



Volume 24, No. 3

The Veteran

January – March 2011

The Lincoln Badges of Mourning

By George Kane & Tom McCrory

. The days following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln were some of the more hectic times in American History. The largest manhunt in American History was underway. The assassin not only shot the President of the United States, he shot the Commander-in-Chief of the nation's armed forces. As such, the responsibility for the manhunt, the legal prosecution and the announcements of grief fell to the War Department. On April 16, 1865, the day after the President's death, Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, issued War Department General Order No. 66. The order compelled every military unit to "drape in mourning" every headquarters of every department, post, fort, station and arsenal. The period of mourning was spelled out as thirty days.

This general order also commanded that every U.S. military institution would pay funeral honors in memory of their late Commander-in-Chief. The national flag would also be dropped to half-mast for the same period of thirty days. General Grant was given the responsibility and the instructions to carry out these commands. After the name and title of the Secretary of War, followed a short list of instructions from Lt. General Grant.

General Grant spelled out the activities of all military locations under command of the War Department. *"On the day after receipt of this order at the headquarters of each Military Division, Department, Army, Post, Station Fort and Arsenal and at the Military Academy at West Point, the troops and cadets will be paraded at 10:00 a.m., and the order read to them; after which all labors and operations for the day will cease and be suspended, as far as practicable in time of war."*

Grant also ordered that thirteen guns would fire a salute at dawn. After which, a single gun would be fired every thirty minutes until the setting of the Sun. At the time of the setting Sun, a thirty-six gun national salute would end the day.

Almost as an afterthought, Grant added this final paragraph:

"The officers of the Armies of the United States will wear the badge of mourning on the left arm and on their swords, and on the colors of their commands, and regiments will be put in mourning for the period of thirty days."

This section of the order was signed by W. A. Nichols, Assistant Adjutant General, "By command of Lieutenant General Grant."



Photo Courtesy of
Tom McEvoy

The President's Message

The annual Civil War Show and CWVHA banquet is upon us again. I hope we will see many of our members there. Regards.

Dan Mitchell
President

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Noel Preston - Jerry & Lorraine Orton

Membership Dues

The membership dues of the Civil War Veteran's Historical Association will be due with the Mansfield Civil War Show on April 30th. Dues are still \$20. Send a check, made out to "C.W.V.H.A." and mailed to our Treasurer:

Dave Aeberli
9372 Almar Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4872

Hopefully you'll join us for our Silver Anniversary year. It will be 25 years since the group organized in Ashland, Ohio, the location of the original Ohio Civil War Show.

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.

Table of Contents

The Lincoln Badges of Mourning	25, 27, 28
President's and Editor's Messages	26
New Civil War Commemorative Stamps	29
Grand Army Creamer Pitcher	30
CWVHA Scanning Project	31
Grand Army Hat / Coat Check	32
The Grand Army /Boy Scout Cover	32
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Car Tags	33
A Grand Army Tobacco Jar	34
The Civil War's Tallest Veteran	35
The Last Forgotten Man	36

The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

I hope you didn't throw away the envelope The Veteran came in. You'll find two canceled stamps commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. The first two stamps celebrate Fort Sumter and the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas to our Rebel Supporters). Commemorative Sheets can now be purchased at your local Post Office.

I hope you take advantage of the free scanning of your collection by Tom McCrory at the Mansfield Civil War Show. See details on page 31.

I hope I see a lot of our members at the Mansfield Show. This year's banquet features a presentation by CWVHA member Doug Roussin on Veteran belt buckles. A ribbon for the CWVHA Reunion is included in this issue.

Regards
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.

Continued from page 25 ...

The “badge of mourning” was never spelled out in detail. The type of badge or ribbon appears to have been left to the commanders of individual units, regiments, etc. Many of these “badges” were nothing more than lengths of silk or cloth tied around the left bicep of the officer or soldier and two equal tails of the cloth hanging down from the knot. Examples of this type of mourning badge are shown on the next page. Shown below are examples of manufactured badges sold by sutlers and merchants. The badge shown on the front page is a large rosette with a medal of Lincoln’s head facing left, in the center of the rosette. A black (silk?) cloth hangs from the back of the rosette. The back of that badge is shown below and reveals a vertical attachment pin. The reverse of the second example has white silk tails that are individually attached to the reverse. The third example resembles GAR mourning badges of later in the century.



Mourning badges shown to the left may have been worn by civilians during this period.

The CWVHA would like to thank Tom McEvoy for allowing us to add all these images to this article.

We would also like to thank Tom McCrory for traveling to Mr. McEvoy's home and scanning these badges.

Continued on Page 28.

***The Veteran – Page 27
January – March 2011***



One of the un-intentioned gifts of General Order No. 66 is that photos of various officers and soldiers can be dated to the six-month period following Lincoln's assassination if they have the "badge of mourning" on their left arm as ordered. This leaves us a glimpse of these military men as the American Civil War concluded. Photos of many major historical characters can be compared from both ends of the civil war. Anyone who has seen photos of Abraham Lincoln before and at the end of the conflict can see the dramatic changes in Lincoln's face.



Generals Logan, Meade, Grant and an unidentified officer have simple cloth tide around their left bicep as a mourning badge while the unidentified soldier has a manufactured badge pinned to his uniform. Because of the black photos, the tails of the officer badges can be seen easier then the knots on their blue uniforms.

New Civil War Commemorative Stamps USPS Announcement

With this 2011 issuance, the U.S. Postal Service begins a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, joining others across the country in paying tribute to the American experience during the tumultuous years from 1861 to 1865.

A souvenir sheet with two stamp designs will be issued each year through 2015. For 2011, one stamp depicts the beginning of the war in April 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, while the other depicts the first major battle of the war three months later at Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia. Art Director Phil Jordan created the stamps using existing images of Civil War battles. The Fort Sumter stamp is a reproduction of a Currier & Ives lithograph, circa 1861, titled "Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor."



The Bull Run stamp is a reproduction of a 1964 painting by Sidney E. King titled "The Capture of Rickett's Battery." The painting depicts fierce fighting on Henry Hill over an important Union battery during the Battle of First Bull Run.



The stamp pane's background photograph shows a Union regiment assembled near Falls Church, Virginia circa 1861. The stamp pane includes comments on the war by Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, and Robert E. Lee. It also includes some of the lyrics used during the Civil War in "Johnny is Gone for a Soldier," a song dating back at least to the Revolutionary War. The Fort Sumter and First Bull Run stamps are Forever® stamps. Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate.

Grand Army Creamer Pitcher By Jerry & Lorraine Orton

We found the pitcher pictured below, in an antique shop while we were on vacation in Madison or Otsego County, New York. The pitcher stands 2 ½ inches tall and has a picture of a Grand Army Hall on its side. The makers' mark on the bottom lists a merchant in Vinalhaven, Maine. Vinalhaven is a remote fishing community located in the Fox Islands in the Gulf of Maine. It's accessible by ferry or airplane from Rockland, Maine. In the 19th Century, a pinkish-grey granite was discovered on the island. The granite is found in civic buildings in major cities throughout the country. The island is well known for its summer community of wealthy New England and New York families.



The GAR Memorial Hall pictured on the pitcher was completed in 1895 at a cost of \$10,000. It was dedicated on July 4th of that year. A store and the post office were located on the first floor. GAR rooms were located on the first floor in the back. The second floor had a 600-seat hall, with a stage and a balcony on three sides.

The Grand Army Post on the island was the Lafayette Carver Post No. 45. Second Lieutenant Lafayette Carver joined Co. I, 19th Maine Volunteer Infantry as a private in August of 1862. In February of 1864 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. The opening encounter of the Siege of Petersburg, Virginia was called the battle of Jerusalem Plank Road. This was an attempt by U.S. Grant to capture the Weldon Railroad Line, a supply line for the Confederates. At this battle, Lt. Carver received a gunshot wound to the shoulder. The wound was eventually fatal and the Lieutenant died the next day, June 22, 1864.

CWVHA Scan Project

By Tom McCrory

For the last year, I have been traveling the country scanning large collections of civil war memorabilia. I recently finished scanning the amazing collection of Lincoln memorabilia compiled by Tom McEvoy. Some of his collection can be seen in the first article of this issue.

You might wonder why I would be undertaking this project. First and most important, this database will help with future issues of *The Veteran*. George Kane, the editor, has been producing the newsletter for the last 12 years. It gets harder with every issue to come up with something new. A number of these pieces will be spotlighted in future issues of our newsletter. Personally, I enjoy browsing the massive collections of civil war memorabilia owned by super collectors. Hopefully we will be able to present these pieces for more people to enjoy.

So what would make you bring your collection to the Civil War Show in Mansfield for me to scan on to a disk? Digitizing makes your collection portable. There will be no more scribbled lists of your wants and needs. You'll be able to access your collection and see the condition of any piece in your collection. This helps avoid buying duplicates, or lesser condition items you already have. You can compare items in your collection through your phone, of course depending on what type of phone you have. If you plan on selling any pieces then you won't have to take the time to photograph or scan these pieces. They'll all be on a compact disk, ready for you to paste them up into an e-Bay auction or Craig's list.

Lastly, a digitized image of your pieces would aid in estimating the value of your collection for insurance purposes. God forbid your pieces would be stolen or destroyed in a fire; you'd have a photo of what was missing to give to the police. Bring as many pieces as you wish. Scanning is very quick. See you at the show.

Editor's Note

I would personally like to thank Tom McCrory for taking on this project. Hopefully this will generate a number of articles for future issues of *The Veteran*. This will be my 45th issue of this newsletter. This database will aid in my writing new articles, but it will also aid you. If you're wondering if a badge exists for a certain year, maybe I can generate a photo of a badge to aid in your search. We are especially interested in early badges, presentation badges, 3BN material, but all civil war pieces are welcome. Remember the scanner is limited to 8 ½ x 14 inches. If you want a certificate or other ephemera digitized, try to limit them to this size or smaller. Remember that this is at no cost to you.

The amount of information that can be placed on a single CD-Rom, these days, is simply amazing. So if you're a dealer or just visiting the show, please come visit us in the main building and bring all or part of your collection. When you walk into the building, bear left and we are half way down the second aisle. CWVHA members Everett Bowles, Dave Aeberli, Dan Mitchell, Warren Barber, Don Limpert, George Finlayson, and Mike Bracken are in the same aisle with us. Thanks for your help.

George

Grand Army Hat/Coat Check By Everitt Bowles

The leather strap and shield shaped metal piece shown below is a hat or coat check for a G.A.R. Hall.



As in most northern states, winter means outerwear heavy enough to protect you from the snow, rain, wind hail and freezing temperatures. A trip to the GAR hall usually meant a heavy coat, gloves, boots and a hat. Most of the halls provided hooks and/or individual boxes to store all this gear. Some had cloakrooms. An attendant would take you gear and give you a coat check. Your coat would be hung on a hanger that had a number on it and a hatcheck with the same number given to the member. After the meeting, the member merely handed the hatcheck back to the attendant who retrieved the coat for the member.

In previous examples of this hatcheck piece, that I've observed, they had only "GAR" and the number, while this hatcheck has "GAR Hall" and the number (not the Post No.).

***The Veteran – Page 32
January - March 2011***

A Grand Army / Boy Scout Cover By George G. Kane

The cover below came from a magazine, probably in the 1911-1920 decade. Can anyone identify the badge on the scout's chest? The pendant is a Maltese cross with a rounded border.



The signature, which is clipped in this picture, appears to say Paul Strup.

A Clean Advertisement By George G. Kane

The advertisement shown below is from the Souvenir book sold at the 1900 GAR National Encampment in Chicago.



Sons of Confederate Veterans, Car Tags in Mississippi

By Noel B. Preston

Most states have “vanity” automobile plates issued by their motor vehicle departments. You have to pay extra to have the right to affix these specialty plates to your vehicle as your official license plate. The plates run the gamut of themes from colleges to professional sports teams, veterans, National Guard and historical commemoration.

In the state of Mississippi you can get a Sons of Confederate Veterans license plate.

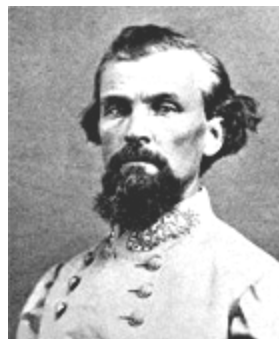


The tag (license plates are called tags in Mississippi) can be purchased at the County Tag Office. \$26 of the purchase price goes directly to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The SCV uses the money to help repair Mississippi Battle Flags in the Old Capital Collection at Jackson, MS. Nine of these flags have already been repaired. The next two to be restored will cost in excess of \$100,000. The work has been completed in West Virginia at a nationally known conservator service.

The tag has a confederate flag on the plate as well as the SCV logo, both of which have the Confederate battle flag within their design. The letters “C” and “V” are printed vertically on the right side. Some of the money is used to help fight “Heritage Violations.” Violations usually deal with attempts to stop the elimination of confederate logos on state flags and other symbols of the “Lost Cause.”

Recently, a storm of controversy has arisen over the Mississippi Division of the SCV attempt to have a commemorative tag honoring the Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest with his likeness on a tag in 2014. The state is planning to have a new commemorative tag issued each year during the 150th anniversary of the civil war or as its known in the South, “The War Between The States.”

The problem is with General Forrest’s activities after the war. The General is considered one of the founders of the Klu Klux Klan. It might also have something to do with the fact that he was the KKK Grand Dragon in its early years, 1866-1869.



The “Fort Pillow Massacre” may have also sullied his reputation. In April of 1864 troops under the general’s command stormed and overwhelmed Fort Pillow, which was garrisoned by black troops. These troops were not given “quarter”, but butchered as they tried to surrender or “shot while trying to escape.”

The NCAAP and other groups have asked the Governor of Mississippi to cancel the issuance of such a plate. A mock up of the tag is shown below.



A Grand Army Tobacco Jar

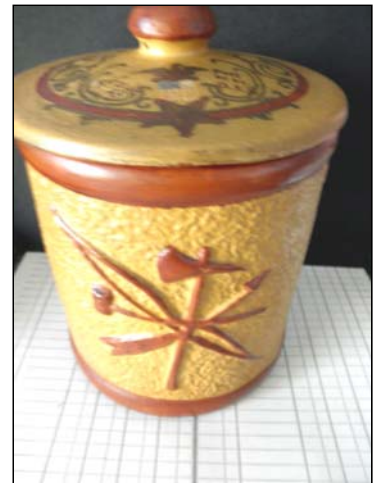
by George G. Kane

This rare hand painted, hand thrown Tobacco Jar (pot) marked with Grand Army of the Republic symbols was recently auctioned on e-Bay. The jar lid has a Grand Army Membership badge, the name of the owner and the GAR Post to which he belonged. Robert O. Tyler Post No. 50 was located in Hartford, CT.

Robert Ogden Tyler, an 1853 West Point graduate, was a career military officer, whose civil war experiences ranged from the bombardment of Ft. Sumter to a devastating wound at the battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. He was appointed a Brevet Major General for gallantry at that battle. After the war, he continued in military service as a Lt. Colonel and Chief Quartermaster of the 2nd Military District. His wound finally became mortal on December 1, 1874. He had grown up in Hartford and was buried there soon after his death in Boston.

Adolphus Frederick Miles, the owner of the jar, was born November 25, 1837 in Canandaigua, Ontario County, NY and died March 8, 1907 in Hartford, CT. He was in the US Navy for three years preceding the civil war. During the war he served in Company D, 126th New York Infantry from 1862-1865. He was taken prisoner by Confederate forces at Harpers Ferry, VA in September 1862. He was subsequently paroled and assigned to a regimental hospital in Chicago. After the war he was a printer, working at the *Hartford Daily Times*. He was the secretary for the Typographical Union. He had moved in 1880 from Fishkill, NY to Hartford, CT.

The jar is 5 inches tall and 6.5 inches including the lid. It is 4.5 inches in diameter. The sides feature an embossed Indian Head and group of Indian artifacts including a tomahawk, a bow and arrow and a peace pipe. There is no maker's mark. There is a little flaw in the pottery on the lid edge, but it is under the paint, and looks to have always been there.



At Right:
Brevet Major General
Robert Ogden Tyler
circa 1863



The Civil War's Tallest Veteran

By George G. Kane

Williamson Patterson Bane was born in 1844 near Washington, Pennsylvania. He was known as Pat. By the time he enlisted in Company A, 22nd Pennsylvania Cavalry at the age of 18, he had grown to seven feet four inches and weighed over 300 pounds. The Greene County Giant served from June 1862 to June 1865 and never fought in a single battle, not even a skirmish. The quartermaster corps could never find the clothing or equipment he needed to fight with his company. During skirmishes he was usually standing guard or on sick duty. In 1898 he had a private bill introduced into Congress to increase his 1878 pension from \$12 to \$30. The reason he gave was the lack of proper clothing during the war caused him to contract rheumatism in his arms and legs. The drawing on the right, pictures Pat during the civil war. It appears only one button on his coat can catch a buttonhole. He holds one breast of the coat with his right hand to ward off the weather. Notice the left sleeve high on his forearm.

Later, Pat joined the GAR and was a noticeable attendee at national and department encampments. During the encampment parade, he would often lead the procession.

When Pat died on March 17, 1912, a special coffin had to be made to hold his body. No hearse large enough could be found to carry his oversized coffin. He was transported to the cemetery on a flag-draped wagon.



In the 1898 drawing to the left, Pat Bane appears next to an average size veteran. The cane in his right hand appears to be too short to be of any assistance to the lanky shingle maker. In his last decade he lived in Nineveh, PA, just outside Washington, PA. He enjoyed attending carnivals and circuses where small children often surrounded him. He never tired of answering their questions about his height.

When he died his obituary was printed in hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States and Europe.

The Last Forgotten Man

by George G. Kane

On February 27, 2011, the last member of the American Expeditionary Forces of 1917-1918 died at his home in Charles Town, WV. He died only 26 days after reaching his 110th Birthday. Frank Woodruff Buckles left only two remaining participants in World War I to carry on. Claude Stanley Choules, 110, who resides in Australia, was a sailor in the Royal Navy. Florence Beatrice (Patterson) Green, 110, was a member of the Woman's Royal Air Force.

Frank was born in Missouri, February 1, 1901. His family later moved to Oklahoma. On August 14, 1917 he joined the US Army at the age of 16 years old.



Frank at 16

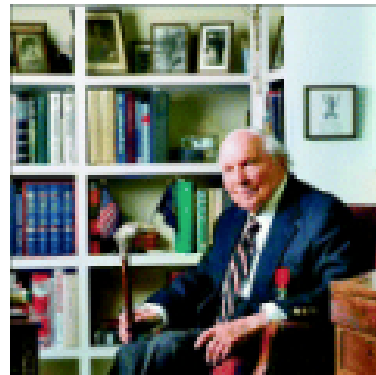
Frank drove ambulances and motorcycles near the frontlines, but never experienced combat. After the Armistice, he was assigned to a prisoner-of-war escort company to return prisoners back to Germany. He finally returned by ship to the United States in 1920. He returned to his parents' home in Oklahoma, where he attended a business school in Oklahoma City. He moved to Canada and worked at an office of the White Star Steamship Line. In 1921 he returned to the United States and landed a job as an assistant purser

for the Munson Shipping line. He would later work for the Grace Line and the American President Line.



Frank at 26

While serving with the latter in Manila in 1941, he was taken prisoner by the invading Japanese. He would spend the next 3-1/2 years in Japanese Prison Camps. After the war, he moved to San Francisco where he married, had a child and eventually retired in 1954. He bought Gap View Farm in Charles Town, WV where his family had originally settled in 1732. He drove the farm tractor until he was 106. In 2008 he was awarded the Legion of Honor by the French Government. In his latter years he became involved in Veterans' causes. He became the last Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of World War I, USA. One of his ancestors was a confederate soldier.



Frank at 108 with Legion of Honor