



# The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
Department of Texas  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume iv Number 5 May 2019

## Rattling Sabres

by  
Glen E. Zook

Camp #18 has finally “arrived”! In case someone has not received the latest copy of “The Banner”, the front cover photograph shows the efforts of Camp #18 members to clean the tombstones, and memorials, of Civil War veterans in the various cemeteries around this area.

Of course, May contains Memorial Day and there are usually ceremonies, especially in McKinney, recognizing the holiday. Camp members always take part in these ceremonies and I expect this will continue for 2019.

Although General Order #11 established “Memorial Day”, when I was growing up, everyone referred to the holiday as “Decoration Day”. In my family, up in northwestern Indiana, the morning started with my father loading up a substantial number of flowers, often Iris blooms that were grown commercially adjacent to where his parents lived in Byron, Indiana (a non-incorporated hamlet between LaPorte and South Bend). Then, his mother would get into the automobile with my father, my mother, and my little sister. For some reason, my grandfather, when he was still alive, never came along.

We would then head out to Porter, Jasper, and Pulaski Counties where there were several cemeteries that had numerous relatives’ graves. The cemeteries around Wheatfield, Indiana, contained the lion’s share of these graves. One thing remains in my mind about a couple of the cemeteries in Wheatfield: There were wild cactus plants growing all over the place!

Now, they were not very tall, maybe 3-inches high for the tallest. I don’t know exactly what type these cactus were, but they looked like barrel cacti that I saw when we were visiting relatives out in Arizona. The thing is that, every winter, the temperature got below zero numerous times and I always thought cactus only grew in hot climates!

Occasionally, we would then drive up to North Chicago, Illinois, to visit my grandmother’s youngest sister. Other times, we would return to Byron and my father’s sisters, and brother, along with their families, would gather for a picnic. The men would play horseshoes and then listen to the Indianapolis 500 on the radio. The women would gather to gossip and we children were left to our own devices!

After my grandfather died, and my grandmother moved into the city, the picnic was usually held at my parent’s house because we had a very large yard.

My mother-in-law, who lived in Atlanta, Georgia, didn’t recognize any need for Memorial Day. However, my wife, and I, starting the Memorial Day before we got married in June, acquired some flowers. Then, we took her out to the cemetery where her husband was buried (he had died when my wife was 9-years old) and put the flowers on his grave. She did appreciate this and asked us the next year to do the same. Then, my wife, and I, moved to Texas. However, my mother-in-law had one of her other daughters follow up for several years thereafter.

My mother’s family really didn’t celebrate Memorial Day that much. However, after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade (which for decades has been the largest parade in the entire State of Indiana – LaPorte officially becomes the State Capital for the entire 24-hours of 4 July each year), my mother’s family would show up for a picnic at our house.

My family was not the only ones who placed flowers on the graves of their ancestors. There were a lot of other families who did the same thing.

Of course, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, placed small United States flags on each veteran’s grave. Then, on June 13 all of those flags were collected (most were usually in bad shape by then) and on 14 June, Flag Day, there was a ceremony held to burn all of these now decrepit flags. Although not a veteran, in fact still in high school, I was a member of both an American Legion junior drum and bugle corps and the senior drum and bugle corps as well. Several times I was called upon to play Taps at the flag burning ceremonies. In fact, since it was easier for me to get off from school, I was often called upon to play Taps at a veteran’s funeral!

Unfortunately, today, Memorial Day has become an excuse for all sorts of “sales” by any number of stores and car dealers as well. For most non-retired persons, it is just a day off, with pay, and has, for the vast majority of people, lost all of the real meaning of the holiday. In fact, most holidays have lost their true meaning becoming just an excuse for commercial exploitation. This includes both religious and secular holidays.

Everything said, and done, I encourage every Camp member to take a moment to think what Memorial Day is really about!

Until next time . . . .

# The Texas **Union** Herald

The Texas **Union** Herald is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

Glen E. Zook  
The Texas **Union** Herald  
410 Lawndale Drive  
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: [texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net)

Telephone: (972) 231-3987  
(972) 231-5011

Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

All material herein is copyrighted by either the original author or the Ellsworth Camp #18, Department of Texas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. However, it may be reproduced by any non-profit organization unless the article **specifically indicates that it is not to be reproduced or that permission must be given in writing** by the original author **provided that the following is complied with:** No changes are to be made in any manner to the original article or news item (this includes any editing, etc.); full credit is given to the original author and **The Texas Union Herald**; and a copy of any publication incorporating such excerpts is immediately provided to both the original author and the editor of **The Texas Union Herald**.

## Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some

reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

Mailing Address:

Editor  
Texas **Union** Herald  
410 Lawndale Drive  
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: [texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net)

## Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 Camp Officers

Commander ----- Rick Erder  
Senior Vice-Commander ----- David Rediger  
Junior Vice-Commander ----- David Krueger  
Secretary/Treasurer ----- Don Gates  
Chaplain ----- Larry Johnson  
Patriotic Instructor ----- Joseph Slonaker  
Historian ----- Don Gates  
Editor ----- Glen E. Zook

## April Meeting

The April 2019 meeting of the  
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
SUCVW

Will be held on  
Tuesday 21 April 2019  
At the  
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.





April Meeting at Norma's Cafe

# The History of the GAR (continued)

Transcribed by  
Donald E. Darby

## CHAPTER XX.

### ADMINISTRATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GEO. S. MERRILL SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION, BALTIMORE, June 21, 1882.

Commander-in-Chief MERRILL established  
Headquarters in Boston, with the following staff:

Adjutant-General, Wm. M. Olin, Massachusetts  
Quartermaster-General, Wm. Ward, re-appointed.  
Inspector-General, Jas. R. Carnahan re-appointed.  
Judge Advocate-General, Geo. B. Squires, re-appointed.

Major Geo. Merrill, Commander-in-Chief, was born in Methuen, Massachusetts, in 1839. He served an apprenticeship in the composing-room of the *Lawrence Courier*, and in his twentieth year purchased an interest in the *Lawrence American*, of which paper he became sole proprietor in 1860. He was a member of the Common Council of Lawrence in 1869-1861, and again after the war, in 1865-66, being President of that body during the latter years. In 1861 he was appointed Postmaster at Lawrence by President Lincoln. In August 1862, when a call was made for nine months men, he assisted in raising Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers, of which he was commissioned as First Lieutenant and was promoted Captain, December 1862. His Regiment went with General Banks' expedition to Louisiana, where it participated in the siege of Port Hudson, and in other operations in the Department of the Gulf. He was re-appointed Postmaster after the war, and discharged the duties of the office until a recent date, when he retired on the appointment of a successor by President Cleveland. Major Merrill is a present Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Artillery of the Massachusetts Militia. In 1883 he was Commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston.

He is present, (1888) Insurance Commissioner of Massachusetts.

Comrade Merrill was a charter member of Needham Post No. 39, Lawrence, and its first Commander; was Department Commander, 1875. He has missed attendance in but two sessions of the National Encampment. Is noted as a skillful parliamentarian and strong debater. He has been chairman of the National Committee on Pensions since retiring as Commander-in-Chief.

General Chas. L. Young, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief was born in Albany, New York, November 23, 1838.

He enlisted in May 1861 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Excelsior Brigade of New York; was promoted First Lieutenant, June 13, 1861; Captain, May 6, 1862, and recommended on the field by General N. Taylor and General Hooker, for promotion as Major; brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel for gallant and meritorious services during the rebellion. Was wounded at Chancellorsville, and again in the Wilderness, but not disabled for duty, and participated in all battles in which his command was engaged. He is an active member of Forsyth Post, Toledo, Ohio.

Comrade Young was appointed Quartermaster-General with rank of Brigadier-General, by the Governor of Ohio, in 1878.

Major Cornelius V.R. Pond, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, served as Regimental Quartermaster, 12<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, November 1<sup>st</sup> 1861, until compelled to resign by continued ill-health, March 1, 1863. He joined C.O. Loomis Post No. 2, Quincy, Michigan, January 1878, and in April was appointed Commander of the Provisional Department, and, on the formation of the Permanent Department, was elected Department Commander. He served two terms as Commander of his Post, and was noted, in all these positions, for his zealous efforts on behalf of the Order. He has taken an active interest in public affairs, and served a number of years as Postmaster.

Dr. Chas. Styer, Surgeon-General, served in the three months service as a Private. Appointed Assistant Surgeon, 45<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, June 31, 1862; promoted Surgeon, 99<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, January 13, 1863; resigned in May 1863, and afterwards served in the Philadelphia Hospitals. Appointed Assistant Surgeon, U.S.A., October 9, 1867. Resigned June 30, 1878, and returned to Philadelphia to enter into practice. Joined E.D. Baker Post No. 8, Philadelphia, August 8, 1878. Post Surgeon for two-years; Post Commander in 1881; Medical Director, Department of Pennsylvania.

Colonel William M. Olin, Adjutant-General, served as a Private in the 36<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers, from August 14, 1862, until mustered-out, June 8, 1865.

He was mustered in Post 11, G.A.R., Charlestown, in 1872; afterwards transferred to Post 26, Roxbury, now his home. Served as Adjutant in 1880, Senior Vice-Commander, 1881, and Post Commander 1882-1883.

The other members of the executive staff were re-appointed: Quartermaster-General Wm. Ward, Inspector-General J.R. Carnahan and Judge Advocate-General Geo. B. Squires.

General Orders No. 10, dated September 20, 1881, announced the death of President Garfield.

Our old companion in arms, the pure patriot, brave warrior, wise statesman, noble ruler, Christian hero, has been mustered-out of the living army to join the ranks of the invisible hosts above. To-day, in every home in our broad land, there is one dead.

But there is no death to him whose life has been brave, and generous, and true; though the sleeping form may molder into dust, his memory lives in immortal youth; and in this hour of universal gloom, we temper our sorrow and dry



our tears in the sunshine of his great worth and bright example.

Spared from the peril of hotly contested fields, GENERAL GARFIELD, has fallen by an assassin's bullet, but not till he had given to the Republic, in the fullness of a well-rounded manhood, a life of purity, sweetness and nobility which will stand as an example to youth, through unnumbered years to come.

Reference to the deaths of Past Commanders-in-Chief Hurlbut and Burnside, will be found in the address of Commander-in-Chief Merrill, following.

In the MEMORIAL DAY ORDER, dated April 20, 1882, referring to "the ever-lengthening roll of those passed from our ranks to join the invisible hosts beyond," he said:

Upon the bud and blossom, leaf and laurel we one year ago laid upon the grass-grown mounds, has fallen the heat of summer and the snow of winter, and their beauty and perfume are gone forever; but as we join in these sadly sweet ceremonies, the story of valor and patriotism we will keep as fresh in our memories and as fragrant in our hearts, as when for the first time we came to bedeck these shrines with early offerings of an open spring.

To country, these fallen comrades offered the service and sacrifice of their lives; let us reverently give one day in loyal devotion to their memories; search out every one of their known resting places so that in all our broad land, whenever exists a Post of the Grand Army, not a single grave of a union soldier or sailor shall be unvisited – not one which willing fingers and grateful hearts do not unite to cover with myrtle and evergreen, entwined with bright blossoms upon which the glad sunlight has painted something of eternal beauty, tokens of life's frailty, emblems of valor's immortality.

#### SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

The National Encampment met in Baltimore, June 21, 1882; Commander-in-Chief Geo. S. Merrill presiding.

#### COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

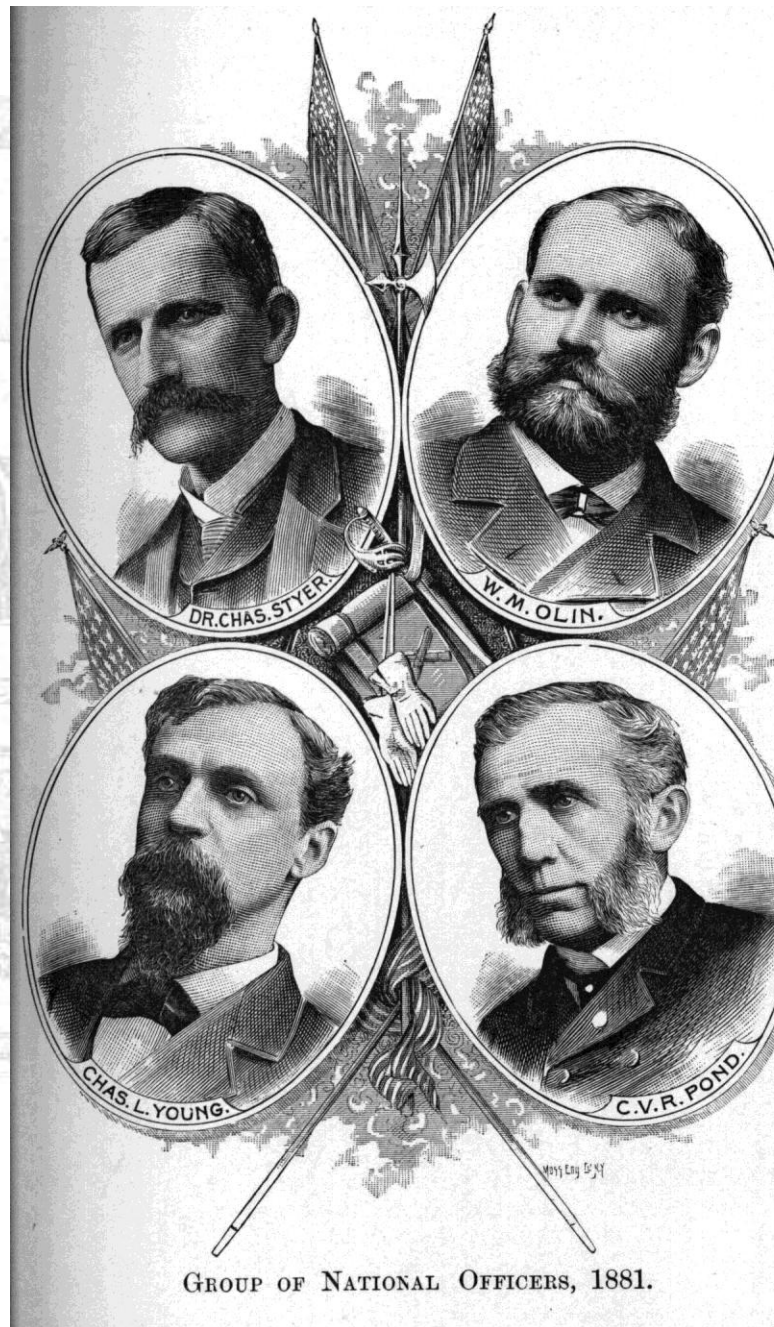
Adjutant-General W.M. Loin; Chill W. Hazzard, Pennsylvania; M.J. Fitzgerald, Mountain; W.H.H. Flick, West Virginia; Walter H. Holmes, California.

#### OFFICERS PRESENT

Commander-in-Chief Geo. S. Merrill  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Charles L. Young  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief C.V.R. Pond  
Surgeon-General Chas. Styer, M.D.  
Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. Jos. F. Lovering  
Adjutant-General William M. Olin  
Quartermaster-General William Ward  
Inspector-General Jas. R. Carnahan  
Judge Advocate-General George B. Squires

#### COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Connecticut, H.M. Durfey; Delaware, W.Y. Swigget; Illinois, John Stephens; Indiana, W.H. Armstrong; Iowa, A.W. Guthrie; Massachusetts, Silas A. Barton; Maryland, Chas. H. Richardson; Michigan, O.A. Janes; Nebraska, F.E. Brown; New Hampshire, J.N. Patterson; New Jersey, Chas. P. Brown; Ohio, W.H. Baldwin; Pennsylvania, Robert F. Potter; Potomac, Paul Brodie; Vermont, E.J. Ormsby; Virginia, Geo. B. Carse; Wisconsin, H. B. Harshaw.



GROUP OF NATIONAL OFFICERS, 1881.

## DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED

California, 3; Connecticut, 11; Delaware, 6; Illinois, 10; Indiana, 5; Iowa, 4; Kansas, 3; Maine, 10; Maryland, 11; Massachusetts, 16; Michigan, 4; Minnesota, 2; Missouri, 4; Mountain, 2; Nebraska, 7; New Hampshire, 6; New Jersey, 15; New York, 25; Ohio, 16; Pennsylvania, 29; Potomac, 13; Rhode Island, 7; Vermont, 3; Virginia, 10; Wisconsin, 3; Provisional Department West Virginia, 2. Departments, 26; Department Officers and Representatives, 227.

## ADDRESS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GEO. S. MERRILL

When, by your suffrages, chosen to this position a twelvemonth ago, I found the ploughing and seeding had been done so well by my predecessors that the field was already white to harvest, and the company of willing reapers so numerous and well organized that the year has proven of exceptional, I may say of phenomenal ingathering, the gain in membership, from April to April, having been above 33,000, double that of any one of the previous ten years, and, with the large number of new Posts organized since, and the natural growth of the second quarter, giving us, without doubt, to-day, a membership of fully 100,000 upon the rolls of the Grand Army of the Republic.

And this great growth has equaled its extent; many of the very best among the veterans, who joined our organization in its early days, soon to drop out of the ranks, and others have learned to respect the principles and admire the work of the Grand Army, and have now cordially come in, and best of all, they have come to stay.

At the beginning of the year, following the excellent plan of my predecessor, in official visitations, which had proved productive of admirable results, and with new cordial commendation of the Council of Administration, I arranged for visits to as many sections as possible, and have thus been able to personally meet comrades in 22 Departments, traveling over 23,700 miles.

The committee appointed at the last session, to consider the questions of pensions, and to whom all resolutions on that subject were referred, designated a sub-committee of five, Past Commander-in-Chief Wagner, Comrades Brodie, Tanner, Ames, and the Commander-in-Chief who spent some days in Washington, in consultation with the Commissioner of Pensions, and the committees of the two houses of Congress, with most satisfactory results.

A committee of five was also appointed, consisting of Past Commander-in-Chief Robinson, Comrades Tanner, Ames, Brodie and the Commander-in-Chief, who waited upon the President of the United States, to present the views of this Encampment in relation to giving the preference in positions in the government service, to veteran soldiers and sailors of the Union. The President kindly made for us a special appointment, and expressed himself heartily in favor of the principle presented, with the assurance that his influence would be cordially in the direction of the most liberal interpretation of the provisions

of the statutes declaring that in appointments the preference be given to the defenders of the Republic.

The organization of Ladies Relief Corps and of the Sons of Veterans, have made considerable progress in several Departments, and generally met with encouragement from our comrades; while I believe we should keep our own organization entirely distinct from direct alliance with any other, we cannot afford but to welcome every association which promises to aid in our great work, especially when composed of the wives, sisters and sons of veterans. I am, however, opposed, now or hereafter, to opening the doors of the Grand Army of the Republic, to any person whatever, who has not himself among the defenders of the Union against rebellion. No one, even our sons, can appreciate the memories of camp and march, of bivouac and battle, as those who were participants therein; the scenes of the great struggle can never be to them what they are to us, and while we encourage and welcome organization of our sons in a society whose purposes are akin to ours, let our own recruiting ranks be only those closed forever with the end of the war, and when the last veteran shall receive his final discharge from life's army, let there close with him, except in its glorious records and bright memory, the last scene in the life of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The year closing, while full of gladsome growth, has been sorrowfully eventful, and Memorial Day brought to our hearts and memories, commingling with the tears of personal sorrow, grief for the lost of illustrious leaders.

The list of our Past Commander-in-Chief has been broken for the first time since the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, and two honored names transferred from the army of the living to the rolls of the rapidly increasing hosts beyond. COMRADE STEPHEN A. HURLBUT, who first held this office under our permanent organization, died on foreign shores, while in the civil service of the country whose integrity he loyally defended amid the strife of arms; a brave soldier, his early service for the Grand Army was of that earnest, enthusiastic character, in those days of "small things," which entitles him to our grateful and lasting remembrance.

And yet other, --Comrade AMBROSE E. BURNSIDE, third Commander-in-Chief, and the earliest whose name still remained upon our list of membership, answers no more to the roll call in our annual encampments. Burnside! The loving and the loved; man, the devotion of a lover; great-hearted, white-souled chieftain, - we weave our choicest chaplets to encircle the name written in golden letters upon the everlasting tablets of our hearts.

And in all our land, through the weeks of weary watching, no hearts more reverently bowed at the bedside of the stricken soldier President than of his old comrades in arms. And when the end came, the veterans of the Republic felt that they rightfully stood within the sorrowing circle of relationship, bound by the comradeship born of battle, and cemented in a conflict for the highest weal of man. Patriot, scholar, soldier, statesman; the glory of Garfield's life, the sweetness of his memory, is a part of the inheritance of every soldier of the Union.

The Grand Army is to-day the representative organization of soldiers and sailors of America; the one great association which includes the veterans of every army and all ranks; the men who followed the flag upon land and who fought beneath its folds upon the sea; men of every nationality, color and creed; the officer who wore the well worn stars of a general, and the private whose only badge of distinction was in patriotic and faithful service in the ranks, - all upon the common level of *comrades* of the flag.

Seventeen years have successively come and gone since the ranks from which the Grand Army can be recruited were closed forever; as an organization, we have nearly reached the summit of our life, and shall soon be marching, with ceaseless tramp, but ever lessening tread, adown the slope, toward the land beyond, where the waves of eternity's ocean are ever beating upon the sand and shingle of the shore. Let us strive to so fulfill our duty to ourselves, our country and our God, that when our last battle has been fought, our last march ended; we may join the Grand Army of Peace in their shining tents upon the eternal camping grounds above.

On the motion of Comrade James McQuade, New York, the Commander-in-Chief was requested "to furnish a copy of his address to the Press for publication, in order that its noble sentiments, embodying such a perfect presentation of the objects and principles of the Grand Army of the Republic, may be generally disseminated among the veteran soldiers and sailors of the Union."

REPORTS OF STAFF OFFICERS

Adjutant-General William M. Olin reported:

Members in good standing December 31, 1880  
60,678

Members in good standing December 31, 1881  
85,856

Gain for the year  
25,178

Members in good standing March 31, 1881  
62,302

Members in good standing March 31, 1882  
89,934

Gain between March 31, 1881 and March 31, 1882  
27,632

Total gain since December 31, 1880  
29,256

Charters have been issued for Permanent Departments in Minnesota and Missouri. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1881, a special order was issued authorizing Comrade F.A. Sparling, Provisional Commander of

Washington Territory, to organize a Permanent Department there.

In December last, at the request of the Department of Indiana, and with the consent of the Department of Illinois, the Posts at Louisville, Lexington, Danville, and Lancaster, all in Kentucky, were transferred from the jurisdiction of Illinois to that of Indiana. A recent special order, however, creating a Provisional Department in Kentucky, under Comrade James C. Michie, of Covington, places them under home jurisdiction, with new Posts at Covington and Newport. Posts have been organized at Fort Yates, Fort Abraham Lincoln, and Bismarck, Dakota Territory, chiefly through the instrumentality of Comrade P.V. Carey, late Department Commander of Iowa.

In Tennessee new Posts have been organized at Nashville, Chattanooga, and Memphis, by Comrade Carnahan, Inspector -General, and assigned to the Department of Indiana. Comrade Carnahan has also organized a Post at Owensboro, Kentucky, which becomes part of Comrade Michie's command. In addition to these, steps are being taken to organize posts at Knoxville, and other places in Tennessee, at Sherman, Texas, at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and in South Carolina. Much interest is manifested among old soldiers in New Mexico, and that Territory, has been placed under the jurisdiction of Department Commander Walkinshaw, of Kansas who proposes soon to visit it and organize Posts.

He recommended, for the more economical and efficient conduct of business, the consolidation of the offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, or that the Quartermaster-General should issue all supplies.

Quartermaster-General William Ward reported net receipts including balance last report, \$33,459.47; expenditures, including purchase of \$5,000 U.S. Bonds, \$28,487.30.

Assets	
Balance, cash	\$4,972.17
Government Bonds (par value)	\$5,000.00
Supplies on hand (cost)	\$1,410.52
Office furniture (cost)	\$ 226.70
Accounts due (net)	<u>\$1,089.71</u>
Total	\$12,669.10

Surgeon-General Charles Styer presented his report in print. After reviewing the efforts made in previous years and the failure to collect the statistics called for in the Post Surgeon's report, he recommended that Posts continue the use of the Post medical descriptive books. Such information is interesting and even valuable in a small circle, and among those who are personally appointed.



The real duty of the Post Surgeon is to render his professional services without charge to worthy and needy comrades and their families, for this he is elected by vote of his comrades. In execution of this duty he should keep a record of his professional visits, to whom made, their value, the value of medicines if furnished; he should keep a record of old soldiers aided in securing pensions or getting medicines, or necessities secured through his efforts for needy "old soldiers"; and these should be annually collated and reported to the Medical Director, and by him in turn to the Surgeon-General.

Judge Advocate-General Geo. B. Squires presented the opinions delivered in six cases referred to him during the year.

Inspector-General Jas. R. Carnahan reported the condition of the Departments, and the evident increase of interest. He recommended the adoption of a form for official inspections, and that mustering and inspecting officers be furnished with copies of Rules and Service Books.

Chaplain-in-Chief Lovering said, in his address:

The peculiar condition under which we meet for our sixteenth annual encampment, induces me to reiterate in substance what, from time to time, has been incorporated into the reports I have had the honor to make before this body. Every soldier, true to his convictions, faithful to his flag, is to be respected. The soldier is the heroic nerve of civilization, -its spinal cord- the pith and marrow of its backbone. Every soldier's grave is to be honored. But that soldier can only expect immortal renown whose convictions are in harmony with that cause which respects human rights, attempts the elevation of humanity, and promotes the service of Almighty God, and that soldier's grave only is to be adorned with laurel and amaranth that can be called the altar of patriotism. For, in the grand march of progress, honor must rest upon him only, who, under the leadership of the eternal right, accepts, so far at least as the nation is concerned, this as the summary of his faith- patriotism is the piety of citizenship.

In view of that historic event which gave to Baltimore, in 1861, an unenviable notoriety before the nation, and of that generous hospitality with which we have been welcomed to Baltimore in 1882, by the unanimous good will, as we are assured, of all classes of citizens, permit me to close this report with the following:

#### ADDRESS TO BALTIMORE

O city, washed clean by the blood  
Of men from our Northern homes  
O city! That felt the first dash of war's flood,  
On her crimson stained stones

O city! Where North and South met,  
With sorrow and anger too;  
O city! Whose beautiful face is still wet  
For the gray and the blue

O city! Where North and South meet,

Obeying a royal command;  
Where Fed and Confed., Yank and Reb, may here greet  
Heart to Heart, hand in hand;

United we sing your old strain-  
No discord of growl or brag  
"The Star Spangled Banner" with this our refrain-  
"One Country and One Flag."

#### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

On Address of the Commander-in-Chief: - I.S. Bangs, Maine; J.N. Patterson, New Hampshire; S.J. Alexander, Nebraska; F.H. Dyer, Pennsylvania; George F. Tait, New York.

On Report of the Adjutant-General: - A.B. Beers, Connecticut; R.L. Roberts, New Jersey; W.S. McNair, Delaware; J.H. Suter, Maryland; G.B. Hogin, Iowa.

On Report of the Quartermaster-General:- E.H. Rhodes, Rhode Island; Paul Brodie, Potomac; A. Merritt, New York; A.C. Stone, Massachusetts; E.K. Stimson, Mountain.

On Report of the Inspector-General:- E.L. Campbell, New Jersey; J.L. Bennett, Illinois; S. Harper, Pennsylvania; J.C. Tucker, California; P.T. Woodfin, Virginia.

On Report of the Chaplain-in-Chief:- J.C. Walkinshaw, Kansas; H.M. Enos, Wisconsin; H.M. Durfey, Connecticut; J.B. Murray, New York; C.T. Clark, Ohio

On Report of the Surgeon-General:- B.R. Pierce, Michigan; Wm. Warner, Missouri; Willard Bullard, New York; J.C. Ferguson, Pennsylvania; J.W.C. Cuddy, Maryland.

On Report of the Judge Advocate-General:- W.H. Baldwin, Ohio; G.H. Patch, Massachusetts; M.A. Haynes, New Hampshire; G.J. Langsdale, Indiana; A.B. Farnham, Maine.

On Rules, Regulations and Ritual:- R.B. Beath, Pennsylvania; Phil. Creek, Wisconsin; H.B. Peirce, Massachusetts; David Lanning, Ohio; G.B. Squires, New York.

On Resolutions:- Chas. Burrows, New Jersey; J.G.B. Adams, Massachusetts; John W. Brust, Illinois; J.R. Carnahan, Indiana; Jno. S. Kountz, Ohio.

A committee of five was appointed "to inquire into and report to the next National Encampment, the facts as to an alleged violation of Art. II, Chap. 5, referred to in the Address of the Commander-in-Chief":- B.R. Peirce, Michigan, G.B. Hogin, Iowa; S.J. Alexander, Nebraska; R.S. Robertson, Indiana; C.L. Young, Ohio.

#### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

On the Address of the Commander-in-Chief, Comrade I.S. Bangs, Chairman of the Committee, presented the following:



1<sup>st</sup>. *Resolved*. That the thanks of this Encampment are due Commander-in-Chief GEORGE S. MERRILL, for the comprehensive and eloquent address and review of the record of the past, the most prosperous year in the history of the Order, and that to him we are indebted largely for the magnificent gains in membership he so generously accords to his predecessors – his report showing an unequalled record of personal official service.

2d. *Resolved*. That in accordance with the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief, we recommend the appointment of a committee to prepare a digest of the opinions heretofore rendered, and to make such modifications in the Rules and Regulations as shall harmonize with recent changes.

3d. *Resolved*. That the badge of the Commander-in-Chief be changed to correspond with the official insignia of the General of the Army.

We would venture the recommendation of a change in the badge of members of the Council of Administration to such design as may be determined upon that body.

4<sup>th</sup>. *Resolved*. That we can not too strongly commend and endorse the language of the Address in relation to the admission of partisan or political topics in our Posts, or our Department and National Encampments.

5<sup>th</sup>. *Resolved*. That a committee be appointed for conference with other Veteran Associations, with a view to joint arrangements for our next annual meeting, and that the date of the meeting be left with such committee.

6<sup>th</sup>. *Resolved*. That a committee be appointed to prepare and present a suitable and enduring testimonial of our hearty appreciation of the distinguished services of our Commander-in-Chief GEORGE S. MERRILL, for the past year.

The first and the sixth resolutions were adopted unanimously by rising vote.

Committee on testimonial:

C.L. Young, Ohio; S.J. Alexander, Nebraska; Harrison Adreon, Maryland; A.B. Thompson, New Hampshire; J.B. Murray, New York. The third, fourth and fifth resolutions were not concurred in by the Encampment.

Comrades R.B. Beath, H.B. Peirce and Geo. B. Squires were appointed a committee on revision of the Rules and Regulations, under the second resolution.

On Report of Adjutant-General W.M. Olin:

The Committee were not in favor of the proposed consolidation of the offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, or of a permanent depot of supplies at this time, but recommended that the Quartermaster-General shall distribute all supplies, and that all requisitions be drawn on him.

Your Committee finds that the duties of the office of the Adjutant-General have been faithfully performed, and recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

*Resolved*. That the thanks of the National Encampment be, and they are hereby tendered to Adjutant-General Wm. M. OLIN, for the prompt, efficient and courteous manner in which he has discharged the manifold and laborious duties of his office during the past year. *Adopted*.

On Report of Quartermaster-General William Ward:

The Committee reported the accounts and vouchers correct, and recommended the investment of \$2,500 in U.S. Bonds.

In recognition of Comrade Ward's years of faithful service as Quartermaster-General, Comrades R.B. Beath, H.B. Peirce and Geo. B. Squires were appointed a committee to prepare and have presented to him, a suitable testimonial.

The Committee on Report of Judge Advocate-General Carnahan approved of his several recommendations and offered a resolution for the publication of a digest of all opinions and decisions heretofore approved by the Encampment.

On Report of Surgeon-General Chas. Styer:

The Committee endorsed his recommendations, and offered a resolution that the thanks of the Encampment be tendered for his faithful and efficient services.

On Report of Chaplain-in-Chief Lovering:

The Committee recommended that the same be endorsed and a copy be furnished for publication in the press.

## MILITARY HISTORY

General Orders No. 7, dated Boston, August 4, 1881, announced the following:

Comrades J.H. Johnson, of Chicago, Illinois; Robert B. Beath, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; William H. Hodgkins, of Somerville, Massachusetts; Griff. J. Thomas, of Berlin, Wisconsin; and Ben. D. House, of Indianapolis, Indiana, are hereby appointed as the Committee on Military History and Publication, under the first resolution of the National Encampment relating to that subject. (Journal of fifteenth Annual Session, pages 801-802. This was followed by additional appointments as follows:

Massachusetts, Samuel A. Green, Boston; Rhode Island, J. Albert Monroe, Providence; Connecticut, J.C. Kinney, Hartford; New York, Frederick Phisterer, Albany; Delaware, Geo. V. Massey, Dover; Maryland, J.W.C. Cuddy, Baltimore; Wisconsin, Charles G. Mayers, Madison; Utah, Moses M. Bane, Salt Lake City; Louisiana, E.E. Adams, New Orleans; West Virginia, Daniel Mayer, Charleston; Mountain, George D. Hill, Seattle, Wyoming; Illinois, R.M. Smith, Springfield; Maine, Wm. B. Lapham, Augusta; New Jersey, W.S. Stryker, Trenton; Kansas, Geo. Le'Brown, Leavenworth; Vermont, Geo. H. Bigelow, Burlington; Potomac, James A. Tait, Washington; Michigan, And. T. McReynolds, Grand Rapids; Iowa, W.W. Fink, Des Moines; Minnesota, P.P. Swenson, Minneapolis.

The chairman, Comrade J.H. Johnson, forwarded the following report to the Encampment:

The committee has not met since its appointment, owing to the wide separation of its members, and the necessary expense attending such meeting. I have personally visited Washington, to confer with the Secretary of War concerning the official records in his charge, in accordance with the resolution of the last Encampment, and

must confess the subject too vast to be embodied in a brief report. The missing reports of active commands are, however, too great to let what seems an opportune moment pass (it will take about five years more to complete the work begun), without giving the subject careful consideration, and which necessarily affects seriously the highest source of materials for the History of the War. Since the War department commenced work of compilation, they have succeeded in collecting a large number of reports from all parts of the country, and if the members of the Grand Army of the Republic would make some effort in the direction of bringing to light straggling reports, there is no doubt that many more would come to hand. I have spoken to commanding officers of whom I happen to make note as having no reports on file of their commands at certain battles, who assured me that they had given a proper report to their superiors. Such reports may still be in existence and by some effort found. The compiler, Colonel Scott, who does the work with great care and intelligence, deems it feasible to permit officers to substitute or supply reports where such cannot be found, or where none have been made, and also, owing to the numerous requests of Commanders for the privilege of correcting their reports, that they shall be permitted to file supplementary reports under certain restrictions. In order to do this, it requires a special act of Congress to enable the Secretary of War to recognize such reports. To that end the Committee on History and Publication, of George H. Thomas Post No. 5, Department of Illinois, has taken the first step in its accomplishment, and would respectfully refer you to their annual report on that subject, which accompanies this report.

We live, perhaps, too near the events, for historians to write a history without defacing their pages with bias of factions. But the material can only be supplied by the actors, so far as concerns the part taken by the armies in the events of the time; and it is well to remember, too, that Encampments, Camp-fires, Re-unions, etc., will soon be a thing of the past, and that the words alone withstand the ravages of time.

## PENSION LEGISLATION

Comrade James Tanner, from the committee appointed at the last Encampment, upon the resolutions of Comrade Brodie, Potomac, reported their action at Washington.

Their recommendations for a large increase of clerks in the Departments having charge of Pension cases, resulted in an increase of 817 clerks in the Pension Office, 167 in the Adjutant-General's office, 166 in the Surgeon-General's office, 12 in the Secretary of war's office and 48 in the Treasury; a total increase of 1210 additional employees, at an added expense of \$1,742,430.

Your Committee are clear in the opinion that the value of the veteran soldiers of their efforts can hardly be over-estimated. It is the first time in the accredited representatives of our Order have come directly in contact with the law-making power. Common justice demands that

we should officially state the obligations we feel under for the cordial reception we met with at the hands of the Pension Committees of both Houses. It was freely stated by them that they had long felt the desirability of dealing directly with the accredited representative of the soldier. If we did not obtain to the uttermost extent *all* that was asked for we still respectfully submit that by far the *largest portion thereof* was obtained, and certainly that which is by a great majority of the most practical and immediate importance.

So much still remains to be done, and there are so many evidences of the probable usefulness of such a body in the future, that we recommend the establishment of a standing committee of five, who shall, in a general sense, have charge of the matter of Pensions, and be authorized to speak in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic

The report was adopted with a resolution for the establishment of a standing committee on Pension Legislation.

Commander-in-Chief Geo. S. Merrill, Past Commander-in-Chief Louis Wagner; James Tanner, New York; Paul Brodie, Potomac, and Surgeon-General Ames, were appointed such committee.

Resolutions were adopted favoring an increase of pensions to those who had lost limbs in the service, and for the passage of the bill for the equalization of bounties.

Resolutions were adopted to include on the roster the names of deceased officers of the National Encampment; to call attention to the proper designation of May 30, as MEMORIAL DAY, not Decoration Day.

The Committee on Resolutions cordially approved the project presented by Corporal Skelly, Post No. 9, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for the completion of a stately historic tower, to be erected in connection with the new Episcopal Church on the battle-field, bearing the inscription:

Church of the Prince of Peace.  
The Nation's thank-offering for restored Peace and Union.  
Erected to the Glory of God.  
And in memory of Major-General GEO. G. MEADE, the  
Commander-in-Chief of this field  
And of the valiant Army of the Potomac.  
Who here, by their valor, gained the great victory of July  
1, 2, and 3, 1863.  
Isaiah 2:4 A.D. 1883 Luke 11:14

This monument will be made up of stones and other memorials, many of which are already engaged and paid for, and is freely opened to any and all officers and soldiers who fought or fell here. The body of the church, inside and out, will be reserved for memorials of the fallen of other fields, and the outside of the tower for stones bearing the names of survivors of this and other battle-fields, or of any civilians who may desire to place a thank-offering for preservation in battle or restoration of peace.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

The committee reported amendments defining the duties of the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General relative to issue of supplies and allowing Departments to fix the ratio of representation in Department Encampments.

## TESTIMONIALS

The testimonial voted to Past Commander-in-Chief Louis Wagner, for his services to the Order, a magnificent gold badge set in diamonds, was presented in an eloquent speech by Comrade Geo. H. Patch, Massachusetts.

The testimonials ordered by the last Encampment for Past Adjutant-General R.B. Beath and Chaplain-in-Chief J.F. Lovering (being the resolutions of the Encampment, elegantly engrossed by Comrade Alfred C. Monroe, and enclosed in rich frames), were presented by Comrade W.S. McNair, of Delaware, and Comrade D.R. Austin, of Ohio, in behalf of the Encampment, Comrade McNair addressing Comrade Beath and Comrade Austin the Chaplain-in-Chief.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected:

Commander-in-Chief Paul Van Der Voort, Nebraska  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief W.E.W. Ross, Maryland  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief I.S. Bangs, Maine  
Surgeon-General Dr. Azel Ames, Jr., Massachusetts  
Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. I.M. Foster, New York

## COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

California, W.S. Rosecrans; Connecticut, H.M. Durfey; Delaware, Geo. V. Massey; Illinois, Orrin L. Mann; Indiana, J.L. Wooden; Iowa, John Lindt; Kansas, Wm. Irving; Maine, Thos. Tyrie; Maryland, John H. Suter; Massachusetts, Silas A. Barton; Michigan, L.G. Rutherford; Minnesota, Adam Marty; Missouri, Wm. Striblen; Mountain, B.L. Carr; Nebraska, J.H. Culver; New Hampshire, J.N. Patterson; New Jersey, Alex. M. Way; New York, Joseph Forbes; Ohio, R.A. Constable; Pennsylvania, Robt. B. Beath; Potomac, Paul Brodie; Rhode Island, T.W. Manchester; Vermont, Warren Gibbs; Virginia, B.C. Cook; Wisconsin, E.A. Calkins.

## COURTESIES EXTENDED

The city of Baltimore was profusely decorated with flags and bunting in honor of the Encampment.

On 22 June there was a large parade under command of General R.B. Ayres, U.S.A., the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment and a number of companies of the National Guard of Maryland, and from Richmond and Washington, participating.

The Grand Army had a large number of members in line, with visiting Posts from Massachusetts, Potomac, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

President Chester A. Arthur, with Governor Hamilton, of Maryland, reviewed the parade from the City Hall. General Sherman, Secretaries Frelinghuysen and Lincoln and Attorney-General Brewster, were on the reviewing stand.

In the afternoon there was an excursion on the steamer *Mary L. Weems*, to Annapolis. On returning, the visitors were entertained at the Scheutzen Park, where over 400 veterans were in camp.

At a meeting held in the Mansion House, ex-Mayor Latrobe extended a welcome to the Grand Army on behalf of the City and State, and Mr. James Hodges spoke for the merchants and business men specially.

Addresses were made by Commander-in-Chief Merrill, General H.A. Barnum, Hon. John L. Thomas, Frederick Douglass, Frank X. Ward, an ex-Confederate, Comrade Paul Van Der Voort and Corporal Tanner.

The hospitalities of the city authorities were shown on an excursion to Tivoli, where some time was spent in social intercourse and festivities, but owing to the lateness of the hour of adjournment of the National Encampment, the members reached the grounds too late to participate in the lunch prepared for them. A meeting was organized on the steamer, and Mayor Whyte made an eloquent address which was responded to by Commander-in-Chief Merrill.

## BALTIMORE

Comrades Barnum, Past Commander-in-Chief John F. Hartranft and Quartermaster-General Wm. Ward were appointed a committee to present a suitable testimonial to the city of Baltimore, through his Honor William Pinkney Whyte, Major of the city, in acknowledgement of the many official and private courtesies extended the members of the Encampment.

On July 10, 1883, the committee formally presented the testimonial, in the presences of the city officials, Common Council and Citizen's Committee.

The testimonial was a beautiful and artistic bronze tablet, of Union and Confederate cannon-metal. The bronze is 30 inches in height by 18 in width, and stands upon an ebony pedestal 3 feet in height.

Comrade Barnum, Chairman, in presenting the testimonial said: \* \* \*

On this memorial is a border chain, composed of thirty-eight links, symbolical of the thirty-eight States arranged not in alphabetical order, nor according to their geographical location. The thirteen original States are placed equi-distant around the border, and united by the younger Commonwealths; all are strongly linked together forming a chain that it might be expressed, in the language of the poet, that "which ever link your strike, tenth or ten thousandth, you break the chain alike."

The military emblems are characteristic, not the least expressive of which is the fascine, showing that "in



union there is strength," The Dove of Peace surmounts the scroll, on which is engraved an address which I will read:

#### ADDRESS

*The Grand Army of the Republic of the United States to the City of Baltimore, Maryland:*

In the spirit of FRATNERITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY", Greeting: Whereas on the occasion of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in the City of Baltimore, June 21, 22, and 23, 1882, when the parading column and escort of the Grand Army of the Republic and visiting military organizations from other States, commanded by Chief Marshal General R.B. Ayres, United States Army, and numbering fully 12,000 men, was reviewed from the portico of the City Hall by Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States, accompanied by members of his cabinet, General Joseph W. Keifer, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other distinguished members of Congress, William T. Sherman, General of the United States Army, and his staff, Honorable William Pinkney Whyte, Mayor of Baltimore, his Secretary Major J. Monroe Heiskell, and other representatives of the city Government, ex-Mayors Latrobe, banks and Vansant; General Felix Agnus, General Adam E. King, and many other distinguished citizens of Baltimore and of other cities and States, his Honor the Mayor, the Common Council, and the people of Baltimore did extend to the Grand Army of the Republic and accompanying organizations and friends a most cordial and enthusiastic welcome, unbounded hospitality and elaborate entertainment, in which many ex-Confederate soldiers joined; the Grand Army of the Republic hereby expresses its profound appreciation of the kind and brotherly feeling thus attested, and its gratification at the abundant evidence then shown, that this Nation is not only a Union of States, but also a union of hearts throughout its broad domains, that ours is in truth a :government of the people, by the people and for the people," and that all are devoted to one common purpose of "union and liberty one and inseparable, now and forever."

That the love of peace may forever fold its white wings over the beautiful "Monumental City" that she may grow apace in prosperity and power; that the homes of all her people may be the abode of unstained pleasure and unalloyed happiness, is the fervent prayer of every Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic.

By Order of the Encampment, HENRY A. BARNUM, New York JOHN F. HARTRANFT, Pennsylvania WILLIAM WARD, New Jersey

Committee

*Attest:*

Paul Van Der Voort, Commander-in-Chief  
F.E. Brown, Adjutant-General

The Grand Army Committee was handsomely entertained during their visit, by the Mayor and a committee of council and citizens.



#### CHAPTER XXI

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
PAL VAN DER VOORT  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION, DENVER,  
COLORADO  
July 25, 1883.

Headquarters were established in Omaha, Nebraska, with the following staff:

Adjutant-General F.E. Brown, Nebraska  
Quartermaster-General John Taylor, Pennsylvania  
Inspector-General John W. Burst, Illinois  
Judge Advocate-General James R. Carnahan, Indiana

Commander-in-Chief Paul Van Der Voort was born in Ohio in 1846 and was under the 16 years of age when he enlisted for three months service in the 68<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. He re-enlisted in Company M, 16<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry, and was

with his regiment in service in the 9<sup>th</sup> and in the 23d Corps, and the Cavalry Corps of the Military Division of the Mississippi. He was taken prisoner and confined for nearly a year in Andersonville and other Southern prisons. Was discharged August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, as Sergeant.

After the war he entered the railway mail service, and served over ten years.

He joined the Grand Army in 1886, and was Assistant Adjutant-General to Department Commander Hilliard. He resigned the position on his removal to Omaha, where he was mainly instrumental in the re-organization of the Department of Nebraska, to which he was assigned as Provisional Commander. On the formation of the Department he was elected Department Commander, and was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, 1878

General W.E.W. Ross, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, was born in Baltimore, February 26, 1838. In 1858 he was a member of the Baltimore City Guard, and was drill sergeant until the war broke out. In that capacity he was assigned to drill the Maryland Guard. He organized and drilled two regiments of Minute Men at the Post Office, many of whom went into the field as officers of Maryland Regiments. After the riot on April 19, 1861, the militia regiments were disbanded. In January 1863, he reorganized the City Guard with four companies, and was elected Major. In June 1863 he recruited the 10<sup>th</sup> Maryland Volunteer Inf. For one year and went out as its Lieutenant-Colonel. Was later commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel 33d United States Colored Troops, and led that regiment into the "crater" at the "Mine Explosion: at Petersburg, July 30, 1864.

Colonel Ross was severely wounded, and amputation of his leg was necessary. He was afterwards assigned to court-martial and other special duty, until mustered-out in April 1865, with brevet rank of Brigadier-General.

By appointment of the Secretary of War, he served on the Board for awarding compensation to owners of enlisted slaves.

Has filled a number of positions in Wilson Post No. 1 Baltimore and was Post Commander. Served one term as Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department and two terms as Department Commander.

General Isaac S. Bangs, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, was born in Maine, May 17, 1831. Enlisted August 1862, as Captain, 20th Maine Infantry, and served with that regiment in the 5th Army Corps. Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel 81st United States Colored Infantry, March 2, 1863; Colonel 10th U.S. Heavy Artillery (colored), October 17, 1863, and served with the 19th Army Corps. Mustered-out July 19, 1864. Brevetted Brigadier-General, to date March 13, 1865.

Joined Post No. 14, Waterville, Maine, as a charter member, in 1868, and has always taken an active part in Grand Army work. Has served in a number of positions in his Post and Department - one term as Department Commander. He was specially active in the organization of the Sons of Veterans.

Rev. I.M. Foster, Chaplain-in-Chief, enlisted September 2, 1862, as Corporal Company H, 146th N.Y. Vols., and served until the end of the war. He joined the Grand Army of the Republic in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1870. Was afterwards transferred to Post No. 7, Department of New York. Removed to Brooklyn in 1884, and joined U.S. Grant Post No. 327, and served as Post Chaplain. Was Department Chaplain in 1871. Is now (1888) located in New Haven in charge of St. John M.E. Church.

F.E. Brown, Adjutant-General, at the age of 16 enlisted as Private in Company E, 142d Ill. Inf., and served until the muster-out of the regiment. Joined the Grand Army of the Republic in 1879, and served a number of terms as Post Adjutant, Post Quartermaster, and one year as Commander, and served in positions in the Department.

Captain John Taylor, Quartermaster-General, was born in Philadelphia, April 5, 1840. Enlisted in Company E, 2d Pennsylvania Reserves, May 27, 1861, as Sergeant. Promoted First Sergeant, July 4, 1861, and First Lieutenant July 12, 1862. For gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, was brevetted Captain. Immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, General McCandless, Commanding the First Brigade, Pennsylvania Reserves, had him detailed for duty upon his Staff, where he continued until captured inside the rebel lines, at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, while endeavoring to force his way to the 7th Pennsylvania Reserves, then surrounded by the enemy. He was confined in rebel prisons at Lynchburg, Danville, Savannah and Charleston, and kept in the latter place under fire until yellow fever broke out among the prisoners. In October 1864, was taken to Columbia, South Carolina, where, on November 29, he escaped, and after three weeks of incredible suffering, wandering in the swamps of South Carolina, relying on subsistence upon such matter as could be procured in the undergrowth, and the occasional help extended from the scanty hoard of some colored man, was re-captured on December 21, 1864, at Pickensville, South Carolina, and taken back to Columbia, remaining there until the rebels were driven out by General Sherman in 1865, when he was removed to Charlotte, North Carolina, and again made his escape, but was recaptured the next day, and on March 1, 1865, was exchanged near Wilmington, North Carolina. On the 12th of March, 1865, was mustered-out of the service of the United States at Washington, D.C.

Comrade Taylor was mustered into the Grand Army in Capt. P.R. Schuyler Post No. 51, Philadelphia, August 1876; made Post Adjutant, October 1876; re-appointed January 1877; elected Post Commander, 1878; and re-elected 1879; Delegate to Department Encampment 1877; Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Department 1878; re-appointed 1879 and 1880; elected Department Commander, January 1881.

He is actively engaged in the Fire Insurance business. Has served as a member of Common Councils, Philadelphia.

Since his first appointment as Quartermaster-General by Commander-in-Chief Van Der Voort, he has been re-appointed (1888) each year.

Major John W. Burst, Inspector-General, enlisted May 24, 1861 as Private Company D, 15th Illinois Infantry, and was discharged in August for disability. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted as Private in Company C, 105th Ill. Vols., and was promoted Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and Captain. On May 25, 1864, at the battle of New Hope Church, he was badly wounded, which resulted in the loss of a leg.

Joined Ransom Post in Chicago, August 1866, and has always taken an active interest in Grand Army work. Transferred to Post 12, Sycamore, Illinois, in 1874 and was Post Commander for six years; Senior Vice Department Commander, 1879; Department Commander, 1880. Is now (1888) a member of the National Pension Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Soldiers Home.

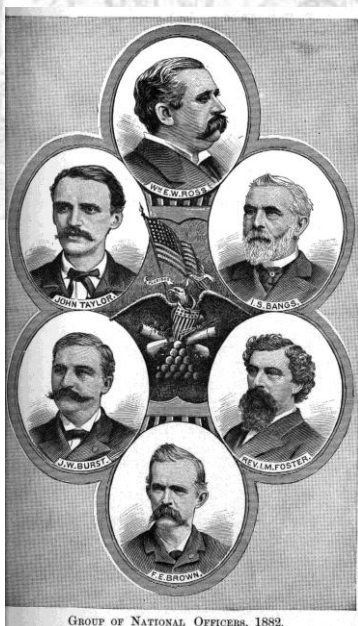
General J.R. Carnahan, Judge Advocate-General (See Chapter XIX.)

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

The National Encampment met in Denver, Wednesday, July 25, 1883; Commander-in-Chief Paul Van Der Voort presiding.

## COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

F.E. Brown, Adjutant-General; J.L. Bennett, Illinois; A.C. Monroe, Massachusetts; David Lanning, Ohio; J.J. Fitgerrell, New Mexico.



## OFFICERS PRESENT

Commander-in-Chief, Paul Van Der Voort  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, W.E.W. Ross  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief I.S. Bangs  
Surgeon-General Azel Ames, Jr.  
Chaplain-in-Chief I.M. Foster  
Adjutant-General John Taylor  
Inspector-General John W. Burst  
Judge Advocate-General J.R. Carnahan

## COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

B.L. Carr, Colorado; H.M. Durfey, Connecticut; J.L. Woodin, Indiana; John Lindt, Iowa; William Irving, Kansas; Thomas Tyrie, Maine; Adam E. King, Maryland; S.A. Barton, Massachusetts; L.G. Rutherford, Michigan; Adam Marty, Minnesota; Wm. Striblen, Missouri; J.H. Culver, Nebraska; J.N. Patterson, New Hampshire; A.W. Way, New Jersey; Jos. Forbes, New York; R.A. Constable, Ohio; R.B. Beath, Pennsylvania; Gilbert M. Husted, Potomac; T.W. Manchester, Rhode Island; Warren Gibbs, Vermont; J.E. Fuller, Virginia; E.A. Calkins, Wisconsin.

## DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED

California, 3; Colorado, 7; Connecticut, 6; Delaware, 2; Illinois, 12; Indiana, 10; Iowa, 11; Kansas, 13; Kentucky, 3; Maine, 5; Maryland, 5; Massachusetts, 15; Michigan, 9; Minnesota, 6; Missouri, 5; Nebraska, 10; New Hampshire, 7; New Jersey, 6; New York, 25; Ohio, 21; Pennsylvania, 37; Potomac, 7; Rhode Island, 8; Vermont, 2; Virginia, 3; Wisconsin, 5. Provisional Departments: New Mexico, 4; Tennessee and Georgia, 2; Utah, 1. Total, 29 Departments and 249 Department Officers and Representatives.

## ADDRESS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PAUL VAN DER VOORT

When I assumed the duties of my office I determined that I would show that I appreciated the high honor by devoting all my time, and all the energy and ability in me towards building up to our Order.

With the cordial approval of the Council of Administration, I at once commenced visiting several Departments, and have visited all, both permanent and provisional that were in existence June 23d, 1882, except Florida. I have met face to face more than half of the membership of the Order. I have been cordially received everywhere, and am earnest in the belief that the meetings held have greatly benefited the Order. The meetings held in connection with receptions or mustering officer, and is in the field simply as a missionary to arouse enthusiasm, explain the objects of the Order, incite emulation and enlist the sympathy of all in the good work.

I have embodied in this address, statutes 1754 and 1755. I am pained to report that they are grossly and



openly violated, that seldom is any inquiry made into the matter. Thousands of old crippled veterans, in every way competent, are pushed aside, and those who never aided the nation in the hour of trial preferred.

I take it that we, who never asked the passage of this law, and without whose services the statutes would have been a nullity; have a right to demand a rigid enforcement of statute 1754. We have a right to know the standing of each Department of the government upon this question and hold a strict account of every gross and open violation of this chartered right, given by the nation to the crippled and diseased Union soldier. I regret to say that many of our comrades holding positions, whose proper administration demand a large force, employ very few of our comrades, and in some cases have turned them out to make places for civilians. Of course I understand that this has been done upon the request of some politician, who desired to reward some for their political work, but if comrades in such positions would firmly refuse to submit to such dictation, plant themselves firmly on this law of the land, they could hold the fort and no one would dare to molest them. I urge the appointment again of a strong committee, backed by stirring resolutions of this body, to take vigorous and decisive action upon this question at once. We are in favor of the absolute reign of the law, and will demand an earnest adherence to all the laws of the land, as well as this recognition of our comrades' services.

At the outset of my administration the National Tribune published a stirring editorial appealing to veterans outside of our organization to take steps to organize Posts. The response came during the year from every section, and up to date they have referred to National Headquarters applications of 170 Posts. Nearly all of these have been organized and are in good working order. This magnificent result calls for the hearty appreciation of every comrade.

In company with the Surgeon-General, I visited the Provisional Department of Utah on April 21st and 22d. We were cordially received by as gallant a band of comrades as ever worn our badge. The organization in Utah have had many difficulties to contend with. They are upholding the banner of the Grand Army in what is practically a foreign and hostile community. They are in the front of an enemy, treacherous and defiant, and who are trampling daily under foot the laws of the land with perfect immunity. The Grand Army in Utah are the natural protectors of the glory and honor of the flag. They here, in the presence of a crime as hideous as treason, and as damnable as slavery, grandly illustrate the shining glories of our Order.

Let us demand that earnest, true men who know and have faced the evil and sin day and night, shall be designated to codify the laws heretofore passed through the dictates of the leaders of this unholy Church. That it shall be written and declared that no Mormon shall vote or hold any office whatever. That all holding Government offices shall be removed, that this commission shall ask Congress to approve the codification of the laws, and that all officers of every grade shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Council, and that the emigration of recruits to build up this damning crime shall be stopped at once and forever.

I am delighted at the progress made in the work of establishing Soldiers Homes under the auspices of the Grand Army. Many of the Departments are doing wonderful work in this direction and all of them should be at once take active steps towards providing a home for the poor members of our Order.

The organization of Women's Relief Corps, Ladies Loyal League, and auxiliary societies have kept even pace with the rapid growth of the Grand Army. In every Department the noble women have banded together in one form or another to assist in caring for our sick and destitute comrades and those dependent on them. Many of the members helped, suffered and sacrificed during the war, and many have grown up since and here find an enlarged field of the development of their charitable hearts. They have accomplished great and lasting good. I am a firm believer in the work of women. I am glad that these societies do not confine their membership to the wives and daughters of soldiers, but admit all who are worthy to engage in the work.

I have called the representatives of these societies together to establish a national organization and to encourage the spread, growth and scope of their work. I am satisfied that no Post is thoroughly equipped and armed in behalf of our noble Order unless they have, working hand in hand with them, a band of the noble women of the land.

The two branches of the Sons of Veterans have made progress. In accordance with the resolution of the last National Encampment, I have encouraged these societies. I have not encouraged the officers and members of either branch in their warfare with each other. I have endeavored to restore harmony, and have earnestly desired that they should act like the sons of veterans. I believe that the difficulty between these organizations have been fomented and fanned largely by members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Many of our noblest members have given time and money, and worked hard to establish one or the other branch of this organization. They should harmonize at once. If their proper officers do not appear here and coalesce, this Encampment should recognize one branch or the other.

Reference was then made to the work of the Pension Committee, and to the unjust charges of fraud in obtaining pensions. The question in regard to pensioning prisoners of war should be carefully investigated by the Pension Committee, and of the many bills pending some just measure should be selected and endorsed at the next session of Congress.

The Commander-in-Chief made special reference to the valuable labors of the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders-in-Chief, the Surgeon-General and Chaplain-in-Chief, and other members of his staff. In closing he said:

I shall never forget the year almost gone; it will ever be my most precious recollection. The way was long, the march toilsome, but it was cheered and brightened by countless tokens of love, sweet courtesies, and generous appreciation that made it a march in the vale of Paradise. I have a heart warm with Fraternity for all, and an ardent

desire for the happiness, comfort and prosperity of every member of the Grand Army. I only ask that I may be remembered as having done all that I could for the Order I love next to the treasures at home. I have not longed for this moment to come. I abandon this enlarged field of duty with regret; I shall ever be true to the Grand Army, and do all in my power to build it up until it includes every man who wore blue.

I again thank every comrade, the loving women, the loyal men, the grand host all along the line of march who have cheered me, the hundreds whom I never met face to face, who have written me glowing words of encouragement.

At the conclusion of the address, enthusiastic calls were made for Comrade John A. Logan.

Comrade Logan, in response, said:

You have much to do in the way of business and it is better that that be performed than that I should attempt to address you. There is one thing, however, that I will say: I wish that all the people who have been worrying their brains in foreign lands and in our own land, to ascertain why the Union Army was successful in its struggle for this great country and why, when disbanded, there was not a ripple upon the surface, could have been here to-day and listened to this able and eloquent address from a private soldier of the ranks, they would then understand why slavery fell and liberty lived. They would then understand why the Union Army was in the twinkling of an eye dissolved into society without a ripple upon the surface. They would understand why the old starry banner floats to-day, and why the grandest Republic that ever existed exists to-day, and why it will be perpetuated.

## REPORTS OF STAFF OFFICERS

Adjutant-General F.E. Brown reported:

Members in good standing Dec. 31, 1881  
85,856

Members in good standing Dec. 31, 1882  
131,890

Gain for the year  
46,034

Members in good standing March 31, 1882  
90,166

Members in good standing March 31, 1883  
145,932

Gain for the year  
55,766

Total gain since Dec. 31, 1881  
60,076

During the year Permanent Departments have been organized as follows: Oregon, September 28, 1882; West Virginia, February 20, 1883; Kentucky, January 17, 1883; Dakota, February 27, 1883; Arkansas, July 11, 1883; Washington Territory, June 20, 1883; New Mexico, July 14, 1883.

The Provisional Department of the Gulf was created March 28, 1883, with Comrade Charles A. Thiel, of New Orleans, La., as Provisional Department Commander. Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas are embraced in this Department.

The Provisional Department of Tennessee and Georgia was created May 1, 1883, with Comrade Edward S. Jones, of Nashville, Tennessee, as Commander.

The growth in membership in all Departments, with one of two exceptions, has been vigorous, enabling you to quite fulfill the prediction made at Baltimore last June, "that with the aid of your comrades, our ranks would be increased 50,000 by the time of the next Encampment."

## CHARITIES OF THE ORDER

The amount expended for relief during the year was \$106,907.74, relieving 5,422 veterans or members of their families.

## IN MEMORIAM

There have been mustered-out by death 1,188 comrades.

## RITUAL

The Encampment at Baltimore directed the appointment of a committee to revise the Ritual to conform to the changes then made. Comrades R.B. Beath, Pennsylvania; H.B. Peirce, Massachusetts, and G.B. Squires, New York, were appointed as this committee, who made the necessary revision, which was approved by the Commander-in-Chief, and then issued for the guidance of the Order.

## BADGES

Seventy-five thousand badges were issued. We were fortunate in securing four pieces of cannon donated by Congress to a military organization, and purchased by us, which bore the stamp of the foundry in Rome, Georgia, where they were made in 1862, and which, from the incongruous mixing of metals in these guns, showed that the Confederates were even then pushed for good material.

Quartermaster-General John Taylor, in his report, gave in detail the receipts and expenditures of the year. Total assets, \$11,969.41; liabilities, none.

Judge Advocate-General J.R. Carnahan reported:

In conformity with instructions of the National Encampment held at Baltimore in June 1882, I have

compiled all the opinions of Judge Advocate-Generals from the organization of the Grand Army up to the present date.

I have arranged them in their order as rendered, and numbered them consecutively from I to CXLV. For each of the opinions I have prepared a syllabus, and an index and digest for the entire work. During the year I have rendered fifteen opinions, on subjects referred to me from National Headquarters. These opinions are embraced in the compilation and are number CXXXI to CXLV, inclusive. I have performed this work in accordance with the order of the last National Encampment in so far as the preparation of a syllabus was ordered, but believing that a syllabus alone would not meet the needs of the Grand Army, I collected all of the decisions of my predecessors, that the comrades wish might have not only the outline, but the full text of the opinions and decisions which are now a part of the law governing the Grand Army.

Inspector-General J.W. Burst reported in detail the condition of each Department:

The year ending December 30, 1882, was the most prosperous in the history of our organization, showing unprecedented increase in number of Posts and membership. The Department and Post Officers are constantly replying to communications from ex-soldiers, asking as to aims, objects and purposes of the Grand Army of the Republic. Applications are being forwarded to Department Headquarters in many of the States faster than the Mustering Officers can perform their duties.

The interest continues to increase with every assurance that we shall soon complete the grand and loving work so earnestly begun, and faithfully carried on, until every honorably discharged soldier and marine has his name on the Muster Roll of the Grand Army of the Republic. The organization must be congratulated on the success made possible by the earnest efforts of Past Commander-in-Chief Wagner, increased by the splendid work of his successor, and continued by the enthusiastic and tireless services of the first private who now fills this high and honored position. Your work for the year about to end will live with the history of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He presented a form for the inspection of Posts.

Surgeon-General Ames presented a very thorough and interesting report upon pensions. (See pp. 51-64, Journal of National Encampment, 1883.) The demands of his time on work affecting general legislation on pensions had prevented his attention to details for work that would make the medical department of the Grand Army more useful:

I am fully persuaded that a simple but efficient organization of the medical service for the ensuing year will give an increased value and activity to this department, and I am equally satisfied that a wide and engrossing field of work will be found for Post Surgeon and Medical Director.

In aiding the applicant for pensions, bounty, State aid and Soldiers' Home accommodations, etc;

In securing to the widows and children of soldiers all needed aid, and especially in helping the children of soldiers to education, the learning of trades, and employment under proper conditions;

In obtaining employment for feeble and the dependents of deceased comrades;

In securing medical attendance, hospital accommodations and nursing for those who need;

In standing between the soldier and the exactions or wrong treatment of any who would abuse, whether money-lender, officer of the law, rum-seller or ill adviser, and in acting at all times as the special ally and aid of the poor, the afflicted or the wronged.

To the Post Surgeon, especially if a medical man, the sorrows and private distress of the comrade or his family are made known with a confidence that is reposed in no other, and his opportunities are proportionately great.

I believe that with a heart for the work, the medical officer will have henceforward no difficulty in finding work enough to do, and in that work a degree of satisfaction and compensation abundantly ample.

That the medical officers of the Grand Army of the Republic will find in the jurisdictions sympathizing and efficient aid of the women of Department and Local Women's Relief Corps a most desirable and valuable co-operation, I fully believe.

## COMMITTEES APPOINTED

On Address of the Commander-in-Chief: - Charles T. Clark, Ohio; Samuel Harper, Pennsylvania; A.B. Valentine, Vermont; William Warner, Missouri; S.D. Puterbaugh, Illinois.

On Report of Adjutant-General: - T.J. Stewart, Pennsylvania; Ben. D. House, Indiana; B.K. Kimberly, Colorado; W.L. Culbertson, Iowa; W.E. Thorp, Michigan.

On Rules, Regulations and Ritual: - R.B. Beath, Pennsylvania; G.S. Merrill, Massachusetts; T.D. McGillicuddy, Ohio; H.X. Devendorff, Kansas; Henry R. Barker, Rhode Island.

On Report of Quartermaster-General: - L.W. Osborne, braska; J.S. Sterritt, Missouri; J.W. Jacobus, New York; C.C. Kinsman, Vermont; E.S. Jones, Tennessee.

On Report of Inspector-General: - E.M. Shaw, Maine; G.B. Fielder, New Jersey; H.W. Slocum, New York; M.D. Manson, Indiana; B.R. Pierce, Michigan.

On Report of Judge Advocate-General: - H.E. Taintor, Connecticut; J.P. Rea, Minnesota; W.R. Manning, Iowa; W.F. Chamberlain, Missouri; C.W. Blair, Kansas.

On Report of Surgeon-General: - J.C. Tucker, California; J.C. Broatch, Connecticut; P.W. Wilcox, Illinois; J.L. Woodin, Indiana; E.T. Lincoln, Kentucky.

On Report of Chaplain-in-Chief: - William Striblen, Missouri; J.C. Linehan, New Hampshire; Philip Cheek, Jr. Wisconsin; S.S. Burdett, Potomac; Philip S. Chase, Rhode Island.

On Resolutions: - Louis Wagner, Pennsylvania; John A. Logan, Illinois; C.F. Manderson, Nebraska; J.G.B.



Adams, Massachusetts; C.H. Grosvenor, Ohio; Philip Cheek, Jr., Wisconsin.

Comrade E.S. Osborne, Pennsylvania, called attention to the fact that since the encampment had assembled in Colorado, the death of Major-General E.O.C. Ord had been announced. He referred to the distinguished services of that officer during the rebellion.

Comrade C.W. Hazzard, of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the delegation from that State, presented the following, which were adopted by a rising vote:

*Resolved.* That we learn of the death of General E.O.C. Ord, in a foreign land, with sorrow, born of admiration for his noble career as a soldier.

*Resolved.* That those here assembled, who followed his gallant leadership, both on the Potomac and on the Tennessee, sympathize with the Nation in the loss of an eminent soldier - the last commander of the Army of the James, the last survivor of Pennsylvania's noble three, Reynolds, Meade and Ord.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

On Address of the Commander-in-Chief:

We have very carefully examined and considered the comprehensive and eloquent address of Comrade PAUL VER DER VOORT, Commander-in-Chief, and warmly commend the constant labors and unflagging zeal of our beloved comrade during the past year. With the rapid increase of the Grand Army of the Republic, as well as a corresponding increase of our duty upon the part of the Commander-in-Chief, it is a sincere delight to every comrade to know that that duty has been amply and magnificently performed. We in no wise detract from his honored predecessors, who planted the seed and nurtured the plant through its tender growth until it became established in strength, when we say that his labors have been more abundant and the harvest greater than in any previous year. His enthusiasm in all that pertains to the Grand Army, his untiring industry and zeal, his personal magnetism and eloquence command the admiration of his comrades everywhere, and if imitated by his successors will surely conduct them on the road to success.

We recommend the following:

1. *Resolved.* That the cordial thanks of this Encampment be and are hereby extended to Comrade PAUL VAN DER VOORT, Commander-in-Chief, for the untiring zeal and energy, the unwearied devotion and the boundless love with which he has administered the affairs of the Grand Army during the past year, and for the magnificent results which have followed his unselfish labor; and we pray that he may live long to enjoy the gratitude and love of his comrades, and that he may be blessed with unbounded health, happiness and prosperity.

2. *Resolved.* That we hardly endorse and concur in the views so forcibly and eloquently expressed in the address upon the barbaric crime of polygamy, and we most earnestly invite Congress to devise such measures as will

speedily and effectually remove that blot upon the morals and purity of the nation.

3. *Resolved.* That we hail with pleasure all organizations having for their object the perpetuity of the principles which are so dear to us, and we recognize in the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America one that is entitled to the confidence and support of all comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

4. *Resolved.* That being pledged to obey the laws of the land, we claim the right to insist that all others should be held to like obedience; and, inasmuch as Section 1,754 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides that disabled soldiers and sailors shall be preferred for appointments to civil offices, we demand its full and unqualified enforcement in all departments of the civil service. This law was the outgrowth of the honest gratitude of the American people for the soldiers and sailors who saved the Union, and the honor and integrity of the nation is involved in its full and ample enforcement.

On Report of Adjutant-General F.E. Brown:

The unprecedented increase in our Order, during the year, in Posts and membership, has necessarily added largely to the duties of this office. When we consider that more than one-third of our entire membership have been admitted to our ranks during his term, we feel that his devotion and his able administration of the affairs of his office is worthy the highest commendation.

We heartily concur with the remarks of the Adjutant-General, relative to promptness in forwarding quarterly reports from Posts to Department Headquarters. But little now can be said on this subject, yet it is one of such vast importance in the prompt and proper transaction of business of an organization as large as the Grand Army of the Republic that we would recommend that it be made the subject of a General Order from National Headquarters.

From the enthusiasm pervading the Order, there can be no doubt but that the increase in the coming year will be great, and we would respectfully suggest that the Council of Administration consider the advisability of giving the Adjutant-General an assistant in his office work and fix the pay for the same.

We concur in the suggestions of the Adjutant-General, that every officer should provide himself with and carefully study the "Manual," and thus avoid much useless correspondence with National as well as Department Headquarters.

To the comrades who have received special and honorable mention in this report for the valuable assistance and advice, we suggest that the thanks of this Encampment be given.

On Report of Inspector-General J.W. Burst:

The Encampment is to be congratulated upon the continued prosperity and unprecedented growth of the Grand Army, and the improved condition of the various Departments and Posts, as shown in the Inspector-General's report.

We have carefully read the report, and have fully considered the many recommendations contained therein, and are pleased to say that we see no necessity for any changes or corrections as printed.

We fully endorse the suggestions of the Inspector-General touching the form, and duties of Assistant Inspectors of Departments, in the yearly Inspection of Posts, and we recommend that the form presented in said report shall become a part of the form for the inspection of Posts.

We desire especially to congratulate the Inspector-General in presenting in his report a new feature, namely: The report on the National Soldiers Home at Dayton, Ohio and at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This report of the Soldiers Home covers, in substance, the workings of other National Soldiers Homes throughout the land. We further recommend that the Inspectors of Departments shall, so far as practicable, make application to their various State Governments for permission to officially inspect every Soldiers Home and Soldiers Orphans' Home in their State, and to submit to the Inspector-General the result of such inspection.

Report of Judge Advocate-General J.R. Carnahan:

Your Committee report that after careful examination of said report and the Digest of Opinions accompanying the same, they cordially recommend that said Digest of Opinions be accepted and approved as the law of the Grand Army of the Republic upon the subjects therein treated. In the opinion of the Committee the compilation is one of learning, research, and ability, bringing the common law of our organization in a palpable and comprehensible form before our comrades, and gathering together and formulating rules for the determination of questions which may arise hereafter, which may be invaluable to the Order by reason of their simplicity directness and accessibility.

On Report of Quartermaster-General John Taylor:

The committee have examined the books, accounts, and vouchers of the Quartermaster-General, compared the same with his printed report, and find the same correct.

On Report of Surgeon-General A. Ames, Jr.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the report of Surgeon-General Ames, report, that in their opinion the assignment of the whole subject of pensions to that officer was fortunate in the extreme for our Order. While in time of war the stern duties of a surgeon leave him but little leisure, the position of Surgeon-General in the Grand Army of the Republic has been until now but an honorable sinecure in these happy times of peace.

Your Committee finds cause for congratulation, that this truly medical matter of pensions has been placed in such competent and experienced hands, and sincerely trust

a continuance will hereafter obtain, of the work so intelligently inaugurated.

That portion of the report which recommends the abolition of the present rank distinctions in pensions appears to your Committee particularly in keeping with the opening clause of the Declaration of Independence of our country which recognizes that all men are born equal.

Finding nothing to add to the exhaustive and interesting treatise of the Surgeon-General, and believing that the justly put and lucid views therein expressed, will greatly advance the moral and legal science of this painful adjunct of war, we recommend that the Committee on Pensions be requested to take such steps as may be necessary to carry out the recommendations contained in the report, and especially as to rank and the appointment of a special commission for the revision of the pension laws,

## RULES, REGULATIONS AND RITUAL

No changes of moment were recommended by the committee.

## COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS

The standing Committee on Pensions have given considerable attention to the practice of the Pension Office as affecting the adjudication of claims there pending, being afforded every facility by the Commissioner, for the purpose; and the result of their inquiry, as attained by the full committee and a sub-committee, will be embodied in a circular of information and advice to comrades, issued from National Headquarters.

In compliance with the vote of the last Encampment, the Committee advocated in an amended form the so-called "Forty Dollar Bill," before the two Houses of Congress, with successful results; and while the full scope of the original bill was found to be unobtainable, it affords, as passed, a good degree of relief to the comrades for whose benefit it was devised.

The manifold interests of the comrades in the whole pension system received so full a discussion in the report of the Surgeon-General, and his recommendations are so in accord with the convictions of the Committee on Pensions, that they find it unnecessary to elaborate points which they might otherwise express themselves upon.

After an interesting debate (pages 139-147, Journal, 1883), the report was concurred in.

## COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The committee recommended that no application for restoration to rank of any Past Department Commander shall be considered unless made in the following form:

1. First. A request from the Post of which the comrade sought to be restored is now a member, asking for such restoration. 2d. A resolution of the Department

approving such request. 3d. Name of the comrade ad of the Post into which he was originally mustered. 4th. The date of such muster. 5th. The date of election and installation as Department Commander. 6th. The cause of leaving the Grand Army of the Republic, whether - A. By resignation; B. By disbandment of Post or Department; or C. By what other cause. 7th. Date of the organization of the Post of which he is now a member. 8th. Date of his muster into said Post.

The above information is needed to enable this Encampment to judge whether the comrade should be granted the high honor of a restoration to the rank forfeited by cessation of membership with us, and which should never be granted if such cessation was the voluntary act of the comrade.

2. That the Commander-in-Chief be and he is hereby authorized and requested to have prepared a proper form of petition to Congress asking that Memorial Day be made a national holiday, and that the several Posts be requested to have such a petition properly signed and presented to Congress at its next session

3. That the National Encampment cordially wishes God speed to the organization of ex-nurses and similar bodies of women who seek by concerted effort to make perpetual, as well as effective, the lessons of the war for the suppression of the rebellion in which they bore honorable part.

4. That the Commander-in-Chief be and he is hereby requested to have prepared a proper form of petition to Congress asking legislation to lace volunteers of the navy upon the same footing with volunteer soldiers as to admission into Soldiers' Homes, and that the several Posts be requested to have such petition signed and forwarded to Congress.

Adopted.

## GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

On motion of Comrade Theo. F. Wiseman, Kansas, committee of five was appointed to present a memorial to Congress for the establishment of a Soldiers Home west of the Mississippi (See Report, Chapter XXII.)

The following was adopted on motion of Chaplain-in-Chief Foster:

*Resolved.* That we cordially hail the organization of a National Woman's Relief Corps and extend our greeting to them. We return our warmest thanks to the loyal women of the land for their earnest support and encouragement and bid them God speed in their patriotic work.

The thanks of the encampment were unanimously tendered to Department Commander E.K. Stimson, of Colorado, for his laborious services in connection with the Encampment and Reunion; "to the Legislature of the State of Colorado, and the citizens of Denver and the Department Encampment of Colorado, for the bountiful manner in which they have entertained us during our stay in this beautiful

city;" also to Senator Tabor, for the use of his beautiful Opera House for the meeting.

The thanks of the Encampment were extended to Comrade William A. Hammill, of Georgetown, Colorado, for the silver badges presented by him to each member of the Encampment. The badge was a very elaborate piece of workmanship, consisting of a representation of a rising sun, in silver, two inches in diameter, bearing the inscription around the outer edge, "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty - 1861-1863." In the center is the monogram, "G.A.R." On the obverse were the words, "Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Denver, Colorado, July, 1883. "Nil Sine Numine," and in the center a shield with a representation of mountains on the upper half and a pick and hammer on the lower half. It was suspended from a silver pin by a buff ribbon bearing the name of the Department to which the comrade belonged.

## TESTIMONIAL TO PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MERRILL

Comrade Chas. F. Manderson, Nebraska, on behalf of the committee, presented to Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill a beautiful gold badge mounted with diamonds, voted by the National Encampment in appreciation of his arduous labors as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected:

Commander-in-Chief, Robert B. Beath, Pennsylvania  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William Warner, Missouri  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Walter H. Holmes, California  
Surgeon-General Dr. Azel Ames, Jr., Massachusetts, re-elected  
Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. I.M. Foster, New York, re-elected.

## COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Arkansas, E.A. Nickels; California, J.C. Tucker, M.D.; Colorado, Byron L. Carr; Connecticut, W.H. Pierpoint; Delaware, W.H. Parnell; Illinois, Smith D. Atkins; Indiana, R.S. Robertson; Iowa, Henry Fry; Kansas, John A. Martin; Kentucky, J. Elwood Livezey; Maine, Charles A. Coombs; Maryland, Geo. B. Creamer; Massachusetts, Henry B. Peirce; Michigan, W.H. Miller; Minnesota, William Thomas; Missouri, J.S. Sterrett; Nebraska, J.H. Culver; New Hampshire, W.H.D. Cochrane; New Jersey, A. M. Way; New Mexico, T.W. Collier; New York, A.H. Spierre; Ohio, Carl N. Bancroft; Oregon, B.B. Tuttle; Pennsylvania, Samuel Harper; Potomac, Gilbert M. Husted; Rhode Island, Thos. W. Manchester; Vermont, Warren Gibbs; Virginia, C.W. Burr; Wisconsin, J. Davidson.



The newly elected officers were installed in the presence of the officers and members of the Women's Relief Corps.

The Commander-in-Chief announced as the Committee on Pensions:

George S. Merrill, Massachusetts; Louis Wagner, Pennsylvania; C.H. Grosvenor, Ohio; Azel Ames, Jr., Massachusetts; Paul Van Der Voort, Nebraska.

## COURTESIES EXTENDED

Extensive preparations had been made in Denver for the reception and entertainment of the delegates, and for the general reunion. A camp had been established in the suburbs of that city capable of accommodating fifteen thousand men, the streets were decorated upon the most extensive and expensive scale, and above all there was a hearty welcome by the citizens of that State.

The Camp was formally opened on the morning of July 25th, the exercises being presided over by Comrade G.G. Symes.

Governor J.B. Grant, of Colorado, made an eloquent address in welcoming the members of the Grand Army of the Republic to Colorado. He was followed by Major John L. Routh, of Denver. An appropriate response was made by Commander-in-Chief Van Der Voort, followed by Comrades J.G.B. Adams, Massachusetts, E.K. Stimson, Colorado and General John A. Logan.

In the afternoon there was a Parade of the Colorado National Guard and the Grand Army of the Republic, with General John A. Logan, Marshal.

Platforms had been erected on the streets, and they were crowded with ladies and children. The sidewalks along the route of the parade were lined with spectators.

The children's singing of war songs was a feature of the reunion. The pyramid on which the children stood was thirty-five feet across at the base, and twelve feet high. Long before the parade appeared the streets were packed for squares around, and nothing would satisfy the eager multitude but the singing of the 200 children. The heartiest cheers went up from the listeners at the end of each song, and finally, when the advance guard of the parade arrived, the cheers, which greeted Prof. Birdsall and his young patriotic singers, were deafening. And not to be outdone, the children waved their flags and cheered the veterans in return. The song of welcome to the Grand Army of the Republic, composed by Comrade Birdsall, was received with great enthusiasm.

## TOPEKA FLAMBEAU CLUB

In the evening the Topeka (Kansas) FLAMBEAU CLUB, under the command of Major T.J. Anderson, made a brilliant display.

For an hour, while going through their military evolutions, marching and counter-marching, they kept up a continuous blaze of roman candles, sky-rockets and pyrotechnic novelties that excited the greatest enthusiasm.

The State of Colorado appropriated \$21,000 towards the entertainment of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic attending the Encampment. This sum was supplemented by large donations from the citizens of Denver. The amount appropriated by the State was principally expended for excursions for the members of the Encampment and their families. The first of these was on July 20, to Greeley, Fort Collins, Longmont and Boulder, the route being through the agricultural region of Colorado.

On July 29, the Encampment started on the grand excursion to Leadville and Gunnison; one division going by way of the Denver and South Park Railroad, returning via Denver and Rio Grande railroad, arriving in Denver on August 2d; the other division going via Denver and Rio Grande and returning by the Denver and South Park Railroad.

The visitors met only with unbounded hospitality on these trips, and most thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the thoughtful generosity that enabled them, without expense, to travel through a large part of the State, over mountains passes and through romantic gorges and canons that excited wonder and admiration at every point. This Trip was one never to be forgotten by its participants.

To be continued next month.

