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The Veteran

July - September 2008

The Renaming of the G.A.R. Auxiliaries

By George G. Kane

In 1925, three of the Grand Army of the Republic auxiliaries, the Sons of Veterans, Daughters of Veterans and the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary, changed their names to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Sounds pretty cut and dry. In actuality, the renaming of these three groups took over a decade. During that time, the names to which they eventually changed were not the popular choices.

At the G.A.R. Department of California encampment at Stockton in June of 1912, a resolution was created that was to be presented at the next national encampment at Los Angeles, CA in September of that year. The resolution passed and was presented to the national encampment resolution committee. The following response from that committee is found on page 267 of the encampment journal of the 1912 national meeting:

"The committee recommended that two resolutions as to change of the name of Sons of Veterans to Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic be indefinitely postponed, and the recommendation was concurred in."

The G.A.R. Department of Illinois had also presented an identical resolution. Evidently a name change was not an unusual idea in the G.A.R. or the S.V. Since the Civil War, the United States had fought a few more wars. The Indian Wars, Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion had spawned quite a few veteran organizations with male and female auxiliaries. All of a sudden, the title "Sons of Veterans" seemed quite ambiguous. America's participation in the Great War would intensify the Sons willingness to change their name.

In 1921, a resolution was presented to the GAR national encampment to change the name of the Sons of Veteran. Past GAR CIC Charles Burton, speaking for the resolution committee, gave the opinion that the G.A.R. *"has nothing to do with the domestic affairs of any of these organizations. They select their own name, and we therefore move it be indefinitely postponed."* Unfortunately, another auxiliary problem that had been festering for a dozen years became a heated debate during the encampment. In 1907, the Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic broke away from the Daughters of Veterans. Since that time, the DGAR

(Continued on Page 3)



Sons of Veterans
Membership Badge
Philadelphia Faction

The President's Message

Dear Members:

I have noticed over the last couple of months that some very interesting items have come up for sale. Items of UVL & UVU and their auxiliaries seem to be reaching the market more often than they had in the past. There have been several GAR newspapers for sale. I find these papers very interesting and quite full of GAR information, especially the early editions. I have been able to obtain several new items of the Mississippi Marine Brigade Veterans organization. These are extremely hard to find. I urge you to keep your eyes open for rare items coming onto the market. If you find one, write an article and send it to George Kane, our "Veteran" Editor. I am sure that he would appreciate it. Once again, I urge the membership to write or e-mail me with any questions of which I can be of help.

Dan M. Mitchell, President

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* * *

Women's Relief Corps Book

One of our members is working on a book on Women's Relief Corps National Encampment ribbons and badges. Below is a list of ribbons and badges needed to complete this project. Proper credit will be awarded in the book. Please contact the Editor.

Ribbons: 1917, 1934, 1947, 1948,

Badges: 1886, 1921, 1927

Table of Contents

The Renaming of the G.A.R. Auxiliaries	1, 3, 4
President's and Editor's Messages	2
Auxiliary Badge Changes	5
Sons' Splinter Groups	6, 7
Sons' Encampments	7
G.A.R. Form for Degree Advancement	8
Shiloh Survivors Badge Update	9
The Veteran of the Grand Army	10
A GAUV Token	11
A Poor UCV Reunion Token	11
The Mystery of Silent Sisc	12
A Physical Initiation	12

The Veteran, Page 2
July - September 2008

The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

This is the beginning of my 10th year as Editor of *The Veteran*. After all these years, it becomes harder and harder to come up with a new slate of articles for every issue. I would appreciate it if the membership could look into their collections and find something unusual. My strength is with the GAR, so if you could dig up some Confederate material, it would be greatly appreciated. Send me a photo, a scan, or a drawing with a little information on the subject and let me do the rest.

This month's theme is the affiliated orders of the G.A.R. The veterans had hoped that the female auxiliaries would eventually merge into one group. Unfortunately, that has never occurred. I always thought that the renaming of the Sons of Veterans *et al.* was a rather cut and dry affair in 1925, but the truth is a lot more complicated. If left up to the Sons, the names of three organizations would have been completely different. I hope you enjoy this issue.
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.

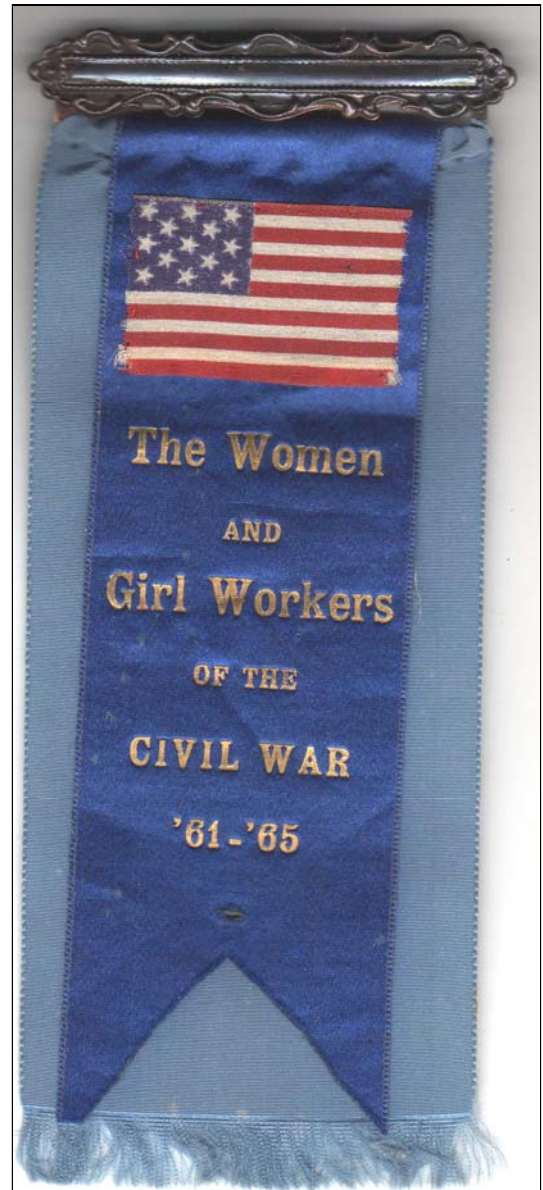
had unsuccessfully lobbied the GAR national encampments for recognition. In 1920 yet another organization, the Women and Girl Workers of the Civil War was lobbying the G.A.R. for recognition. This California group was organized at the 1918 department encampment in Oakland. To stem the tide of these new organizations the G.A.R. passed the following resolution:

“Resolved: That no society of women which is not at this time associated or affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic, shall be hereafter associated, affiliated or recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic.”

It was assumed that the Daughters of Veterans would probably follow the lead of the Sons of Veterans in a name change. If the Sons chose “Sons of the G.A.R.”, then the Daughters of Veterans would be unable to follow their lead, as another organization owned that name.

Commander in Chief Ketcham added that no organization should be allowed, “to tack to their name the Grand Army of the Republic.” Past CIC Clarendon Adams emphasized this point by stating, “that some 8 or 10 years ago ... we copyrighted the name of the Grand Army of the Republic and it should not be used by any other society.” Both had evidently forgotten that the GAR had recognized the Ladies of the GAR in 1886. Soon after, the Sons of Veterans complained that their resolution had been “improperly drawn”. A new resolution was hastily drawn and presented, but it was tabled.

At the 1922 national encampment the renaming question was again broached. This time the G.A.R. recommended three different names, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of Union Veterans of the War of 1861-1865, and Sons of Defenders of the Union. A number of SV departments still backed “Sons of the G.A.R.”



The 1923 encampment brought two more name recommendations, Sons of Lincoln Veterans and Sons of Union Veterans. It also introduced the idea of merging the Daughters of Veterans with the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary. The Sons National Encampment of that year sent a resolution to the GAR to name a committee that would meet with a SV committee that would “consider ... a change in the name of the order of the Sons of Veterans that would more clearly indicate and designate of whom the order consists.”

In 1924, the joint committee of the national bodies of the G.A.R. and SV met in February to discuss and decide on a future name for the SV. The committee selected “Sons of the G.A.R.” and submitted this name to the 1924 Boston G.A.R. National Encampment. On May 28, just before the encampment, General Order No. 6 was issued. It stated “The name hereafter to be borne by the Sons of Veterans is not yet settled and may be determined at the Boston encampment.”

(Continued on page 4)

1924 turned out to be an unusual convention. The Commander-in-Chief's opening speech suggested that all the women auxiliaries merge into one organization. The 1924 encampment would introduce another wrinkle. The Daughters of Veterans and the Daughters of the G.A.R. had formed a joint committee with the intent of merging. This obviously failed, as the D.G.A.R. was still active as late as the mid 1960's. A delegate from Wisconsin sponsored a resolution recognizing the DGAR. This while the DV and the DGAR were still seeking a merger. It was tabled. The encampment seemed to be preoccupied with the William Chandler affair. Chandler had succeeded to the office of Department Commander of the Department of Tennessee when his eligibility for membership was questioned. A previous national encampment had exonerated him, but the department refused to reinstate him. To top it off, the annual parade was held during a torrential rainstorm. After all was said and done, the Sons name hadn't changed, but they did get the right to attend GAR Post meetings without vote.

At the 1925 national encampment, the opening remarks of the leaders of the affiliated orders failed to mention the renaming controversy, but Past CIC William J. Patterson interjected. "Why not have some distinctive name for the sons of the Civil War veterans to distinguish them from all others, from the members of other wars?" Soon after, the Department of Wisconsin attempted to enter a report on the Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic, but the report was referred to the committee on conference between Daughters of Veterans and Daughters of the G.A.R. The three members of that committee were also the members of the committee that sought a new name for the Sons, all of which were past CIC's, Willett, Burton and King. Finally, on September 3rd, Past CIC James W. Willett announced that the committee was ready to give its report. The report declared that the Sons of Veterans had settled on a name change. He read from the Sons resolution:

"Whereas, that (GAR) committee has communicated to the committee representing our order, that they have unanimously decided to recommend to the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic that the Order of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America, adopt the name "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War." Other sections of the resolution dealt with the change in the Sons constitution, regulations, ritual, badges, forms, etc. and to legally change the corporate name. The GAR encampment approved the resolution unanimously with a rising vote. The committee had drafted a resolution recognizing the name change. It was voted on and approved by the encampment. An almost identical report on the name change of the Daughters of Veterans was introduced with the same results. No report on the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary was given, but it must have been assumed that they would follow the same course of action as the Sons.

From 1921 to 1925, the GAR's opinion on the name change went from indifference and "not our business" to pressuring the three affiliated orders to accept a name other than their main choice. As late as 1924, the Sons of Veterans was pushing for the "Sons of the GAR." After a final joint committee meeting during the 1925 encampment, the Sons accepted the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" moniker. Comments made during this process by the GAR indicated that they wouldn't accept any name with their organizational name included. The problem of the "Daughters of the GAR" might have also affected the outcome. Unfortunately committee notes were never made public so we will never know for sure why the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" name won out over the "Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic" name.

Auxiliary Badge Changes By George G. Kane

When the Auxiliaries of the Grand Army of the Republic changed their names in 1925, a lot of other regalia had to be changed as well. The Sons of Veterans Badge had caused some confusion with its latin inscriptions. The Hanger had the inscription *FILLI VETERANORUM*, which is Latin for “Sons of Veterans.” This was changed to a two line inscription, SONS OF UNION VETERANS / OF THE CIVIL WAR. The wording on the SV pendant is also Latin *GRATIA DEI SERVATUS*. The SUVCW badge English lettering is PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD. The reverse also changed with the SV seal giving way to the monogram USA surrounded by a banderole with the phrase SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR.



Sons of Veterans / Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - S of V Auxiliary / Aux. To Sons of Union Veterans of the CW

The Auxiliary badges also changed. The ladies opted to go with a substantially smaller membership badge. The original badge was about 3 ¼ inches tall while the new badge was 2 ⅝ inches tall. The SV Aux. hanger was 1½ inches wide while the SUVCW Aux badge was a quarter inch shorter. The pendant on the SV Aux. Badge was 1 ⅜ inches wide, the SUVCW Aux. Badge was only 1 ⅛ inches long. The monogram on the reverse was removed for the new version, leaving a blank back.

Below: Daughters of Veterans membership Badge.
Right: Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War membership badge.



DV and DUVCW Badges courtesy of Bob Wolz

The Daughters of Veterans also changed their membership badges with the name change. The original badge was a hanger without wording, two rows of chain and a simple round pendant with the initials “DV” in the center.

The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War went a slightly larger badge. The hanger has the initials “FCL”, which stand for Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty. The hanger is attached to the pendant with a red, white and blue vertical striped ribbon. The ribbon is attached to the pendant with a chain link and an eyehole at the top of the pendant. The monogram “DUV” is in the center of the pendant surrounded by a crown of laurel with a banderole around the edge with the inscription “Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865”

Sons' Splinter Groups

By George Kane

In the late 1870's, some fifteen years after the end of the civil war, the siblings of that great conflict began to form organizations to aid their veteran fathers with the work of easing the pains of growing old. Almost from the outset, there was dissension within the generation. Separate organizations were formed in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Massachusetts' organization spread to the states of New Jersey and Missouri. Two separate organizations formed in Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans and the Sons of Veterans of Pennsylvania. In 1880 the Massachusetts camp joined the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans. In 1882 the Sons of Veterans of Pennsylvania changed their name to the Sons of Veterans of the USA. In 1883, 33 of the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans left the order and joined the SV of USA.

At the 1883 GAR National Encampment in Denver, Colorado, the GAR showed its displeasure with the conflict between the two Sons organizations. CIC Paul Van Der Vort stated in his opening address:

"The two branches of the Sons of Veterans have made progress. In accordance with the resolution of the last National Encampment, I have encouraged these societies. I have not encouraged the officers and members of either branch in their warfare with each other. I have endeavored to restore harmony, and have earnestly desired that they should act like sons of veterans. I believe that the difficulty between these organizations has been fomented and fanned largely by members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Many of our noblest members have given time and money, and worked hard to establish one or the other branch of this organization. They should harmonize at once. If their proper officers do not appear here and coalesce, this Encampment should recognize one branch or the other."

Needless to say, the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans did not appear and the recognition fell to the Sons of Veterans of the USA. Eventually all the Philadelphia camps joined the SVUSA. The last two camps were assimilated in August of 1886.

***The Veteran – Page 6
July – September 2008***

Just when it looked like the unity would prevail, a new organization of sons emerged in New York. Identified as the "Post system", the GAR let this group know that it would not be welcomed. In 1889 this organization joined the SVUSA.

The Spanish American War had two effects on the Sons. The war saw so many sons volunteer that many camps were disbanded. When the sons returned as veterans, they began to form their own societies. To show they had not learned from their SV experience, the largest organization split into two groups, the Spanish War Veterans and the Spanish American War Veterans. They eventually came back together in 1904.

In 1905, SV camps in Colorado came together to form the Sons of the GAR. Over 100 men joined this outfit, but it did not last. In 1907 another defection saw the creation of the Sons of Union Veterans. At least this group had a membership badge.



Badge courtesy of Bob Wolz

Continued on next page

Sons Splinter Groups

(continued from previous Page)

The badge on the opposite page has a hanger, two ribbons, two rows of chain and a shield shaped pendant. The pendant reads, "Fred H. Alms / Commandery No. 1." Frederick H. Alms (1839-1898) was a business executive in Cincinnati, Ohio. He owned, in partnership with his brother, Almes and Doepke Co., the leading wholesale and retail dry goods merchants in the Queen City. He served in the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and later in the US Signal Corps in the civil war.

The first ribbon looks like a GAR post officer flag ribbon while the second backing ribbon is red, white and blue vertically striped with a dove tail. Two rows of chain are attached to the hanger on one end and a shield shaped pendant on the other end. At the top of the pendant is "Sons of Union Veterans." On the raised portion of the pendant are 13 stars across the top, two laurel branches, the monogram SUV and the dates 1861-1865 below the laurel. Below these dates, on the outside section of the shield is the date Oct. 11, 1907.

In 1930, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Dept. of Wisconsin mustered in a Camp 50, named Hans C. Heg Camp of Madison. By 1933, this camp was calling itself Hans C. Heg Camp No. 1, Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic. I found them in local Wisconsin newspapers as late as 1940.

In the 1930's, the DGAR threatened to create their own auxiliary, the Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic, if the GAR did not recognize them. The GAR ignored the threat and no such organization was ever created by the DGAR.

Today, only a few vestiges of these splinter groups still exist. CWWHA member Jerry Orton told me that when he lived in Leavenworth, Kansas, the local hall was called the Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic Hall.

Alternate Sons of Veterans

National Encampments

By George G. Kane

For their first twenty years (1882-1901) the Sons of Veterans did not hold their National Encampments in the same cities as the G.A.R. In some years, the two groups held their national conventions on opposite coasts. In 1886 the GAR held its National Encampment in San Francisco while the Sons were in Buffalo, NY. Below is a list of all alternate encampments held by the Sons (GAR encampment in parenthesis):

- 1882 Pittsburgh, PA (Baltimore, MD)
- 1883 Columbus, OH (Denver, CO)
- 1884 Philadelphia, PA (Minneapolis, MN)
- 1885 Portland, ME (Grand Rapids, MI)
- 1886 San Francisco, CA (Buffalo, NY)
- 1887 Des Moines, IA (St. Louis, MO)
- 1888 Wheeling, WV (Columbus, OH)
- 1889 Paterson, NJ (Milwaukee, WI)
- 1890 St. Joseph, MO (Boston, MA)
- 1891 Minneapolis, MN (Detroit, MI)
- 1892 Helena, MT (Washington, DC)
- 1893 Cincinnati, OH (Indianapolis, IN)
- 1894 Davenport, IA (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 1895 Knoxville, TN (Louisville, KY)
- 1896 Louisville, KY (St. Paul, MN)
- 1897 Indianapolis, IN (Buffalo, NY)
- 1898 Omaha, NE (Cincinnati, OH)
- 1899 Detroit, MI (Philadelphia, PA)
- 1900 Syracuse, NY (Chicago, IL)
- 1901 Providence, RI (Cleveland, OH)
- 1903 Atlantic City, NJ (San Francisco, CA)

- 1905 Gettysburg, PA (Denver, CO)
- 1906 Peoria, IL (Minneapolis, MN)
- 1907 Dayton, OH (Saratoga Spgs, NY)
- 1908 Niagara Falls, NY (Toledo, OH)
- 1909 Washington, DC (Salt Lake City, UT)

- 1912 St. Louis, MO (Los Angeles, CA)

- 1918 Niagara Falls, NY (Portland, OR)

G.A.R. Form for Degree Advancement By George G. Kane

One of the more grievous missteps by the GAR occurred in 1869 with the introduction of the "Grade System". In May of 1869 at the GAR National Encampment at Cincinnati, Ohio, Brevet Brig. General James Shaw Jr. of Rhode Island as Chairman of the committee on Revised Rules and Regulations and Ritual introduced a resolution that would create a degree system within the Grand Army. Degrees had been used for years in Masonic organizations. General Logan, the National Commander is thought to have been the force behind the drafting of this resolution. The three degrees would be Recruit, Soldier and Veteran.

The first degree, Recruit, was an entry-level degree. Recruits could not speak or vote at Post meetings or seek or hold office. After two months they could advance onto the Soldier degree. Although they could speak and vote at Post meetings, a member of the Soldier degree could not seek or hold office. A member of the soldier degree could not advance to the Veteran degree until six months after his muster into the soldier degree. Post, department and national offices could only be held by members of the veteran degree. To advance to any degree, the candidate must complete the "obligations" of that degree.

The degree system was instituted to make the Ritual seem more attractive and to increase interest in Post meetings. Instead, it had the opposite effect. Members became disgusted with the complicated maneuvers needed to pass from one degree to the next. At the 1871 National Encampment in Boston, the degree system was abolished.

The 1870 Form below needed to be completed before a member of the Soldier Degree could advance to the Veteran Degree. The form lists the applicants degree dates for Recruit and Soldier and asks to be advanced to the grade of Veteran. The bottom section of the form (not shown) is signed by two Veteran degree members stating that they "have the honor to propose our brother Soldier Comrade of this Post, for the advancement to the grade of Veteran." A vote at the next Post meeting would finalize the process. Note the abbreviation "Enct". ("Encampment") after the Post name..

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE VETERAN GRADE
OF
Erissin Enct. Post. No. *109* Department of *Massachusetts*.
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

I, *Ephraim Adams* a soldier of *Erissin Enct.*
Post No. *109* Department of *Massachusetts*, Grand Army of the Republic,
desirous of being advanced to the grade of Veteran, respectfully represent that I was mustered as a Recruit
into *Erissin Enct.* Post, No. *109*, Department of *Massachusetts*,
on the *31st* day of *Dec*, 18*69* and was advanced to the grade of Soldier in
Post No. *109* Department of *Massachusetts*, on the *29th*
day of *Apr* 18*70*

Signature, *Ephraim Adams*

Shiloh Survivors Badge Update

By Tom McCrory

After reading George Kane's feature article on "The National Association of Battle of Shiloh Survivors", I realized that I have a copy of this badge that has significant differences from the three types discussed in that article. My copy is similar to the type II variety from that article. We will call my copy type IV. If you look at the comparisons below, you'll notice almost every detail is slightly different between these two badges. If you look at the hangers, you'll notice that the left edge is round on the type IV and slightly irregular on the type II. The word "Shiloh" is slightly larger on the type IV and the letter "S" has serifs and the type II has none. The two stars on the type II badge hanger are quite a bit larger and of a different shape. The coffee can drop is noticeably larger. The rings are of different sizes and soldered at two different spots. The canteen spout and cap at the top of the pendants are very different. One cap is the same size as the spout while the other has a fluted cap. The lettering surrounding the battlefield in the center of the pendant differ in size, font and case. The battle scenes in the center of the pendant are seen from two different angles. The type II battle scene is from an elevated view while the type IV scene is from a lower vantage point. Finally, the legend on the pendant is from two separate organizations. The type IV badge is from the earlier Shiloh Battlefield Association, founded 1893, while the type II is from the National Association of Battle of Shiloh Survivors, founded in 1905.



The reverse of these badges is quite similar. The wording, insignia and other graphics are the same, but just a little bit different. The sizing and detail of everything on the reverse is noticeably larger on the SBA pendant versus the Survivors pendant. To the left is a picture of a civil war veteran wearing two badges on his Grand Army double-breasted uniform. To the left is a GAR past officers badge, possibly a Post commander. The second badge is either a SBA or Survivors membership badge. The badge is washed out in the picture but is definitely in the shape of one of these badges. In retrospect the SBA badge probably should be listed as such and not a subcategory or type of the National Association of Battle of Shiloh Survivors membership badge.

The Veteran of the Grand Army By George G. Kane

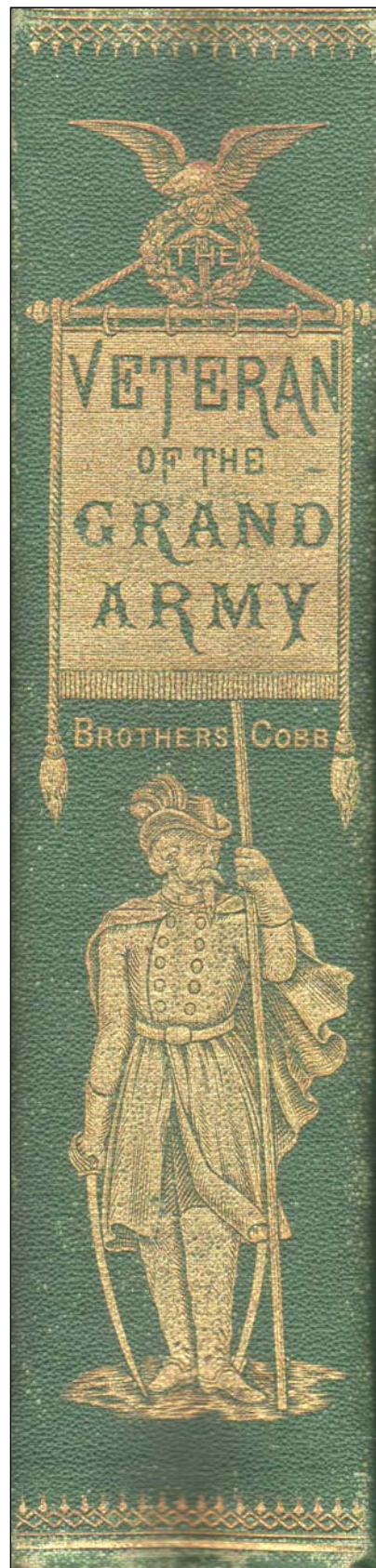
The English Novel finds its origins in 16th Century Elizabethan England. In the 18th century, the modern novel evolved with the works of Daniel Defoe (*Robinson Crusoe*, *Moll Flanders*), Samuel Richardson (*Pamela*) and Henry Fielding (*Tom Jones*). 19th Century American Novelists began to assert themselves with Harriet Beecher Stowe (*Uncle Toms Cabin*) Mark Twain (*Tom Sawyer*) and Jack London (*The Call of the Wild*). Stowe's *Uncle Toms Cabin* helped to influence America's conscience, exposing the evils of slavery. Steven Crane's *Red Badge of Courage* is considered one of the greatest war novels of all time.

In 1871, twin brothers Darius and Cyrus Cobb published their only novel, "The Veteran of the Grand Army". The brothers were raised in Malden, Massachusetts and educated in Boston. Both boys served in Company F, 44th Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry during the Civil War, spending most of that service in North Carolina and the defense of Washington, D. C. The regiment was raised in September of 1862 and mustered out in June of 1863. The boys returned to Boston in 1863, marrying sisters in a double wedding by their minister father. For years the two families lived in adjacent houses. The brothers would become world famous as artists. Their only novel was marketed to veterans as based on their wartime experiences. The brothers were both members of William H. Smart G.A.R. Post No. 30 of Cambridgeport, Mass. The book was dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Veteran of the Grand Army is a morality work where the hero, General Julius Hammond matches wits with the evil businessmen and half-brothers Daniel Garvin and Jonas Cringer. Cringer has embezzled funds from his business and lost the money in the stock market. Garvin, a Wall Street stockbroker, attempts to deflect the blame to Cringer's partner, Alan Paige. Paige, a Colonel in the civil war, succumbs (by page 28) to multiple wounds he received during that war, leaving a wife and children.

The General, nicknamed "Old Thorbolt" by his regiment, is called "The Veteran" throughout the book. The Veteran helps to unravel the conspiracy, save the widow from poverty and keep the half-brothers from sullyng the name of a comrade.

The book had only one hard cover edition in 1871. It has an ornate presentation page by political cartoonist, Thomas Nast. The authors have produced an ink drawing of the two protagonists, Hammond and Garvin across from the title page. The General resembles abolitionist John Brown. In recent years, an English company has produced a soft cover edition. Save your money and go to Google Book (www.books.google.com) to read the entire book. You can download the entire book or read it on screen. If you want to cut and paste parts of the book, use "view plain text."



The Mystery of Silent Sisc

By George Kane

A few years ago, I purchased this strange GAR star pendant. It is obviously not from an actual GAR star and then ground down. The ends of the arms are bulbous and not trefolds. It was made to present to a comrade or patriotic citizen. The inscription reads:

**Presented
TO
Silent Sisc
By
Whittier Post
G.A.R.
May 27, 1879**

The words "Presented to" are in a short fat square font while the other words are in a fancy script. Were other stars created in a batch and inscriptions added later in script?



There are triangles within each of the stars' arms. The top two are both "S's". Is this for Silent Sisc or sharpshooter? The bottom three are all "G's". It can't be a camp number. Camp numbers this high didn't appear until ten years later. The Bible mentions this number as the number of "the beast." The Beast was a Satan-possessed human who will eventually become the absolute ruler of the earth, while claiming divine status. I doubt this was the Post's intention. The Post itself is probably Whittier Post No. 7 of Chicago, IL.

There was a similar named post in Whittier, California, but this was not mustered until 1899. The first mention of Whittier post in Chicago that I find is the 1881 Illinois department encampment journal. I've been unable to find any earlier reference, but it was probably mustered before 1879.

The name Sisc is unusual. The 1880 US census only lists one Sisc, Frank, in Defiance, Ohio. When he died in 1921 his name was spelled Sisk. The name "Silent" is also unusual. Using Heritage Quest Genealogical Software, I was able to query the US Census using only the given name of "Silent". Only eleven instances where the given name was "Silent" occurred from 1850 to 1920. Each instance was a different individual. None were ever repeated in a subsequent census. Is "Silent" a given name or a nickname? The nickname silent was sometimes given to individuals who were physically unable to speak.

Would anyone with any insight into this badge please contact me? Thanks.

A Physical Initiation

George G. Kane

I found the following short article in The New York Tribune of July 2, 1900, page 16.

Edward Holmes, a well-known young man from this city (Mount Vernon, NY), is suffering from a broken collarbone. He received the injury last weekend in Brooklyn while being initiated into the Sons of Veterans.

The New York Tribune and other newspapers can be found on the Library of Congress web site.

http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/search_fulltext_advanced.html

The newspapers are in the "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" section of the site. *Chronicling America* is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). This site allows you to search and view newspaper pages from 1880-1910 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present.

I have talked about this site before, but originally the site only had newspapers from 1900-1910. In the last year they added the years 1880-1899. In 2009, they plan on extending the back end to 1922.

A GAUV Token
By George G. Kane

At first glance, a token from an obscure Canadian city in south central British Columbia would have no place in this newsletter. Actually, this coin is from a World War I Canadian Veterans group. In 1917 civic reformer, W. D. Lighthall sent for the constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic to help local veterans get organized. Later that year, the Great War Veterans Association, was organized in Winnipeg and claimed to have over 10,000 members. During the war inflation ravaged the Canadian economy. Canadian Expeditionary Forces pay scales had remained low and steady throughout the war and disabled pensions were based on wage rates of unskilled labor. In 1919 the GWVA tried to litigate a \$2,000 bonus for war veterans to offset the low wages they had received in the service. The GWVA moved away from the issue when it feared that the bonus would hurt their efforts on behalf of widows and the disabled. Bonus Crusader J. Harry Flynn, an American who had served in the Canadian Medical Corps during WWI seized control of the organization in Toronto and formed the Grand Army of United Veterans in order to press the bonus issue that the GWVA had stopped supporting. In 1925, these groups and ten other veteran societies formed the Canadian Legion. The constitution of all these groups is based on the GAR's constitution.



The Veteran – Page 12
July – September 2008

A Poor UCV Reunion Token
By Everitt Bowles

The token below was issued at a reunion of the United Confederate Veterans. Unfortunately, the date and location of this piece is not given on the token. Is it a division or national event? That can not be determined. The obverse is dominated by a bust of General Robert E. Lee, while the reverse has the very dramatic verse: "Ain't it Hell to be Poor." The diameter of the coin is 35mm. I've only seen two of these in the last 20 years.



The phrase was actually copyrighted in 1910 by H. H. Tammen Curio Co., a Denver Colorado comic postcard company. Please Contact the Editor with any Information on this coin.

