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The Veteran

October - December 2010

The Chicago Union Veteran Club

By Everitt Bowles

The largest civil war veteran organization in Chicago in the 1880's was not the Grand Army of the Republic. The Chicago Union Veteran Club was a spin off of the marching society, Company A, Boys in Blue. The Boys in Blue had been organized in the city in 1876 during the presidential campaign of that year. In Indianapolis in 1876 there was held a large reunion of ex-soldiers of the civil war. The Boys in Blue attended this reunion in mass with other ex-soldiers from Chicago. It was at this time that the Boys decided to create a political club of ex-Union Soldiers to influence politicians. After the disaster of the last election, the Grand Army had sworn off politics, at least openly. It was the Chicago Union Veteran Club who would take up the mantle of the Republican Party. (Membership Pin & Reverse below)

On September 26, 1876, a meeting was held and a temporary organization was effected. L. F. Jacobs was elected the temporary Presiding Officer. Soon after, the group was selected to escort James G. Blaine and Robert G. Ingersoll, prominent politicians of the day. In December of that year, a meeting was held to make the group permanent. The name "Chicago Union Veteran Club" was adopted as the club name, beating out "Union Veteran's Benevolent Association." A motion was carried to admit all members on the roster of "Company A, Boys in Blue" as members of the new club.

On Jan. 2, 1877, Officers of the club for its first year were elected with Martin Beem elected President.

The original members were 300 strong. By 1878 the membership had grown to over 400. By the 1884 presidential campaign, the club numbered more than two thousand members.

On December 17, 1880 the club received its charter from the Illinois Secretary of State. Among the 400 signatures on the document were General U. S. Grant and John A. Logan. In 1879 General Grant passed through Chicago at the beginning of his world tour. The CUVC took charge of all military demonstrations during the General's visit. Some years later, General Grant was presented a badge as Past President of the CUVC. The ex-President said he couldn't remember being the president of the CUVC, but that he "should be impeached for dereliction of duty."

In 1880 and 1884 the Republican Party held its National Convention in Chicago. During these Conventions, over 100 Club members held inside house positions. In the 1884 Convention, current club president, James A. Sexton, who would later be elected Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army, would hold the position of Sergeant-at-Arms.

(Continued on Page 15.)



The President's Message

May all of our members, families and friends enjoy the holidays. May we all prosper in 2011. Good luck in your future pursuits.

Dan Mitchell
President

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End of an Era

A part of our history will soon go the way of the Dodo Bird. Kodachrome film will soon disappear. Eastman-Kodak announced last year that they will no longer be producing the film. The film has become just another victim of the digital era. Not only will the film no longer be produced, but also the chemicals used to process the film will no longer be available. Dwayne's Photo in Parsons, Kansas is the last processor of this film. After December 30, 2010, they will no longer process this film. That's the day they will run out of chemicals.

Steve McCurry, world-renowned photographer was able to buy the last roll of film manufactured by Eastman Kodak. On his way to Parsons to have the film developed, he realized he still had some film left. He took the last shots with this film in a civil war cemetery in Parsons. The last picture of the last roll was a close up of civil war union sailor from a monument in that cemetery.

The 2011 CWVHA Annual Meeting & Banquet

The CWVHA Business Meeting, Banquet and Speaker will be held at the Comfort Inn, Saturday, 6:00 PM April 30, 2011, BYOB for drinks. Catering by "Café on Main" at 6:30. There will be 3 entrees and side dishes for \$18 each. Send checks to George Finlayson at 98 Parkwood Blvd. Mansfield, OH 44906. Reservations call (419) 526-3327. Early reservations appreciated.

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The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

The cable network *A&E* recently premiered its newest product, "Brad Meltzer's Decoded." Author Meltzer narrates while three of his friends run about the country trying to solve various historical mysteries. In their first episode, the three professionals, an engineer, an attorney and a professor, scour Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia in search of Confederate gold and silver lost in the final days of the war. President Jefferson Davis packed up the Confederate Treasury and stored it in barrels to follow him in his flight from the Confederate Capital. To aid them in their search, a treasure hunter helps them to decipher the clues. The treasure hunter seems to pull clues out of the air, blaming the "Order of the Golden Circle" as the culprits in this charade. In the end they find nothing. They conclude that the old treasure hunter had duped them. Don't waste your time on this stinker, unless you're looking for some shut-eye. Happy holidays.

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.

The Chicago Union Veteran Club

(Continued from front page)

As put forth on the Charter issued by the Illinois Secretary of State in 1880, the objects of the club were only three:

1. The upholding of the principles of the Republican Party, based on a paramount for and fidelity to the National Constitution and by-laws.
2. The procuring of employment for unemployed Ex-Union Soldiers.
3. The cultivation and strengthening of the social ties, which had their origin in the common privations of the camp, the battlefield, and the prison-pen.

Eventually, a number of clubs were set up throughout the state. Included were clubs in Cicero, Peoria and Tuscola. Through the years, the club would march to support various politicians and causes. In October of 1896 the club marched for "Sound Money." In November of 1895, after a patriotic speech by J. F. Hughson, "Veteran! What are the Waves of Time Saying to Thee," the organization of a woman's auxiliary was discussed. After serving the Republican Party for many years in the last half of the 19th Century, they appear to have faded away in the early years of the 20th Century.



**Cicero Union Veteran
Club Ribbon**



The membership raised substantial funds to support their political causes. At the 1887 military encampment held in Chicago the club built the elaborate pavilion illustrated above. No doubt, the structure impressed many veterans who were thinking of joining the club.

The CUVC membership pin is available at my website, www.civilwarbadges.com

MOLLUS Medal Numbering by Tom McCrory

Recently, e-Bay has seen a number of MOLLUS membership medals offered. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States has been active since 1865 when a number of officers formed the group, the day after Lincoln's assassination. Originally, only officers who participated in the civil war could become members. Later, children of these officers and their descendants were admitted. Originally 3 classes of membership were created.

Class 1: Honorably Discharged Union Officers of the Civil War.

Class 2: First Sons of Class 1 Officers

Class 3: Civilians who were honored for their contributions to the war effort, i.e. Politicians, Industrialists, Financiers. No memberships were allowed after 1890.

Later, Hereditary, Junior, Associate and Honorary companions were elected to membership.

All classes received copies of the MOLLUS medal (shown below, left) all of which were stamped with an insignia number (below, right) on an attaching ring. Medals sold at auction do better if they are identified and to which class the owner belonged. In 2007, the book "Union Blue, The History of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US" by R. G. Carroon and D. B. Shoaf was published. The end of the book contains a roster of members with their insignia number. The highest listed number is 18461. Unfortunately there are only 11,968 members listed. The authors state, "As far as we have been able to determine all companions of the first and third class are included in the roster." So we can assume that any missing numbers before 18,461 and any numbered after this number belong to one of the other classes. MOLLUS still exists and published a quarterly journal which can be seen at their web site, which is attached to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website.

If you look at their Historical Journal you'll notice that they are still issuing insignia numbers. Any number over 18461 has to be a hereditary member. The latest hereditary insignia number is 22451. Associate members have an "A" before their number. The latest Associate insignia number issued (winter 2010) was A 245.



The member who was awarded this membership medal (18309) was not listed in the "Union Blue" roster and as such was not a civil war veteran officer, but the ancestor of one.



The 3rd Class MOLLUS Membership

by George G. Kane

When the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US was founded, it initially included only 3 classes of membership. The first class was for Union Officers, the second for their oldest sons and the third for civilians who significantly aided the Union cause. In 25 years, only 138 individuals were accepted into third class membership. In 1890, MOLLUS voted to no longer offer these memberships. This may have been due to the inconsistency in the selection of these members. In the early years of this organization, Lincoln, his Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin, seven cabinet members, ten US Senators, two US Representatives, 15 Governors, 1 Lt. Governor, two Mayors (Boston & San Francisco), seven Sanitary Commission Officials, two US Attorney Generals, six state Adjutant Generals and an number of other minor officials were accepted into this class. Two Revenue Marine Cutter Service Captains were also elected. The Revenue Marine, which later became the US Coast Guard, was not considered a military organization and was omitted from Class One consideration. A number of National Guard and Militia Officers were also elected to membership.

As the years passed by, the eligibility requirements, vague as they were, seem to slacken. The last two members, elected on the same day by the Massachusetts Commandery, were the poets John Greenleaf Whittier and James Russell Lowell. Lowell had been the Ambassador to Spain and Great Britain during the war, but his simultaneous election with Whittier, was obviously for his writings rather than his foreign service. George F. Root, a composer of civil war songs became a member the year before Whittier and Lowell. James E. Murdoch's civil war participation was listed as an entertainer in soldiers' camps. There were four members from California, whose achievement was listed as "Pioneer Settler." My research found little on no reference to these members during the civil war. A number of members did not have the reason for their selection attached to their listing. Conspicuous by his absence is Vice President and later President Andrew Johnson. Johnson, who was a Southerner, received the Vice Presidential nod for his loyalty to the Union and not for any political achievements. His impeachment trial and his post civil war activities may have led to his non-selection by MOLLUS. One of his aides, Benjamin C. Truman, however, was elected to membership.

A number of members were elected for founding or organizing various groups. Giles F. Filley organized the Free Soil Party, John Forbes organized the Loyal Publication Society, Samuel B. Fales was the founder of the Union Volunteer Refreshment and Saloon organization and John C. Ropes was founder of the Military History Society. Two religious figures, Philip Brooks, Episcopalian Bishop of Massachusetts and Edward Everett Hale, a Unitarian Minister also from Massachusetts were elected to membership in 1889. Hale was also an author. Louis Sloss was listed as a Financial Advisor to the US Government.

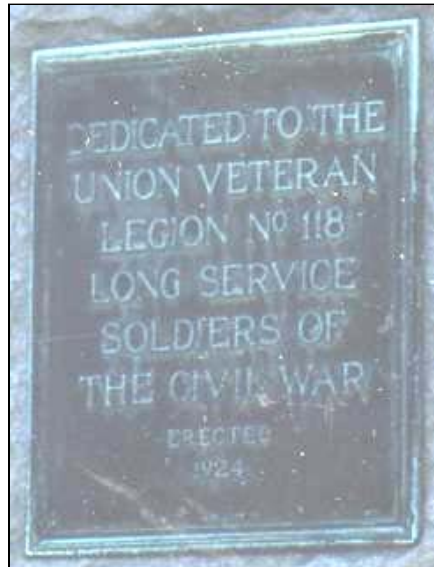
By far the strangest election to membership was that of Benito Juarez, President of Mexico. At signal number 156, he was an early member of MOLLUS. What could have been his contribution to the American Civil War? At the time, Mexico had been invaded and conquered by Imperial French troops. France enthroned Maximillian Hapsburg as the Emperor of Mexico. The Mexicans later re-conquered their country and shot Maximillian I. Any CWWHA member who has a MOLLUS membership medal with an engraved signal number can contact me to help identify the MOLLUS member.

**A Union Veteran Legion Monument
Zanesville, Ohio
by Greg Bohn**

If you've seen one civil war monument you've seen them all! That saying might be true for most civil war monuments, but not for the monument pictured below. Most of the monuments were paid and erected for Grand Army Posts, Soldiers & Sailors Organizations or civic groups. The monument below was dedicated to and created by the Union Veteran Legion (UVL). The UVL local encampment No. 118 funded the monument, located in Zanesville, Ohio. Encampment is the name used by the UVL to designate a local post. The monument depicts a Union Sentry, at parade rest with cape. The soldier is not unlike the thousands of monuments dedicated to local civil war veterans by the Grand Army Posts across this nation.

I discovered this memorial while traveling in Ohio in the mid-1990's. Unfortunately a giant modern water tower has been erected behind the sentry's left shoulder. The monument is located on a street island in the shape of a triangle. At the time the triangle was not very well manicured. Today the island has iron fencing and has been landscaped.

The monument was erected in 1924, which was close to the end of the UVL lifetime. The last UVL National Encampment was held in 1928 and the last local encampment closed its doors in 1939.



The brass plaque attached to the monument states:

**DEDICATED TO THE
UNION VETERAN
LEGION No. 118
LONG SERVICE
SOLDIERS OF
THE CIVIL WAR
ERECTED
1924**

The Last of the Union Veteran Legion National Encampments by George G. Kane

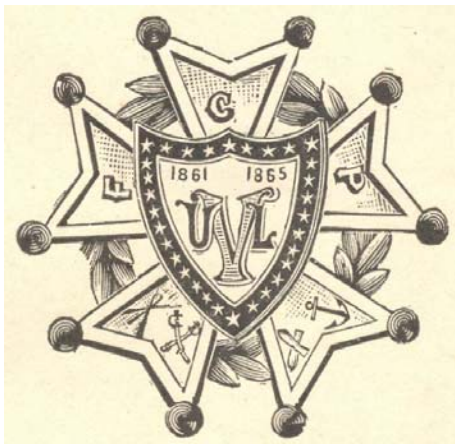
I've finally discovered the true facts of the last three national encampments of the Union Veteran Legion (UVL). While using genealogybank.com's vast holdings of antique newspapers, I discovered the time and location of these events.

41 st	Columbus, OH	Sept. 10-12, 1926	Albert Buhl Hay (1)
42 nd	Pittsburgh, PA	Sept. 9-12, 1927	Albert Buhl Hay (1)
43 rd	Pittsburgh, PA	Sept. 5, 1928	Albert Buhl Hay (1)

One of the original founders of the organization, Albert Buhl Hay was the first and last National Commander-in-Chief of the UVL.

The *Altoona Mirror* of September 6, 1928 announced that "Legion Veterans in Last Meeting." The article went on to describe the last national encampment of the UVL. Only 24 members of this national organization attended the final encampment at Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh. Age and illness prevented many members from attending. The paper claimed that the UVL once had a membership of 100,000. In reality, the UVL's national membership probably never exceeded 25,000. The inflated numbers were more to impress politicians when the group lobbied for legislation for the civil war veterans, widows and orphans.

The newspaper went on to say, "Several times recently there was talk of foregoing the encampment, but each year it was thought that they continue a little longer. It was feared if the action was not taken at this time, that by another year it would die without the formality of dissolution." It was not their intent to dissolve the organization, only the national encampments. "The last member must die to efface it and local bodies will continue to meet, but never again will the boys meet in convention." The delegates were served dinner after the business meeting and photos were taken. At the end of the minutes of the encampment, the word "Finis" was written.



Daughters of the Union Veteran Legion

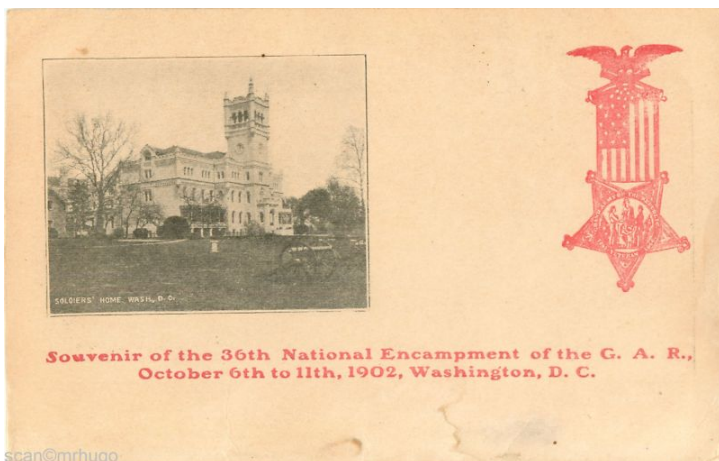
In the May 26, 1927 issue of the Bradford Era, Bradford, PA there was a short article on the Daughters of the UVL. "The Daughters of the Union Veteran Legion will serve supper to the Union Veteran Legion Auxiliary this evening at 5:30 in the WCTU rooms."

This is the only instance of a daughters' group affiliated with the UVL. If they were not hosting the LUVL I might have thought that this was an error by the newspaper. This group may be unique, existing only at the local level.

Grand Army Post Card Set of 1902

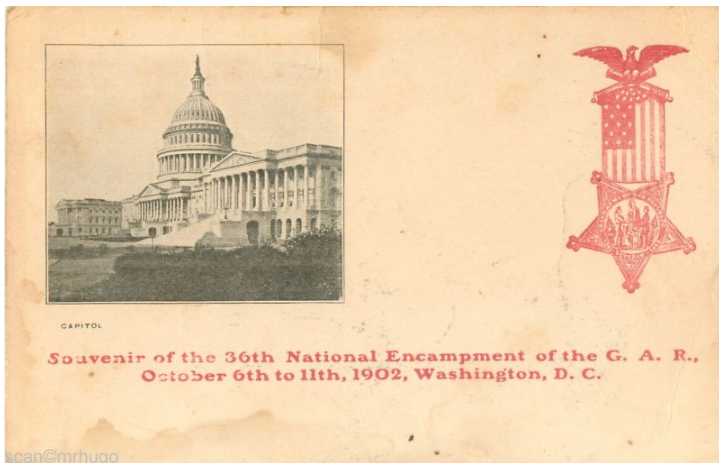
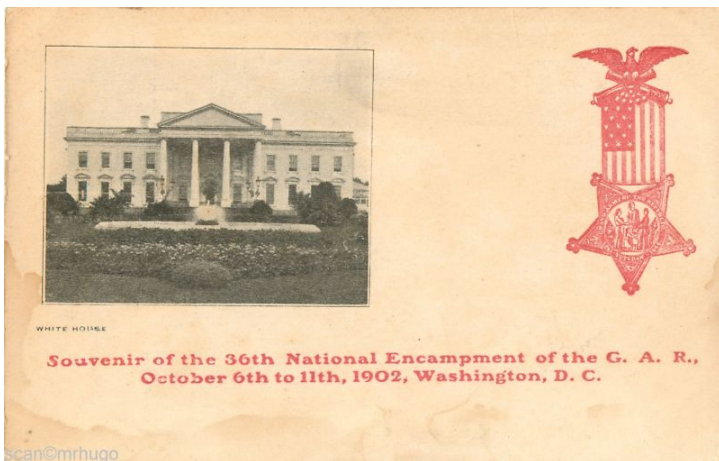
by Noel B. Preston

The following souvenir postcards were issued at the 36th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. The postcards picture (from top to bottom) the National Soldiers' Home in the District of Columbia, The White House and the Capitol.



The cards all have a pink background with a red copy of the GAR membership badge and a description in red font.

The unsplit back of the card has a large graphic with small leaves and acorns announcing that this is indeed a Post Card.



Washington, D.C was and is a tourist town. Post Cards are especially well trafficked in the District. With a multitude of historic and government buildings, souvenir shops bristled with post cards of these buildings and personalized them with fraternal and society events. The Grand Army was no stranger to these souvenirs.

Unusual GAR Post Pin by George G. Kane

The Grand Army of the Republic Post pin pictured below is quite unusual. It was recently auctioned off on e-Bay.



For one thing, the post number is quite high. I can find eight instances of posts issued the number 569:

Milburn Post, Dix, IL
Maccuel Heck Post, Burns City, IN
Notre Dame Post, Notre Dame, IN
Jack Flynn Post, Waldron, IN
Mark T. Brown Post, Stockton, MO
H. L. Farmer Post, Cleveland, NY
C. P. Ogden Post, Nova, OH
Ralph Clapp Post, Grand Valley, PA



The piece is a stickpin with a long pin attached to the reverse side. The pin appears to be hand made and well done except for some extra periods at the bottom of the number "5". The top appears to be brass and the stickpin is probably white metal.

New Lincoln Dollar Coin by George G. Kane

The United States Mint has recently issued its newest variety of its Presidential Dollar Coins Set.



Children of the Civil War By George G. Kane

On February 28, 1904, the Boston Daily Globe reported a new civil war society.

"Children of the Civil War. The new society being formed by Mrs. Elida Rumsey Fowle of Dorchester, the well known army nurse, who was married at the White House, promises to be a success. ...The first to be enrolled ...is G. Prescott Fuller of Medford, son of Sarah Fuller, the department president of the (WRC) and the present national counselor. Prescott is the grandson of a civil war hero... His great grandfather served in the revolution. His father is a member of the Sons of Veterans ... He is a pupil in the high school of Medford." Has anyone heard of this society?

A *Sultana* Survivor Banner / Flag

by Richard Troup

Below is a rare one-of-a-kind *Sultana* Survivor banner /flag. It appears to be made of burlap material. There is a beautiful Civil War style eagle, above which is stenciled:

Sultana / Survivor's

To the left of the eagle, printed vertically, is the word “Ohio.” Albert Norris, a private in the 76th Ohio Infantry, the last surviving member of the *Sultana* group, owned this piece. He died in his home in Grandville, Ohio on January 9, 1936 at the age of 94.

The age of the banner is not readily apparent. Most likely, it was used in a national convention of the Grand Army of the Republic. It probably flew in more than one veteran parade. It may have been used as a table decoration or as a rallying point on the floor of a convention. It may have flown in a GAR Post room. The flag measures 18” by 18”.

As the *Sultana* exploded, Private Norris fell through the crumbling decks. He later wrote that he landed on the “hot irons of the furnace burning my left shoulder and arm to a crisp.” Pinned by men and debris, he required some time to free himself and get to his feet. As others fled toward the bow, Norris and Private James Stone (Co. D, 76th Ohio Infantry) grabbed an empty cracker barrel and a coal box. With these flotation devices in hand, Norris with the barrel and Stone with the box, climbed over the protective railing at the center of the boat into the water and made their way to safety. While Albert was holding fast to the barrel, his pants came loose at the waist and slipped down his legs, twisting around his feet. He was close to drowning when the *Steamer Bostana* arrived. He swam towards the boat. The *Steamer Bostana* launched several rescue boats to pick up men in the water. Three crewmen in a small rescue boat pulled Albert aboard. His friend Private Stone, who was not a good swimmer, drowned.

By May 15, 1865, about 200 of those rescued had died in Memphis hospitals. Yet, almost miraculously, some of the seriously injured survived. Three weeks after the exploding boilers had burned his left arm and shoulder, Norris’ brother and their family doctor took him home.

It’s hard to believe that *Sultana* Disaster material is still being discovered. I purchased this recently at an online auction on e-Bay. Material gathered for this article came from “Disaster on the Mississippi” by Gene Salacker and “Sultana Tragedy” by Jerry Potter.



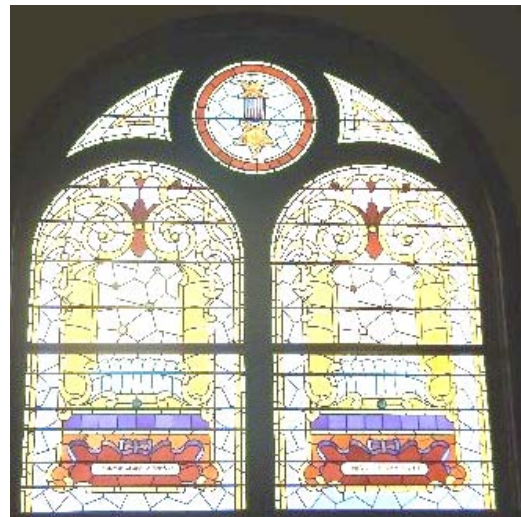
Private Albert Norris

Grand Army Window Rededicated in Union Springs, New York

By Jerry and Lorraine Orton

On Sunday, November 14th, Lorraine and I traveled to Union Springs, New York to witness the rededication of the newly restored stain glass window featuring a GAR membership badge at the Trinity United Church of Christ in that town. The window had originally been donated to the church by the A. A. Huff Post No. 494, Grand Army of the Republic in the late 1800's. In the past few years, the window was literally falling apart. Repairs were estimated at \$25,000 for the 10-foot by 10-foot window. The church put a \$22,000 deposit down and looked to its membership and the local community for contributions. The local Legion Post donated \$5,000 and the church held fundraisers to meet the shortfall. In all, \$27,000 was raised for the repairs.

Brendan Stained Glass Studio of Syracuse was hired to clean and repair all 1,200 pieces of glass. Pieces were replaced and the window was rebuilt with new leading to lock the glass pieces together. A new window frame was built at the church to hold the repaired window. The company made the window more energy efficient and estimated that it would last another 100 years



The top left photo is the GAR membership badge, which is at the top of the window. The total window is at the top right. The bottom left shows workers repairing the window. A section of the window is being carried into the church in the bottom right photo.

The Grand Army and the Cotton Centenary Celebration of 1890 **By George G. Kane**

In 1890, our country recognized the 100th Anniversary of the first Cotton Mill in America. Previous to that date, raw cotton was shipped to Europe to be spun into a finished product. Before the Revolution, it was against the law to spin cotton in the colonies. In 1790, Samuel Slater immigrated to the United States from Belfor, England. On his arrival in Pawtucket, RI, he built spinning frames, carding machines, handlooms and purchased a cotton gin. All of these machines would be powered by water from the local river. The building and use of these machines outside of England would be considered treason by that country.

In 1890, the State of Rhode Island and the City of Pawtucket joined together to create a unique celebration in honor of Samuel Slater and the establishment of cotton manufacturing in that city in 1790. The week of September 29th to October 3rd was designated for the 5-day event. The first day would be devoted to Sunday school exercises. Slater was thought to be the founder of the first Sunday school in America, although many other towns, including Bethlehem, CT, also claimed that honor. On Monday morning, Sunday Schools from throughout Rhode Island paraded to Dunnell Park where Music, addresses and prayers were delivered to the crowd gathered there. A local Catholic pastor forbade all of his parishioners from attending this ceremony because of Protestant religious exercises held at the park. In the afternoon, the formal ceremonies began at Centenary Hall on Broad St. After a number of bands provided music, then the big engine that ran the cotton manufacturing machinery was started. In the hall, all the processes of manufacturing could be seen from growing cotton to finished cloth.

On Tuesday, a large military parade of militia and veterans occurred during the morning, with over five thousand participants, including the Grand Army Posts, Sons of Veterans, naval veterans and militia from various New England states. Many guests including four Governors, civic, industrial and military leaders packed the reviewing stands. That night, the GAR held a campfire presided by Robert F. Tobin, national Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief.

The rest of the week held other activities. On Wednesday, a grand trades procession took place with a parade of civic and secret societies (Masonic?) held later that night. Thursday, veteran firemen mustered from all over the country competing for prizes with various skill events. Friday morning saw a prize regatta on the river while the "King Kotton Karnival" began with a parade of costumed riders and King Kotton, himself. Throughout the week, visitors viewed the cotton processing exhibited and toured the old Slater Mill and the Mill House where Mr. Slater lived. The Grand Army participated in most of the activities, wearing post ribbons as shown below, with a picture of Samuel Slater pictured.

