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The Veteran

April - June 2010

The Squirrel Hunters of Ohio

By Robert Albertini

In the summer of 1862, Confederate General John H. Morgan maneuvered for an attack on the city of Cincinnati. Ohio Governor Tod sent soldiers and arms to defend the Queen City. The soldiers and city police units were sent to Lexington KY to block Morgan's advance. Morgan retired, the attack only a feint. Morgan's raid was only a harbinger of Confederate operations in KY.

With 20,000 troops and 40 pieces of artillery, Rebel General Kirby Smith, invaded Kentucky in late August 1862. On September 1st, he took Lexington. Two days later, he sent General Heath with 5,000 men against Covington (KY) and Cincinnati. The mayor of Cincinnati closed all businesses and called for every man to defend their city. General Horatio Wright, ordered General Lewis Wallace to march his Indiana regiment to the Queen City and her Kentucky suburbs (Covington & Newport) to prepare for a defense of these cities. General Wallace arrived in Cincinnati on September 1st and declared military law in the three cities.

Governor David Tod, who had traveled to Cincinnati as soon as the emergency became known, went to the local telegraph office and began sending messages to military commissions, the press and anyone else who would listen. *"Our southern border is threatened with invasion. ...Gather up all the arms and furnish yourself with ammunition for the same. The soil of Ohio must not be invaded by the enemies of our glorious government. Do not wait. None but armed men will be received."* Confident that the citizens of Ohio would meet the challenge, Tod wired the Secretary of War that a large Confederate force was moving against the city, *"but it would be successfully met."* Before daybreak, large numbers of armed citizens began to enter the city. On observing these men, An Officer's offhanded remark would forever label this group as the "Squirrel Hunters."

(continued on page 39)



Author's Collection
Photo by James L. Kaiser

The President's Message

Dear Members:

The Civil War Show in Mansfield, Ohio has come and gone until next year. Even with the bad economy, attendance was high and most dealers claimed good sales. Good to see members and friends. The annual banquet was sold out for the first time in years. I can hardly wait for the 2011 show.

Dan M. Mitchell, President

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Annual Membership Dues

It's that time of the year when CWVHA membership dues are payable. Dues are \$20 per year and payable to the CWVHA. Mail your payment to: **David Aeberli, 9372 Almar Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4872.** A renewal form is attached. If no form is attached then you have already paid your dues for 2010-2011.

Edward Scott Milligan

CWVHA member Edward S. Milligan, 77, passed away on January 19, 2010, the result of injuries sustained in an auto accident. Ed was a career military man, a consummate researcher and an author of a number of military titles. His latest research discovered 47 ethnic Chinese soldiers and sailors who fought in the American Civil War. The story is being made into a documentary to be shown on TV. Ed was a member of the SUVCW, VFW and Company of Military Historians. Edward was cremated and his ashes were interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

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The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

The History Channel has begun airing its 8th season of *The History Detectives*. Civil War stories include a letter from Clara Barton; a Copperhead cane and a painting of the Battle of Lookout Mountain by a participant painted while a POW.

With the Ohio Civil War Show for 2010 just over, the show for 2011 has already been booked for Saturday, April 30th and Sunday May 1, 2011. This will be the earliest dates in years.

If you're looking for that 19th Century book, you might look on Google Book. Books before 1922 are being added at a staggering rate. Check the site for Grand Army books. There are hundreds of titles, including many National Encampment Proceedings. Most are full books, but some are in snippet or partial form.

Regards

George Kane, Editor.

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.

Squirrel Hunters ... continued from front page

The Governor had promised free railroad transportation for anyone heading to the Queen City with weapons in hand. The next morning, the railroad depots were flooded with “Squirrel Hunters” heading for downtown Cincinnati. Soon after the announcement of martial law, a pontoon bridge was erected connecting Cincinnati and Covington, KY. Women of the city handed out food by the wagonloads. The Fifth Street market house became a free eatery for the Squirrel Hunters. Halls and warehouses were converted into barracks. By the fifth of September, the city had been overwhelmed with volunteers. The Governor was forced to telegraph *“The response to my proclamation asking volunteers for the protection of Cincinnati was most notable and generous. All may feel proud of the gallantry of the people of Ohio. No more volunteers are required for the protection of Cincinnati.”*

Fortifications around the city were also being built. Three thousand citizens, including a “colored brigade,” labored to build these fortifications. Every class and occupation was represented at the construction and all were being paid \$1 per day.

The Squirrel Hunters had moved across the pontoon bridge and dug trenches. During the day, these men would be drilled and would man the trenches at night. It would appear that General Kirby would no longer be able to take the city. A few skirmishes between the rebels and the Squirrel Hunters made General Wright nervous and he called on the Governor to again ask for help. On the 10th of September, Governor Tod again telegraphed for help. By the 12th, it became apparent that General Kirby had pulled back, retreating from the cities. On the 13th, Governor Tod requested that no more volunteers be sent. He praised everyone who had responded to the crisis.

The Ohio legislature adopted the following resolution, soon after the crisis had subsided:

“Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, That the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to appropriate out of his contingent fund, a sufficient fund to pay for printing and lithographing discharges for the patriotic men of the state who responded to the call of the governor and went to the southern border to repel the invader, who will be known in history as the “Squirrel Hunters.””
The resolution was signed in Columbus on March 13, 1863.

The Governor had a discharge (see next page) created to honor the men who had responded to his call. The Discharge has photos of General Wallace and Governor Tod, as well as a caricature of a Squirrel Hunter, American Flags, the Seal of Ohio and, of course, a squirrel in a tree.

15,766 “Squirrel Hunter” Discharges were issued on the first anniversary of the event. This was clearly only a third of the participants. There were “Squirrel Hunter” reunions throughout the years after the civil war, but no attempt to organize a society was made until 1906. (continued on Page 40).



Squirrel Hunter



On September 12, 1906, the "Squirrel Hunters" met at Buckeye Lake in Newark, Ohio. At this meeting, Officers were elected, committees were appointed and a constitution and by-laws were ratified. The organization felt that the only recognition the Squirrel Hunters received was a discharge and thanks from the legislature. They believed that recognition of their services should be of a more substantial nature, i.e. Money! In 1908, they were paid \$13 for services rendered during that month of September 1862. In 1941, an Ohio US Representative proposed that the Federal Government pension the Squirrel Hunters and their widows. They never were.

Mansfield Civil War Show

CWVHA Member Peter Coulton won the Veteran Category of the Best of Show Exhibits for the second time in three years. Peter's exhibit consisted of the personal memorabilia of Henry M. Nevus, GAR National Commander-in-Chief in 1908-1909. Congratulations.

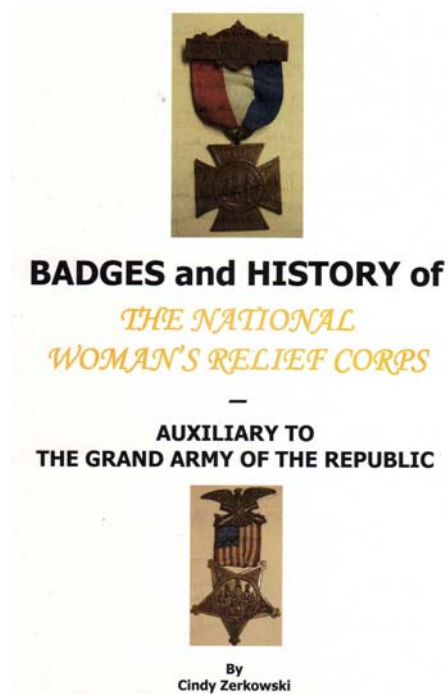
Photo by Janet Peacock.



Book Review:
Badges and History of The National Woman's Relief Corps

Reviewed by George G. Kane

Yet again, one of our CWVHA members has published a new reference book for our hobby. Cindy Zerkowski has recently published a new book on the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC). In the past, the WRC has published some small pamphlets and booklets on the history of the organization, but nothing as complete as this work. The book is heavily illustrated with examples of badges, ribbons and other memorabilia in full cover. Of course, a large number of these badges are in black with yellow background, the colors of the WRC National Encampment delegate and souvenir badges. \



The book is well written except for the introduction, which is a little confusing when writing on other organizations. Cindy has promised to rewrite this part and I'm confident she will. The rest of the book is chock full of almost everything you ever wanted to know about this organization. Except for a few photos, almost all are clean and crisp.

One of the more interesting periods of WRC history was the 1896-1911 era when the WRC controlled the grounds of the infamous Andersonville Prison. In 1896 the prison grounds were transferred from the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Georgia to the WRC. The WRC created the Andersonville Prison Board, which held the property in trust for the National Woman's Relief Corps. It assumed all legal, management and improvement matters dealing with the prison. Five members staffed the Andersonville Prison Board. Cindy has a photo of the rare Board pin- back issued to members of this Board.

By 1901, the prison had been restored back to its civil war look. Many flowers and trees had also been added. The board also purchased 13 acres of land that had been a part of the original prison and some buffer land. A house and barn was also built for the staff and visitors.

In 1911, the WRC gifted the property to the U.S. Government. The Prison is now a part of the Andersonville National Historic Site, which includes the Prison and National Cemetery.

For those members who are interested in purchasing a copy of this book, send a check or money order (no Western Union or USPS money orders) to:

C. Zerkowski
PMB 290
33228 W 12 Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3309

Questions?: denver1883@att.net

The 186-page book is \$75 plus \$5 postage (media mail, delivery confirmation, padded packaging) made out to C. Zerkowski.

The book is printed on glossy, acid-free, bright-white paper. Every member should have a copy of this book for their library.

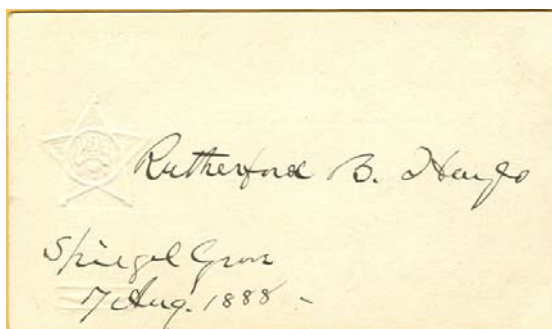
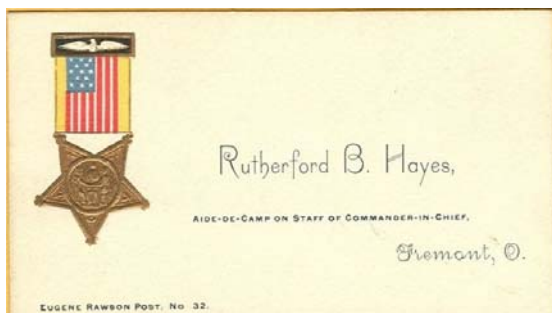
A G.A.R. Presidential Calling Card

By George G. Kane

The Autographed G.A.R. calling card of Rutherford B. Hayes was recently offered on an e-Bay auction. The card gives no hint to the owner's former office as the 19th President of the United States of America (1877-1881). The card features an embossed color copy of a G.A.R. National Staff Badge for an Aide-de-Camp. During the year, the Commander-in-Chief would appoint hundreds of Aides-de-Camp from the various posts and departments. It was, for the most part, a ceremonial appointment to members who had stood out in the previous year. During the National Encampment, an Aide-de-Camp was to assist the Commander-in-Chief, running menial tasks that would aid the CIC. Because there were hundreds of these A-d-C's, very few actually performed any tasks. A few were selected to bring water, escort speakers, guests and honorees to the stage. Most just attended and wore their staff badges.

Before being elected President in the disputed election of 1876, Hayes had been a lawyer, a Major General during the Civil War, a Republican Congressman and the Governor of Ohio. Hayes won the Presidency in the Electoral College after losing to Samuel J. Tilden in the popular vote. A compromise, ended Reconstruction and removed Union troops from the South.

As shown on the card, Hayes joined the Eugene Ramson G.A.R. Post No. 32 of Fremont, Ohio. He signed the card on the reverse at Spiegel Grove, Ohio on August 7th of 1888. You'll notice that he signed the card upside down. The embossed badge appears upside down on the left of the card. The card was signed a little over a month before the 1888 G.A.R. National Encampment in Columbus, Ohio, Hayes home state. The appointment was probably meant to entice Hayes to visit the National Encampment. Fremont is just South of Sandusky and not far from the state Capital in Columbus. Hayes is not listed in the 1888 National Encampment Journal and probably did not attend.



Rutherford B. Hayes
(1822-1893)

An Unknown Post

By Neal Westcork

Below is photo of a Memorial Day Souvenir Badge of the Grand Army of the Republic. We've all seen hundreds of these badges. Unfortunately they don't give up much information. Usually the ribbons are blank, but sometimes the year being celebrated or a GAR Post number with no name or location is printed on the ribbon. The ribbon below has printed "Patchin Post" on the ribbon.



There is a section of Greenwich Village on 10th Street in New York City, called "Patchin." I just assumed that the GAR Post had been here. Evidently a family named Patchin owned the land from 1835 to 1920. I've looked through a number of rosters, and on-line lists and I have been unable to find this post. The closest match is Patchen Post 229, of Burton, Ohio. I've found the Patchin Post in a few sources and it always ends in "in", not "en". Can anyone help?

If you can offer a location or know the number and department of this post, please send your info to the Editor. Thanks.

A Union Veteran Legion Associate Pin

By Dan Mitchell

The Union Veteran Legion was the chief competitor of the Grand Army of the Republic. Membership requirements in the UVL were a little more stringent than the GAR. Membership in the UVL required that the veteran must have served three years or had been wounded in battle to become a member. Given these strict requirements, it is curious that the UVL would offer an Associate Membership. Below is a lapel pin that suggests that such a membership was, indeed, offered.



A check of the 1890 UVL "Rules & Regulations" reveals no such relationship. Associate membership in the GAR was specifically disallowed in the GAR R&R. GAR Posts created this group, despite such rules. In the mid-1890's, Posts began to form associate groups to help with finances that the GAR members, most nearing or in retirement, could no longer afford. Is it possible that UVL encampments mirrored this movement? After a check of a number of UVL National Encampment programs, no such group is ever mentioned.

Men in Tall Hats

by George G. Kane

In the last 150 years, Abraham Lincoln stands out in the pantheon of American heroes. Only George Washington, the “Father of his Country,” outshines the “great emancipator.” In his own time, Abe was not that popular. In the Presidential election of 1860, Lincoln only received 45.6 % of the popular vote, the rest garnered by his two Democratic opponents, Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and John Breckinridge of Kentucky. On the way to his inauguration in Washington, D.C., detective Allan Pinkerton had to change the train’s schedule to foil an attempt on the President-Elect’s life in Baltimore. Throughout the civil war, numerous attempts were made to kidnap or murder the President. It was not just the South that meant Abe ill. Northern groups, called “Copperheads” helped to stir up the NYC draft riots and the burning of parts of Dayton, Ohio. So with all this hatred, how did the man become so venerated? Was it the circumstances of his death? Was it the character of the man? For the last 20 years, a group of men and women have dedicated their free time presenting Lincoln to the world. The Association of Lincoln Presenters is a nation-wide group of approximately 250 that presents, not impersonates Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln. They feel that almost anyone can put on the suit and top hat and impersonate Lincoln. When they “present” Lincoln, they are in dramatic monologue, not just an impersonation. At that time, “they are Lincoln.”

Recently, the Documentary Channel on cable TV has presented a documentary on this group titled: *Being Lincoln, Men with Hats*. It also appears on the History International Channel. The film follows a number of the presenters during the year, which leads up to their national reunion in 2008. Although they all dress and wear Lincoln beards, have Lincoln haircuts and even cosmetically add Lincoln warts, they are all different in their own way. They stand 5’6” to 6’10” (you should be able to pick out the tallest in the picture below) and vary in body sizes from skinny to wide, but in their Lincoln clothes, they will make you feel that you are in the presence of “Honest Abe”. You can contact these men and women through the ALP at their web site:

www.LincolnPresenters.org. You can contact the individual members in your area, through this web site. They travel to almost any patriotic event.

In 1996, the Lincoln Presenters traveled to Springfield, Illinois for their second convention (photo, right). The group had been founded in 1990, but did not hold a convention until 1995 at Lexington, Kentucky. They are celebrating their 21st year in 1910



Lincoln's Shawl Lands Grand Army Encampment by George G. Kane

In 1864, the mother of Tod Lincoln's tutor, Anna Williamson, sent Tod's father a plaid gray shawl. On July 30, 1864, Abraham acknowledged the gift with a letter thanking her for that "pretty and useful garment." Eight and a half months later, Abraham Lincoln would be wearing this shawl when he attended Ford's Theater for a performance of the play "Our American Cousin." After Lincoln was shot and carried to the Peterson house across from the theater, he was covered with the blood stained shawl.

After the funeral, Mary Todd Lincoln returned the shawl to the Williamson family. The shawl and the letter remained with the family. In the 1930's, a Williamson descendent, Mrs. William R. Harr, possessed the shawl. Her daughter, Mrs. Betty Perrin was the head of the Stockton, CA convention bureau. In 1936, Mrs. Perrin travel to Santa Barbara and the 69th GAR department encampment. Betty had traveled from Stockton to try to convince the GAR to hold the 1937 encampment in her city.

The City of Berkeley, Stockton's main competition, offered the Golden Gate Bridge, scheduled to finish construction in April 1937, as an event not to be missed. The bridge was touted to be a modern day wonder of the world. It was at this point that Mrs. Perrin remembered the shawl. She addressed the encampment, promising to bring the shawl to Stockton to be exhibited during the convention. She called the shawl, "a bridge to the past." The old soldiers, many with tears in their eyes, voted for Stockton.

Mrs. Perrin now had to convince her mother to ship the shawl from Washington, D.C. to Stockton. She induced her mother to ship the shawl west packed in asbestos and insured for \$10,000. It was guarded night and day by armed guards. The shawl was exhibited in the trophy room of the Stockton Civic Auditorium during the department encampment, April 25-30, 1937.


The encampment program of that year declared that the shawl was being displayed for only the second time in its history. Actually the shawl toured the Northeast in 1936, being displayed in a number of department store windows. An advertisement by a department store in Springfield, Massachusetts announcing the shawl's visit, is shown above.

**Historic—Stirring
Tragic**

On Exhibit
In Stillman's
Window
Starting Monday

**GENUINE
ABRAHAM
LINCOLN'S
SHAWL**

which was worn by
Abraham Lincoln the
night he was shot. For
the next few days you
will be able to see this
shawl which was draped
about his shoulders at
the theatre on the night
of his assassination. On
the shawl are blood
stains of the wounded
President, testimony of
one of the greatest trag-
edies in our American
history.



See This Shawl in Our Window!

STILLMAN'S

Rockwell Cover Art by George G. Kane

The print shown below is a cover illustration for the *Post* magazine of May 12, 1917. The cover was obviously for the monthly magazine's salute to Memorial Day. The illustration shows a young girl, an elderly G.A.R. member, waving his hat and a Boy Scout, saluting. I recently bought this print on e-Bay where the dealer listed it as a Rockwell poster print. I failed to read the entire description, which ended "Heavy stock from limited oversized print book collection." The 11-3/4 inch by 15-inch print was cut from a book of Rockwell prints. I wouldn't have bought this print if I had known its origin. Cutting Prints from books is not new. I frequently see steel engraved prints of civil war participants for sale on e-Bay. There is nothing illegal about book desecration, but I cannot condone this practice. After the illustrations are removed, much of the book is discarded.

The print is entitled "*Ready to Serve.*" I understand the GAR member and Boy Scout in this picture, but what is the young woman's place in this depiction. She appears to be a teenager in a white outfit with a frilly salmon blouse. She has a period hat with a feather and an umbrella or parasol in her hand. She does have a pin on her lapel, which has red and white horizontal lines. Is this a flag without a canton? Is she, what we call now, a "Candy-stripper," a hospital volunteer? Norman Rockwell's 2-lined signature is at the bottom of her dress, which is not shown here due to the size of the print.

The GAR member is in a complete Grand Army uniform including a lapel pin and membership badge. A bow type flag pin is on his right lapel. His left upper lapel has a post number sewn into it – 509. Only 7 GAR departments (IL, IN, IA, MO, NY, OH & PA) had a post with that large number.

The Boy Scout gives the scout 3-fingered salute.

READY TO SERVE

Post Cover • May 12, 1917

67

The title, which appears under the illustration, clearly shows a page number, 67. A second picture appears on the back with the page number 68.

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Unknown, Unlisted Grand Army of the Republic Belt Buckle By Douglas W. Roussin

Pictured below is a previously unlisted and unknown monogram pattern of a Grand Army of the Republic belt buckle. It measures 5.3 x 7.1 cm. The front of the plate has a large intertwined GAR monogram, nickel on brass, which is applied by four tiny brass wires going through the plate face and bent in the back. It has a double border around the edge. The outer border is solid and the inner border is a rope design. The plate is rolled stamped brass and appears to have a gold wash. The face has a light dimple background.

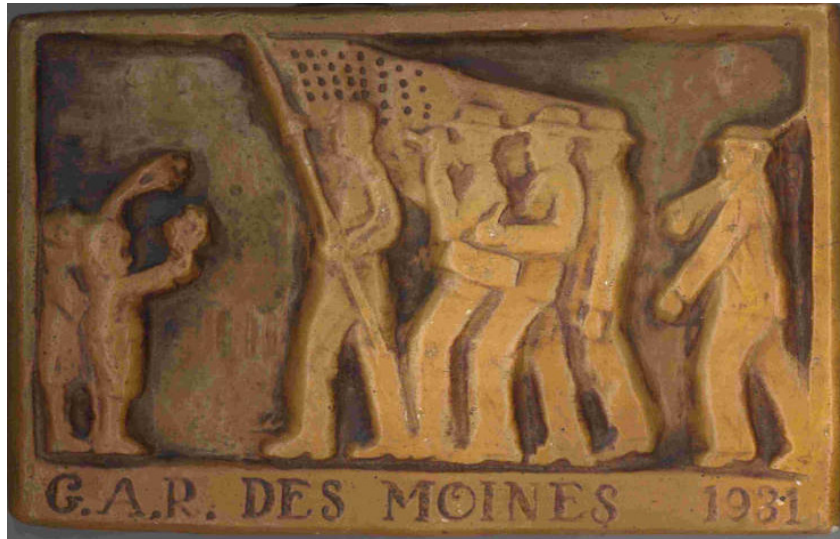
The back of the plate has two small lips, which are rolled towards the tongue and belt loop bar. The rope border can be seen on the back. It has a wide tongue and applied belt loop bar. In my book, "Belt, Plates, and Swords of the GAR and SUVCW", this plate would appear as "Belt Plate 17 A, Variation 18. It would carry a rarity 4.



See the last issue (page 29) of *The Veteran* for a review of Mr. Roussin's book, ordering instructions and a special price for CWVHA members.

1931 Plaque by School Children of Des Moines, IA

By Mike Brackin



The plaque shown above was designed and modeled by Public School Children from Des Moines, Iowa. The plaque was presented to members of the Grand Army of the Republic at their 1931 National Encampment in the same city. At one point in the National Encampment, Officer of the Day D. C. Zimmerman of Vandalia, IL, holding one of the plaques in his hands, announced "... that this plaque will be presented at the door when we adjourn. Don't rush out, but take your time and they will give you one of these prepared by the school children of Des Moines." Commander in Chief Jewel then announced, "This is a token that is worth keeping, and I hope you boys will all stop in and get one and take it home with you. It was prepared by the pupils in the public schools of the City of Des Moines at the cost of several hundred dollars. They have prepared this gift to the Grand Army of the Republic. It has the inscription "G.A.R. Des Moines 1931." (Proceedings, Pages 79-80). The voting strength of the encampment listed 1,333 officers and delegates. Assuming that copies would also be giving to guests and other dignitaries, there were probably 1,500 plaques made.

The plaque is 9 inches wide by 6 inches tall with a dark gold finish. It has a label on the reverse on which is printed: "Presented by the Boys and Girls of the / Des Moines Public Schools / to the / Members of the Grand Army of the Republic / at the annual encampment held in / Des Moines, Iowa, Sept 13-17, 1931 / in grateful appreciation for their loyalty and devotion / in the service of our county." The label goes on to name the students who designed and modeled the plaque, Eugene Lundgren and Arlon Nelson of East High School, Des Moines. The label also states, that "the design was chosen from those submitted in competition by art students at the four high senior schools." The distribution of the plaques was by students from the local public schools as the veterans exited the National Encampment.