



Volume 21, No. 2

The Veteran

October - December 2007

The G.A.R. and the 20th Kansas Infantry

By George G. Kane

At the Nineteenth G.A.R. Department of Kansas Encampment, held at Holden, Kansas, June 1900, the G. A. R. presented to members of the 20th Kansas Infantry, a badge commemorating the regiment's service in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection. G.A.R. Department Commander Coulter presented the first medal to the commander of the regiment, Col. Wilder S. Metcalf. With the return of the regiment from the Philippines in late 1899, people in the state of Kansas looked for a way to reward their returning heroes. The G.A.R. proposed that a medal be created and awarded to the valiant members of the 20th Kansas Infantry. The G.A.R. sought to raise funds, not only from their members, but also from the people of Kansas, especially school children. Money flowed in from all over the state. As with G.A.R. membership badges, it was thought that the badges should be made from captured cannon. A Spanish cannon, captured by the 20th Regiment, and

returned from the Philippines with the regiment was used to manufacture the badges. The badge designed was a two-piece with chain and backing ribbon. The hanger proclaimed "Spanish-American War - 1898" with an eagle within a wreath with a US shield on its chest. Below this was a banderole with "20th Kansas Inft." Two rows of chain links attached a Maltese cross to the hanger. At the top of the cross is a hand with two fingers held upwards in a "V" for Victory sign. The cross has a wreath behind it and a Kansas Sunflower in the middle with an "8" representing the 8th Corps of which the 20th was attached. The arms of the cross list eight of the battles, in which the 20th participated. The original badge presented to Col Wilder that day had the inscription, "By the patriotic people of Kansas presented to Col. Wilder S. Metcalf through the Department of Kansas G.A.R." Each member of the regiment would receive a medal with a similar inscription that included his name, rank and company engraved upon it. Medals were also presented to the families of soldiers killed in the Philippines. The regiment included 1,322 officers and men when it sailed to the Philippines. It suffered the deaths of three officers and thirty men.

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The President's Message

Dear Members:

The summer has gone by very fast. I have been out of the country for a couple of weeks, so I haven't seen too many items of interest lately to add to my collection. However, I did visit the Museum of the *Legion d'Honneur* in Paris where there was a tremendous collection of medals and accompanied material. If any of you ever get the chance to see this collection, I would strongly urge you to make every effort to take it in. Roger Heiple told me not to miss it.

It seems to me, I always see an increase in collectible items that come to the surface just in time for the Christmas season. I will be keeping my eyes open and I hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Dan M. Mitchell

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Membership Dues

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

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The Editor's Message

by George Kane

I've recently discovered a society honoring Mexican War Veterans (1846-48). They have a web site:

www.dmwv.org

The society publishes a newsletter and a biannual journal. An associate membership is offered for people without Mexican War descendants.

We've had very few stories about Confederate Veterans of late. If you have anything unusual in Rebel relics, badges, medals, etc; please send it to me. My e-mail, phone and address are listed on this page.

This issue has a couple of stories on the G.A.R. and Spanish War Veterans. For some years, the USWV tried to have the G.A.R. name them as their successors instead of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The last USWV member died in 1992. The SUVCW still survives.

Happy Holidays to all.

George G. Kane
Chicopee, Mass.

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.

The G.A.R. & the 20th Kansas

(Continued from the front page)

On April 23rd of 1898, President McKinley called for 125,000 volunteers to fight the war against Spain. Kansas Governor Leedy called for three regiments of infantry to be raised. The three regiments would be the 20th, 21st and 22nd. Kansas had supplied 19 regiments during the Civil War.

In May 1898, twelve companies of infantry were raised for the 20th, which organized at Camp Leedy in Topeka. After two weeks the 20th and 21st regiments went by train to San Francisco. For many of the young recruits, the trip to San Francisco was their first encounter with mountains and the ocean. For five months the regiment languished in San Francisco before orders came sending them to the Philippines. After a short stop in Honolulu, the troops arrived in Manila on the first day of December 1898.

The 20th was led by Colonel Frederick Funston, who, despite his diminutive size (5'5", 120 lbs.), was a charismatic leader. The son of a US Congressman, Funston led a life of adventure. After three years at the University of Kansas, Funston worked on the railroad, was a reporter, a botanist and finally a soldier in the Cuban Rebel Army. In Cuba he rose from the rank of private to colonel and head of General Garcia's artillery. In 1898, while on sick leave from the rebel army, Funston was appointed Colonel of the 20th Kansas Regiment.



(Left)
General
Frederick
Funston

Although a peace treaty would not be ratified until February 6, 1899, the Spanish-American War in the Philippines was over by August 1898. Many of the Kansas troops had thought that their stay in the islands would be sleepy garrison duty. This dream would be shattered by the outbreak in February 1899 of the "Philippine Insurrection". The 20th was immediately thrown into the front lines, where they would stay for 9 months. During that period, the 20th would participate in 18 major battles and skirmishes. Early on, the regiment

acquired a reputation for courage in the face of enemy fire, earning them the nickname "The Fighting 20th". Their most famous engagement would be at the bridge on the Bagbag River. The Filipinos had partially destroyed the bridge and built fortifications on the other side of the river. Col. Funston, Lt. Ball and four privates swam the river and brought fire on the enemy position. The Filipinos, fearing they were under attack on their flank by a superior American force, fled. The encounter would be headline news throughout the United States. Soon after this encounter, Col. Funston would be promoted to Brigadier General. In February of 1900, General Funston would receive the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Rio Grande River at Calumpit. Funston would become a national hero in 1901 when the General and several of his men, posing as prisoners and guarded by friendly natives, would capture the rebel leader, Emile Aguinaldo. After Aguinaldo's capture, rebel resistance collapsed and President Roosevelt declared the war over, July 4, 1902. In 1906, Funston took command of San Francisco soon after an earthquake devastated the city. He dynamited several buildings to create firebreaks to stop the fires that were ravaging the city. In 1908 he forcibly put down rioting in Nevada by the socialist union group known as the "Wobblies", the Industrial Workers of the World. In 1914 Major General Funston occupied Vera Cruz, Mexico and would later aid in the hunt for Pancho Villa. In 1917 he was appointed Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. Unfortunately Funston would suffer a fatal heart attack before Congress approved his appointment. He died February 19, 1917.

After Col. Funston's promotion to Brig. General, Major Metcalf was promoted to Colonel and head of the 20th Kansas.

(Left) Col. Wilder S.
Metcalf



(Below) Captured Spanish
Cannon used in manufacturing
the 20th Kansas badges.



Continued on Next Page.

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G.A.R. & 20th Kansas

(continued from previous page)

The return of the 20th Kansas to America became more of an odyssey than a voyage. The regiment of 708 enlisted men and 41 officers boarded the transport *Tartar*, on September 3, 1899, 9 months after they had arrived in Manila. They had been at the front from February to the end of August 1899. Their enlistment contracts had stipulated that their enlistment would expire with the signing of a Peace treaty with the Kingdom of Spain. The Peace Treaty was signed two days after the 20th had arrived at the front on February 6, 1899. The total regiment agreed to waive their rights under the enlistment contract and remain in the Philippines until the government could muster enough troops to relieve them.

Three days after leaving Manila, the *Tartar* arrived in Hong Kong, where it was immediately put in dry dock for extensive repairs. Two weeks later the ship prepared to sail for Yokohama, Japan. Unfortunately the harbormaster would not give them permission to leave the harbor, claiming the transport was overcrowded. The British, fearing an international incident, granted permission the next day. When the ship arrived at Yokohama, Japanese health officials delayed the ship from docking in the harbor, a full day while they completed their inspections. After some shore liberty in Tokyo, the *Tartar* finally hauled anchor for San Francisco on September 25th. The ship was greeted by a tug bearing Kansas Governor Stanley, Kansas Officials, prominent citizens of Kansas and newspapermen. Unfortunately one Kansas newspaperman was swept overboard in the high seas and drowned.

After a night in quarantine, the regiment landed in San Francisco on October 11th, 5 weeks after leaving Manila. They marched to the Presidio to be mustered out of the service. They were finally mustered out on October 28th, 1899.

On November 2, 1899, the citizens of Topeka held a reception for the returning members of the regiment. A ribbon was created for the occasion. The ribbon, shown in the next column, was topped with a hanger with a bust of General Funston.

On the hanger is the Kansas State Motto, *Ad Astra, Per Aspera*, latin for “To the Stars, through difficulties.” Below the hanger is a white ribbon with crossed American flags and gold tassels. Attached to the white ribbon is a red, white and blue ribbon with the following inscription: Reception / 20th Kansas / November 1899 / Topeka. Another row of gold tassels hang from this ribbon.



At the reception, it was announced that General Lloyd Wheaton, brigade commander, had recommended General Furston, Private William B. Trembley, and Private Edward White, be awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions at Calumpit, Luzon, PI on the night of April 27, 1899. Funston would receive his medal, Feb. 14, 1900. The privates were presented their medals on March 11, 1902.

A G.A.R. Membership Badge Trial Piece

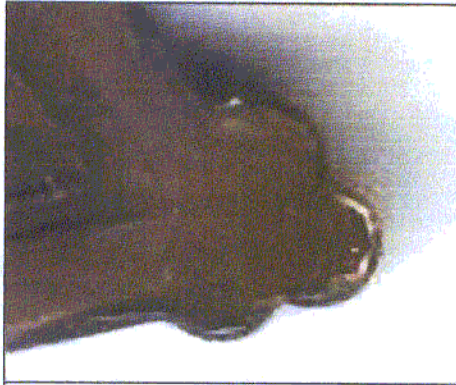
By George G. Kane

G.A.R. Star Courtesy of Peter Coulton

The Photos below are of a Type III G.A.R. Membership Badge Star. The star appears to be a trial or test piece. The outer edge on the reverse of the star is raised. A completed piece would have filed down the excess metal on the edge. The raised edge is particularly noticeable on the treefolds, at the end of the arms. No holes were ever drilled between the upper star arms for a ribbon suspension bar. There is no maker's mark for A. Demarest below the G.A.R. seal on the obverse. The star does not sit flat when placed on a flat surface. It appears to have a slight inward bend at all the arms. This is also the variety that has two five pointed stars on the reverse in the two rows of corps badges surrounding the US Seal. There should be a five-pointed star (12th Corps) and a six-pointed star (8th Corps). The font on the Patent Date is considerably thicker than the common badge. The word on the left side of the bottom star arm is "Patent" and not the usual "Patented". The "T"'s in Patent have serifs where the common "Patented" does not. The same is also true of the word "DEC". The Laurel in the lower arm is different. The common piece has the first branch under the main stem, while this piece has the branch over the main stem. The stars above the arm seem to be spaced and shaped differently.



Note no star on lower left and bottom trefold. Everything else is sharp.



Notice the excess metal on this reverse of the trefold.



Note Double 12th Corps Insignia Variety and High relief shield.



Notice the difference in the two patent date fonts. The top date is from this trial piece, the bottom date is from a common type III badge. The top date is thicker with serifs and is raised. The bottom date is thinner without serifs and incused.

The G.A.R. and Uncle Sam

By George G. Kane

The origin of the cartoon figure of Uncle Sam begins with a meat packer in Troy, New York during the War of 1812. Samuel Wilson, who was known locally as "Uncle Sam", acquired contracts to supply meat to the US Army during the war. He stamped his cases of meat "U.S." How this evolved from United States to Uncle Sam or vice versa is not quite clear. He began to appear in political cartoons in the 1830's. During the civil war he acquired an Abraham Lincoln type beard. After the civil war the characters of "Brother Jonathan", "Yankee Doodle" and "Uncle Sam" merged into a single figure called "Uncle Sam", acquiring a flag suit and top hat with stars. He was used in many political cartoons as the symbol of the United States. During the Spanish-American War, many pins were sold with the depiction of "Uncle Sam" abusing the Spanish, and pushing for war and victory over the Kingdom of Spain. The most famous depiction of our favorite uncle was in the James Montgomery Flagg's poster soliciting enlistments in the U. S. Army for World War I with the phrase, "I Want You." Uncle Sam sports a determined glare and a index finger pointing to whoever views the poster. Amazingly, this poster was never copyrighted and remains in print to this day.



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About 1896, the civil war veterans inhabiting the National Soldiers' Home in Sawtelle, California, decided to form a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. When they decided to name the post, the members chose "Uncle Sam" for their moniker. G.A.R. posts had a free hand in choosing a name. Only the names of living individuals were prohibited. Most chose deceased civil war heroes, battles, regiments or ships. When prominent figures like Grant, Sheridan or Sherman died, many posts rushed to add these noble dead to their Post Name. "Uncle Sam" was truly an unusual and unique post name. Below is a lapel pin from Uncle Sam G.A.R. Post No. 177.



The Actual size is 13/16's of an inch (21mm) high and the same size across the top. A diagonal catch pin is on the reverse for attachment.

The former Veterans home, now a VA hospital is located in Sawtelle, an unincorporated area in the western part of Los Angeles County. The home was founded in 1888, named for a Mexican War hero, Major Washington Sewall Sawtelle. Adjacent to the hospital is the Los Angeles National Cemetery, which contains the remains of 85,000 veterans and their families. Every American War from the Mexican to Iraq is represented.



Early 20th Century Memorial Day Post Card -
Veterans at Sawtelle Cemetery

Lafayette Post 140, NYC & the Spanish American War

By George G. Kane

One of the largest and most influential posts in the Department of New York, G.A.R. was Lafayette Post No. 140 of New York City. The post membership consisted of the elite of New York City's civil war veterans. Members were doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians and a cadre of active career military officers.

On February 15, 1898, the *USS Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor. For years the US Government had complained about the treatment of native Cubans and had supported the Cuban rebel army. Although modern evidence leans toward a coal fire in the ship's lower decks that ignited the ammunition locker, most Americans blamed a mine planted by the Spanish on the destruction of the *USS Maine*.

On April 15, 1898, the Lafayette GAR Post voted to raise a regiment of infantry to be used in a war against the Kingdom of Spain in Cuba. The regiment would be called the Lafayette Post Regiment. A week later, Spain declared War against the United States. On April 25th, Congress declared war against Spain, retroactive to April 21st.

The regiment to be raised by the post would consist mainly of the sons of members and "other picked men." Unfortunately Washington never accepted the regiment. The government had given the right to raise volunteers in the State of New York, exclusively to the State National Guard. Even with its political connections, efforts to raise the regiment fell on deaf ears.

One of the "other picked men" was Alexander Malcomb Wetherill (1845-1898). Born in Philadelphia, Wetherill had enlisted in Landis' Independent Battery, Pennsylvania Light Artillery, a Germantown / Chestnut Hill unit in 1863. After the war, Wetherill joined the US Army. He served in many forts throughout the west. In 1898, Wetherill was Captain of Company A of the 6th US Infantry. In June of 1898, the 6th US Infantry left Tampa, Florida destined for Cuba. Wetherill's company was attached to the 1st US Cavalry, which had a charismatic officer named Teddy Roosevelt. On July First of 1898, The 6th US Infantry, the 1st Cavalry and the 10th US Cavalry, led by "Black Jack" Pershing charged Spanish positions at Kettle and San Juan Hills. One of the first casualties of the battle was Captain Wetherill. He became the

first G.A.R. (a member since 12/18/1891) member to die in battle during the Spanish American War. The 43-year old veteran's body was returned to the United States on the *USS Michigan*. He was buried with full military honors at the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia. He left a wife, a 23-year old daughter and a 19-year old son.



Alexander Malcomb Wetherill

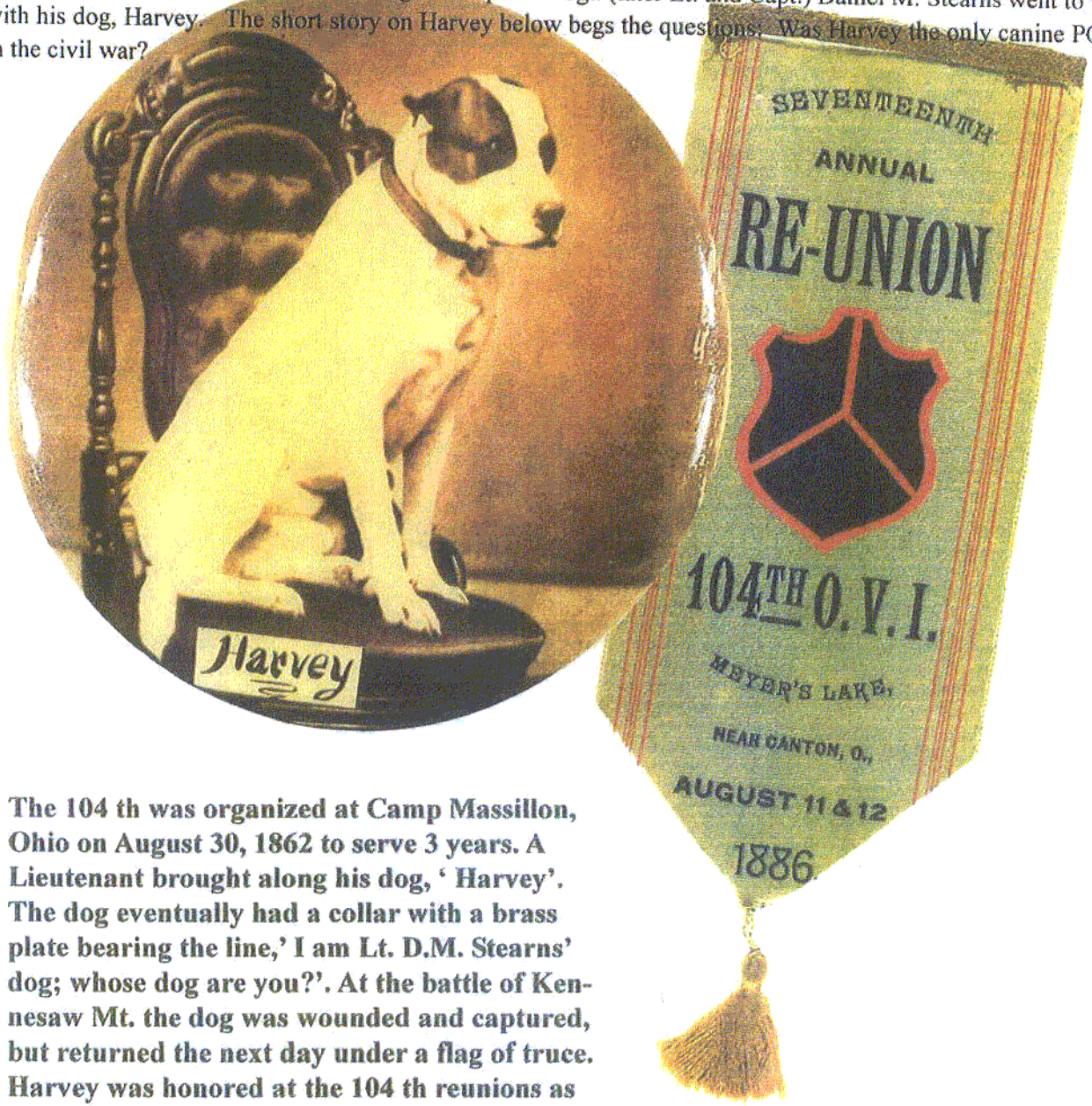
Blocked from raising a regiment, the post redirected its efforts to recruiting and outfitting. Several of its members donated office space for recruiting stations. Others offered large halls for parading and inspection of the troops. Other members donated cloth and made this cloth into uniforms.

In December of 1898, the post received a letter from the Adjutant General of the Army. Besides thanking the post for its efforts, he added: "Please say to Lafayette Post that its work in support of the Government during the war with Spain was second to that of no other organization in the country, and so far as I am able to speak for the War Department, I thank you, each and every one of you" (Proceedings of 33rd Annual Encampment, GAR, Dept. of New York, pages 178-183).

After the war, the post again stepped forward and presented American flags to schools in Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Harvey the Dog, POW
By George Finlayson, MD

Animals played important parts in the waging of war during the Civil War. Horses and mules helped to move men and supplies throughout the war. Horses were not the only animals to fight in battles. The Iron Brigade went into battle with Abe, an eagle on a perch. Sgt. (later Lt. and Capt.) Daniel M. Stearns went to war with his dog, Harvey. The short story on Harvey below begs the questions: Was Harvey the only canine POW in the civil war?



The 104 th was organized at Camp Massillon, Ohio on August 30, 1862 to serve 3 years. A Lieutenant brought along his dog, ' Harvey'. The dog eventually had a collar with a brass plate bearing the line, ' I am Lt. D.M. Stearns' dog; whose dog are you?'. At the battle of Kenesaw Mt. the dog was wounded and captured, but returned the next day under a flag of truce. Harvey was honored at the 104 th reunions as the cello suggests.

The GAR Broom Badge

By George G. Kane

The G. A. R. Department of New York annual encampment in 1909 was held in Binghamton on June 15-17. As usual the Badge committee designed and had manufactured various badges for the encampment. When the veterans arrived at the encampment and signed in, they received their various delegate, committee and other badges. When they first looked at their delegate badges, a drop attached to the hanger might have puzzled them. The drop was a broom. The broom is not a usual military or fraternal insignia.



Some G.A.R. department badges displayed a prominent product of the town or city where the encampment was held. This was not the case with this badge.

Binghamton, New York is the county seat for Broome County. The county, which borders Pennsylvania in South Central New York, was created from Tioga County in 1806. The name comes from the Lt. Governor of New York at that time, John Broome (1738-1810). So you see, the broom on the badge was just a play on words, a homophonic pun (two words that sound alike, but are spelled differently).

The pendant on the badge portrays a bust of the Department Commander, William H. Daniels (1840-1916), who was elected at the 1908 Dept. Encampment. The reverse depicts the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Binghamton.

The GAR Typewriter Badge

By George G. Kane

Yet another G.A.R. Department of New York badge has an unusual feature. This time the drop on the 1905 G.A.R. Department of New York Delegate badge features a typewriter.



Above and below the typewriter is "typewriter city". This encampment was held in Syracuse, NY on June 20-22, 1905. In 1903 the nickname "Typewriter City" was applied to Syracuse due to the fact that three major typewriter corporations existed in the city at the same time. In 1906 one of these companies erected the largest "Typewriter Building" in the world.

The pendant on this badge is in the shape of a military backpack with a bedroll tied to the top. The bust on top of the backpack is that of Department Commander Henry N. Burnhams (1839 - 1908) elected at the 1904 encampment.

A Veteran Tragedy By George G. Kane

Nathan Yeager Munshower was born May 6, 1844 in the sleepy little town of East Vincent, Pennsylvania. In August of 1861, Nathan would leave his job as a farm hand and travel to Philadelphia to enlist in Company H, 82nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The 82nd would participate in all the major battles in the East. After a stint defending the Capitol, the regiment would participate in 31 major battles. Included were Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania, Petersburg and Appomattox CH, just to name a few.

After the war, Nathan settled in Ironton, Ohio, married and became a liquor salesman. For a short period he was a Marshal in Ironton. Eventually he became involved in Veteran organizations, first with the G.A.R and later with the Union Veteran Legion. After moving to Columbus, Ohio, Nathan joined Encampment No. 78. After years of serving as Commander of this encampment, Nathan was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Union Veteran Legion on Sept. 16, 1910. Exactly a month later the CIC lacerated his leg when he slipped on a carriage step, while visiting an encampment in Zanesville, Ohio. On November 12th, his leg infected and suffering from blood poisoning, Munshower agreed to have his leg amputated at the knee. On November 16th, exactly two months after his election as CIC of the UVL, Nathan Munshower died. He left a widow, a son and a daughter.

1910 UVL
National
Encampment
Badge,
Atlantic City,
NJ



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A “Shameful” Quotation By John Mills III

The following quotation is often listed as authored by Anonymous or Unknown:

“Poor is the nation that has no heroes, but shameful is the one that, having them, forgets them.”

The word “shameful” is often replaced with the archaic term “beggard”. The earliest sighting of this quotation on the Internet is from the 1908 Republican National Convention. Another web site attributes the quote to Abraham Lincoln. The quotation is also found on a Confederate monument erected in 1990 at the battle site of Davis Bridge (Hatchie River) in Bolivar, Tennessee. I doubt Confederate supporters would have used that quote if they knew it came from Abraham Lincoln. If any member has any knowledge of the history of this quotation, could they please send it to John Mills, III, 217 Lowry Lane, Lexington, KY 40503-2614.



A Confederate Leg By George G. Kane

Robert Alexander Hanna left something on the battlefield at Gettysburg ... his leg. Hanna received gunshot wounds just above the ankle and to the head. They removed the grapeshot from his head and hacked off his leg beneath the knee. Hanna, a corporal in the 26th North Carolina Infantry, returned to his farm and turpentine mill soon after the battle. After he returned home, he began whittling wooden legs for various occasions.

In 1866, the State of North Carolina began a program to provide artificial limbs to civil war soldiers. The state would pay for transportation and lodging to any veteran who would travel to Raleigh for fitting of the new leg. For those who didn't want a leg or wanted a different style, the state paid each \$75. Fifteen Hundred veterans applied for the legs from 1866 to 1870. Recently an ancestor of Robert Hanna lent his state supplied artificial leg to the Bentonville Battlefield Museum. The leg is the only known surviving copy. Most of the others were buried with the veteran or fell apart after long use. Hanna only used his leg for special occasions. It was his “Sunday go to meeting leg.” He also wore it to dances were he made use of its flexible toe. He never put a shoe or boot on the leg.

UVU Lapel Button Varieties
By George G. Kane

While looking at my UVU badges for articles in last issue, I noticed that there were differences in all three of my copies of UVU Lapel Buttons. The buttons are all silver washed over a bronze button. On the obverse the spaces between the star arms are enameled behind the society initials and civil war dates. The backs of these buttons, none of which have a manufacturer's mark are silver washed. One of the backs has the silver removed and a yellowish metal appears, probably bronze or brass. All three have round studs, the shaft that connects the button to the back.



The main difference between all three is the size and thickness of the fonts. Notice the size of the "V" on all three copies. The "V" in the second example (above) appears to be the largest, while the same letter on the first button (left) is just slightly smaller. Note the space between the bottom of the "V" and the star. The font of the third example (below) is considerably thinner. The "U" in the yellow field is slightly off centered.

Check your copies of this button and let us know if you've discovered any other differences



The differences between the first two buttons are slight. All three measure 18mm across, but the back on the first example is 14mm while the other two measure 13mm. The most observable difference on the first two copies is the enamel color under the "U" and "1865". The first appears to have a normal red while the second has a very deep dark carmine. The difference could be attributed to fading, but the blue and yellow enamel don't appear to have faded.



Sailing with the LGAR to Pittsburgh By Rance Hulshart

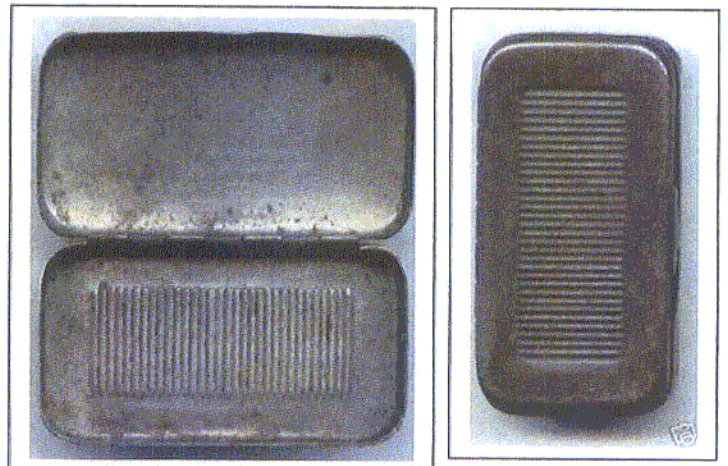
The sculpture shown below is actually a flower vase. The vase is 12 inches tall and made of brass. It was sold as a souvenir at the 68th National Encampment of the G.A.R. held in Pittsburgh in 1933. The star on the boat is a Ladies of the GAR star rather than a GAR star. It's possible that this was issued with other affiliate organization logos.



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Souvenir Match Safe 1894 By Rance Hulshart

The match safe below is a souvenir of the G.A.R. National Encampment held in Pittsburgh, PA in 1894. The safe measures 5 inches wide by 2 inches tall. The safe is made of tin. The safe is hinged at the top. The grate on the bottom of the safe is for striking and igniting the match. These were very popular at the turn of the century, but fell out of favor with the introduction of cigarette lighters.



The match safe was invented to carry friction matches. Friction matches were invented in 1826 in England. The friction matches of the 19th century contained phosphorous, which was easily combustible. The first match safes were canister shaped, first manufactured in the 1840's. The rectangular shape, shown above, was adopted to more readily view advertising.