



Volume 22, No. 3

The Veteran

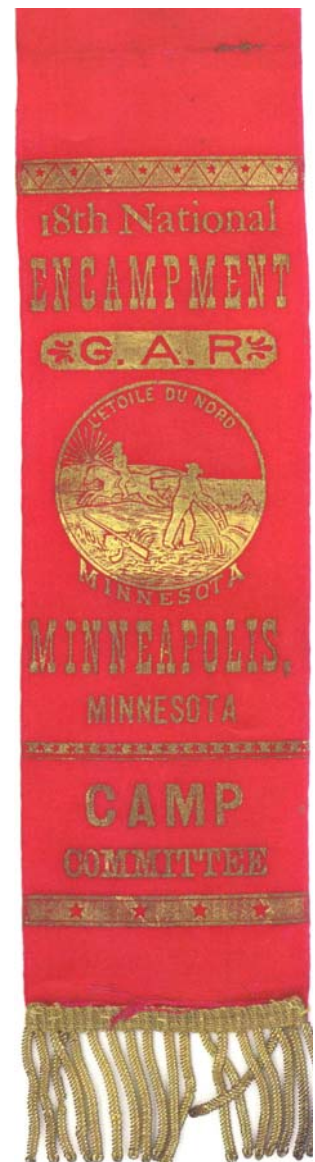
January – March 2009

1884 G.A.R. National Encampment Ribbon Revisited

By George G. Kane

For several years, collectors believed that no National Encampment Delegate Badge or Ribbon had been approved and issued for the 1884 Grand Army of the Republic 18th National Encampment that was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota during the dates, June 23-25. Collectors only sought delegate badges that ran from 1883 to 1949 less the year 1884. Ribbon delegate badges existed previously to 1883, but these were also discounted. Only the badges with metal hangers, drops and metal pendants were considered collectible. Most of these had backing ribbons, but two did not (1895, 1896). About ten years ago, a heated debate erupted among civil war veteran badge collectors. On the negative side, many pointed out that the ribbon presented as an 1884 G.A.R. National Encampment Delegate Badge was not mentioned in any G.A.R. journals, magazines or other printed materials. Many G.A.R. departments issued ribbon badges for each of the National Encampments. A few, like Massachusetts, produced ornate badges with hangers, drops and pendants. Obviously, the National offices for the encampment did not issue these badges. With this logic, it was assumed that the ribbons with just Minneapolis, Minnesota printed on them were from the department of Minnesota. The argument surrounding these ribbons goes on to this day. Recently CWWVA member Jerry Orton sent me photos of many of the ribbons and badges in his collection. Included was the ribbon shown at right. This 1884 National Encampment ribbon was almost identical to the 1884 ribbon that has been considered by many to be the delegate badge for this encampment. The difference between these two ribbons is the color and the addition of "Camp Committee" to the bottom of the ribbon. Exterior photos and prints of this encampment usually show a large tent encampment where most of the delegates, members and guests lived. The tents resembled tents used during the civil war. Most likely this is the "Camp" for which a committee was created. Committee badges, ribbons and other memorabilia are usually the purview of committees formed by the G.A.R. National offices in advance of an encampment.

(continued on page 27)



1884 Ribbon courtesy
of Jerry Orton

The President's Message

Dear Members:

It won't be long until the Ohio Civil War Show in Mansfield and spring will be in bloom. We have a great dinner meeting planned. New members from Johnstown, PA will tell us about their renovation of GAR Post 30 Building. That will be an informative program. Be SURE to send your dinner reservation to Dr. George Finlayson when the information is published. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you.

Dan M. Mitchell
President

The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

The Association will be holding its 23rd National Encampment on May 2-3, 2008 at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, Ohio. Below is the membership ribbon for the encampment and meeting, again provided by George Finlayson. It'll be easy to pick out your fellow members with your "Tomato Neon" colored CWVHA ribbon.

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23rd National Encampment & Banquet

The 23rd National Encampment of the CWVHA will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Comfort Inn, Saturday, May 2, 2009. A cash bar will open at 6:00pm and a buffet dinner at 6:30. There will be a choice of 3 entrée's and side dishes. Price is \$ 18.00 per person. Please mail checks to:

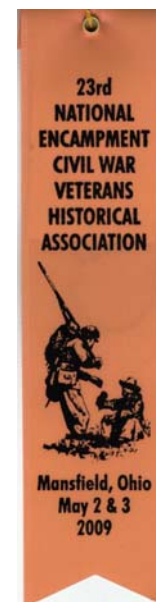
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Call for Reservations to (419) 526-3327

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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.



UCV Membership Pin Sighting? By George Finlayson

After reading George Kane's article on a Design Patent for a United Confederate Veterans' membership badge or pin, I thought I remembered seeing such a pin in an old photo. What I found is shown below. This is a group photo of the executive committee for the 1898 Atlanta National UCV Reunion. The photo was on the cover of the July 1898 issue of the *Confederate Veteran*. All of these members have a large pin on their left lapel with the Confederate battle flag. I thought that this might be the same pin designed by J. F. Shipp in 1895. Unfortunately, George pointed out that the rather large pin (2 inches wide or larger) did not seem to have an inscription field on the outside border. The ends of the cross arms appear to touch the outside border. There doesn't appear to be anything printed on the pin. He did send me a photo of a 1905 ribbon that he had received from Jerry Orton. This delegate ribbon is for a Missouri Division Reunion of the UCV held in Kansas City, MO. A Red, White and Blue printed facsimile of Shipp's pin stands out against the tan background and dark gray print on the rest of the ribbon. Please note the outside border inscription field with "UCV" and "1861-1865" printed on the ribbon.



The WRC & the London Branch

By George G. Kane

The 1910 founding of the London Branch of American Civil War Veterans wasn't met with much hoopla. The Department of Pennsylvania, G.A.R. did send a representative to England to try to enlist the fledgling organization into the Department's stable of foreign posts, but nothing ever materialized. In February 1915, the death in London of Edward Monroe, purported to be the oldest veteran of the American civil war at 106 years old, reached print in American newspapers. The newspapers reported that the funeral was held under the direction of the London Branch, but many columns reported the London Branches name as "London Branch, Grand Army of the Republic." A 1916 Independence Day celebration by this group was reported in American papers as being held by the "London Branch, G.A.R."

The London Branches involvement with the Women's Relief Corp stems from an October 1912 meeting of Long Branch founder John Davis and Past National WRC President Elizabeth D'Arcy Kinne and her husband, past GAR Dept. (California) Commander Col. Kinne. Mrs. Kinne gave a speech before the Reno, Nevada Department encampment in June of 1913 describing this meeting. The members of the convention were so moved by her story that they voted to send \$10 and a convention badge. A GAR National Encampment Delegate badge of 1912 was also sent. This was the beginning of a dialogue between the WRC and the London Branch that lasted through the death of the last London veteran in 1933. WRC financial reports of the 1920's show an annual charitable donation to the London Branch of \$50.

One interesting section of Mrs. Kinne's report was: "And while they do not belong to the Grand Army, they were allowed by General Black to wear a badge not unlike the badge worn by our Grand Army comrades." The GAR was not only aware of this plucky group of veterans, but the Commander in Chief, General Black, approved of their

membership badge (see below), a copy of the G.A.R.'s.



In 1934, the WRC reported in their National Encampment Journal (pages 154-5) that the last London Branch veteran had died the previous August. Evidently, Comrade Wright had been using the WRC donations to place a wreath at the base of Lincoln's statue in Parliament Square in London. In 1934, Mrs. Hanbury Williams, the granddaughter of General U. S. Grant, placed the wreath at the statue. The convention voted to continue to send \$25 annually to relatives of the London Branch veterans for a wreath to be placed at the Lincoln statue on Memorial Day.

The Battle of New Ulm Ribbon By Douglas Olson

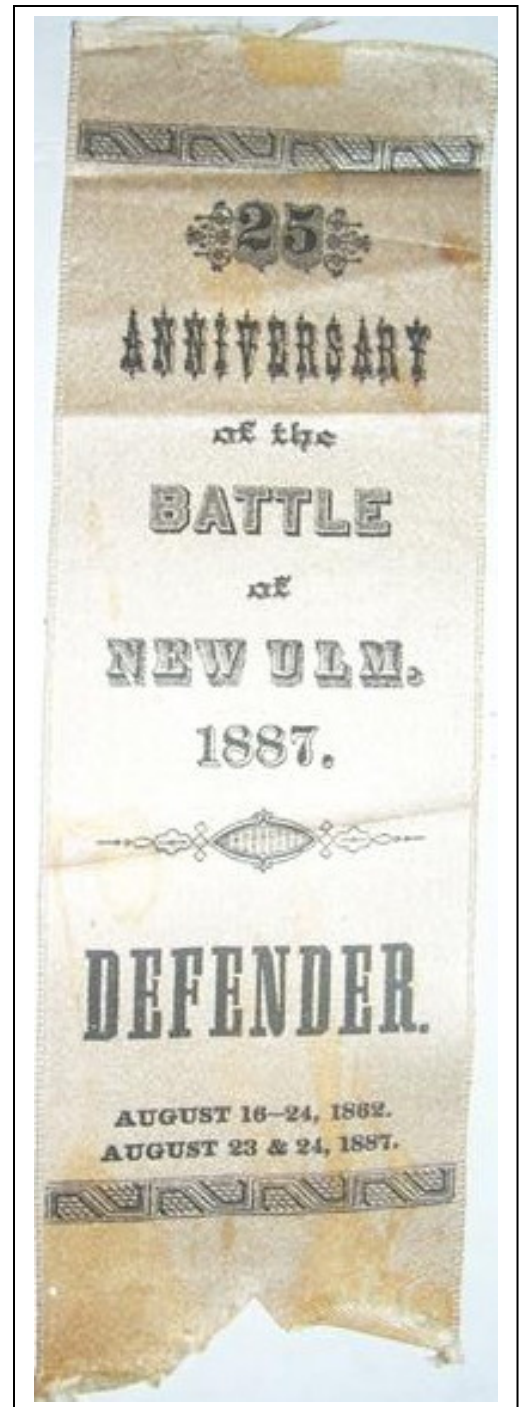
The battle of New Ulm, Minnesota was actually two skirmishes fought during the Sioux Uprising (or Dakota War) of 1862 between the townspeople of New Ulm, a detachment of US Troops and Warriors from the Lakota Sioux reservation, located not far from New Ulm. After the Sioux withdrew on August 25, 1862, 2,000 civilians and 150 US troops evacuated to Mankato, 30 miles away.

In 1887 at the 25th anniversary of the battle, a sham battle was held with members of the 2nd Minnesota National Guard and townspeople of New Ulm, acting as defenders and Indians in the battle. Only one casualty was sustained when a cartridge exploded in a rifle, burning the eyes and face of Lt. Clyde of Co. K, 2nd MN NG.

The *St. Paul Daily Globe* reported that “The boys got at it in earnest in that New Ulm sham battle and their officers had all they could do to hold them by the bits. The party wounded and the party wounding him were both old veterans of the war.”

The ribbon at right was distributed at the sham battle and subsequent celebrations during the 25th Anniversary of the battle. The term “Defender” makes you wonder if any other titles were found on other varieties of this ribbon. Did those playing the attacking Indians have a ribbon with the title “Indian Warrior” or “Lakota Sioux?” Did non-combatant civilians have “Townsppeople” printed on their ribbons?

If you are a collector, do you consider this an Indian Wars ribbon or a Civil War Ribbon? I would suspect that the former would be more appropriate. Although Minnesota troops who were to be sent to civil war battlefields were diverted to quell the uprising and Indians used the confusion of the civil war to carryout their attacks I’d think you’d have to consider this an Indian Wars ribbon.



Book Review
Hero at Front Royal
by George G. Kane

I've just received another civil war book from the prolific pen of Daniel Toomey, a CWWHA member. Dan specializes in 19th century American wars and their affect by or on Maryland and its citizens and soldiers.

Dan's new book "*Hero at Front Royal, The Life of General John R. Kenly*" is another in this vein. The book is 104 pages long, 6" wide by 8³/₄", with 35 photos of CDV's, maps, sketches and memorabilia.. The book is well written and introduces civil war aficionados to General John R. Kenly, the most famous citizen soldier of Maryland "you've never heard of." After a short succinct biography of the general before 1846, the book goes into depth on the activities of the Baltimore and Washington Battalion of Volunteers, of which Kenly had been commissioned a Captain. Although the battalion fought throughout the Mexican War, it was particularly known for its part in the capture of the City of Monterrey.

Kenly was promoted to Major and returned to his law practice after the war. He was also associated with the state militia during this period. With the coming of the civil war, Col. Kenly was ordered by the Governor to take command of the four regiments formed to repel and defeat the Confederate forces advancing on Washington. After the Pratt St. Riot, when confederate sympathizers attacked the 6th Mass. Infantry, Kenly was ordered to arrest his Mexican War comrade, Marshal George P. Kane and proclaim marshal law in his hometown of Baltimore.

Battle of Bull Run Survivors of the Second Wisconsin

by Tom McCrory

The first Federal offensive campaign of the Civil War was the Battle of Bull Run fought just sixty miles from Washington D.C. at Manassas, Virginia. The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry arrived in Washington on June 25th, 1861, the only Wisconsin Regiment to participate in the defense of the Capitol. The regiment was composed of 10 companies and had a total strength of 1048 men. They were brigaded together with three New York regiments, the 13th, 69th, and 79th Infantry as well as a battery of regular army artillery, and placed under the command of Colonel William Tecumseh Sherman.

On July 21, 1861 the war began in earnest for the Second Wisconsin. The first Federal attack was an overwhelming defeat. Wisconsin casualty figures included twenty-three men dead, sixty-five wounded, and sixty-three taken prisoner, a staggering 15 percent casualty rate for a short day's fighting.

Reduced in numbers, the Second Wisconsin Infantry went on to other historic and costly battles as members of the famed 'Iron Brigade' (of the West) until finally, after the battle of Laurel Hill in June 1864, their original number was reduced to less than 100 men.

Thirty-seven years later on July 21, 1898, during a time of reminiscing of those heady days spent in battle, the survivors of the Second Wisconsin who participated in that first Battle of Bull Run held a reunion in Milwaukee. A local newspaper, *The Sentinel*, in an article entitled, 'BULL RUN SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION WILL MEET AT WOLCOTT POST ROOMS TODAY', reported that 'The Association of the Survivors of the First Battle of Bull Run will hold its annual meeting at 1:30 P.M. today in E.B. Wolcott Post rooms. Interesting papers will be read and among those

expected to be present are General Tom Allen and Colonel Gabe Bouck of Oshkosh, and G.A.R. members from different parts of the state. The president of the association, C.W. Hyde of Milwaukee, will welcome the visitors in an address and papers will be read'.

A badge for the event is shown on this page. Overall it is 4 1/2" tall with a gold colored pin-bar of the Wisconsin badger on a log. From the standard red white and blue ribbon hangs a diamond shaped japanned shield. On this shield is printed in a circular banderole:

**MILWAUKEE
SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION OF THE
BATTLE OF BULL RUN- JULY 21, 1861
JULY 21, 1898**

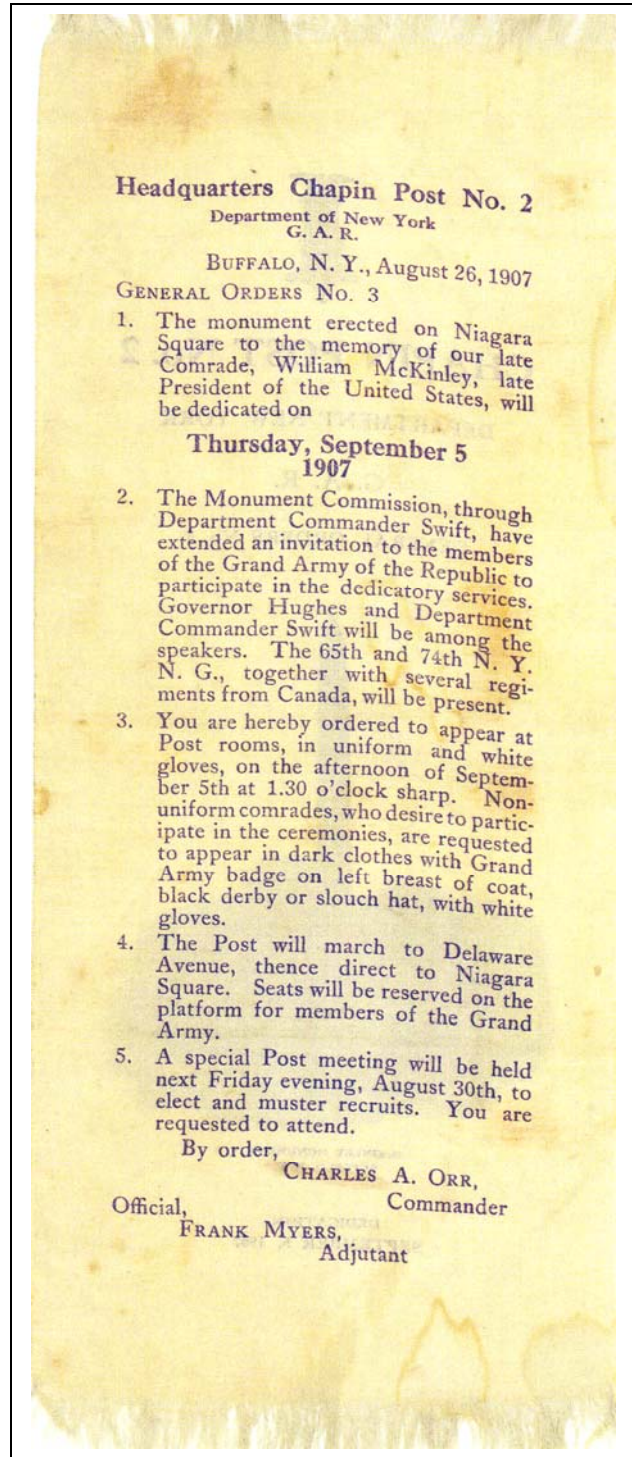
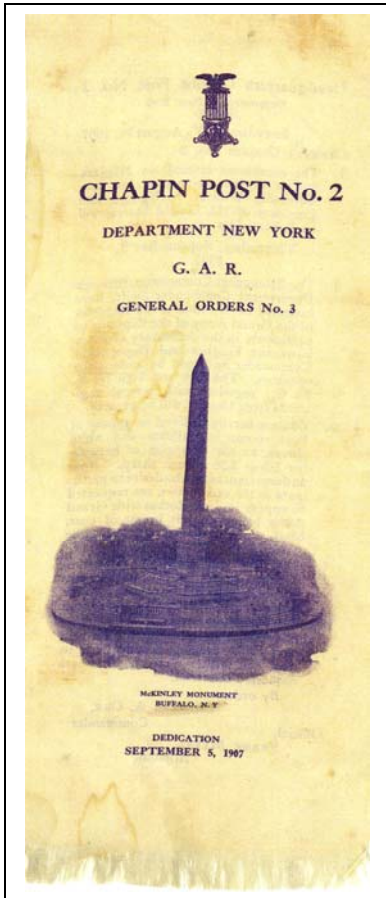
A bull in high grass is pictured in the center. The reverse is blank. How many veterans participated in this reunion is unknown. Certainly very few New York veterans would have made such a journey for a one-day reunion. Most, I'm sure, were from that decimated 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry that numbered less than one hundred men thirty-seven years earlier.



A G.A.R. General Order Ribbon

By Jerry Orton

I recently found this unusual ribbon in my collection. Not only is this a large ribbon (4 inches wide by 9 ¾ inches tall) but also it's double sided. The obverse (below) is a typical G. A. R. monument dedication ribbon. The reverse (right), on the other hand, has the Post General Order that outlines the dedication timeline, uniform requirements and parade itinerary. Chapin Post No. 2, G.A.R of Buffalo, NY, issued this ribbon in 1907. The monument was dedicated to the memory of President William McKinley, who had been assassinated, September 6, 1901.

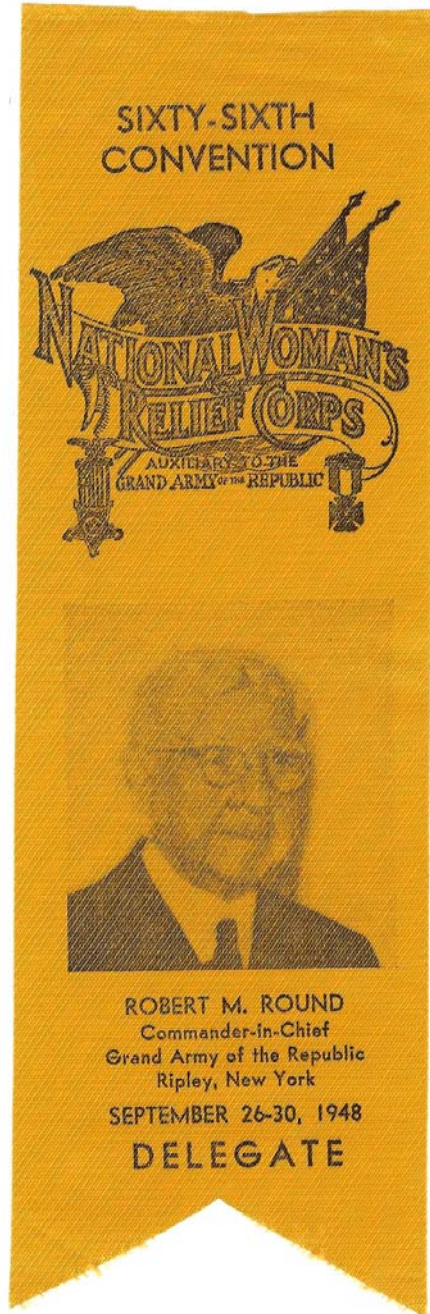
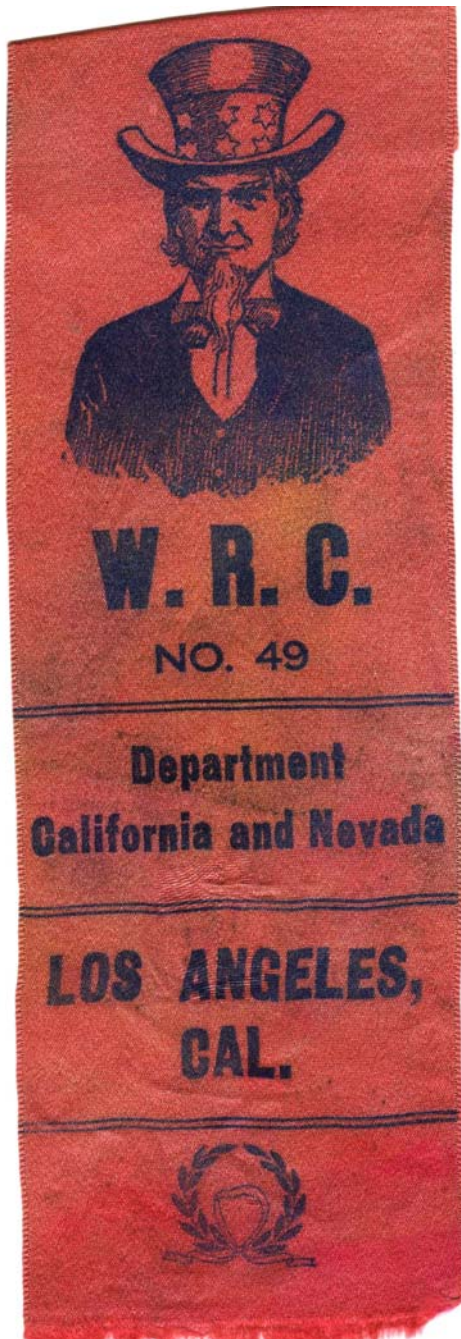


The WRC & Uncle Sam
by George G. Kane

I recently found this ribbon in my collection. The G.A.R. had a Post No. 177 named the Uncle Sam Post located at the Soldier's Home outside of Los Angeles. Does anyone know if WRC Corps 49 was the WRC Corps of Post No. 177?

WRC Spelling Error
by Janet Preston

In 1948 the WRC issued this delegate ribbon at their 66th National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. I wonder how long it took for someone to notice that the Commander-in-Chief's name is spelled wrong. It should be Round, not Round.



Count Zeppelin, Aviation Pioneer and GAR Member!

By George G. Kane

Ferdinand Adolph August Heinrich Graf von Zeppelin was born July 8, 1838 in Konstanz, Baden, Germany. History remembers this man as Count von Zeppelin. The *Graf* in his name is a royal title that translates to Count in English. He came from a family of military men and in his early years he attended military academies and the University of Tübingen. In 1858 he entered the Württemberg Army. In the years before confederation, Germany was made up of many principalities and kingdoms. Württemberg was a kingdom in south central Germany.



In 1863, the King of Württemberg sent Count von Zeppelin to the United States as a neutral observer with the Union Army. On April 30, 1863, Count

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von Zeppelin sailed from Liverpool on the Cunard Line Steamship *Australasian*, bound for America. Upon his arrival, he made his way to the White House in Washington, DC. The German ambassador secured an audience with the President. Dressed in a suit rather than a uniform, the count looked more a diplomat than a military man and was shown in to see the President. Impressed by the young German royal, the President gave the count a special pass, which extended to him complete freedom of movement within the lines of the Union Armies. This type of pass was only issued four times during the civil war. All were issued to royal observers including the Count of Paris, the French Dauphin.

Before leaving Washington, the count had a uniform tailored that was more adapted to the climate than the Prussian style he usually wore (see photo at left). On the collar he had a star sewn on that represented his rank as 1st Lieutenant. He was unaware that this symbol represented an American Lt. General. Later, he was surprised by the number of officers who addressed him as General.



Count von Zeppelin (seated with map in his hand) in his uniform of his own design during the American Civil War.

Count Zeppelin

(continued from previous page)

The count also secured a horse and an American wooden saddle before leaving Washington. He traveled first by boat and then by train in route to General Hooker's camp. There he presented a letter of introduction. Unbeknownst to anyone else, he also carried a letter of introduction to General Robert E. Lee that he had received from Lee's niece in Philadelphia. As an observer, he had hoped to observe the war from both sides of the conflict. He only saw the Union side.

The Count came under fire many times, but he did not use his revolver or draw his sword. He relied on the speed of his horse to get him out of any trouble he got himself into.

His most famous escape was retold years later by some American comrades. *"He was penned in by a circle of Confederate bayonets and his death or capture seemed immanent. He dropped off his horse on the winding road and slapped the horse a lick upon its flank, which sent the animal rider-less forward at a fast clip. He strode toward his captors hands in the air.*

He timed his approach splendidly, and just as he was crossing a turn in the road, which separated him from the confederate detachment, his horse, taking the longer route, shot toward him. His hands were in the air and they served to grip the saddle as it sped in his direction. He did not raise himself to the horse's back, however, for that would give the enemy an easy target. He clung to the horse's side, his body covered by the animal, and in this perilous position, dashed out of view towards the union camp.

Too dumbfounded to fire at the animal, the southern soldiers saw the count pass out of sight among the trees

as he pulled himself into the saddle, waving goodbye to the rebel soldiers."

At some point during the war, he volunteered to ascend into the atmosphere on a tethered balloon to scout enemy positions and movements with field glasses. Such was the introduction of Count Zeppelin to flight. He returned to Germany after the war but revisited America in 1869, exploring the Mississippi River. In Minnesota, he visited with Prof. T.S.C. Lowe, the foremost balloonist in America.

During the Franco-Prussian War he won the Iron Cross for his heroic cavalry raid into France to begin the war. In 1874 he wrote the King of Württemberg stating that Germany was behind France in military aviation and that only large airships would be practical for military use. In 1890 he was forced into retirement as a Brigadier General. In the years that followed he invented, with the help of others, a rigid navigable airship that could be used for transportation or military purposes. In 1895 he received a German patent for this airship and on March 14, 1899 he received a US Patent (621,195) for a Navigable balloon. On July 2, 1900 the first rigid dirigible made its first flight with 5 passengers traveling 3.75 miles in 17 minutes. In 1908, a Zeppelin provide the first commercial air service. In World War I, Zeppelins were used as bombers, attacking London and Paris. Count von Zeppelin died March 6, 1917. An article in 1914 stated that "Zeppelin is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and his certificate of membership now hangs in his home and is one of his proudest possessions." As he was never "mustered in" the Union Army, I doubt he was eligible, but maybe he was voted in as an "Honorary Member."