Douglas, former aid-de-camp to Stonewall Jackson and Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard in 1896. The battle of Antietam was truly over.

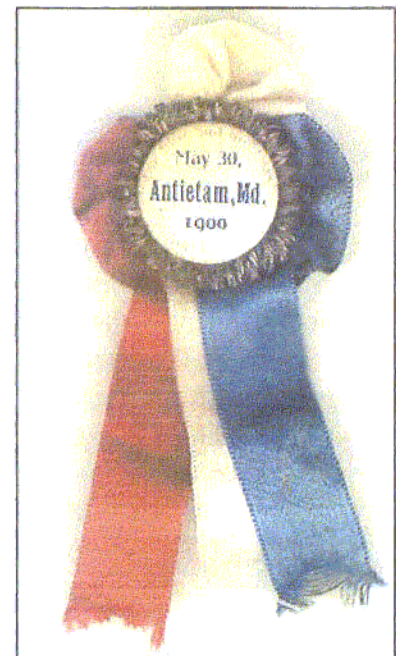
After a century of setting center stage on this famous battlefield, the monument was badly in need of repairs. Time and moisture caused the cast iron frame that supported the copper dome to corrode, making the structure unsafe. The monument was closed to public access while an evaluation and repairs could be completed. This repair project was a joint venture of the Maryland Military Monuments Commission and the National Park Service. Final expenditures exceeded \$300,000.00.

To celebrate both its history and its future, the Maryland Monument at Antietam was rededicated on June 3, 2006. Although the number of persons in attendance was considerably less than the 1900 event, several elements of the original dedication ceremony were present. The Adjutant General of Maryland and the Maryland National Guard band were there as well as a number of state government officials. Medal of Honor recipient Brian M. Thacker represented the veterans of the battle. Lt. Thacker gave a brief history of the medal's Civil War origin and enumerated the twenty Medals of Honor awarded as a result of the battle of Antietam. As an added touch, each person in attendance received a copy of the original dedication ribbon given as a souvenir in 1900.

Right. Original souvenir ribbon distributed at the 1900 dedication. Around the outer edge of the pin are the words, "The Blue and the Gray United We Stand."

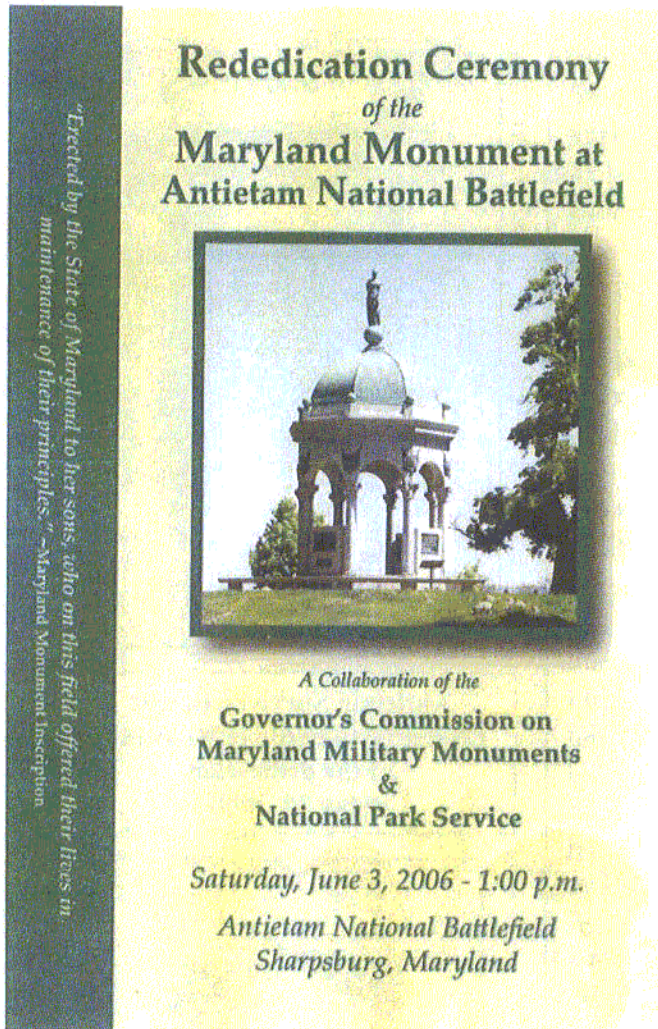


**Antietam Survivor Badge
Presented to battle participants
at the dedication
May 30, 1900**



“Maryland Monument at Antietam” (continued from previous page)

A nice photo of the repaired monument can be seen on the cover of the Rededication Ceremony program.



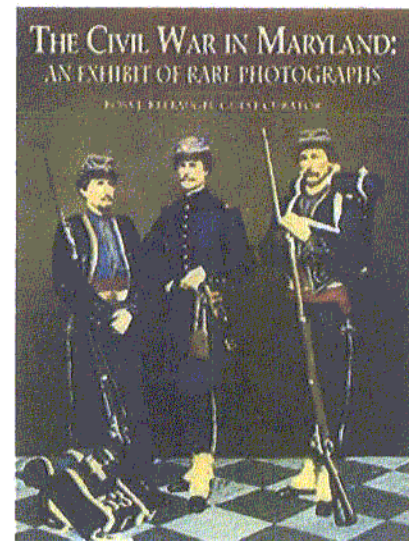
The program is 5 ½ by 8 ½ and is four pages in length. In 1989, the monument underwent an initial phase with the treatment of the bronze and granite. This was sponsored by the State of Maryland. The state's Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments and the National Park Service collaboratively restored the monument in 2005. Maryland's Secretary of State, Mary D. Kane, who is also the Chair of the Commission, gave the opening remarks at the ceremony.

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Book Review The Civil War in Maryland: An Exhibit of Rare Photographs

by George G. Kane

An exhibit of original rare civil war photographs can be seen at the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, Maryland. The 300+ photographs are from the archives of the Society and the collections of five of its members. The exhibit runs through October 14, 2006. The photos include scenes of Maryland Union and Confederate soldiers, camp views, original stereoviews, and the recently discovered photograph of what may be the first Confederate soldier killed in the Civil War!



The society has published a companion book to the exhibit. The book is published by CWWHA member Daniel C. Toomey of Toomey Press. The book is 56 pages with 50 illustrations, many reproduced in actual size. A comprehensive list of all 300+ images in the exhibit is also included. The book is 8 ½ x 11 inches, saddle stitched paperback with a full color cover. The book is \$9.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. (MD residents, 5% Sales Tax). This is a great deal for the price! You can't buy a case of beer for that price. You can order directly from Dan by credit card at (410) 766-1211. Checks payable to Toomey Press can be sent to Toomey Press, PO Box 122, Linthicum, MD 21090-0122.

Information, hours, and directions to the exhibit can be found at the Society website:

www.mdhs.org

Tel: (410) 685-3750

This is NOT a G.A.R. Badge
(continued from page 3)

This badge can be bought at any number of Masonic Supply Web Sites. Try

www.lafsco.com/morekt.html

For other sites just google "Malta Jewel" on your computer. Because the island of Malta is called the "Jewel of the Mediterranean" you may get a number of hits on tourism on that island.



Knights Templar Officer with Malta Jewel
www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/

Above is a photo of a Knights Templar Officer from the 1920's. Notice the Malta Jewel on his left chest. 19th Century KT Officers wore the badge just below the center of the collar. The fore and aft cap on the table was standard issue for KT uniforms. The large red cross is found on most KT regalia.

Most defenders of the term "GAR Death Badge" state that it is a multi-fraternity badge. What other badge is used by more than one Society? If this is truly the "Death Badge", then why is there photos of members wearing this badge? Shouldn't they be dead?

I looked on e-Bay today. Sure enough, there were two Malta Jewels for sale, both with the title "GAR Mourning Badge." One of the badges had two bars at the top of the ribbon. The two bars identify the commandery from which this jewel was presented. Commandery is the local unit of various Masonic lodges.

Notice the two crosses on the top bar. As we had noted before, the cross is a constant in KT regalia. Although a search on www.google.com failed to find this commandery, a number of Commandery No. 22's were found in other locations, all lodges of the Knights Templar. G.A.R.'s local unit is the Post!!!!



It appears that despite evidence to the contrary, this badge will always be misidentified. Part of the reason is money. Most dealers know that they can get more money for a G.A.R. piece than they can for a Masonic piece. Until we can reach the entire badge collector fraternity with the cold hard facts, it appears this error will persist. When you see this badge presented as a G.A.R. badge, please let the owner know the facts. Photocopy this article and give it to them.

Correction

There was an error in the review of the book by Jerry Sills on a Union ex-POW, "*Account of My Stay in Andersonville Prison.*" The address is Jerry's old residence. If you sent an order, don't worry, it'll be forwarded to his new address, which is:

Jerry Sills, Sr.
410 Main St.
PO Box 127

Pleasant City, OH 43772-0127

The book is still \$9.99 plus \$2.50 s/h.

Logan & Stanton Ceramic Canteens, 1891

by Vann R. Martin

The two ceramic canteens pictured below were issued as souvenirs at the 1891 Ohio GAR Department Encampment in 1891 at Steubenville, OH. It seems appropriate that the two portraits on the canteens are John A. Logan and Edwin M. Stanton. In 1868 they shared a moment in U.S. and G.A.R. history.



Edwin McMasters Stanton (1814-1869) was born in Steubenville. He became a lawyer and politician. In 1862 President Lincoln appointed him Secretary of War. He continued in that position after Lincoln's assassination. In 1867, he quarreled with President Johnson over reconstruction and was suspended by the President. He was reinstated by the Senate, but resigned in 1868 after Congress failed to impeach Johnson. He was nominated and confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice in 1869, but died before he could be sworn in.

John Alexander Logan (1826-1886) was born in Murphysboro, IL. He was a lawyer, politician and Civil War General. He was the unsuccessful Republican nominee for Vice President in 1884 on the James G. Blaine ticket. He was elected GAR Commander-in-Chief three times. He died in 1886 while still a U.S. Representative.

In August 1867, President Johnson dismissed Secretary Stanton. In January 1868, Congress refused to confirm Stanton's removal from office. In defiance of this congressional veto, President Johnson appointed General Lorenzo Thomas, secretary, *ad interim*. Logan, who was GAR CIC at that time, ordered GAR members to arm and stand guard in front of Congress and Stanton's Dept. of War Office Building. Rumors had circulated that President Johnson was about to remove Stanton from his office by force. Stanton did not leave his office, but slept on a sofa. Logan, showing support for Stanton, would sleep on a cot in the same office every night. Most Americans are unaware how close our country came to a second civil war in 1867-68. Only Johnson's inaction and a single vote in the Senate averted another war.

These ceramic canteens have a diameter of 2 5/8 inches and are 3/4 inch thick. Each spout has three drilled holes, two of which are used for a ring to attach to the ribbon. All three holes are on the side of the spout. There is no hole at the top of the spout. The gold rope guides on the sides do not have holes and as such, are not functional. The Logan canteen reverse has the logo of the Steubenville Pottery Co. just above "Grand Army Day". "Steubenville" is above the company logo and "April 27th, 28th & 29th" is printed below "Grand Army Day". The Stanton canteen has "25th Annual Encampment / G.A.R. (stylistic monogram) / Department / of Ohio / 1891 / Steubenville" on the reverse.