



Volume 20, No. 3

*The Veteran*

January – March 2007

## **Murder in Mobile**

by George G. Kane

Early on the morning of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1891, Americans awoke to a shocking story in their local newspapers. A Union veteran, doctor, poet, real estate mogul and Commander of the G.A.R. Department of Alabama had allegedly been murdered by his former friend and business partner, the Commander of the local U.C.V. camp. A Union veteran murdered by a Confederate veteran! The newspapers ate it up. After a few days, the story seemed to wither and those Northern and Western newspapers never revealed the outcome of this investigation to their readers.

Seymour Bullock, Jr. was born in 1846 in Prospect, a small town 15 miles north of Utica in central New York State. In 1863 the seventeen-year-old minister's son enlisted in Company L, 24<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Cavalry. During the war he rose from private to Quartermaster Sergeant. The young soldier was taken prisoner at Poplar Grove Church, but escaped by jumping out of a moving train at night that was transporting Union prisoners to camps in Georgia. At the battle of Dinwiddie Court House, Virginia, March 31, 1865, Bullock was seriously wounded in the final campaign of the war. He was discharged soon after. After the war, Bullock went to medical school and then moved to Mobile, Alabama.

In Mobile, he married a rich Southern widow. His marriage gave him access to his wife's large real estate portfolio. Poor health had prevented the doctor from practicing his profession. Instead, he turned his attention to managing his family's large real estate holdings. Soon he was incredibly rich and powerful. He helped to found the Goldwood GAR Post No. 11 in Mobile. He was the Post's first commander. In 1891 he was the Department Commander of GAR Department of Alabama. At the Silver Anniversary National Encampment of the Grand Army, he was at the head of his department as they marched through Detroit's streets. He was president of the local Blue and Grey Veteran's union. In 1880 he published a volume of poems entitled "Songs of Summer" which had received critical acclaim and was now in its third edition. He purchased a local weekly newspaper, the *Gulf City Sentinel* and taken on the job of Editor. He had adopted his wife's son. With incredible luck and skill he had propelled himself to the top of Mobile society. What could possibly go wrong?

*(Continued on page 27)*



DR. SEYMOUR BULLOCK, JR.

## The President's Message

Dear Members:

Our annual meeting is May 5, 2007 in Mansfield, Ohio. Our banquet speaker this year will be Robert E. Yotts, a fellow member of our organization. His recently published book, *From Soldiers' Home to Medical Center, A glance at the 125 years History of the Bath Soldiers Home*, will be the subject of his talk.

I would like to see as many members as possible at the Civil War Show and at our annual banquet. Damon's restaurant, next to the Comfort Inn, recently burned to the ground. This put considerable pressure on Dr. George Finlayson to find an alternative plan for the banquet. As usual, George has come through with arrangements and the banquet will be catered at the Comfort Inn. Please be sure to send your reservations to George.

As I pointed out in my message in the last issue of *The Veteran*, I am still seeing interesting references and items for small, obscure veteran groups. I recently obtained a pamphlet for an organization called The Veteran Rights Union, formed in 1885. The pamphlet I have was from a meeting of the organization in New York City at the Masonic Temple, April 20, 1886.

I hope all of you are keeping your eyes peeled for the small but interesting organization items. Drop by my table and say "hello."

Dan M. Mitchell, President

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\* Noel Preston \*

## Members

The 21<sup>st</sup> national Encampment of the CWVHA will hold its annual dinner / meeting at the Comfort Inn, Saturday, May 5, 2007. A cash bar will open at 6:00 PM and the dinner will be at 6:30 PM. Damon's restaurant, which catered our meals in the pas burned down. The replacement caterer will provide a buffet dinner with the choice of three entrees. The price is \$17. Please mail your check to George Finlayson at 98 Parkwood Blvd., Mansfield, OH 44906-3218 or call in your reservation to (419) 526-3327

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## The Editor's Message

by George Kane

A number of articles in this issue are different from our usual fare. I recently bought a subscription to [www.NewspaperArchives.com](http://www.NewspaperArchives.com). This web site has over 60 million pages of historic newspapers digitized on their site. It claims it has papers from 669 different cities over 239 years. These are not transcribed newspapers but full-page views using Adobe Acrobat. Most of the papers are from US cities, but it does have a few foreign papers including newspapers from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom. They usually have a 7-day trial offer, but believe me this site is worth the \$8 per month subscription fee. You have to buy a year's subscription. The advanced search page resembles a Goggle Advanced search page. You can search by names, keywords, dates and/or locations. You can quickly zoom in on a certain topic on a certain date at a certain location.

This site has dramatically helped my research in a number of fields including Civil War veterans, Spanish American War veterans and a host of other topics.

Hope to see you at Mansfield.

George

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

An e-mail address is listed above.

## Murder in Mobile

*(Continued from the front page)*

On May 11, 1880, Seymour Bullock married Louisa Coyle in Mobile. One of the guests was Thomas P. Brewer, a friend of his wife's family. Col. Brewer had been born in 1844 in Texas of Irish emigrant parents and had been a Confederate soldier in Colquitt's 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Infantry. He was later promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas Infantry. After the war he settled in Mobile, marrying a local girl and becoming superintendent of the Mobile Waterworks. He was also founder, charter member and camp commander of Ralph Semmes UCV Camp No. 11 of Mobile, Alabama. He also dabbled in real estate. With their mutual interests it was only a matter of time before Bullock and Brewer became fast friends.

In the next ten years the two men were not only friends, but also business partners in a number of land speculations. They both owned cottages on Navy Cove, an inlet on Mobile Bay. They were both sportsmen, enjoying hunting and fishing together. They were often spotted fishing in the cove, their boats tied together. In early 1891, Seymour had taken Brewer back to his hometown in central New York. Soon after Bullock returned from his brother's funeral in Chicago something went wrong. Now the two friends were rarely seen together. A rift had torn apart their friendship and neither would tell anyone else what the problem was.

On Thursday morning, October 15, 1891 the trouble between the two men ended with the death of Dr. Seymour Bullock. There was much speculation in the newspapers as to manner of the doctor's death. Many had surmised that it had been a hunting accident. Interviews with the dead man's brother in New York urged caution in what must have been an accident. Newspapers throughout the country picked up the story. They could smell blood. In a few days the local papers were the only media reporting on the story.

Brewer had surrendered himself to local authorities soon after the shooting. He was confined in Fort Morgan until the following Sunday when he was escorted to Daphne, the county seat to stand before a grand jury.

Incredibly, testimony by the widow, her nephew, Dr. Fowler and a maid corroborated Col. Brewer's version of the events.

Brewer's statement was as follows:

*Sometime previous to the difficulty, Dr. Bullock and Mr. Brewer had an unpleasant discussion, but neither of them were offensive, even in words. After this they had not spoken however. He heard Bullock had said he was going to kill him, but paid no attention to the report, as it had not come from any authoritative source. On Wednesday evening previous to the killing, the boy Barry (James C. Barry, the widow's nephew) went over to Brewer's house and told him to look out for Dr. Bullock, that he was going to shoot him. Mr. Brewer told Jimmy he thought not, and asked if he thought there was any danger of it. Jimmy said: "Yes, you had better look out for him." On Thursday morning, Jimmie came over there again and told Mr. Brewer that Bullock was going to shoot him and "he had better keep a lookout for him."*

Brewer went on to describe the incident. He had been fishing in his boat about ten that morning when Doctor Bullock went by, shouting angrily at him. Soon after Brewer landed a fish, the doctor rowed up beside him and leveled a gun at the Colonel. Brewer grabbed his gun, which had been laying next to him on the seat and both men fired almost simultaneously. The doctor fell back out of the boat. Brewer swam out and put the body in the doctor's boat. He then towed the boat and body to the shore near the doctor's cottage. Soon after, Dr. Fowler came to attend to the body.

Mrs. Bullock testified that the men had had a "difficulty" at the GAR Hall in Mobile. The doctor told his wife that Brewer had insulted him and drawn a gun on him and if he "didn't apologize there was going to be trouble."

The widow's nephew testified that the doctor had gone early in the morning to see a man about moving his family back to Mobile for the winter. He heard the two shots and watched as Brewer rowed ashore with the boat and body in tow. Brewer said: "I couldn't help it, Jimmy." After hearing the evidence, Judge Gasque placed Mr. Brewer under a bond of \$2,000 to answer to any indictment. No indictment was ever filed, the grand jury finding it a case of self-defense.

Thanks to the Mobile (Alabama) Public Library for their assistance with this article with research and photocopies.

## The Great G.A.R. Train Wreck of 1911 by George Finlayson, MD

In the years before airplane travel, the preferred mode of transportation over the vast distances of the United States was by train. Passenger trains had appeared in America in the 1830's. During the American Civil War, both sides used trains to transport fresh troops to a battle. This became apparent in the very first major battle, Bull Run. Confederate reinforcements arrived on the scene without the hardship of a forced march, but by rail. Late in the day, General Kirby's brigade arrived by train, just in time to put the Northern troops to rout.

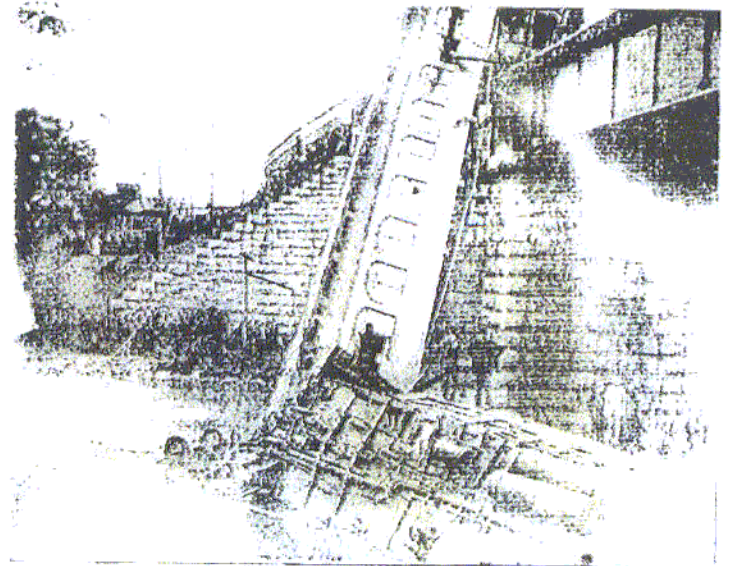
After the war, many veterans and their families used the train to reach the West. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. The American West would never be the same. Train travel had its hazards. Train wrecks were common, almost from the beginning. The first railroad fatality occurred in December of 1830 in Maryland. In 1853, President-elect Franklin Pierce was badly bruised and his 12-year old son killed in an accident in Andover, Massachusetts. Later that year, the first train wreck involving a bridge killed 46 passengers when the locomotive and four cars plunged into the Norwalk River in Connecticut, when the engineer failed to notice that the drawbridge open light was on. Train wrecks continued through the first half of the twentieth century when legislation and invention eventually slowed the carnage. A list of famous crashes can be found on the web at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_pre-1950\\_rail\\_accidents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pre-1950_rail_accidents).

Veterans were not immune to these accidents. By far the worst train wreck involving civil war veterans occurred in Manchester, New York in August of 1911. On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, the Lehigh Valley Railroad train picked up G.A.R. veterans leaving the National Encampment in Rochester. Every seat on the train had been sold and many passengers stood in the aisles, unable to buy a seat. The train consisted of 12 coaches pulled by two engines. The train had originated in Buffalo, stopped in Rochester and was heading South East to its destination of Jersey City, NJ. The train left the Rochester railroad station at 10:25 that morning. It was already 40 minutes late. The train was about 25 miles out of Rochester when it approached the trestle over the northern point of Lake Canandaigua. When the train passed over the trestle, the rails spread as the dining car jumped the tracks and plunged into the water, 40 feet below. The dining car was the second car after the locomotives. When the car derailed, it broke the connection between the car before it. The trestle had no side railings so the car, packed with passengers eating their lunch, fell easily into the lake, pulling two other cars with it.

The remaining cars and engines would have inevitably followed into the water had it not been for the quick action of veteran Frank J. Pinner, Commander of U.S. Grant Post No. 5 of Philadelphia, PA. Upon hearing the loud noise behind him, Pinner instinctively leaped up and pulled the emergency brake.

The dining car eventually ended up on its side in the water. One of the two other cars landed in the water on its end, standing straight up (see photo at right). All the passengers in this car were thrown to the end of the car, crushing those on the bottom.

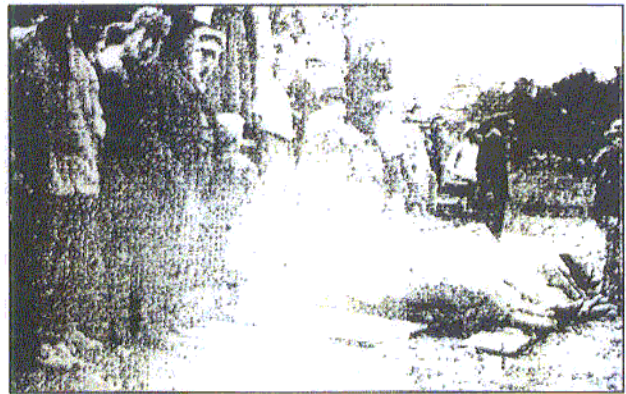
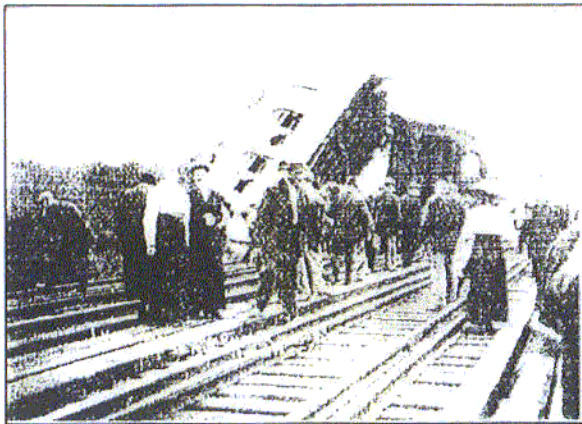
*(Continued on opposite page)*



### G.A.R Train Wreck (continued)

Many in the dining car, stunned by the accident, drowned before they could be rescued. Many local railroad workers rushed to the scene of the accident and built a wooden footbridge to the cars from the shore. Many of the dead were dragged to a temporary morgue on the bank. In the process, clothes, wallets, and pocketbooks were lost in the water. Due to the condition of the bodies and the lack of personal information on those bodies, many went unidentified for days. A staff of sixteen undertakers worked all night embalming bodies in the hastily improvised morgue in the basement of a country furniture store.

Soon after the crash, residents of the local towns journeyed to the scene of the accident. Many posed gaily in front of the wreckage. Notice the two smiling women in the picture, below left. Others, like those in the picture below right, languished around the corpses in the makeshift morgue.



Because the train had picked up so many veterans at Rochester, it was assumed that many of the dead would be veterans, but the veterans were primarily seated in the last two cars of the train. These cars did not derail. Lists of the dead were largely women and children. Only two men were specifically noted as being veterans (Edgar Pangburn and D. M. Bell). When passenger possessions were stacked on the shore, one pile was of GAR uniform hats. These might have been from men engaged in rescue work after the crash. No doubt, that before the arrival of rescue workers, the GAR men would have aided in the extraction of victims and bodies, probably losing their hats in the process. Nonetheless, newspaper headlines included the words GAR, veterans and Grand Army delegates for the few days after the accident. No mention of the wreck is found in the GAR National Encampment *Proceedings* of that year or the next. If there had been a large loss of veterans in the wreck, then it surely would have been mentioned in the *Proceedings*!

The Interstate Commerce Commission opened an inquest following the wreck. It was discovered that a ninety-pound rail on the 400-foot bridge shattered into seventeen pieces. The investigation found that the rail was piped (a manufacturing defect in rolling).

In 1902 there were 78 derailments due to broken rails. In 1911, the year of this wreck, there were 249 derailments. In the years from 1902 to 1911 there were 2,059 derailments that accounted for 109 deaths and 4,112 instances of injury among passengers and crew. Reports of the amount of casualties of this wreck varied widely in the newspapers. This was due to the number of injured shipped to different hospitals in the area. A number of victims died in the months following the accident. About 40 passengers and one railroad employee died at or soon after the wreck. It's listing as the "The Great GAR Train Wreck" would appear to be newspaper hype.

## The Convict Delegate

By George Kane

In 1928, a national news service, NEA Service, distributed a news story on Henry Romine, an 81-year old murderer serving a life sentence at the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City, Indiana. Romine was convicted of first-degree murder in connection with a robbery of two brothers at their farm in North Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana. The brothers had recently sold their cattle herd for a large sum of money. A rumor put thousands of dollars hidden on their ranch. On the night of October 12, 1912, Romine and two accomplices went to the McQuaid home on their farm, calling 71 year old Charles McQuaid out of bed. When McQuaid answered the door, the men asked to borrow a lantern so they could fix their wagon, which had broken down nearby. When he refused he was struck on the head with a club. He resisted so violently that he was eventually shot, fatally. When McQuaid's 60-year old crippled brother came to his assistance, he was shot to death as well. The screams of their sister scared off the intruders. It was later revealed that the brothers had only \$800 in the farmhouse. Romine, who was 68 years old at the time of the crime, and one of his accomplices were sentenced to Life in Prison. The third suspect turned states evidence and escaped punishment.

Now this all might seem quite mundane except for Romine's past. Henry Romine enlisted in Company K, 19<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the civil war. Romine served throughout the war, distinguishing himself for heroism at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. Several years passed before prison officials discovered that Henry Romine was the only civil war veteran serving a life sentence in the United States. Eventually, a parole board member decided that this inmate was owed a little something for his brave service in the civil war. Starting in 1920, Romine was granted a 30-day

parole to attend the annual National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.



Henry Romine

The first two encampments that Henry attended were held in nearby Indianapolis. No guards accompanied Romine and he always returned to the prison exactly on time. Prison officials obtained a neatly tailored G.A.R. uniform "so he could appear among his former comrades in a regular style." His expenses were paid by the G.A.R. Department of Indiana.

In 1929, Romine was paroled to the Indiana State Soldiers' Home in Lafayette, Indiana. On December 20, 1935, Romine received an early Christmas present. The Governor of Indiana, Paul V. McNutt, granted him a full pardon. At the time, Romine was almost 90 years old. Records of the clemency commission showed that he was the only Civil War veteran in the United States on parole from a state prison.

## G.A.R. Secretary Badges

By Francis R. Frederick

As the civil war veterans entered the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, their abilities began to fade. As they moved into their seventh and eighth decades, simple tasks like writing, copying, and filing became lengthy chores. To alleviate these problems, the GAR began to use civilian secretaries. These men and women were almost exclusively from the affiliated organizations of the GAR.

Although they attended almost all GAR functions and events, their status in the organization was vague at best. Some departments began to issue special badges for their non-GAR secretaries. The most commonly seen is the Wisconsin badge shown below.

The badge is topped with an enameled hanger with the GAR initials. A blue ribbon with silver lettering proclaims "AWARDED BY WIS. DEPT. FOR SERVICE RENDERED." A gold washed bar hangs from the bottom of the ribbon with the office title "Post Secretary."



Photo courtesy of Tom McCrory



Another Secretary badge is the one shown above. The same badge is often found without a pendant and with a blue-bordered post officer ribbon. The badge above has a department officer red-bordered ribbon. The ribbon hanger seems to contradict the dept. ribbon with the words "Secretary to Post."

The Maltese cross pendant has a gold-washed GAR seal in the center with the following words in the arms: "Southern California Veteran Association." If anyone else has found a badge in this configuration, please contact the editor.

## The G.A.R. Membership Badge and the Supreme Court by George G. Kane

The membership badge of the Grand Army of the Republic was the pride of that organization. Every form, ribbon, badge or other memorabilia would have a representation of this strikingly handsome outwardly visible symbol of this civil war veterans' society. GAR members would wear their badges at any public or fraternal event. They were also fiercely defensive of this piece of gunmetal and ribbon.

GAR Post by-laws usually stated that the badges were the property of the organization and could not be worn by non-members, ex-members and especially dishonorably discharged former members. Many members enforced this law on the street with physical violence when confronting a violator of this post law.

As the GAR grew in numbers and political strength, it was able to pass laws that protected it from non-members. Many states created laws that prohibited non-members from wearing the membership badges of organizations that existed in that state for at least 10 years.

It was rumored that the constitution legality of these laws had been challenged and that the ensuing legal battle had resulted in defeat by the men in blue. In Franklin D. Tappan's book "Passing of the Grand Army of the Republic", the author states:

*"The GAR badge became almost sacred to the veterans, and to protect their regard for it, attempts were made in Massachusetts and several other states to punish by law, persons who wore it 'Illegally'. One state did pass such a law, and a fight carried it to the US Supreme Court, which ruled against it."*

Unfortunately, no such US Supreme Court ruling can be found.

Recently while I was doing research at the Hampden County (Massachusetts) Law Library, employees there were able to find a Supreme Court ruling on this subject.

There were two slight differences from the original story. The verdict was from the Montana Supreme Court and the group offended was the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and not the G.A.R.

On May 4, 1908, W. R. Holland of Helena Township, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, was charged by complaint with a misdemeanor that violated a Montana state law. Section 1192 of the penal law was enacted in 1895 and amended in 1907. The original law stated:

*"... any person who willfully wears the badge or button of certain named societies, order or organization, or uses the name to obtain aid or assistance within this state, or willfully uses the name of such society, order or organization, the title of its officers, or its insignia, rituals or ceremonials unless entitled to use or wear the same ...shall be guilty of a misdemeanor ..."*

In the 1907 amended section of the law, the Grand Army of the Republic is actually named along with seven other national organizations as societies to which this law pertains. It generalized every other affected society with the words "*or Labor Organizations or any society, order or organization of ten years' standing in the state of Montana.*" Punishment for this offense "*shall be ... imprisonment for a term of not to exceed ninety days in the county jail, or a fine not to exceed two hundred ... dollars or both.*" Curiously, the law did not apply to women.

Holland was convicted in District Court of wearing the badge of an organization to which he did not belong. Holland immediately appealed to the Montana Supreme Court where the judgment was reviewed and remanded to the lower court with directions to dismiss the complaint.

## An American Legion / G.A.R. Honorary Membership Badge by Francis R. Frederick

American Legion Post No. 116 issued the badge, shown below, to a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Many other veteran societies had honored civil war veterans with honorary membership, but none that I know actually created a badge to immortalize the event. The United Spanish War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars regularly issued honorary membership badges, but neither specifically mentioned another organization or society on their honorary badges.

American Soldiers, who had fought in World War I, founded the American Legion, in Paris, France in 1919. The AL did not sanction "Honorary" membership. Only active membership is recognized by the Legion

The badge appears to have been created and issued by Post 116. Lettering along the edge specifically mentions the post rather than just the organization. A search in Goggle turned up several American Legion posts with that number including posts in Los Angeles, Michigan, Maryland and Maine.



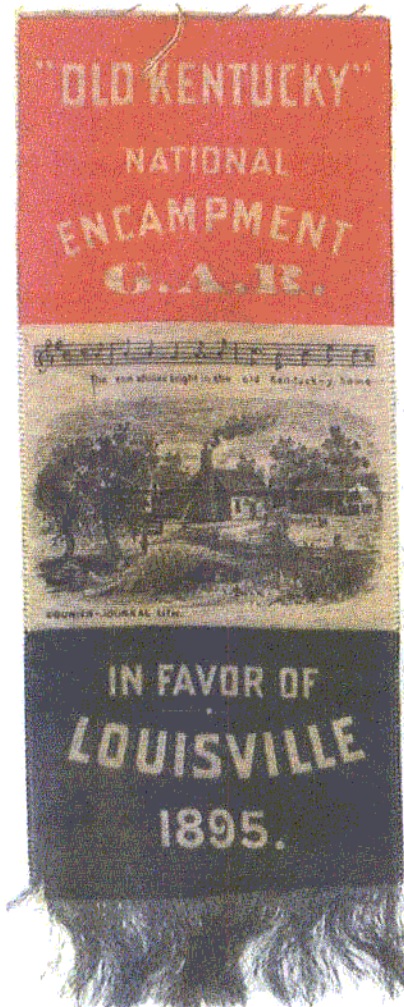
In the center of this seven-sided pendant there is a wreath surrounding the words "HONORARY / MEMBER / AMERICAN / LEGION".

On the four topsides of the border on the edge of the pendant is inscribed: "GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC." The bottom three sides have "POST 116 AMERICAN LEGION." The reverse of the pendant has the makers mark "Dieges & Clust."

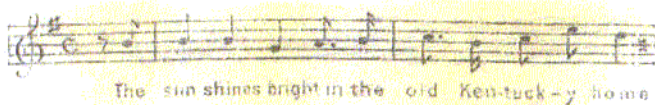
The red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the pendant by two rings. The ribbon has a broach type pin for suspension.

## A Musical G.A.R. Ribbon by Noel B. Preston

Members of the GAR Department of Kentucky distributed the ribbon pictured below during the 1894 National Encampment at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The ribbon was trying to swing votes to Louisville for the 1895 GAR National Encampment. Besides its printed pitch "in favor of" Louisville, the center contains a graphic with a Kentucky homestead pictured with the actual music for the famous state song.



The picture is credited to Courier-Journal Litho. The city of Louisville was selected over St. Paul, Minnesota for the 1895 Encampment.

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## The Last Man Folk Art By George G. Kane

Recently, the wooden carved statue shown below as offered for sale on e-Bay. It received a high bid of \$302, but did not meet the reserve.

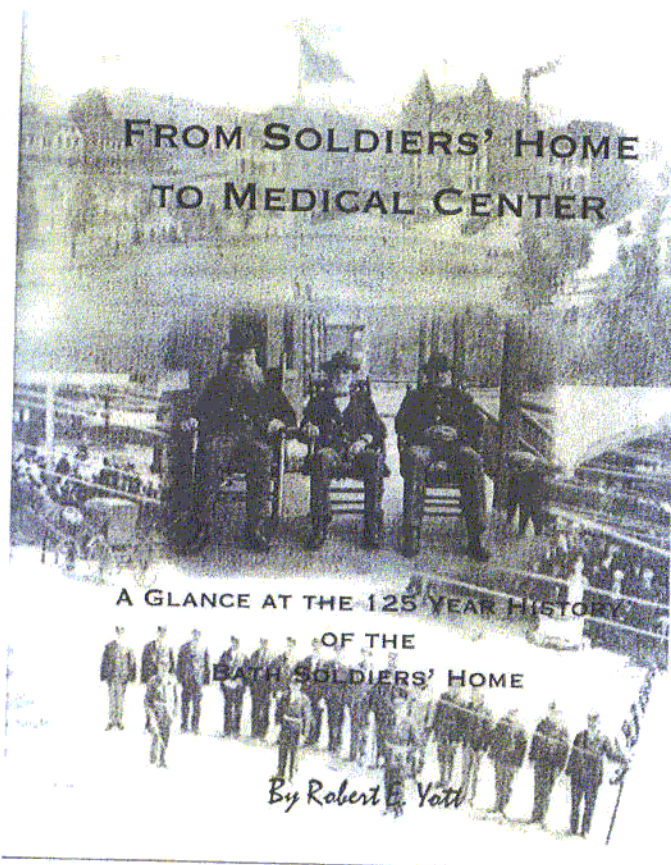


The piece is 10 1/2" tall X 8 1/2" wide X 5 1/2" deep. F. Lindgren carved this unique wooden likeness of the last G.A.R. member in 1956. Woolson sits atop a stump with a cane in his right hand and a G.A.R. campaign hat under his left. He wears a G.A.R. uniform, complete with a G.A.R. Officers badge. The front side of the platform has carved: "The Last Man - Albert Woolson."

At almost the same time, a copy of Woolson's death certificate appeared on the same auction site. The certificate listed a middle name of Henry. In all the years I've collected G.A.R. and seen plenty of Woolson memorabilia, I have never seen a middle name for this man. In 1953, the SUVCW made Albert Henry Woolson an Honorary Commander-in-Chief of that organization.

**Book Review**  
by **George G. Kane**

Yet another member has published a book on civil war veterans. Robert E. Yott's recently released *"From Soldiers' Home to Medical Center, A Glance at the 125 Year History of the Bath Soldiers' Home"* is an excellent insight into life of veterans at a State Soldiers' Home.



The soft cover book is an unusual shape (6 3/4 X 8 1/2 inches) and 191 pages long. The book tells the history of this institution from its inception to the present. The State of New York passed legislation in 1863 authorizing the creation of a state hospital for the care of its wounded servicemen, returning from the horrors of the civil war. Unfortunately, the law was vague and the idea festered.

In the mid 1870's, the G.A.R. began to campaign for the construction of the hospital. The town of Bath was eventually chosen for the site. The town purchased land for the project and deeded it to the Grand Army of the Republic in 1876. On June 13, 1877, at the Semi-Annual Encampment of the G.A.R. Dept. of New York, the cornerstone of the first building was laid. In 1878, the entire

compound, including three 3-story buildings, 3 auxiliary buildings, five houses, personal property and 241 acres of land were conveyed from the G.A.R to the State of New York for a little over \$ 2,000. The value of the property at the time was estimated at \$70,000.

The state operated the institution for a little over 50 years before turning it over to the federal government in 1929. The hospital eventually fell under the control of the U.S. Veterans Administration, created in 1930. Construction, beginning in the 1930's, including a new hospital and patient barracks, helped to transform this site into a modern medical facility.

The last civil war veteran patient was Warren W. Oxx who died January 7, 1947. Oxx, a prominent lawyer and G.A.R. leader, fought at The Wilderness and Cold Harbor as a member of Company G, 189<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. He was 99 years old.

The Soldiers' Home, now designated a Veterans Administration Medical Center, still provides medical care to veterans of all U.S. wars.

This book is a joy to read. It is laced with black and white photos of the buildings, interiors, vistas, veteran patients, administrators, staff, groups, supporters, events and memorabilia from its 125+ years of operation. The book brings to life that part of a veteran's existence that was not well publicized in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The narrative is well written. The history of such an institution is one of statistics, but Mr. Yott, a volunteer at the medical center, doesn't let the story become bogged down in the numbers. The story is also one of interaction between the veterans, government and local involvement.

Bob has generously offered a discount on this book to all CWVHA members. The book to members will be \$ 20, postpaid. Send checks or money orders to:

Robert E. Yott  
8610 County Route 13  
Bath, NY 14810-7912

Mr. Yott can be contacted at (607) 776-0709 or:  
bobby\_lee64@yahoo.com

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## Oversized G.A.R. Membership Badges by Noel B. Preston

The badge shown below is 34 inches long with an eagle wingspan of 14 inches. Both the three-dimensional eagle hanger and the bottom star appear to be made of pressed tin with a gold wash. The flag is made of cloth with thirteen cloth stars sewn on the blue field canton. Note the size of the dollar bill next to this massive reproduction of a G.A.R. membership badge. There is a ring for hanging on the rear of the eagle. This badge once hung in GAR Kilpatrick Post 71, Holyoke, Massachusetts. There are no manufacturer's ID marks.



Pictured below is a crafted wood replica of a G.A.R. membership badge in its original frame. The 10 inch long carved and painted wooden GAR membership badge has its eagle's wingspan measuring 6 inches. The badge is attached to a hand carved backing of a pleasing geometric pattern. This piece also hung in GAR Kilpatrick Post No. 71 of Holyoke, Mass.

Note the unusual angles and lengths of the stars arms (5.5 inches, east to west). The suspension flag ribbon is not cloth, but painted on the wood.



### Gettysburg Civil War Monuments

If you enjoy looking at Civil War Monuments, check out this web site:

<http://www.virtualgettysburg.com/exhibit/monuments/>

They have a photo of each monument, memorial or markers that exists in Gettysburg National Park.