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The Veteran

April – June 2007

The Confederate Medal of Honor by George G. Kane

In the fall of 1862, the Confederate Congress voted to recognize extreme acts of heroism by members of the CSA armed forces with the creation of a Medal of Honor. Jefferson Davis signed the bill into law on October 13, 1862 (see box below, left). Unfortunately, no medal was ever produced. The Confederacy's need for the tools of war, far outweighed the need for recognition of personal acts of bravery in the form of medals. The presentation of these medals also received opposition from within the Confederate government and officers of the Confederate Army, most notably, Robert E. Lee.

Without the ability to produce these medals, the Confederate Congress created an alternate form of recognition, the Roll of Honor. The roll would contain the names of Confederate soldiers, sailors and marines whose bravery stood out in each major victory. Individual regiments would vote on who would be added to this list after each encounter. This form of recognition proved to be unpopular. Only the battles of Chickamauga and Murfreesboro provided any large lists for the Roll of Honor.

(Continued on page 39)

The Confederate Medal of Honor

An act of the Confederate Congress published to the army in a general order of November 22, 1862 reads:

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the President be, and is hereby authorized to bestow medals, with proper devices, upon such officers of the armies of the Confederate States as shall be conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle, and also to confer a badge of distinction upon one private or non-commissioned officer of each company after every signal victory it shall have assisted to achieve. The non-commissioned officers and privates of the company who may be present on the first dress parade thereafter may choose by a majority of their votes the soldier best entitled to receive such distinction, whose name shall be communicated to the President by commanding officers of the company; and if the award fall upon a deceased soldier, the badge that awarded shall be delivered to his widow, or if there be no widow, to any relative the President may adjudge entitled to receive it.



The photo of the CSA Medal of Honor is courtesy of Mike Lynaugh of Williamsville, New York.

The text of the Confederate general order of November 22, 1862 to the troops is from the *Confederate Veteran*, Volume VIII, No. 3 of March 1900, page 112

The President's Message

Dear Members:

Our 21st Annual Meeting has just concluded. I think that all of you would agree that, thanks to the effort of Dr. George Finlayson and his wife Betty, the banquet meal was one of our best. Robert Yott, our banquet speaker, spoke about some interesting history and stories about the Soldiers' Home in Bath, NY.

We recently signed up three new members. If you need an application, please let George Kane or I know and we will get it out to you. You can always make copies so you'll have them on hand.

It seems as if people were successful at finding items of interest to them. Dealers and buyers were very pleased with the show. People were friendly and seemed interested in learning more about the GAR. I think that all members are doing a good job of educating the public.

May all of you have a good summer season and if you go to shows, flea markets, or antique shops, keep on looking!

Sincerely,
Dan M. Mitchell, President

The Editor's Message

by George Kane

Dues for 2007-2008 will remain at \$15. Dues for 2008-2009 will rise to \$20. The increase is primarily due to the recent USPS postage changes. We did have a choice, but members voted to keep "The Veteran" unfolded. Folded in a #10 envelope would be 58 cents. To send it flat in a catalogue envelope is 97 cents. The postal increases along with recent rises in Ink Toner have forced the association to increase membership dues. We hope this rise in dues will not deter you from renewing in 2008.

If you didn't attend the Mansfield show, you probably missed the best show in years. Attendance was up and dealer sales were better than the past few years. The weather was beautiful. This was the first time in years we didn't have some rain.

Hopefully you can make it to the show next year. Have a good summer.

George

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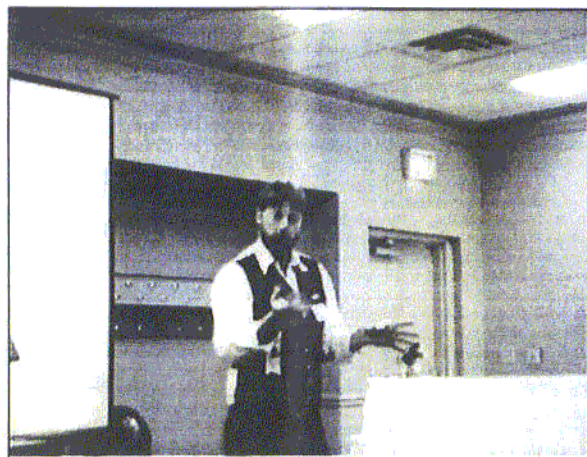


Photo Left:

Member and banquet speaker, Bob Yott, is shown delivering his talk on the Bath Soldier and Sailor Home of Bath, New York. Bob was informative and entertaining and all who attended the banquet enjoyed his program.

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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.

Confederate Medal of Honor

(Continued from the front page)

It is interesting to note that the Confederate law planned to issue two different medals, one for officers and another for enlisted men.

In the years after the war, the federal government frowned upon the recognition of Confederate bravery. State Reconstruction Governments stifled any memory of the conflict. A number of attempts to form Confederate veteran organizations also failed. It was not until 1889 when a number of organizations met in New Orleans to form the United Confederate Veterans (UCV). The UCV became a political and social force in the South. Camps were created throughout the South and in major cities in the North and the West, including New York City, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles.

In 1893, the UCV began to publish the *Confederate Veteran*, a monthly magazine filled with personal histories of the civil war, society news, announcements, reunion news and obituaries. In the 40 years of this publication only the statement on the front page of this issue dealt with the Confederate Medal(s) of Honor. At no point are these medals referred to as "Medals of Honor." The 1986 Broadfoot index to the 40 volumes only cites one reference to a "Medal of Honor" and that is for the Union medal.

In 1899, The Confederate Memorial Literary Society of Richmond, VA, instituted a "Roll of Honor" to perpetuate the deeds of Confederate soldiers, sailors and marines:

"As it is impossible for any one association or society to know the names of more than a small number of the heroes who composed our army, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society has established a roll of honor - open to all who loved and followed our flag." (Confederate Veteran, Vol. VII, #7, October 1899, page 460).

Blank applications were mailed to every UCV camp with the hope that the members would fill out histories of dead comrades. Evidently, the society planned to create a book based on the recollections of these Confederate Veterans. The article went on to say that the *"Book will be kept open until the year 1900."* Whether this book was ever published is not known.

In 1968, at the National Encampment of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Confederate Medal of Honor was reestablished by the descendents of these

Southern soldiers. In the early 1970's a single copy of the Confederate Medal of Honor was struck. Actual presentations of the medal did not commence until the early 1990's. One of these medals was presented to the Medal of Honor Museum in Nashville. It was at this presentation that SCV Department Commander Henry Kidd was to first view the medal. He thought that the medal was not worthy of its brave recipients. Commander Kidd, an artist, decided to redesign the badge. On April 12, 2004, eight of the newly designed Confederate Medals of Honor, fastened to burgundy pillows with the name of each *Hunley* crewman stitched into the pillow in gold, were placed on the coffins of the eight men at their funeral in Charleston. (Photo of *Hunley* medal and pillow on front page)

The use of the pillows was only for the CSS *Hunley* funeral obsequies. All other medals were framed with a certificate detailing the soldier and a description of his heroism.

When the SCV decided to reestablish the Confederate Medal of Honor, they feared that honor would be cheapened by wholesale presentations of the medal. As a guide, they used the 1917 award rules for the US Medal of Honor. The following Criterion was established by the SCV.

"Candidates for the Confederate Medal of Honor shall be submitted by members or camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Candidates must have served in the Confederacy in either a military or governmental capacity during The War Between the States. The recipient must have distinguished himself / herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against the enemy of the Confederate States of America. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his / her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of service will be considered on the standard of primary sources." *"The Confederate Medal of Honor"*, by Gregg S. Clemmer, Confederate Veteran, July / August 2005, pages 50-51

(Continued on page 40)

The Confederate Medal of Honor *(Continued from previous page)*

The criterion had a postscript. “Veterans named on the Confederate Roll of Honor are not automatically entitled to an award of the Confederate Medal of Honor.” By the end of the civil war, the “Roll of Honor” had grown to 2,000 names. Afraid the issue of 2,000 medals would water down the significance on the medal, the SCV provided a “Certificate of Honor” to all descendents of men on this roll.

Henry Kidd’s redesigned medal, shown below, is made up of cravat and a pendant. The cravat is a silk ribbon, gray in color, with a Confederate battle flag sewn on. The battle flag is also gray with white stars. The use of the color gray in the cravat and the battle flag was not to distract from brilliance of the pendant and the overall importance of the award. The pendant is attached to the ribbon by a ring and eyehole on the top of the pendant. The pendant is a layered piece with the top layer being a gold seal of the Confederacy. The seal sits atop a (Maltese) Cross of Honor. Below the cross is a 5-pointed star in silver with the military insignias of the various branches of the CSA on the star arms. The star itself signifies the states of the Confederacy. Below the star is a star burst signifying the overall importance of the award.



Getting the Brush Off by the Ladies by Rance Hulshart

One of the more interesting pieces in my collection is the small brush shown below. The brush was handed out by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the National Encampment held in Des Moines, Iowa. The 3-½ inch miniature whisk- broom has a brass top with a bulb end that holds the straw together.



A piece of purple felt slides over the straw and is marked in gold, "Compliments Of / Department Of Iowa / Daughters Of Union Veterans / Of The Civil War / Sept. 23, 1926."

This was the first year the Daughters used their new name at a National Encampment. In 1925, the Daughters had changed their name from Daughters of Union Veterans to DUVCW. The Sons of Union Veterans had also changed their name to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in the same year. This souvenir may have been their way of publicizing the change.

New Research Site by George G. Kane

For those of you who can't afford subscriptions to newspaper sites on the web, a new site can be perused for free. The Winona State University in Minnesota has created the Winona Newspaper Project. The site provides original issues of three local newspapers from 1857 to 1946. You might think that the newspapers from a rural city in Minnesota might be of little help in your research, but that's where you'd be wrong. I searched the papers for information for my United Spanish War Veterans endeavors and found quite a few new facts that I had been missing. The papers are especially strong in reporting veteran events. I did a search of the United Confederate Veterans (use quotation marks for multiple word searches) for the years 1889 to 1946 and received 88 hits. One of the articles from the January 27, 1940 Winona Republican Herald covered the opening of the film, "Gone with the Wind", Margaret Mitchell's sprawling civil war epic, that won the Pulitzer Prize and the Academy Award for best picture of 1940. The photo below has the 91-year old UCV Commander-in-Chief, Julius F. Howell, kissing the hand of actress Olivia DeHaviland, who played Melanie Wilkes in the film. The web site address is: http://www.winona.edu/library/databases/winonane_wspaperproject.htm

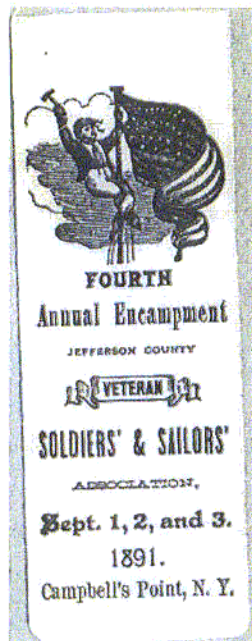


The Veteran – Page 41
April – June 2007

A New York Policeman at Fort Sumter

By Noel B. Preston

The Civil War was not only famous for its large desperate battles, but for individual acts of heroism. One of its first such acts is almost forgotten today, but was much heralded in the opening days of the war. Recently, I discovered this incident while looking through my collection of veteran ribbons. The Jefferson County Veterans' Soldiers & Sailors Association held its fourth annual reunion, September 1-3, 1891 at Campbell's Point, NY. The ribbon issued for this event chose an unusual illustration.



The image selected for this ribbon would appear to be just another patriotic cartoon. Actually the illustration was a primitive copy of a contemporary painting by Gilbert Gaul titled, "Sergeant Hart Nailing the Colors to the Flagstaff of Fort Sumter". The story of this incident begins with the Mexican War of 1847-1848. Major Robert Anderson was an officer in the 3rd US Artillery during this war. His top sergeant and orderly was Peter Hart, a French emigrant who had settled in New York City. After the war the two soldiers had remained friends, but slowly drifted apart. In 1860, Major Anderson was placed in charge of the military

fortifications in and around Charleston, South Carolina. South Carolina would be the first southern state to succeed in 1860. The state had hoped that Major Anderson, a Southerner from Kentucky, would surrender his command without incident. Anderson, with a little more than a 100 men, decided to abandon his mainland fortifications and retreat to Fort Sumter, which was on an island in the harbor.



Gilbert Gaul's "Sergeant Hart Nailing the Colors to the Flagstaff of Fort Sumter." (*Drumbeat of a Nation*)

Anderson's wife was a Southerner from Georgia, the daughter of General D. L. Clinch. She was also a Unionist. Living in New York at the time, she sought out Peter Hart who was a Policeman in New York City. Hart agreed to accompany Mrs. Anderson to Fort Sumter. Hart received a leave of absence from the police force and rode to Charleston, disguised as a servant. Upon arriving in Charleston, Mrs. Anderson sought out South Carolina Governor Perkins. The Governor could grant a safe passage to Mrs. Anderson to join her husband.

(Continued on next page)

A New York Policeman at Fort Sumter

(Continued from the previous page)

On January 6, 1861, the Governor, after some discussion, finally let the Major's wife and Hart take a boat to the island. Hart had to agree not to take up arms once on the island. Hart, a civilian, worked as a carpenter, helping to enhance the fort's defenses. A day after their arrival, Mrs. Anderson returned to the mainland and then journeyed to New York by carriage.

At 4:30 AM on April 12, 1861, Confederate Cannons opened up on the fort. The bombardment lasted for 34 hours. The shells did little damage, but did light the roof of the fort on fire. During this time, Peter Hart was instrumental in directing the firefighting within the fort. One of the favorite targets of confederate gunners was the American Flag flying atop the fort. Eventually the flag was shot away from its rigging. It was at this point that Peter Hart stepped into history. The flag was retrieved and given to Hart to reattach. With the bombardment still continuing, Hart attached the tattered flag to a piece of wood. He climbed the flagpole and hammered the wood, with the flag attached to the top of the remainder of the flagpole.

Due to a lack of supplies and the slim chance that the fort would be re-supplied soon, Major Anderson finally agreed to surrender the fort on April 13, 1861. The confederates had thrown 3,000 shots and shell against Fort Sumter, but the eventual surrender of the fort was for lack of food. Major Anderson and his men were evacuated on April 14, 1861. A small steamship ferried the group to the *USS Baltic*, waiting outside the harbor.

One of the few things that the confederates allowed Major Anderson to keep was the fort flag that had been shot down and reattached during the battle. The flag would spend most of the war in a vault in the Bank of Commerce in New York City. After the war, General Anderson was invited to raise the old flag over a recently recaptured Fort Sumter. Accompanying him to the fort were his six-year-old son and Peter Hart. During the ceremonies, Hart pulled the flag from a carpetbag and attached it to the halyard. Hart passed the halyard to Anderson who pulled up the colors, after a brief speech.

The joy of the moment was tempered by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, later that night, April 14, 1865.

Soon after the surrender of the fort in 1861, the New York Chamber of Commerce had a medal created to be presented to the Defenders of Fort Sumter. The medal had four classes made in various sizes in gold, silver and bronze. The obverse had a bust of Robert Anderson, while the reverse depicted Peter Hart reattaching the flag during the battle.



The inscription on the reverse reads, "THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NEW YORK, HONORS THE DEFENDERS OF FORT SUMTER, FIRST TO WITHSTAND TREASON."

After his return to New York City, Peter Hart returned to the police force. In 1867, he obtained a job in City Hall and worked there until his retirement in 1887. Peter Hart died in March of 1893 in Brooklyn, survived by his wife, 8 sons and 2 daughters. In 1911, newspapers throughout the country relived Peter's day of heroism, 50 years prior, with a syndicated article on the event.



PETER HART.

The Girls of 1865 by Tom McCrory

There have been many satellite groups that have attached themselves to the Grand Army of the Republic. Of these, only one appears to have been organized for a one-time appearance at a veteran encampment. The Girls of 1865 appear to be the brainchild of Mrs. Marie Melzner of Madison, Wisconsin in 1933. In the 1933 Journal of the Department of Wisconsin's annual encampment, on the very last page, after all the other auxiliaries have their page, is a listing for The Girls of 1865. The first sentence of the page after the title is: "Organized for the express purpose of entertaining The Old Boys in Blue at the 1934 encampment at Appleton, June 11, 12, 13, 1934."

Mrs. Melzner, whose photo appears next to the list of officers, is listed as the President of this society.



MRS. MELZNER
President

Beside her photo are the names of four Vice-Presidents, one from each of the four female auxiliaries of the G.A.R. One of the auxiliaries listed is the Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic, a splinter group formed in 1907. The DGAR had broken away from the Daughters of Union Veterans. The DGAR had not (and would

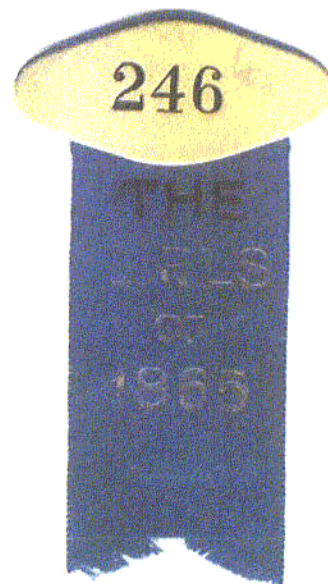
not) be recognized by the national organization of the Grand Army. This doesn't appear to be the case in Wisconsin, where this auxiliary appears to be on equal footing with the other auxiliaries.

Below the list of officers are the requirements for membership. "The membership is open to all women connected with Patriotic Societies in Wisconsin." Any prospective member need only send the following statement to the committee.

"I wish to become a member of the Girls of 1865. I will bring a costume and wear it at the Encampment. Enclosed please find ten cents to pay for my badge and number."

The costumes could not be of silk or satin and the girls could not wear wigs. The dresses were to be the old fashioned style "our grandmothers wore during the Civil War." At the encampment Camp Fire, the two most attractive dresses would receive prizes consisting of a (1st) ten and (2nd) a five dollar gold piece.

Below is a numbered badge from this affair.



Political Veterans' Associations By George G. Kane

Two unknown civil war veterans' societies were recently discovered on page 4 of *The Daily News*, Frederick, Maryland on January 19, 1889. The copy reads:

Chicago, Jan. 19. - A Tribune Special from Bloomington, Illinois says: A number of leading Republican ex-soldiers, members of the G.A.R. and the Union Veteran Union have organized themselves into Camp No. 1 of a new organization to be known as the Republican Soldiers' League of the United States, and have chosen Col. John Reed, President. The object of the organization is openly political. It is founded for the express purpose of concentrating the political power of the Republican soldiers of the Union. Organizers will be chosen at once to introduce the order throughout the state and the United States.

Evidently, the Democratic opposition had similar leanings as the article continues:

A News special from Fort Dodge, Iowa, says: The movement for the organization of Democratic veterans of the war is not confined alone to Indiana. Steps are being taken for the organization of a camp in this county and eighty-one members of the proposed organization have already been obtained.

Political action groups formed by war veterans have been with us since the creation of this country. The G.A.R. and other veterans groups didn't want to appear to favor one political party or another and alienate those politicians. Many politically active veterans would meet after the regular G.A.R. or UCV meeting using an alternate name that didn't connect the two groups. The names of these societies would never appear in the media of the veteran societies, but be published in the local newspaper under fraternal activities.

After the debacle of the 1872 presidential campaign, the G.A.R. amended their society rules and regulations to specifically prohibit the use of the post meetings as a political forum. The political side of these organizations just took another name.

Union Veterans' Union National Encampments By George G. Kane

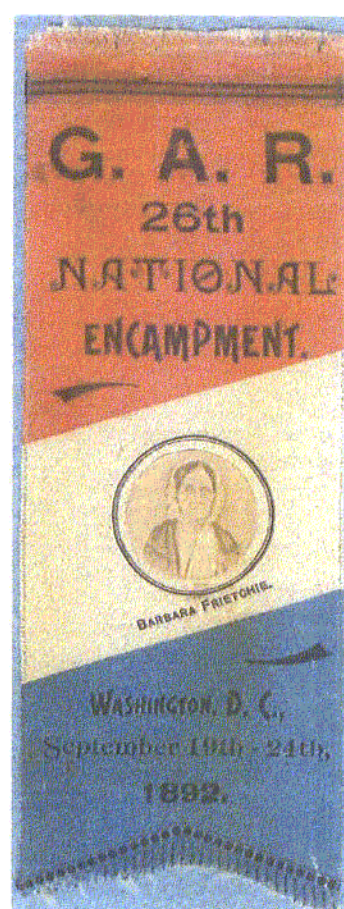
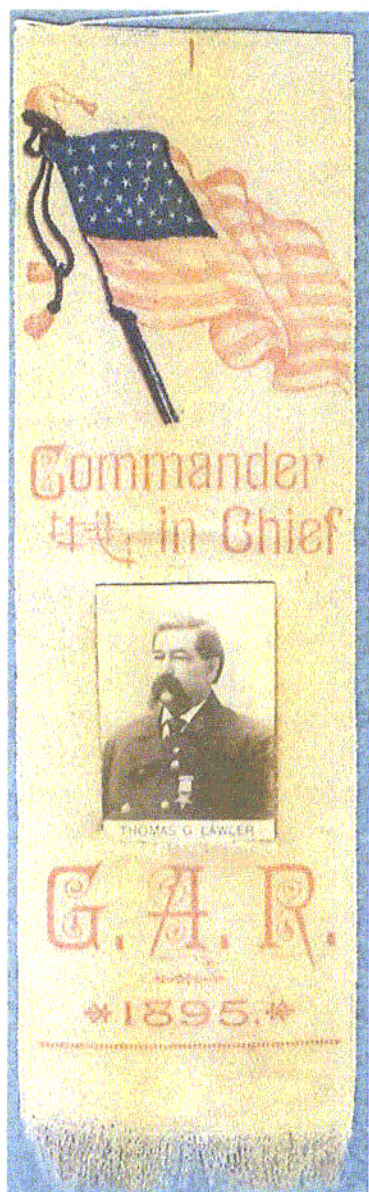
Over the years, I have been trying to assemble a list of National Encampments of all of the major civil war societies. The society I've had the most trouble with is the Union Veterans' Union. Because the UVU was more political than the GAR or the UVL, they didn't release membership information to the public. UVU "Proceedings" of their National Encampments were not widely distributed.. Newspapers often listed their membership base as 65,000, when it was really closer 6,500 at its peak. Below are the locations and dates that I do have. A few were held at the same location and dates as the G. A. R. Any help in completing this list would be appreciated.

UVU National Encampments

- 1 - Washington, DC, June 18, 1886
- 2 - Cleveland, OH, 1887
- 3 - McKeesport, PA, October 11, 1888
- 4 - Detroit, MI, August 20-22, 1889
- 5 - Lakeside, OH, August 19-23, 1890
- 6 - Cleveland, OH, August 25-28, 1891
- 7 - Washington, DC, September 19-23, 1892
- 8 - Boston, MA, August 17, 1893
- 9 - Rochester, NY - August 21-22, 1894
- 10 - Lima, OH, August 6-9, 1895
- 11 - Binghamton, NY, August 19, 1896
- 12 - Springfield, OH August 19-20, 1897
- 13 - Rock Island, IL, August 9-13, 1898
- 14 - Des Moines, IA, August 22-24, 1899
- 15 - Washington, DC, October 2-4, 1900
- 16 - Chicago, IL, August 22-24, 1901
- 17 - Washington, DC, October 10-12, 1902
- 18 - Louisville, KY, October 13-16, 1903
- 19 - Boston / Chelsea, MA, August 16-18, 1904
- 20 - Defiance, OH, August 1905
- 21 - Minneapolis, MN, August 12-14, 1906
- 22 - Saratoga Springs, NY, August 1907
- 23 - Boston, MA, September 29, 1908
- 24 - Auburn, ME, 1909
- 25 - Atlantic City, NJ, August 21-26, 1910
- 26 - Rochester, NY, August 21-25, 1911
- 27-32 **1912-1917 Unknown**
- 33 - Togus, ME, October 3-4, 1918
- 34 - ? **1919-? Unknown**

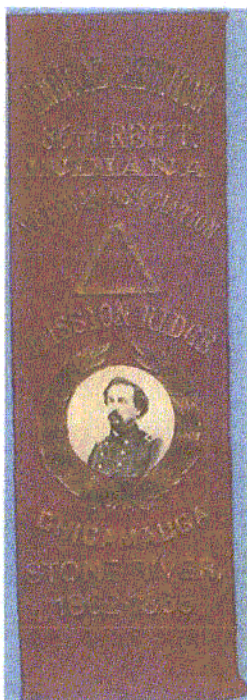
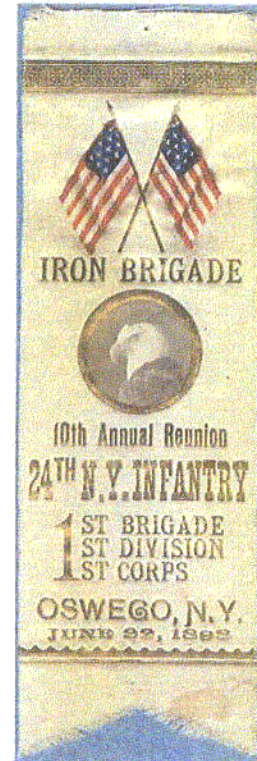
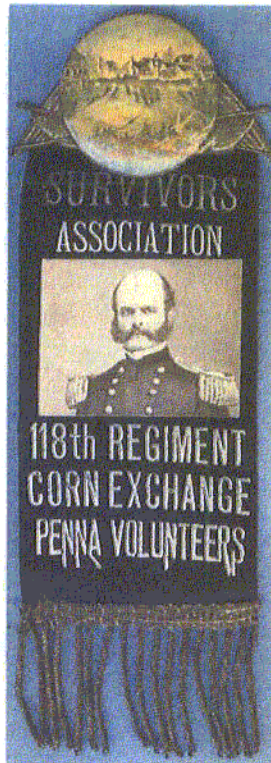
Veterans, Photos and Ribbons By Noel B. Preston

A favorite part of my collecting endeavors is finding badges that not only incorporate Civil War and GAR events, but also has an albumen photographic image attached to the ribbon. In the 1850's, the albumen print was invented. It was the first method of creating a paper based printed photo from a negative. Albumen was extracted from egg whites and used to bind photographic chemicals to paper. This type of image dominated photography until the turn of the century. The *carte-de-visite* is probably its most well known product. A fairly rare usage of these images was on silk ribbons given out at civil war reunions. Shown are a few examples from my collection.



The three ribbons shown above were issued at National Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic in the 1890's, the peak of the use of albumen on event ribbons. After the photos were printed they had to be cut to fit the silk ribbon and then glued directly to that ribbon. Although square photos were probably easier to cut, the ribbons on this page and the following appear to prefer cutting the photos in the round and placing them within a wreath, shield or other aperture within the design.

The use of albumin photos on ribbons was also popular on G.A.R. post badges as shown by the Philadelphia post No. 8, named for E. D. Baker. The ribbon has a photo of E. D. Baker, a friend of President Lincoln's and a commander at the battle of Ball's Bluff. This type of ribbon was also popular with regimental reunions. General Burnside is pictured below on a ribbon of the Survivors Association of the 118th Pennsylvania Vols. Infantry. The Iron Brigade mascot, Old Abe, is pictured on an 1898 reunion ribbon.



The ribbon at the far left is for a dedication of a statue to General G. K. Warren at Gettysburg at the Little Round Top.

The ribbon at the near left is another regimental reunion ribbon with the photo of an unknown officer of that regiment.

As you can see from the various ribbons, the size and shapes of the Albumin photos varied greatly.

The ribbons on this page have been reduced to fit the page.

An Unusual GAR Paperweight by Rance Hulshart

The paperweight souvenir shown below is a souvenir from a 1931 GAR Department of Vermont department encampment. The obelisk in the middle of the paperweight is not a civil war monument, but a monument for a Revolutionary War battle in 1777.

At 306 feet tall, the Bennington Battle Monument is the tallest man-made structure in Vermont.



1931 GAR Souvenir



Base of the Souvenir

The inscription on the base of the souvenir is:

Bennington

June 8-11, 1931

64th Encampment VT. Dept. G.A.R.

The bottom of base has applied green felt. The obelisk is approximately 3 inches tall and is made of heavy cast metal.

Plans for the monument began in 1877, the 100th anniversary of the battle. J Phillip Rinn's "Big Tower" design was accepted with some changes. The final stone was set in November 1889. The tower was formally dedicated in 1891, with President Benjamin Harrison in attendance. The final cost for the monument and the land was \$112,000.

In 1777, the site of the tower was an American supply depot coveted by an invading General Burgoyne. General John Stark and 2,000 volunteers from Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts defeated two detachments from Burgoyne's army at Hoosick Falls, New York, five miles to the west of the supply depot. General Burgoyne's army was eventually defeated at two battles near Saratoga, NY. Burgoyne surrendered to American General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777.



Bennington Battle Monument, Today