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The Veteran

October – December 2009

Jefferson Davis' Long Last Journey

By Everitt Bowles

Jefferson Davis' journey from his deathbed to his grave lasted 3½ years; traveled over 1,200 miles; and meandered through seven states. In 1889, while traveling from "Beauvoir", his home near Biloxi, Mississippi, to his plantation, "Brierfield" 20 miles south of Vicksburg, Miss., Davis ran into a torrential rainstorm that soaked him to the skin. The 81 year-old former Confederate President contracted a severe bronchial cold. His companions on this trip realized the seriousness of this illness and put him on a riverboat, the *Laura Lee*, bound for New Orleans for medical help. It was a cold and rainy night when he arrived on the 17th of November 1889, at the docks in New Orleans. He had to be helped up a steep embankment. He then traveled three miles in an open cart to the home of friends, Judge Charles E. Fenner and J. U. Payne, where two doctors attended to him. His wife, Varina, had been notified by wire. She immediately took a train to New Orleans to be at her husband's side. For several days, he gradually grew weaker until "Death" called for him early in the morning of the 6th of December. When he refused some medicine a few hours earlier, he spoke his last words, "Pray, excuse me." The cause of death was listed as acute bronchitis with malaria listed as a contributing cause. Ironically, his first wife died of malaria, many years before.

The shock and dismay that permeated the Southern States was immediate and absolute. In the city of New Orleans, all businesses and schools closed. On Saturday, the next day, the body was transported to city hall where it lay in state for four days. Seventy thousand mourners viewed the remains in a plate-glass covered copper casket. An Honor Guard was composed of members of the Washington Battalion Artillery, the only military unit in the city at the time. Their 5th Company battle flag was draped across the foot of the bier. Even though this was to be a temporary interment, the funeral cortege was massive and impressive. Companies of former

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1893 Jefferson Davis
Re-interment Ribbon

The President's Message

Dear Members:

I hope you all had a productive and happy holiday season. Janet and I wish you good health and happiness in 2010. I urge you to mark May 1-2, 2010 as the dates for the Mansfield Ohio Civil War Show and the sight of our annual show and banquet. You won't want to miss this highlight of the collecting year.

Our Vice-President, John Mullay, will present a program for this year's meeting. John's topic will be "First Defenders' Badges." He has been collecting this type of badge for a number of years. He has run down many interesting facts and will be sharing them with us right after the association meeting on May 2nd.

I hope that the past year has treated you well and we look forward to a new year of collecting and all the revelation that it brings.

Sincerely

Dan M. Mitchell
President

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G. A. R. "Colored" Post additions

Dan Mitchell submitted the following Indiana posts to be added to the "Colored" Post list of the last issue of "The Veteran":

Martin R. Delaney Post #70, Indianapolis, IN, Org. 1882–Disb. 1932

Col. John F. Grill Post # 541, Evansville, IN, Org. 1888 – Disb. 1900

John Brown Post # 585, Charlestown, IN, Org. 1889 – Disb. 1900

The Brown Post had 12 charter members.

A possible "Colored" Post is:

R. Sage Post # 581, Evansville, IN, then moved to New Albany, IN
Org. 1889 – Disb. 1895, then reorganized 1911-1936.

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The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

Christmas during wartime has changed dramatically over the last two centuries. Today, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen can talk face to face with their loved ones through the miracle of computers and video conferencing. During the civil war, the only recourse left to the combatant and his family was through the postal system. Today packages travel quickly to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan through the APO / FPO postal system. One hundred and fifty years ago the mail traveled only by land or by boat. The Postal system was in its infancy and struggling to keep up with the overwhelming amount of mail. Problems with animals, wagon wheels, hull leaks, storms and other acts of God could slow or destroy its precious cargo. Check "Christmas During the Civil War" at http://dburgin.tripod.com/cw_xmas/cwarxmas2.html for examples of letters home from soldiers and sailors during the war.

Happy Holidays
George

The Veteran

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C.W.V.H.A.

Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or electronically (e-mail or disk) MSWord, or Excel is the preferred software choices.

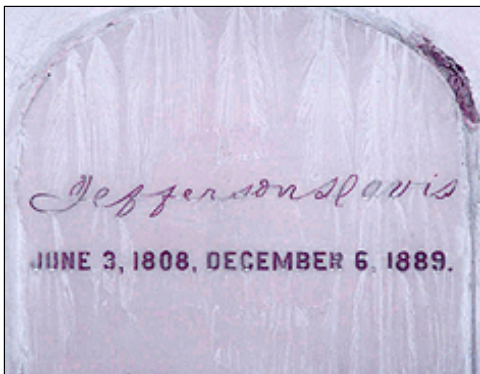
All materials will be returned. If you have questions, please call George Kane at (413) 592-2166.

123 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013-2627.

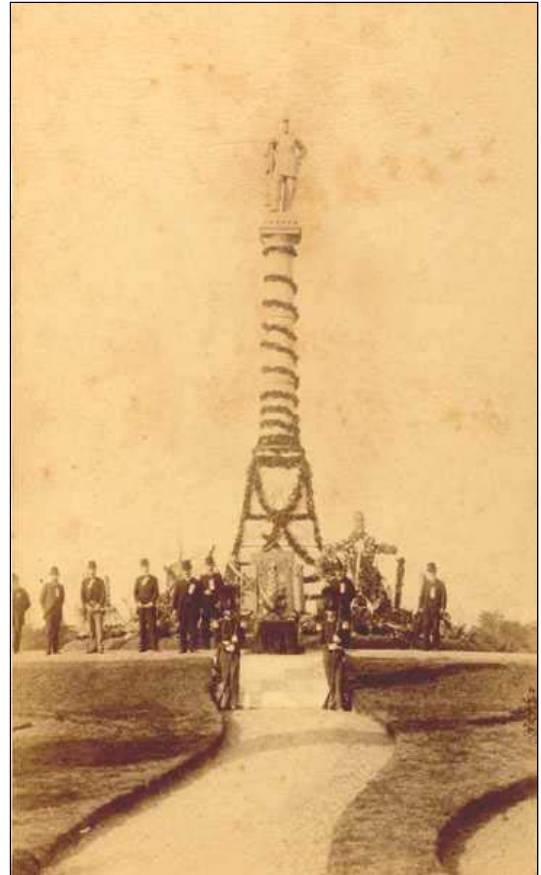
An e-mail address is listed above.

Jefferson Davis' Long Last Journey (continued from front page)

Confederate soldiers marched. It took several hours for the funeral procession to move from city hall to the Metarie Cemetery on the edge of town. Nine Southern States Governors were honorary pallbearers. Davis' Coffin was carried into the vault of the Army of Northern Virginia Memorial monument at the cemetery. The 50-foot pedestal of the monument was topped with a statue of Stonewall Jackson. A large marble slab was used to close the entrance of his crypt. The slab had a facsimile signature of Jefferson Davis. *The New Orleans Times Democrat* stated, "This generation will never again look upon the like of this day's funeral pageant." They were wrong. In cities across the Southland, memorial services were held for the fallen leader of the "Lost Cause." Almost nobody went to work or attended school.



Davis Marble Vault Slab - 1889



Monument of the Army of Northern Virginia at Metarie Cemetery, New Orleans (NOLA Public Library)

Soon after her husband's death, Varina Davis was bombarded with telegraph and mail requests from Southern cities and states to provide a permanent final resting place for the ex-President of the Confederacy. The day after the funeral, the *New York Times* proclaimed, "Richmond Wants the Body." Jefferson had wanted to be buried under a live oak at his home, "Beauvoir", in Mississippi, but left the details up to his wife. The "Beauvoir" estate had been left to Jefferson Davis in the will of a female friend. As such, his wife never cared for that home and moved soon after Jefferson's death from Mississippi to New York City. Her disdain for the estate was so great that she immediately gave the property to the State of Mississippi to be used as a Confederate Veterans' Home and a cemetery for Confederate veterans. The estate eventually became a Presidential Library and Museum.

The resolutions from municipal and state governments offered financial and esthetic enticements for Davis's body to be buried in their soil. Many offered to erect monuments, while the Confederate Association of Kentucky, the state of his birth, offered President Zachary Taylor's unused cemetery plot. Taylor had decided to be buried on his farm at the last moment. Taylor had been Jefferson's ex-father-in-law from his marriage to his first wife, who died soon after their wedding.

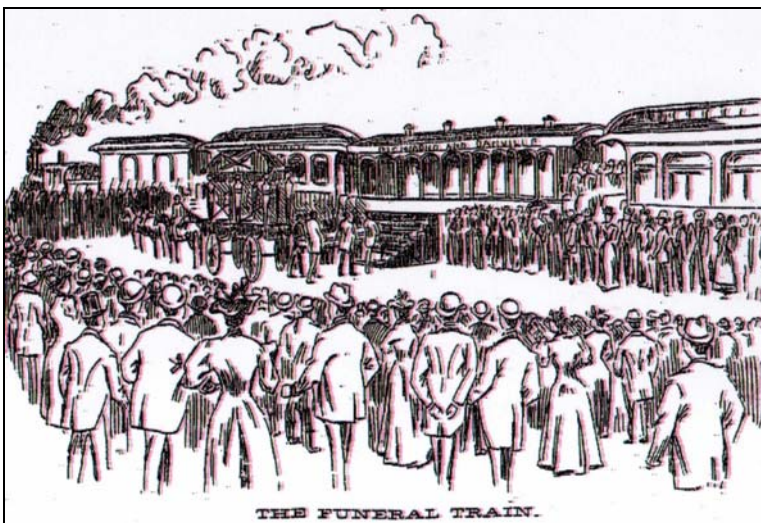
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The Cities of Memphis, TN, Louisville, KY, Montgomery, AL, Macon, GA and Atlanta, GA appealed to the family either for historic or personal reasons. The Davis's had lived in Memphis for a number of years. One of their sons died and was buried there. Montgomery was the first capital of the Confederacy. At a Confederate Veteran reunion at Macon, Davis, overwhelmed by the crowd turnout, professed a desire to be buried there. He had made the same statement at a few cities, all of which wanted to inter him. Atlanta had offered Davis a burial site in February 1889, 10 months before his death. New Orleans did not want to give up his body and made an offer for a more prominent site with a more appropriate monument.

Mrs. Davis organized a committee to make a selection. After conferring with the committee, she finally announced a decision on July 12, 1891, a year and a half after Jefferson Davis' death. In a public letter the press announced her decision. She wrote, somewhat disingenuously, that her first choice was "Beauvoir" in Mississippi, but she feared the waters of the Gulf of Mexico would someday flood the low-lying coastal land on which "Beauvoir" sat. Her words became prophetic when in 2005 Hurricane "Katrina" flooded the estate and did major damage to its structures. Varina insisted that her husband "should rest among the heroic dead of all states who fell in the defense of the Confederacy." Davis would be buried in Richmond. In October of that year, Varina and her daughter, Winnie, traveled to Richmond to select a plot. She selected a site in Hollywood Cemetery. Many had hoped he would be interred in a crypt under the Confederate White House. She insisted that all Jefferson's children who died previously would be relocated to the site and her two living daughters and her would also be buried there.

The plans to move Davis' body from New Orleans to Richmond took almost two years. The UCV of New Orleans, who had guarded the body since his interment, were put in charge of moving the body while the monument association in Richmond would select the route the train would take. The route changed almost daily as cities throughout the South requested the train pass through their municipalities or lay in state in their city halls. The constant changes pushed the date of the funeral to May 31, 1893.

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The funeral train consisted of a locomotive (#69), a baggage car, the funeral car, six sleeping coaches and a day car. The exterior was painted red and the interior was pine with an oil finish. One of the large windows was removed to admit the coffin. The coffin sat on large marble stand. The four sides of the car were all glass, so that the coffin could be viewed from outside.

This page will be updated soon.



1903 United Confederate Veteran National Reunion Poster

By George G. Kane



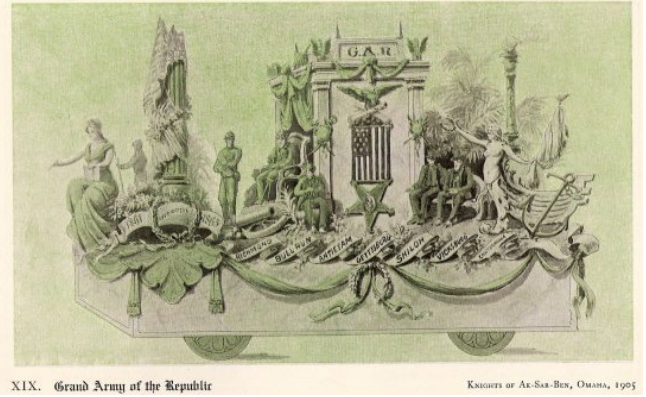
The Mobile & Ohio Railroad issued this United Confederate Veterans' Reunion poster in May of 1903. The poster was two-sided with advertisements printed on the reverse. There were two advertisements on the reverse printed in red and black. Both ads were from railroad systems, The Frisco System and the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway. The original poster is 10 ¼" x 13 ½". I have had a reproduction created that is 7% larger and printed on 11" x 17", 65 lb., and acid-free Index stock. The reproduction is only of the obverse. Members can purchase one poster each for \$15 including postage and mailing tube. Only 38 were reproduced. Make check payable to George Kane. My address is on the 2nd page. This is truly a rare piece as the posters were pasted onto windows and fences and destroyed when removed. I think you'll find that the colors on this poster are as rich and vibrant as when it was first printed. I had this professionally reprinted and I believe they did a beautiful job. There is a little bit of extra white space on the bottom of the paper which should help whoever frames the poster, if you so choose to do.

Grand Army Parade Float By George G. Kane

In 1895, the Nebraska State Fair Board was upset with the businessmen of Omaha, the site of the state fair. The board wanted the businessmen to provide entertainment other than the bars, honky-tonks, and gambling houses in that city or lose the fair to Lincoln, Nebraska. A group of 60 businessmen met and elected a board of 12 to acquire entertainment for that year's state fair. They decided to rent all the floats that had been in the Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans the previous February. They contacted the Rex, Proteus and Comus Society of the Crescent City, the civic group, which organized the Mardi Gras festivities. The men liked this society so much that they created a similar society to run the fair entertainment. They called themselves the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben (Nebraska backwards).

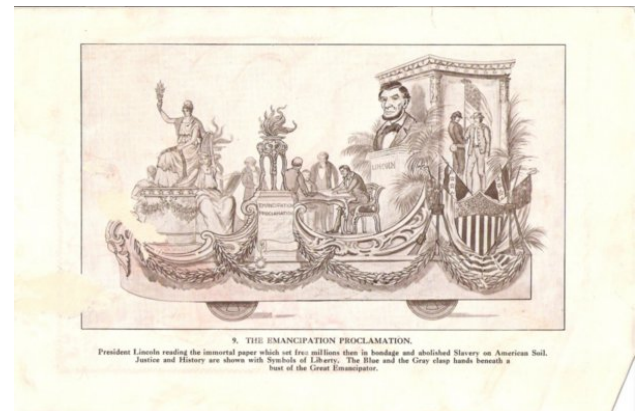


From that year to the present, the Knights of the Ak-Sar-Ben have run the annual parade at the Nebraska State Fair. The Parades are not just a conglomeration of floats. Each year has a theme. In 1905 that theme was fraternal and military societies, one of which was the GAR. The GAR Float has a mausoleum in the center surrounded by allegorical figures, old veterans, and a civil war soldier. A banderole with civil war battles inscribed surrounds the float.



Besides the GAR, the 1905 parade included floats for the Royal Achates, Ak-Sar-Ben, the Royal Arcanum, the Danish Brotherhood, the Eagles, The Elks, the IOOF, the Knights of Columbus, the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of the World, the World of Mystery, the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, The Order of Scottish Clans, German and Bohemian Turners, The Ancient Order of United Workmen, and Woodmen of the World. Check out drawings of all the floats at their website, www.aksarbenpins.com, under "History", "Floats," then "1905." Make sure you check out the Turners entry especially their large Swastika on the side of their float.

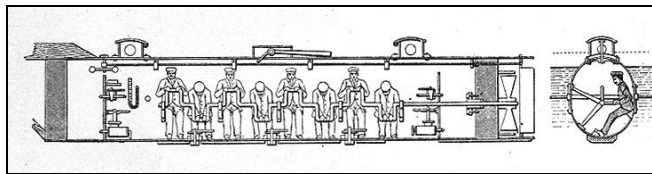
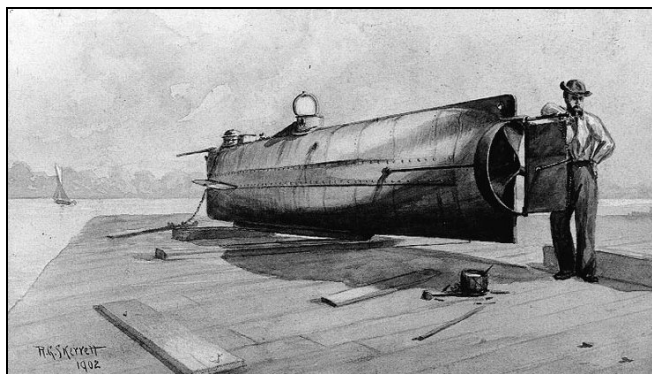
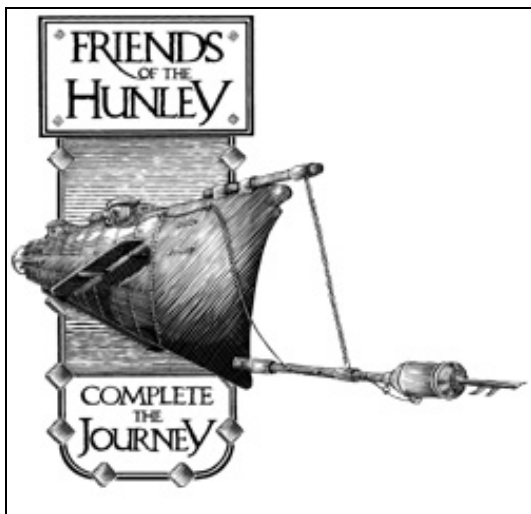
The 1917 parade included "The Emancipation Proclamation" as shown below.



H. L. Hunley Website **By George G. Kane**

For those interested in the naval side of the civil war, a great web site is dedicated to the *H. L. Hunley*, the Confederate Navy's successful submarine. On February 17, 1864 the *Hunley* became the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel. Most people believe this is the first military submarine in the world. In fact, it was the third submarine built by the Confederates. The first, *Pioneer*, was built in New Orleans in 1861. In February of 1862, the *Pioneer* was towed to Lake Pontchartrain for trials. Before all experiments could be completed, the Union Army and Navy invaded the crescent city. The *Pioneer* was scuttled and lay at the bottom of the lake for over 100-years. The inventor, Horace Lawson Hunley and two associates, fled to Mobile, Alabama to work on a second submarine, *American Diver*. This sub attempted to attack a blockade vessel, but it was unsuccessful. Soon after, while being towed, she was lost in a storm off Mobile Bay. It has yet to be recovered. The *H. L. Hunley* was constructed in Mobile, but taken to Charleston, SC for trials. After two fatal accidents, which killed 13 men including its inventor, Horace Hunley, the *H. L. Hunley* became the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel when it attacked and sank the *USS Housatonic*.

The web site is entitled "Friends of the Hunley." Besides histories, crew lists, blueprints, photos and other digital wonders, you can download a tour of the interior of the *H. L. Hunley*. Another feature of the site is a game, "Civil War Sub Simulator," where you learn the controls of the Hunley and take it on a mission to sink enemy ships. Other sections deal with the recovery and conservation of the sub. The site is replete with photos including artifacts recovered from the sub. One of the artifacts is a \$20 US gold piece with a large dent in it. The coin was given to Lt. Dixon by a girlfriend. During the battle of Shiloh, a union bullet sliced threw the clothes of Lt. Dixon and struck the piece, saving the life of the young Lieutenant. Unfortunately, it didn't save him from drowning on the sub. The web site is: www.hunley.org.



The London Branch Contacts the G.A.R.? by George G. Kane

In several previous issues of *The Veteran*, we have discussed the Civil War veterans who lived in England. It was said that they had contacted the GAR National offices in an attempt to unite with the Grand Army. I recently discovered two officer reports that verified that civil war veterans in England contacted the G.A.R. The first report is included in the Report of the Adjutant-General to the 43rd National Encampment. The report is located on page 124 of the Journal of the 1909 G.A.R. National Encampment at Salt Lake City. In this report, Adjutant General Frank O. Cole, stated:

During the month of February <1909> I received a communication from several veterans residing in and about Liverpool England. After considerable correspondence I received a regular petition and ten dollars (\$ 10.00), the petition being signed by several ex-Union soldiers and sailors. Upon referring the matter to you (CIC Nevius), I was directed to proceed in the best interests of the organization. After giving the matter considerable thought I came to the conclusion that because most of the petitioners had served in New York regiments and because the Dept. of New York had already instituted Posts in Canada, if a Post was to be instituted in Great Britain, it should be under the jurisdiction of the Department of New York. Accordingly, when I visited the Department encampment in Binghamton, I laid the matter before the Encampment, which unanimously instructed the incoming administration to institute the post in England. I have

been informed by Department Commander Cummings that he has detailed Comrade Joseph Emerson Ewell, commander of the Soldiers' Home at Bath, New York, to proceed to Oldham, England and muster in the post. It is a matter of congratulations that our former comrades in arms, now residing in a foreign land should seek to unite with us in the bonds of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

At the New York Department encampment, Assistant Adjutant-General William S. Bull in his report (Page 207 of *Proceedings* of the G.A.R. New York Department Encampment) details with some optimism, the communications with these English comrades:

We have received an application for the organization of a Post at Oldham, England, but so far have been unable to find a comrade to discharge the duties of mustering officer. I think one will be found in the near future and the Post will be duly mustered.

By the locations mentioned in these texts, it would appear that this was not the same group that called themselves the London Branch. Oldham is 164 miles northwest of London and Liverpool is 176 miles northwest of London. The distance between these two northern English cities being only 12 miles. At present I can't find any other discussion on this topic in either the National or New York Department encampment journals. Regrettably I don't have the 1911 New York *Proceedings*. At some point I've looked at all of the New York encampment books and never found any other mention of an English Post.

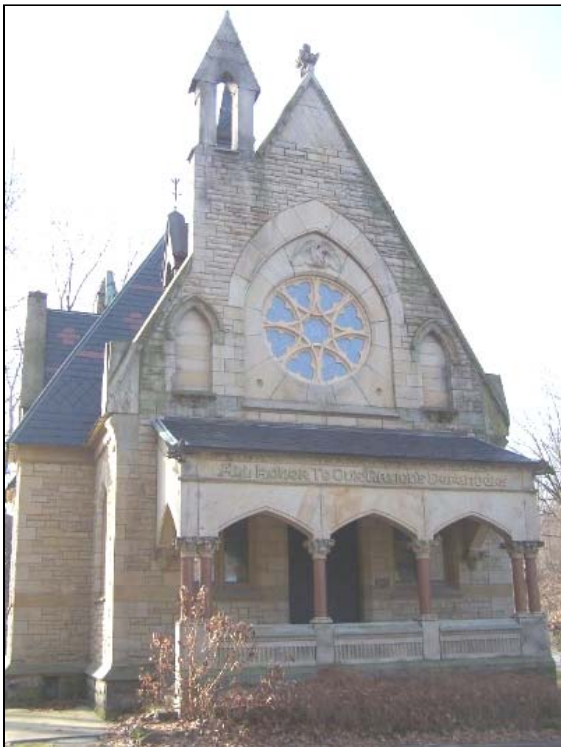
Buckley G.A.R. Post No. 12, Akron, Ohio

by George M. Rees

Buckley Post History and Chapel

The Buckley GAR Post No. 12 of Akron, Ohio spent a long time on the fraternal scene. The post was named for Colonel Lewis Buckley. The post was chartered 1867 and eventually disbanded March 12, 1938.

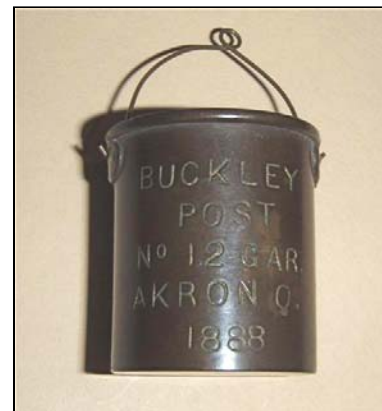
In 1871, the Trustees of the Akron Rural Cemetery gave a large plot of ground for the burial of Union Veterans. The Post, then built "Memorial Chapel" at a cost of \$35,000. Memorial tablets within the chapel list all the soldiers and sailors who went to the war from Akron and have since died. The chapel contains several cathedral windows with life-size representations of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Hazzard Perry and Col. Lewis P. Buckley, 29th Ohio Infantry, after whom the Post is named. Another window represents Woman's Work in the War. The rolled cathedral windows were imported from Scotland and funded by the Ladies Cemetery Assoc. The chapel was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1876.



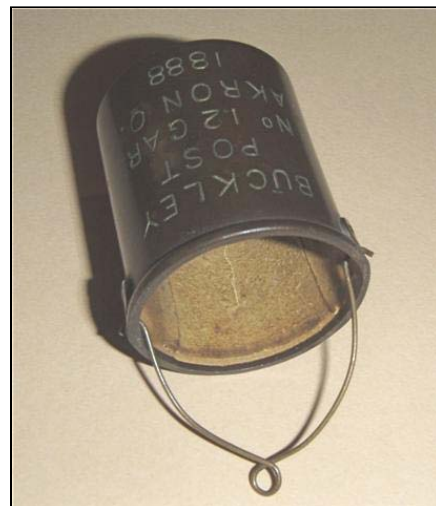
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Buckley Post Sponge Bucket

A number of souvenirs have originated from this post and still exist. The souvenir shown below is a miniature sponge bucket. The bucket is 2 inches high and is made of brass. It has a leather insert and a brass handle. On the side of the bucket is inscribed: Buckley / Post / No. 12 GAR / Akron O. / 1888. The reason for the creation of this piece has been lost, but it might have to do with the National Encampment that was held in Columbus, Ohio in 1888.



Note the leather insert in the photo below, still in good condition.



From Bull Run to Spandau, A Family's Journey By Tom Brooks

Frederick Charles von Schirach was born in Kiel, Germany in 1842. Before the civil war, he immigrated to the United States. In 1861, Frederick joined the 54th New York Infantry as a 2nd Lieutenant and was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant. At the battle of the 2nd Bull Run, Lt. von Schirach lost his right leg. Not willing to sit out the rest of the war, Lt. Schirach was offered and accepted a promotion to Captain in the 16th Veteran's Reserve Corps. At the end of the war he was brevetted a Major for his services during the war. His crowning glory came when he was asked to be an honorary pallbearer at Abraham Lincoln's funeral.

After the war, Frederick Charles von Schirach became a naturalized American Citizen. Soon after, he married into Philadelphia's wealthy Norris family. U.S. emigration records show that he returned to his native land on several occasions. During one extended trip his son was born. Carl Bailer-Norris von Schirach would eventually become a Lieutenant in the Cuirassiers, German Army cavalry. Carl also traveled between the family's two countries. In 1896 he married Emma Middleton Lynah Tillou, from a wealthy Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania family who were descendant of two signers of the US Declaration of Independence.

Carl and Emma's son, Baldur Benedikt von Schirach (see photo, right) was born in Berlin in 1907. Home-schooled, he spoke English until the age of 5. His father had become a theater director. In 1917, at the end of World War I, he became a military cadet. His grandfather, Frederick, appears to have been trapped in Germany during the war. He is last listed in the US Army Retired Officer List in 1920 as living in Germany.

Baldur joined the National Socialist Party in 1925. He climbed the ladder in the Nazi hierarchy very quickly. In 1929 he became the leader of the National Socialist German Students' League. In 1931 he was youth leader



of the NSDAP (Nazi Party). In 1933 he became the head of the *Hitlerjugend* (Hitler Youth). By 1940 the Hitler Youth had grown to 8 million strong. Of course, membership was mandatory to German youth, 12 to 18 years old. The Nazi's had abolished the Boy Scouts and other male youth organizations, confiscating their property.

In 1940, Baldur resigned from the HJ and joined the Army where he won an Iron Cross for gallantry in the invasion of France. He would eventually be appointed Governor and Party Leader in Vienna. During the war he would ship 185,000 Jews to concentration camps. At Nuremberg, after the war, he was found guilty on four counts of crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to twenty years in Spandau prison. He was released with Albert Speer in 1966. Only Rudolph Hess remained. He died in Germany in 1974.

From Prussia to the battlefields of the American civil war to Germany and the horror of the Nazi terror, what a strange journey the von Schirach family traveled.

1892 G.A.R. Souvenir Folding Hair Comb by Rance Hulshart

In 1892, the Grand Army of the Republic held its 26th National Encampment at the Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. The early 1890's were the zenith of the G.A.R.'s power and membership. The societies' national conventions were heavily attended not only by delegates and alternatives, but also by their families, friends and comrades. The departments had social clubs whose only purpose was to arrange for transportation, lodging and entertainment for non-delegate members and their families to these encampments. One of the largest attended spectacles of the encampment was the parade by national and department officers, delegates, post members, floats, and equestrian units. The large crowds watching this parade attracted vendors who tried to hawk any souvenir that had the G.A.R. name, logo or seal affixed to it. Pennants, snow globes, badges, etc were just some of the goods hawked by these vendors.

Recently I purchased the comb shown below at a yard sale. The comb was in a box with several pocketknives. The asking price was \$5. Of course, I didn't attempt a counter offer, something I would almost always attempt. This was my first really good purchase of a collectible at a yard sale. The obverse of the folding comb sported war motifs including a gun, a saber, a cannon and a ship. A belt in the center has "26th Encampment, Washington, D.C." engraved on it." Inside the belt are the initials "G.A.R." On the reverse is a camp scene with a large cannon in the forefront. On each side is a button with a star that has a pin that pivots so the comb opens and closes into the sheath. The length of the comb closed is 3 7/8 inches. The comb and sheath appear to be made of a composite type material, similar to hard rubber. The material might be *gutta-percha*, a tough plastic substance from the latex of several Malaysian trees of the *sapodilla* family that resembles rubber but with more resin. The substance is usually used in dentistry and insulation. After the civil war, *gutta-percha* was commonly used in ornate picture frames. Some years ago, the US Mint, when issuing civil war commemorative coins, packaged these coins in *gutta-percha* cases.

