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The Veteran

July - September 2007

The Union Society of the Civil War

By Dan Mitchell

One of the last civil war societies to form had to be The Union Society of the Civil War organized January 30th, 1909 in New York City. The objects of this society was *“to perpetuate the memory of those loyal officials who, outside the military and naval service of the United States, rendered invaluable assistance to the national government and Union cause during the Civil War; to unite and promote fellowship among them and their descendants; to encourage historical research in relation to the Civil War period; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of loyal officials of the war, as well as documents, relics and landmarks; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.”*

Those eligible for membership included the President, Vice-President, Justice of the Supreme Court, Cabinet officer, etc. Any national or state governmental officer during the civil war was eligible.

Absent from this list was any Mayor or municipal official who served during the civil war. Also eligible were descendants of men who were eligible for membership.

The society was headquartered in New York City and its dues structure was dependent on this location. Those within 50 miles of New York City paid an entrance fee of \$5 and annual dues of \$5. Members outside the 50-mile radius of NYC paid an entrance fee of \$3 and annual dues of \$2.

The membership badge, shown at right, was composed of “A gold cross of four white enameled arms, center of blue enamel with a gold eagle in relief. Between the arms of the cross is a laurel wreath in green enamel.” The reverse was blank for engraving. The ribbon was light blue silk with scarlet edges. The badge was to be worn only on “occasions of ceremony” and not as jewelry. A rosette worn in the left lapel was a “button in shape of a round cup of light blue and scarlet ribbon.”

The first president of the society was Col. Silas W. Burt, who served as Asst. Inspector General on the New York State War Staff during the civil war. There were seven Vice-Presidents, all the sons of state and national officials.

(continued on page 3)



The President's Message

Dear Members:

It is the middle of summer and I know that many of you are either on vacation or are planning one. I hope that you will keep your eyes open in order to find some interesting items for your collection. I have found that dropping in some quaint antique shops in some out of the way location can net some very interesting finds.

As you can see by the articles submitted to "The Veteran", some of our members have found a variety of interesting items. It widens my knowledge of what exists out there, by reading and reviewing the items that our membership have found, and in my view, this is the prime purpose of our organization, to find, research and make the research available to our membership.

I hope that all of you have a great summer and if I can help any of you, please give me a heads-up, by e-mail or letter.

Sincerely,
Dan M. Mitchell

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Membership Dues

Membership dues for 2007-2008 are still \$15.

If you have not paid yet, please make out a check payable to:
"C.W. V. H.A" and mail to:

Dave Aeberli, Treasurer
9372 Almar Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4872

Dues for the following year (2008-2009) will increase to \$20.

Table of Contents

The Union Society of the Civil War	1,3
Robert St.George Dyrenforth and the Demise of the UVU	4-9
National Encampments of the Union Veterans' Union	10
G. A. R. Encampment Souvenirs	11
Sailing with the GAR to Buffalo, 1897	12

The Veteran, Page 2
July - September 2007

The Editor's Message by George Kane

While researching the National Encampments of the Union Veterans' Union, I began to find more than one National Encampment per year. It was then that I discovered the story of the 1902 UVU encampment and the schism it produced in that organization. The story of Robert St.George Dyrenforth and the UVU became a novel that I couldn't put down, a song I couldn't stop hearing. Instead of unfolding this strange tale over a number of issues of *The Veteran*, I decided to present the complete story in one article. I apologize to the members who sent in articles, which are not in this issue. Those pieces will be in the next issue. Last issue I listed all the UVU National Encampments that I could find. This issue I have included a full page listing with corrections and additions. The 1886-1920 listing of these encampments is still incomplete. Please forward to me any additional information you may have. Thanks.

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.

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An e-mail address is listed above.

Union Society of the Civil War

(Continued from the front page)

The first vice-president was Frederick W. Seward, son of Civil War Secretary of State William H. Seward. The second vice-president was Hannibal E. Hamlin, son of U.S. Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin, who served in Lincoln's first term. The other vice-presidents were the sons of war governors, a US Attorney General and the judge advocate of the NY war staff.

The leaders of the society in various states were titled "Managers". In 1909, there were managers for New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Delaware, West Virginia, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. The managers included five members, six sons and two grandsons. Some states had more than one manager. Other national officers included Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Attorney and Chaplain, all of which were staffed by sons.

Classes of membership added after 1909 included any male citizen if he received the "'Thanks of Congress" for valuable services rendered to the National Government" during the Civil War or "Any Loyal Union Man" who had not served in the military, but who "rendered services to the National Government and Union Cause which may be considered by the General Board of Managers to have been of sufficient value to warrant his election to membership in the Society"

The Society was incorporated in the State of New York on May 20, 1909. The main organizer and originator of the Society was Henry Hersey Andrew, son of War Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts. He was elected the first Secretary of the Society. He was also responsible for tracing the many descendants of wartime officials.

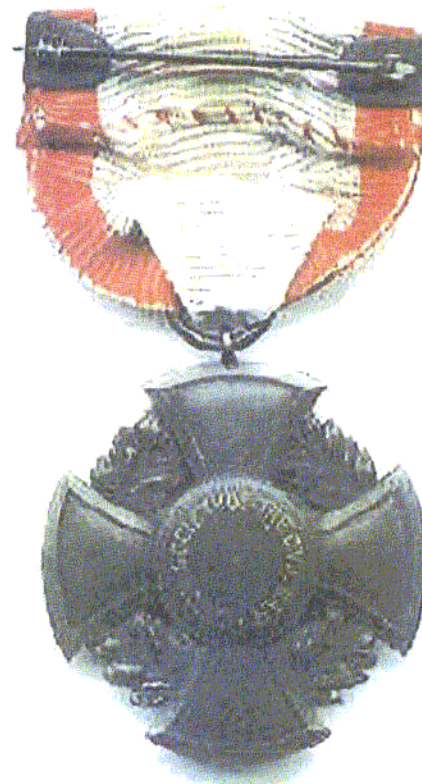
The *New York Times* reported in April of 1909 that the Society hoped to have a membership of a thousand members in the near future. In 1915, the Society announced that it would erect a building of which one entire floor was to be dedicated to the work of the society. The building would not only contain the offices of the Society, but also serve as a repository for civil war relics, letters, documents, diaries, pictures, etc. The building would be in the area of the Harvard and Yale clubs.

The *New York Times* does not mention the Society after 1915. It seems strange that a society based in New York City would not be mentioned in the *Times* after this date. Which such great expectations in the building of a society office, you'd think they would have survived longer. Membership lists were published in 1914 and 1916.

A Society button was recently offered on e-Bay.



The button is listed as Number VN38 in the Albert's book on buttons. The reverse of the membership badge is shown below. Notice the Society name in the inner circle, printed in gold..



Robert St. George Dyrenforth and the Demise of the Union Veterans' Union

By George G. Kane

One of the most flamboyant characters of the last two decades of the 19th Century and the first decade of the 20th Century was Robert St. George Dyrenforth. Robert was the son of an upper-class Prussian father and an English mother of minor royalty. His father, Julius, had first immigrated to England and became a successful merchant. Julius traveled to America in 1837, returning to England in 1839. There he married Robert's mother, who gave birth to two boys. Robert was born October 10, 1844 in England. The family moved to Chicago in 1847. Throughout his life, except for the 1850 census, Robert would claim that he was born in Chicago. He returned to Europe with his mother for his education. He amassed degrees in medicine, chemistry, and engineering. He was a cavalry officer in the American civil war, a foreign correspondent during the Austro-Prussian war (1866), a professor, a doctor, an examiner in the US Patent Office, the commissioner of the US Patent Office, a patent attorney, an inventor (a collapsible globe for education), a scientist, a kidnapper and last but not least, a "Rainmaker". He was wounded many times in the civil war, including a bullet to the nose that severed his sense of smell. He was constantly in the news, usually not for the best of reasons. In 1883 a secretary who worked at the patent office sued him. She claimed she was denied a promotion because she rejected his sexual advances. Not unusual today, but quite scandalous by 1883 morals. In 1901, his attempt to divorce his wife was front-page news. Even his death on the Fourth of July 1910, would become news when the contents of his will were made public. He was a womanizer, a misogynist, anti-Catholic, a brawler, a liar and a cad. He was also the Commander-in-Chief of the Union Veterans' Union for five consecutive terms from 1898 to 1903. His five-year administration would create a schism in the UVU, hastening its fade into historical obscurity.

After his last trip to Europe, he settled in Washington, DC, where he practiced medicine for a

short period before he was appointed an assistant examiner in the US Patent Office. He rose from this position to examiner-in-chief, assistant commissioner of Patents and finally to commissioner of Patents in 1885. Soon after his appointment to commissioner, he resigned and took up the practice of patent law.

This might have been the last we heard of Attorney Dyrenforth except for a book he would read, *War and the Weather*, by Edward Powell. This would introduce Dyrenforth to the "Concussion" theory of rainmaking. Powell claimed that many of the main battles of the war were fought in rain or snow because of the effect of artillery on cloud formations. Dyrenforth not only embraced the idea, but also began to experiment with this theory. Dyrenforth would use kites and balloons to create explosions in the atmosphere. The results were mixed. After preliminary experiments in Utica, NY and Washington, DC (a local judge stopping the DC explosions), Dyrenforth convinced Congress to give the Department of Agriculture \$9,000 to experiment somewhere far away from DC.



Dyrenforth pictured in Pith helmet during his rainmaking experiments in Texas, 1891.

In August 1891, Dyrenforth began his tests in Texas. News of the Rainmaking experiments was worldwide news. Many celebrities visited the site of the experiments, including Edward Powell, author of the theory, and the Governor of Texas. In the end, the experiments were inconclusive, but the hype made Dyrenforth an international icon. Many states and cities in the United States sought Dyrenforth's expertise. Even the city of London, England contacted the "Rain-Maker" to see if he could dissipate the city's famous fog.

Five years after the experiments ended, Robert St. George Dyrenforth was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Union Veterans' Union (UVU). The UVU, a competitor of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), had been founded in 1886. Membership requirements were a little tougher than GAR standards. Members had to have at least 6 months active service, part of which had to be at the front under fire. How did Dyrenforth capture this position? Dyrenforth, a GAR man, had only recently joined the UVU. Yet, in 1898, at the UVU National Encampment at Rock Island, IL he was elected CIC of the UVU.



Left: A Delegate badge for the UVU National Encampment of 1898, Rock Island, Illinois

The UVU had been founded in Washington, DC and Dyrenforth was a prominent citizen of the Nation's Capital. If he could talk Congress into all that money for "Rain-Making" I suppose he could win an election for UVU Commander-in-Chief.

Dyrenforth was very politically motivated. During his first term as CIC, he backed Colonel David B. Henderson for Speaker of the House of Representatives. During his speeches (and a circular he authored) he urged all union veterans to contact their local representative and urge them to vote for the colonel. If the congressman refuses to support their candidate, then they should "Knock him out at his next nomination". Col. Henderson later replied that he did not "approve or consent to the use of coercion as a means to further his interests." Henderson was elected Speaker of the House.

Dyrenforth's second National Encampment in 1899 at Des Moines, Iowa would prove to be disastrous for the UVU. Newspapers of the period would dwell on the negative resolutions put forth by the UVU, but a more serious blow would be delivered by changes to the UVU constitution. General Dyrenforth's opening speech would attack the administration on its handling of pensions. Dyrenforth declared that many pension claims are ignored in order to keep the total pension output to less than \$140 million a year. The most dramatic resolution would be the UVU's support for President McKinley's Philippine Policy. An attempt to pass this resolution was soundly defeated by the convention. Another resolution denounced Iowa Governor Shaw for his appointment of J. Rush Lincoln as Brigadier General of Volunteers at the outset of the Spanish American War. Lincoln had fought as a Confederate during the Civil War. Yet another resolution condemned Secretary of Agriculture Wilson for an insult he had allegedly leveled at CIC Dyrenforth during a meeting on political appointments a few months earlier.

A number of changes to the UVU Constitution were proposed. The encampment quickly approved General Dyrenforth's wish to change the name of the organization to the "Union Veterans' Union or the Order of Union Battlemen". The awkward elongated title was rarely used. Another change would rename the "Commands" as "Regiments". But the most damaging change would be the dropping of the "Six-Month Service" requirement for membership. The proposed change was meant to increase dramatically, the membership of the UVU. The membership of the organization had always been guarded and unreported by the UVU. The number of members had been widely speculated during the 1890's, from 10,000 to 100,000. In 1896, General D. W. Wardrop asked for an exact count of members and commands from Adjutant General Morris at the National Encampment at Binghamton, NY. The AG replied that the membership total was not available at that time. After some heated words and a secret meeting, the AG agreed to provide the count at the next encampment. The AG report of 1899 had announced dramatic gains in membership and command charters. No numbers were actually provided.

In March 1900, the UVU Department of Massachusetts would sever their connection with the National Command over the "Six-Month" clause. General Dyrenforth deposed Maj. Daniel Gould as Massachusetts UVU Dept. Commander on March 3rd for failing to enforce the new clauses to the UVU Constitution. Gould and a number of officers and members were expelled from the order. A meeting of the Massachusetts commands on March 22 unanimously sided with Major Gould. Changes to the constitution had to be approved in consecutive National Encampments, so the 6-month clause could not be approved permanently until the 1900 UVU National Encampment being held in Washington, DC. The encampment was being held on General Dyrenforth's home turf.

The 1900 encampment was held at Washington, DC, October 2-5. Seven hundred delegates attended, down from the reported 1,000 of the previous year. Despite the decrease of 300 delegates and the loss of most of one department (Massachusetts) the UVU still claimed a "substantial advance" in membership and commands. President McKinley agreed to address the convention, if he was in town, which he wasn't.

A resolution was passed against the entwining, display or blending of Union and Confederate flags. Another urged congress to purchase Fort Stevens Battleground, the only battlefield within the District of Columbia. The UVU also endorsed the proposed "National Memorial Bridge" across the Potomac River.

Soon after the 1900 National Encampment, CIC Dyrenforth, after years of lambasting the current administration, came out in favor of McKinley for President in a circular sent to the membership, October 20th.



1900 UVU National Encampment Delegate Badge

The 1901 UVU National Encampment took place in Chicago, Illinois, Commander Dyrenforth's' hometown, October 22-25. President Roosevelt was voted a "Comrade" of the UVU at the first session. Delegates from 23 states attended. The next National Encampment was to be held in Omaha, Nebraska. In August of 1902, the Division of Nebraska UVU relinquished their right to the 1902 National Encampment in Omaha, in favor of Washington, DC. The reason given for the shift was that many of the delegates had decided they wanted to meet at the same time as the GAR. General Dyrenforth had initiated the meeting to change cities. The CIC lived in the District of Columbia.



1901 UVU National Enc. Delegate Badge

The change of encampment venue to Washington, DC, would backfire on General Dyrenforth with all the bad press that would be generated from this convention.

At the opening session, an effort was made to amend the constitution and return the "Six-Month Service" clause as a basis of membership. After heated arguments, the bid to change the constitution was defeated. The encampment, instead, voted to allow sons, son-in-laws, and grandchildren of members to become members of the organization.

They also voted to allow any US veteran of any war, to become a member. This voting precipitated a separate meeting of the delegates from Ohio, Illinois, New York, Michigan, Iowa and Pennsylvania. They met to discuss withdrawing from the organization.

Before the afternoon session, Dyrenforth would meet with the executive committee to refute charges by the Judge Advocate General of the Division of the Potomac that he had used "arbitrary power" and questioned his recent personal problems.

Since the previous encampment, the General had filed divorce papers against his wife claiming she was a drunk and she had physically and mentally abused him over the last 25 years. Divorce in this period was rare and was seldom carried in the newspapers. Mrs. Dyrenforth had contested the charges. His wife, a Catholic, would not agree to a divorce, but finally settled for a separation with the General paying \$50 per month alimony. In March 1900 a DC patent company charged Attorney Dyrenforth with misconduct. The case was reviewed and dismissed by the US Patent office. In 1897, he was arrested for brawling in the streets of DC. It was later dismissed. The "arbitrary power" claim dealt with his appointments to key positions of personal friends. His suspension of the Mass. UVU Commander was also mentioned.

The executive committee issued an order suspending Dyrenforth and appointing F. B. Hutchinson of Rochester, NY, acting Commander-in-Chief.

Hutchinson announced the committee decision, which resulted in pandemonium on the convention floor. A wave of delegates tried to throw Hutchinson off the stage, but he successfully defended himself with a large cane. After order had been restored, Hutchinson and the members of the states noted above left the convention. Dyrenforth failed to allow the executive committee to give its report. Soon after, Dyrenforth was elected for the fifth and final time as Commander-in-Chief.

That night, delegates of the states of Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Nebraska, South Dakota and the Potomac met to discuss withdrawing from the UVU and forming a new organization under the UVU constitution of 1893. They stated that they would not remain in an organization ruled by Dyrenforth and without the "Six-Month" membership clause.



**1902 UVU
National
Encampment
Delegate Badge**

At the final session of the encampment, a resolution was approved which branded the statements against General Dyrenforth as "contemptible, cowardly and villainous falsehoods."

Soon after the encampment, Dyrenforth issued General Order No. 1, which stated that UVU "has issued an appeal to the Union Veterans of the Civil War to organize into a brotherhood for mutual protection." He stated that the "eligibility to

*The Veteran – Page 8
July – September 2007*

membership in the order (UVU) is now extended to every honorably discharged Union Veteran of good record."

The UVU Department of Massachusetts countered by denouncing Dyrenforth and his regime and called for a National Encampment to reform the UVU. On February 10, 1903 the Anti-Dyrenforth's (as they were now called in the newspapers) held a National Encampment in Springfield Ohio and elected Franklin B. Hutchinson as their Commander-in-Chief. A second Encampment was held in Rochester, NY in August 1903, again electing Hutchinson, CIC. Between these two encampments, General Dyrenforth had the "Union Veterans' Union" incorporated in order to block the Anti-Dyrenforth's from using the organizational name. He kept a copy of the incorporation on his person at all times. The other organization ignored the Incorporation and continued to call themselves the Union Veterans' Union.

In October of 1903, Dyrenforth and his followers journeyed to Louisville, Kentucky for their 18th National Encampment.



1903 UVU National Enc. Badge – Louisville, KY

The encampment badge contained an added phrase in a banderole around the UVU seal, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." See below:



The split turned out to be permanent. No reconciliation was ever agreed upon. Both held separate National Encampments throughout the years. Both organizations appeared to disappear around 1920. The last known National Encampment took place in 1920 in South Boston, MA. The article on that encampment in a Boston paper only mentioned one delegate that was not from Massachusetts or Maine. Representatives of the UVU are listed as attending the presidential inaugural ceremonies through 1933, but these are, for the most part, the last acknowledgements to the organization.

General Dyrenforth, who declined a sixth term, seems to disappear from veteran affairs after the 1903 encampment. In 1905 he is listed in a Chicago city directory, living with one of his brothers. Bad luck seemed to follow the General to Chicago as two of his nieces were killed in a theater fire that year. The end of his life was split between Washington, DC and New York City, where he had patent law offices. He died on July 4, 1910 in NYC, but the world had not heard the last from General Robert St.George Dyrenforth. On July 10th of that year, his last will was probated in a Washington DC courthouse. The contents of this

last will and testament would become front-page news throughout the United States.

In 1898, one of Dyrenforth's daughters gave birth to a boy whom she named after her father, Robert St.George McGrath. In 1900 the daughter was terminally ill and her husband on duty in the Philippines. After the father of the boy was killed in the Philippines, the General petitioned the courts for guardianship of the boy. The General and Mrs. Dyrenforth became the legal guardians of their grandson. During the divorce proceedings of the following year, the General, who had moved out of his house, "kidnapped" the boy while he was with a nanny in a DC park. The court not only granted the General sole custody, but also let him adopt the boy. In 1910 the boy would be shipped to live with the General's relatives in Chicago, while attending military school.

The 1910 last will & testament of the General would list the boy, Robert St.George McGrath Dyrenforth, as the sole beneficiary. To inherit, the boy had to reach certain goals and could not receive the estate until he was 28 years old. He could not "come under the influence" of his grandmother or aunt, or become a Catholic. He had to attain certain educational goals, including graduating from high school at 14, Harvard at 18, attend Oxford University in England and finally graduating from West Point. The will was mocked in most newspapers and his grandmother eventually defeated the will in court and inherited the estate. The boy was last seen "heading to Europe." Mrs. Dyrenforth died in 1926. See a copy of the will at:

http://www.washingtonhistory.com/ScenesPast/images/SP_0405.pdf (Adobe Acrobat download)

The General (a UVU title for the CIC, he was brevetted a Colonel at the end of the civil war) became great newspaper copy throughout his life. His dictatorial rule of the Union Veterans' Union would split the organization and eventually doom it to an early grave.

The information in this article was taken almost exclusively from on-line historical newspapers and UVU material at the American Antiquarian Society Library in Worcester, MA.

Union Veterans' Union

Encampments of the National Command

Organized	Washington	DC	1886	June 18	CIC Elected at	of
1st	Washington	DC	1887	January 19	Capt. Michael Augustus Dillon	Massachusetts
2nd	Washington	DC	1887	January 19	Capt. Michael Augustus Dillon	Massachusetts
3rd	Cleveland	OH	1887	Sept. 26-29	Capt. Michael Augustus Dillon	Massachusetts
4th	McKeesport	PA	1888	October 11	William T. Clark (b.Eng, 1845)	Cleveland
5th	Detroit	MI	1889	August 20-22	William T. Clark (b.Eng, 1845)	Cleveland
6th	Lakeside	OH	1890	August 19-23	William T. Clark (b.Eng, 1845)	Cleveland
7th	Cleveland	OH	1891	August 25-28	Judge Samuel S. Yoder (1841-1921)	Lima, OH
8th	Washington	DC	1892	Sept. 19-23	Judge Samuel S. Yoder (1841-1921)	Lima, OH
9th	Boston	MA	1893	August 16-18	General John H. Roberts	Massachusetts
10th	Rochester	NY	1894	August 21-23	General George J. Oaks (b. 1842)	Rochester, NY
11th	Lima	OH	1895	August 6-9	Louis Fangeres Ellis (b.NY 1843)	Lima, OH
12th	Binghampton	NY	1896	August 18-21	Charles Watson Wood (d. 1925)	Shrewsbury, MA
13th	Springfield	OH	1897	August 18-20	Capt. Harlow L. Street	New York
14th	Rock Island	IL	1898	August 9-13	Gen. Robert St. George Dyrenforth	Washington, DC
15th	Des Moines	IA	1899	August 22-24	Gen. Robert St. George Dyrenforth	Washington, DC
16th	Washington	DC	1900	October 2-5	Gen. Robert St. George Dyrenforth	Washington, DC
17th	Chicago	IL	1901	October 22-25	Gen. Robert St. George Dyrenforth	Washington, DC
18th	Washington	DC	1902	October 10-12	Gen. Robert St. George Dyrenforth	Washington, DC
19th	Springfield	OH	1903	February 10	Franklin B. Hutchinson	Rochester, NY
20th	Louisville	KY	1903	October 13-16	General Aritas M. Legg	Washington, DC
21st	Rochester	NY	1903	August 13-15	Franklin B. Hutchinson	Rochester, NY
22nd	Chelsea	MA	1904	August 16-18	Daniel W. Gould (d.6/16/1916)	Chelsea, MA
23rd	St. Louis	MO	1904	October 11-12	General Aritas M. Legg	Washington, DC
24th	Defiance	OH	1905	August	H. L. Deam	Washington, DC
25th	Springfield	IL	1905	October 18-20	General Aritas M. Legg	Washington, DC
26th	Minneapolis	MN	1906	August 12-14	Victor Varley	Chicago
27th	St. Paul	MN	1906	August 13-15	Richard L. Gorman	St. Paul, MN
28th	Saratoga Springs	NY	1907	September 10-12	Walter L. French	Brockton, MA
29th	Boston	MA	1907	September 29-30	William L. Dickey	Lowell, MA
30th	Toledo	OH	1908	September 29-30	General Patrick Hayes	Chelsea, ME
31st	Auburn	ME	1909	September 29-30	Walter L. French	Brockton, MA
32nd	Atlantic City	NJ	1910	August 21-26	General Patrick Hayes	Chelsea, ME
33rd	Rochester	NY	1911	August 21-25	James Albert Hard (1841-1953)	Rochester, NY
34th	Brewer	ME	1912	September 18	James Albert Hard (1841-1953)	Rochester, NY
35th	Washington	DC	1913	September 27-8	Walter L. French	Brockton, MA
36th	Brewer	ME	1914	October 4	General P. J. Haley	South Boston
37th	Boston	ME	1915	August 20-23	Col. George W. White	Brewer, ME
38th	Togus	ME	1916	October 3	General P. J. Haley	South Boston
39th	South Boston	MA	1917	October 13	Col. George W. White	Brewer, ME
40th	South Boston	MA	1918	October 13	Judge Samuel S. Yoder	Lima, OH
41th	South Boston	MA	1919	October 13	Thomas T. Tabor	Buckport, ME
42th	South Boston	MA	1920	October 13	Thomas T. Tabor	Buckport, ME

AD=Anti Dyrenforths

G.A.R. Encampment Souvenirs
By Rance Hulshart

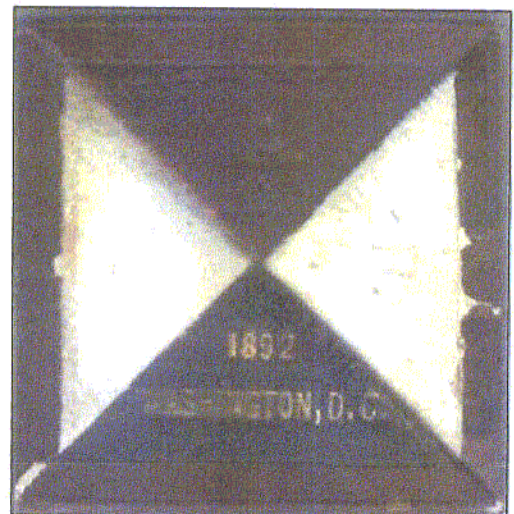
On this page are three GAR souvenirs from my personal collection that I would like to share with you. The first is lead pencil gun made of wood and metal. The pencil is in the form of a Krag rifle. The Krag was used by many American troops during the Spanish-American War. The pencil is mounted on a card within a box. A blue crock of beans marked Boston/ Baked Beans and a U.S. flag on staff are pictured in the upper corners of the card. Above the rifle on the card is marked "G.A.R. Souvenir". Below the rifle is printed "Boston 1904." The box comes complete with a spare piece of lead, which is shown just below the flag on the top of the rifle. The blue box is original with only slight damage to the ends. The rifle is 5 3/4 inches long.



Illustrated at right is a maroon leather change purse. The obverse consists of four triangles, which are squeezed to open. The left triangle is white with a G; the top triangle is maroon marked A; and the right triangle is white marked R. The bottom triangle is blue with the print "1892/ Washington, D.C." All printing is in gold. The purse is 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches square.



Pictured above is a white china plate, basically round with scalloped edges, and gold print with multi-color motifs. Printed at the top of the plate is: "G.A.R./ And/ Spanish War Veterans/ Reunion/ Compliments/ Of/ The Citizens Banking Co." Below a flag graphic is printed: "Sebring Harvest Home/ Sept. 23d. 1911," Two patriotic graphics are to the right and left of the top print and a ship graphic is at the bottom of the plate. The plate has a gold decoration design around edge. It is 6 3/8 inches across and has no manufacturer markings. Harvest house festivals were celebrated throughout the Midwest in small farming communities such as Sebring, Ohio, on a fall day after the completion of the harvest.



Sailing with the GAR to Buffalo, 1897 by Vann R. Martin

The boat shown below is a souvenir of the 31st National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Buffalo, NY in 1897. A large majority of the boat is made from seashells.



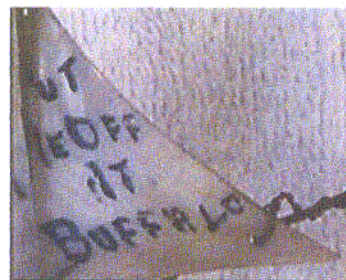
The boat is approximately 3 ½ inches from fore to aft and 4 ¾ inches tall from base to the top of the mast. Amidships the boat is approximately 2 inches side to side. The hull of the ship is a common seashell while the sails are cut from shells to their shape. The sails actually look like they have the wind pushing them along.

A straight metal rod is attached to the metal base and extends to form the main mast. A small flag or banner at the top of the mast is made of metal. A metal wire is attached to the rod and forms the rigging, which holds the shell sails in place. The anchor is metal and is attached in two places to the starboard (right) side of the hull.

The main sail has the words "G.A.R." above and "1897" below, printed on the sail. A flower, possibly a rose is in between the initials and the year.



The fore sail is a triangle in shape. Painted on the sail is the phrase "Put me Off in Buffalo." Members might remember George Kane's article on the use by the GAR of this phrase that was a popular song in 1897. The song reached the height of its popularity at the time of the GAR National Encampment in Buffalo. It became the catch phrase of this convention.



This is a very delicate piece and it is amazing that it has survived for the last 110 years.