



# The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
Department of Texas  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Volume iv Number 6 June 2019

## Rattling Sabres

by  
Glen E. Zook

I have had a website for over 10-years that started with a former Internet provider and then, when I changed the Internet provider, I had to go with one of the commercial website hosting companies. Although I started using computers over 50-years ago (1966 in college at Georgia Tech), and had to learn Algol 58 and Algol 60, and then used BASIC for programming for a number of years, I just stink where html and other website programs are concerned. Therefore, I just use the "website for dummies" type of websites.

Until now, I have always had a 3-year contract and, so far, every time I went to renew the contract I have been informed that my present platform will no longer be supported and that the fee would be at least 60% higher than what I paid the last time if I stay with the present platform. However, if I change to their new "dummies" platform the price would be about what it was for the previous 3-years. This time, if I went to a 5-year contract, the price would actually be like 15% lower, per year, than what I paid in the past. No brainer! I went with the 5-year plan.

My website is primarily based on amateur radio. I have been licensed for just over 60-years (K9STH). Also, there is a section for my little retirement business. In addition, a section is set aside for family activities. However, there are additional sections available and so I decided to use one of those pages for Civil War information including past editions of the Texas Union Herald. Things are just getting started. However, all of the back issues of this newsletter are already available.

Just go to: <https://k9sth.net> and then click on the label, within the red stripe, indicating Civil War newsletters. That will take you to the newsletter portion of the website. This is just a beginning as I plan to have additional Civil War information posted as well as the newsletters.

By the way, the 3 family crests that are on the home page are the Anderson, Zook, and McBrayer crests. Anderson is my mother's side, of course the Zook one is obvious, and the McBrayer crest is for my wife's family. Both the Anderson and McBrayer families originated in Scotland whereas Zook originated in the old Swiss cantons which are now Switzerland. My wife's mother was a Bowman and I really need to pick one, of the many, crests that are associated with that family.

The statue of Robert E. Lee, that had stood for many years in downtown Dallas, that was removed for political correctness a couple of years ago, has been sold to a Dallas lawyer. The reserved amount, in the bidding process, was a little over \$400,00 and the City of Dallas did not expect to get much over this amount. However, the winning bid was over \$1,400,000! There are definitely those who do not want all traces of the Confederate States of America removed.

There was one caveat and that was the statue cannot be displayed anywhere within the city limits of the City of Dallas. At least to my knowledge, just where this statue will be displayed has not been revealed.

The 2019 Memorial Day observance has come and gone with the usual support of Camp #18 members and S.V.R. members. Later, in this edition, there are a number of photographs of the Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney, Texas, observance taken by Paul Ridenour.

I am slowly getting all the information for a presentation of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain together. However, with everything else going on, I just cannot commit to a fixed date for the presentation.

In fact, I am having to expand the subject because I chose this subject because my great great grandfather, Private William James Stump, Company I, 128<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was supposedly wounded during this battle. However, doing my research, I discovered that he, technically, did not participate in the battle. The 128<sup>th</sup> Indiana was part of Schofield's force that did the "flanking" movement (for which Sherman was famous) around the mountain which, eventually, resulted in the Union victory.

As for the actual Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, that was a defeat for the Union Army!

My youngest daughter now lives in Marietta, Georgia, which is not that far from Kennesaw Mountain. Previously, she lived in Powder Springs, Georgia, where the land, immediately behind her house, is a historical site due to one of the skirmishes during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. Prior to that, she lived within the city limits of Canton but Kennesaw Mountain was just a couple of miles away and was quite visible from her front yard.

Wendy likes to hike and the trails in the Kennesaw Mountain National Military Park are among her favorites. In fact, she often takes her daughter, Maya, and her son, Austin (he is the junior member of Camp #18), along with her.

Well, that is enough from me for this month and until next month . . .



# 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:

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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.

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## 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.

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## 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

### June Meeting

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

Will be held on

Tuesday 18 June 2019

At the

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.



# Webbers of Worchester

by  
Glenn A. Webber

Thomas Kendrick Webber was born in 1809 in Holland, Massachusetts, and married Nancy Hugaboom who was born in 1808 in Glen Falls, New York, on September 29, 1832. Together they had 6 children, 3 daughters and 3 sons. Thomas was a grandson of Samuel Webber who served in Capt. Newcomb's company of Massachusetts Volunteer Militia during the War of 1812. Thomas was a shoemaker and was living in Worchester, Massachusetts.

When the Civil War broke out the state of Massachusetts, was a slave free state lead by abolitionist Gov. John Andrew. As in America's earlier wars of independence, Massachusetts, was ready, and willing to send all, and the best, she had. Civil War Massachusetts, sent 159,165 soldiers and sailors to war. This included 62-Infantry Regiments, 6-Cavalry Regiments, 4-Heavy Artillery, and 16-Light Artillery regiments, as well as several unattached battalions and companies, plus 2 companies of sharpshooters.

Just days after the April 12<sup>th</sup> attack on Fort Sumter, Gov. Andrews received a telegram from Washington D.C. asking for 1,500 men to serve for 90 days. Several regiments started moving towards Washington, some arriving April 19<sup>th</sup>. These were dubbed the "Minute Men of 61". During the war, 13,942 Massachusetts, soldiers & sailors died.

The oldest son George Watkins Webber, 1838-1932, enlisted Sept. 21, 1861 into the Company K 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. He mustered out on April 24, 1862 New Bern, NC. Transferring to Co. D 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry the same day. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry until he mustered out Oct. 14, 1864, transferring to the U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps 64<sup>th</sup> Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Co. He mustered out of military service on Oct. 8, 1865.

He married Sarah Boyd in 1861 and they had 4 children. After the war he worked in his father's shoe factory, and later the Railroad. George Watkins Webber passed away on June 2, 1932 at the ripe old age of 93. He is buried in the Hope Cemetery, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Middle son, Luther Palmer Webber, 1840-1864 Married Mary Bennett, June 2, 1860 and they had one son Thomas Kindrick. Luther, enlisted Co. I 27<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry on Sept. 20, 1861. He mustered out on March 26, 1863 in New Bern, North Carolina on Dec. 13, 1863 Then, he re-enlisted in Co. M 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. While stationed at New Bern, he came down with a deadly case of Yellow Fever, and passed away on Oct. 8, 1864. Pvt. Luther Palmer Webber is buried at grave # 1660 New Bern National Cemetery, North Carolina.

Youngest son Christopher L.W. Webber, 1844-unknown, enlisted Sept. 20, 1861 into Co. H 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. He mustered out on March 26, 1863 at New Bern, North Carolina. He re-enlisted into Co. M 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Heavy Artillery on Dec. 11, 1863. He mustered out of military service July 4, 1865. He is shown

living at home with his parents in the 1865 census. Little is known of him after that date.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was organized in Worchester, Massachusetts on Sept. 1, 1861. It moved to Annapolis, Maryland, Oct 31 until it joined Fosters 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Burnside's Expedition Corps.

On Feb. 8, the regiment participated in the Battle of Roanoke Island, under the command of Col. Upton. Went to New Berne, North Carolina and spent time there, and in the surrounding area until May, 1864 when it was transferred to Virginia, where they fought at Cold Harbor. Then the unit helped during the siege of Petersburg, & Richmond.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry is very liken to that of the 25<sup>th</sup> early in the war. Trained at Annapolis, Maryland & joined Fosters 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade where it spent much time in North Carolina. The 27<sup>th</sup> was decimated in some of the later battles in which it would be engaged. George W.'s transfer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry proved to be a timely one & smart move.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Cavalry Massachusetts Volunteers, was formed in the winter months of 62-63. A unique aspect of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry was its California volunteers. Many easterners had migrated west to California. When war broke out many felt obligated to fight for the union. Gov. Andrew agreed to accept the California volunteers if they would provide their own uniforms.

Co A was formed in California and sailed from San Francisco, arriving in Boston, on Jan 3, 1863. Dubbed the "California 100". They & 7 Massachusetts companies reported to Ft. Meigs, Readville, Massachusetts.

The regiment then traveled to Baltimore, Ft. Monroe, & several locations in Virginia, used primarily for picketing & scouting. By March of 63, 4 more companies from California joined the ranks now dubbed the "California Battalion" of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry. July 63-July 64, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry spent most of its time chasing John Mosby's partisan rangers around Loudoun Valley. In Aug. 64, became part of Kings Division, XXII Corps, & later the Army of Shenandoah, under Gen. Philip Sheridan. The regiment was mustered out of service July 20, 1865 at Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Heavy Artillery Regiment was formed in the summer of 1863 in Readville, Massachusetts and consisted of 12 companies. The regiment served in 2 states, Virginia, & North Carolina. As one may guess Heavy Artillery isn't moved much or very fast.

Engagements include the Rainbow Bluff Expedition, Fort Branch, & Battle of Wyse Fork. Several of the companies were used in different areas around N.C. namely New Berne. The regiment concentrated its forces at New Berne, June of 1865. Was then assigned to Wilmington & in defense of Cape Fear River. In early Sept. the regiment moved to Boston, where it mustered out of service Sept. 23, 1865.

The 3 Webber sisters, Harriet, Eleanor, & Susannah, all married & had families. Harriet, married veteran Joseph Griswold, Co. I 56<sup>th</sup> Mass. Infantry, Susannah migrated west & married veteran James Albright, Co. B 1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Cavalry.



## Memorial Day 2019

Photographs courtesy of  
Brother Paul Ridenour

Cyrus Webber was born May 9, 1815 and died in 1896. He was the younger brother of Thomas Kindrick Webber, also from Holland, Massachusetts. Cyrus, who married Betsey Whittemore, was born on Jan 5, 1813 and died in 1881. Betsey was the daughter of Major Asa Whittemore and was born on Oct 5, 1839. The couple lived in Brookfield, Worchester Co. Massachusetts for many years. Cyrus, worked as a boot & shoe maker there.

By 1870, he and Betsey were living and farming in Sturbridge, where they stayed for the rest of their lives. Along the way, they had 2 sons, Cyrus Kendrick, born 1841, and William H., born 1843. Both served and fought for the Union in the Civil War.

Cyrus K. Webber enlisted Sept. 19, 1861 into Co. A 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to full Corporal. He served with the 25<sup>th</sup> for the entirety of the war mustering out July, 1865 at Readville, Massachusetts. He returned home to live with his parents until he married Helen Gay, 1849-1919, on Sept. 21, 1865. The 1870 census shows him working in an "auger shop" and living in Brookfield, along with 3 year old daughter Edith.

1873, blessed the couple with son Everett. Cyrus, lived his life as a farmer. In June of 1890, he filed for his veterans pension. The 1910 census shows Cyrus, age 68, and Helen, renting and working as wage earners on small farms. On September 9, 1913, Corporal Cyrus Kendrick Webber passed away. He is buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery, North Brookfield, MA.

William H. Webber enlisted Sept. 27, 1861 into Co. D 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment for 3 years. William survived the war mustering out in October 1864. He returned home and married Ellen Cooper Feb. 6, 1865. He and Ellen, were living with the Cooper family in 65 and was listed as a Laborer. 1870 shows William and Ellen, with a daughter Kate Louisa. William was working in an "auger shop". Ellen, passed away the next year.

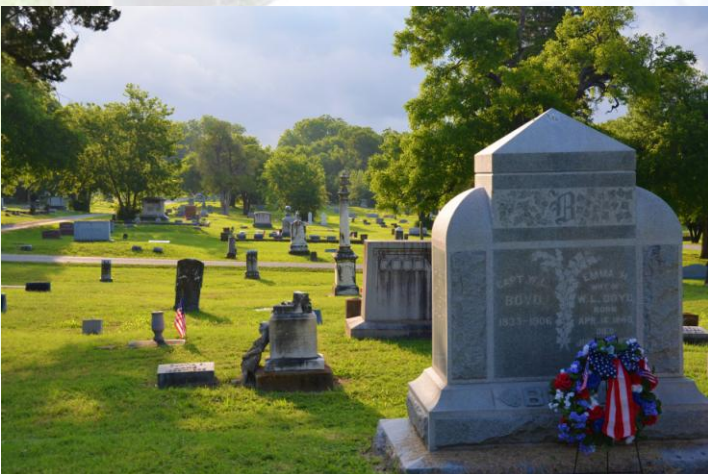
William remarried in 1876 to Elizabeth Perrin. 1880 shows William still working in the "auger shop" with wife Elizabeth and 9 year old daughter Kate. Little is found between 1880 and William's death June 25, 1900. He is buried in the North Cemetery, Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

Someday, I would like to travel to New Berne, & visit the grave of my cousin Luther Palmer Webber. All gave some, some gave all.

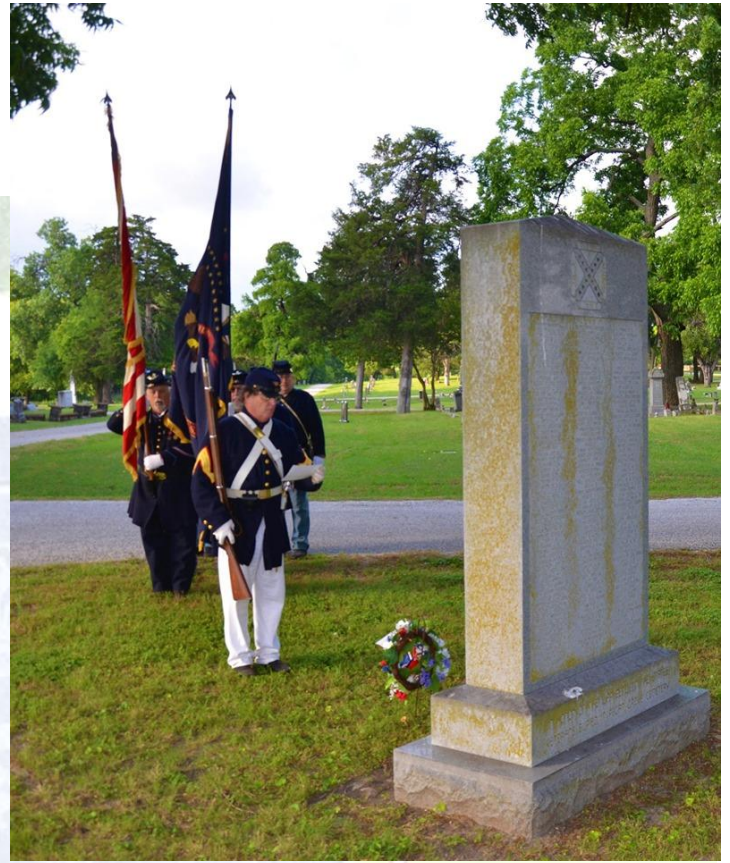
Glenn A. Webber













# The History of the GAR (continued)

Transcribed by  
Donald E. Darby

## CHAPTER XXII

### ADMINISTRATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROBERT B. BEATH EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION, MINNEAPOLIS, July 23, 1884

Headquarters were established in Philadelphia, with the following staff:

Adjutant-General John M. Vanderslice, Pennsylvania  
Quartermaster-General John Taylor, Pennsylvania  
Inspector-General Chas. A. Santmyer, Ohio  
Judge Advocate-General William Vandever, Iowa  
Assistant Adjutant-General Thomas J. Stewart,  
Pennsylvania

Colonel ROBERT B. BEATH, Commander-in-Chief, was born in Philadelphia, January 26, 1839, and served an apprenticeship as a machine-blacksmith. He enlisted on the first call for troops, in the 23d Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was discharged as Sergeant at the end of the three months term. Re-enlisted September 5, 1861, as Sergeant, Company d, 88th Pennsylvania Volunteers; promoted to be First Sergeant and Second Lieutenant. Was slightly wounded at second Bull Run, August 30, 1862. In July 1883, was commissioned Captain, Company A, 6th U.S. Colored Troops. Served with the Regiment in the Army of the James, and was badly wounded in the charge of the Brigade on New Market Heights, Virginia, September 29th, 1864, resulting in the amputation of his right leg below the knee. When able to leave the hospital was assigned to Camp William Penn, Philadelphia, and there remained until able to wear an artificial limb, when he returned to his Regiment in North Carolina, and was examined for promotion as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment. Was assigned to duty in the Freedman's Bureau, in North Carolina; commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, but not mustered. Was mustered-out, September 20, 1865.

He was elected Surveyor-General of Pennsylvania in 1871, for three years. Charter-member of Post No. 2, Philadelphia, October 28, 1866, and charter member and the first Commander of Post No. 5, Philadelphia, and also the first Junior Vice Commander of the Department.

In July 1867, removed to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and there served two terms as Commander of Gowen Post No. 23. Was four years Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department; Department Commander in 1873; two years Inspector-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, under Commander-in-Chief Burnside and three years Adjutant-General Under Commanders-in-Chief Hartranft and

Wagner. He compiled the first Manual for the use of the Grand Army, and later compiled the Grand Army BLUE BOOK, citing law and precedents on all points raised in regard to the Rules and Regulations of the Order. Has been, since 1881, Secretary of the United Fireman's Insurance Company, Philadelphia. Is Vice-President, Board of Trustees, Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home.

Major WILLIAM WARNER, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief was born in Lafayette County, Wisconsin, in 1840. He entered the service in Company C, 33d Wisconsin Volunteers. Was promoted Adjutant and then Captain. Was afterwards appointed Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General, by President Lincoln. In 1864 was commissioned Major, 44th Wisconsin, and served in the 16th and 17th Army Corps. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in Wisconsin 1866-67. Removed to Kansas City to practice law and, in 1881, there organized Geo. H. Thomas Post, and was its first Commander. Was elected Department Commander in 1882, and re-elected in 1883, and done most efficient work in that position in building up the Order in his State.

At Minneapolis he was nominated by General Sherman for Commander-in-Chief.

He has represented the 5th Missouri District in Congress for two terms, and declined re-nomination for a third term. Elected Commander-in-Chief at Columbus. See Chapter XXVI.

Major WALTER H. HOLMES, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, enlisted, April 19, 1861, as a Private in the 8th New York State Militia, and at the end of the three months term was commissioned First Lieutenant, 170th New York, which served first in North Carolina, and afterward in the 2d Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. Was promoted Captain in 1863 and mustered out at the close of the war. Was a charter member of Post No. 11 Brooklyn. In 1874 he went to California and aided in the formation of Geo. H. Thomas Post, in San Francisco. Served two terms as Commander, and was noted for his energetic and successful work in recruiting the Post. He has taken a leading part in all the work pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic on the Pacific coast. He was Grand Marshal of the notable parade in San Francisco, on the assembly of the Twentieth National Encampment.

JOHN M. VANDERSLICE, Adjutant-General, was born near Valley Forge, Chester County, Pennsylvania. At the age of seventeen he left the Classical Institute, where he was preparing for college, and enlisted, February 1864, as a Private in the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served with that Regiment in the campaigns of the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac until Lee's surrender. Upon being mustered-out, in July 1865, he resumed his studies and was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar, in May 1869, since which time he has been in active practice there.

He served several terms as Adjutant of Post No. 2, Philadelphia. In 1876 he was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department of Pennsylvania, and served for six years, when he was elected Department Commander.

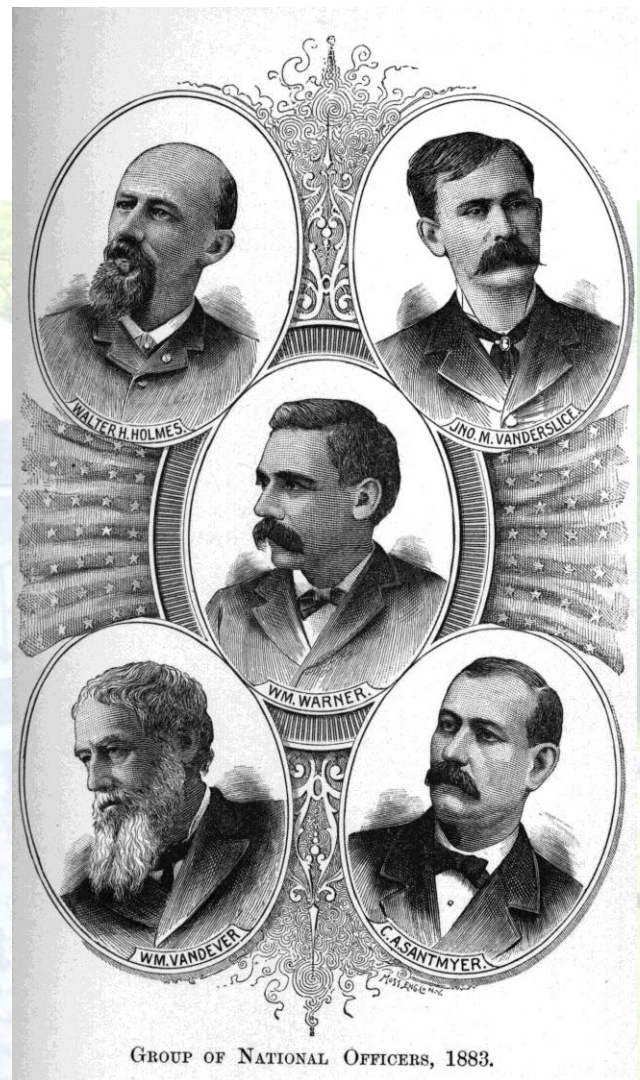


He is an active Grand Army worker, and has been regular in attendance upon the Department and National Encampments. Is a Trustee of the Pennsylvania Soldiers Home, at Erie, and a Director of the Gettysburg Battle-field Memorial Association.

Captain CHAS. A. SANTMYER, Inspector-General, enlisted in 1857, at the age of seventeen, in Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery, and took part in the "Mormon Expedition: to Utah. He served with the Battery until July 7, 1862, and was then discharged as First Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, 1st Maryland Cavalry; promoted Captain, August 1864; mustered-out, 1865. In 1879 he joined Geo. H. Thomas Post No. 13, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1880, became a charter member of Post 30, at his home in Carthage, Ohio, serving four years as its Commander. Served as Assistant Inspector-General in 1882 and 1883.

General Wm. VANDEVER, Judge Advocate-General, was elected to Congress from Iowa, in 1858 and re-elected in 1860. He resigned his seat at the breaking out of the war, to take command as Colonel of the 9th Iowa Volunteers. Promoted Brigadier-General, November 29, 1862, and Brevet Major-General, June 7, 1865. He was in command of Divisions in the 13th, 14th, and 16th Army Corps, in many important engagements.

He joined the Grand Army of the Republic in Iowa, in 1866, and was elected member of the National Council of Administration, January 1868. Commander, Post No. 7, Dubuque, Iowa, 1882-83. In 1884 he moved to California, and was Commander of Cushing Post No. 44. Was elected a Member of the 50th Congress, from the 6th Congressional District, California.



## EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

The National Encampment met in Minneapolis, July 23, 1884, and was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Robert B. Beath.

## COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Adjutant-General J.M. Vanderslice; W.H. Miller, Michigan; Thos. W. Manchester, Rhode Island; Wm. Thomas, Minnesota; G.M. Husted, Potomac.

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Commander-in-Chief Robert B. Beath  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William Warner  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief W.H. Holmes  
Chaplain-in-Chief I.M. Foster  
Adjutant-General J.M. Vanderslice  
Assistant Adjutant-General Thos. J. Stewart  
Quartermaster-General John Taylor  
Inspector-General Chas. A. Santmyer

## COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Colorado, C.T. Harkinson; Connecticut, W.H. Pierpoint; Delaware, W.H. Purnell; Illinois, Smith D. Atkins; Indiana, R.S. Robertson; Iowa, Henry Fry; Kansas, John A. Martin; Maine, Chas. A. Coombs; Maryland, George B. Creamer; Massachusetts, Henry B. Peirce; Michigan, W.H. Miller; Minnesota, William Thomas; Missouri, J.S. Sterrett; Nebraska, J.H. Culver; New Hampshire, Daniel B. Newhall; New Jersey, A.M. Way; 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.

## DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED

Arkansas, 1; California, 1; Colorado, 8; Connecticut, 8; Dakota, 6; Delaware, 3; Illinois, 24; Indiana, 18; Iowa, 19; Kansas, 23; Kentucky, 4; Maine, 9; Maryland, 5; Massachusetts, 18; Michigan, 17; Minnesota, 10; Missouri,



13; Nebraska, 14; New Hampshire, 10; New Jersey, 11; New York, 32; Ohio, 29; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 40; Potomac, 9; Rhode Island, 2; Tennessee and Georgia, 4; Vermont, 5; Virginia, 3; Wisconsin, 13; West Virginia, 1; Washington Territory, 1. Total, 32 Departments; 362 Department Officers and Representatives.

Commander-in-Chief Beath then read his address, reviewing the work of the year. He had made official visits to seventeen Departments, attended the unveiling of the Soldiers Monument at Buffalo, New York, on July 4th, and, with the officers of the Women's Relief Corps, had visited the Soldiers Home, at Chelsea, Massachusetts.

He recommended that other Departments follow the lead of Massachusetts, New York and California, and, by appropriate legislation, secure Homes for the *homeless*.

That all our sick, destitute and unfortunate comrades might be gathered from their own poor homes, or from Almshouses, and as the wards of a grateful people, thus spend their remaining days in peace and comfort, surrounded by all that brotherly love or patriotic solicitude could suggest or provide, assured that when the inevitable end should come, they would be given the honors of a soldier's funeral, and would not fill part of a pauper's grave.

#### BADGES

90,500 membership badges had been issued during the year. Through the kind courtesy and attention of Hon. Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War, and General Stephen V. Benet, over ten thousand pounds of captured cannon-metal had been secured for the manufacture of badges.

#### DIGEST OF DECISIONS

Comrade Jas. R. Carnahan, Indiana, Past Judge Advocate-General, had, during the year, compiled a complete digest of decisions upon the Rules and Regulations, and was entitled to the thanks of the National Encampment for the able manner in which he had discharged the laborious task.

#### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

Having visited National Headquarters of the Woman's Relief Corps, to ascertain if there was any aid the Grand Army could give in the prosecution of their work, he was impressed with the fact that they had in themselves, the ability and resources to carry out the details of the organization, and that they most needed the expression of our hearty appreciation of their work, and of sympathy in their objects.

Comrades who doubted the wisdom of our taking any action last year, will soon see that this Woman's Relief Corps is to be our Grand Army Reserve, ready to respond for efficient help in all our social and charitable work.

As we grow older, and as our ranks shall become thinned, we shall be drawn more closely together. We shall

cultivate the fraternal features of the organization more and more, and here again the loyal women are to be our efficient helpers; our wives and daughters and other friends are to enjoy with us the pleasures that mean so much to ourselves - the re-unions of men who fought under the old flag nearly a quarter of a century ago.

#### SONS OF VETERANS

The Commander-in-Chief had no recommendations to make relative to the Sons of Veterans, further than that we should insist on the abrogation of the many high-sounding titles they have distributed with lavish profusion, and that they be required to wear a uniform that would not be confounded with that of the G.A.R.

#### THE PENSION OFFICE

At the request of the Commissioner of Pensions, Comrade W.W. Dudley, Posts of the G.A.R. had been called upon to furnish the Pension Office with the name and address of each member, with Company and Regiment, or vessel, for filing for reference in that Department.

These cards had already been of great service in the settlement of long pending claims.

#### SPECIAL RELIEF

In October a call had been issued for the sufferers by yellow fever in Pensacola. More money had been subscribed was needed for the purpose. Assistance had been tendered for the sufferers by the heavy floods in Indiana, but the officers of the Department replied that they would rely altogether upon their own Posts.

#### TRIBUNE NATIONAL

During the year the National Tribune had sent out over 250 applications for charters in response to requests of its readers. Fifty-six of such applications had been returned with the fees to National Headquarters, and others were sent direct to the proper Departments.

#### POLITICS

Several complaints had been received of improper references to the G.A.R. at public meetings and in the columns of the Press, but no evidence had been presented that any comrade had violated our Rules on this subject. It was suggested, however, that the wearing of the badge at political meetings was in bad taste.

#### PENSION LEGISLATION

Reference was made, at length, to the opposition of some Posts to the legislation by the National Encampment upon the subject of Pensions, and he urged the Encampment to consider whether Posts should thus array themselves against the action taken by their representatives, and so imperil legislation for the disabled



and for the widows and other dependent relatives of the dead.

unior Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter H. Holmes presented an encouraging report of the outlook of the Order in California, Oregon, and Washington Territory. He referred to the Post in Honolulu, which has made an influence most potently felt for good, and has won a name for charitable deeds, and for loyal and earnest work, that called forth the warm plaudits of native and foreigner alike, and the hearty recognition of the King, who, on last Memorial Day, accompanied by the Royal Gentlemen of his Suite, paid sacred tribute of respect to "Our Soldier Dead," who lie entombed in that far-off foreign clime, and over whose graves the comrades of George W. De Long Post strewed their floral offerings in loving remembrance.

A large and commodious "Veterans' Home" had been established at Yountville, California. Nearly \$40,000 had been raised through that Department for this Home.

### REPORTS OF STAFF OFFICERS

Adjutant-General John M. Vanderslice presented a report showing:

Members in good standing March 31, 1883	146,183
Gained by muster-in	105,055
Gained by Transfer	3,957
Gained by Re-instatement	15,311
Total Gain	<u>124,323</u>
Aggregate	270,506
Loss by deaths during the year	1,897
Loss by Honorable Discharge	159
Loss by Transfer	5,884
Loss by Suspension	28,801
Loss by Dishonorable Discharge	170
Total Loss	<u>36,911</u>
Members in good standing March 31, 1884	233,595
Membership reported June 30, 1884	253,895
Number of Posts, March 31, 1883	2,575
Number of Posts, March 31, 1884	4,325
Net gain in membership during the year	87,412
Net gain in Posts	1,748
Amount expended in relief	\$153,364.30
Number of members of the G.A.R. relieved	6,324
Number of other relieved	2,513

The amount reported as expended for relief does not properly represent the actually amount expended, as many Post are not particular in this respect, and some make no report of the amount expended in charity.

A consolidated report was given of membership by Department for each year, from 1873, and also of representation by Departments in the National Encampment, from 1866.

During the year the following Permanent Departments were organized:

Utah: - Embracing, Utah, Montana and Idaho; organized October 19, 1883. Tennessee and Georgia. - Embracing Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama; organized February 26, 1864; Gulf. - Embracing, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi; organized May 15, 1884. Florida. - Organized June 19, 1884.

The Provisional Department of Florida had been discontinued, ad, principally through the exertions of Comrade B.F. Stearns, had been afterward organized as a Permanent Department.

All Provisional Departments had been formed into Permanent Departments. He recommended that no other Provisional Departments be formed, but Posts in any other States or Territories report direct to National Headquarters.

Quartermaster-General John Taylor reported net cash receipts, including balance previously reported, \$68,285.70; disbursements, \$54,987.15; cash balance, \$13,298.55.

\$3,593.72 had been received for the Pensacola Fund, and only \$600 had been called for, the quarantine having been raised, and no further assistance required. Part of this fund, to the amount of \$1,500, had been used for the relief of suffers by the heavy floods in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania, and \$190.11 returned to Departments, leaving the balance in this Special Relief Fund, \$1,292.71. He recommended a further reduction in the price of supplies to decrease profits and avoid accumulating larger cash balances.

Inspector-General Charles A. Santmyer made a thorough report of the condition of each Department.

Judge Advocate-General William Vandever reported the opinions given during the year upon questions submitted.

The Executive Committee of the Council f administration presented a complete and interesting report upon the manufacture of membership badges (*Journal*, 1884, pp. 86-92), showing from what sources the captured gun-metal had been received, which had been used in compliance with the rules on this subject.

They recommended that the Rules and Regulations be amended, forbidding the wearing of any other membership badge than that obtained through proper channels from National Headquarters, and that Posts be required to present a badge to each recruit at the time of muster, and to add the cost thereof to the muster fee.

The report was unanimously adopted.

### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

On the Address of the Commander-in-Chief: - R.S. Robertson, Indiana; Thomas E. Barker, Massachusetts; S.B. Horne, Connecticut; E.E. Ewing, Ohio; W.W. Berry, Illinois.

On Rules and Regulations: - H.B. Peirce, Massachusetts; H.E. Taintor, Connecticut; C.V.R. Pond,



Michigan; H.M. Nevius, New Jersey; A.B. Valentine, Vermont.

On Ritual and Services (relieving the Committee on Rules, Regulations and Ritual from considering proposed changes in Ritual): - Ben. D. House, Indiana; D. Lanning, Ohio; J.L. Wheeler, New Jersey; F.M. Smith, Maryland; A.J. Sellers, Pennsylvania.

On Report of the Adjutant-General: - A.P. Pease, Missouri; C.C. Royce, Potomac; D. Horace Holman, Maine; W.B. Shockley, Kansas; Geo. B. Squires, New York.

On the Report of the Quartermaster-General: - Charles T. Clark, Ohio; A.E. Emery, New Hampshire; Phil. Cheek, Jr., Wisconsin; W.L. Culbertson, Iowa; H.G. Hicks, Minnesota.

On Resolutions: - S.S. Burdett, Potomac; Ben. D. House, Indiana; John Palmer, New York; Thomas H. Barnes, Arkansas; W.H. Holmes, California; A.P. Curry, Colorado; J.D. Plunkett, Connecticut; W.S. McNair, Delaware; R.W. McClaughry, Illinois; Lot Abraham, Iowa; J.W. Feighan, Kansas; W.H. Harton, Kentucky; Benjamin Williams, Maine; L.P. Henninhausen, Maryland; James F. Meech, Massachusetts; Rush J. Shank, Michigan; C.G. Edwards, Minnesota; H.C. McDougall, Missouri; John C. Linehan, New Hampshire; Joseph R. Van Syckle, New Jersey; S.H. Hurst, Ohio; B.B. Tuttle, Oregon; A.C. Reinoehl, Pennsylvania; A.K. McMahon, Rhode Island; N.P. Bowman, Vermont; B.C. Cook, Virginia; E.M. Bartlett, Wisconsin; W.I. Marshall, Tennessee and Georgia; S.J. Alexander, Nebraska; C.F. Shaw, West Virginia; I.E. West, Dakota.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### ON NATIONAL HOMES

Comrade William Warner, chairman of the committee appointed at the preceding Encampment, to petition Congress to establish a Soldiers' Home west of the Mississippi, reported that they had fully accomplished the purpose for which they had been appointed. The committee consisted of Comrades William Warner, Missouri; Theo. Wiseman, Kansas; H.E. Palmer, Nebraska; John Lindt, Iowa; and Theo. F. Brown, Nebraska. Comrade Brown was unable to visit Washington, and his place was filled by Albion P. Pease, Missouri.

Section 5 of the bill, as passed, provided:

That all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who served in the war of the rebellion and the volunteer soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve and of the Mexican War, who are disabled by age, disease or otherwise and by reason of such disability are incapable of earning a living, shall be admitted into the home for disabled volunteer soldiers, provided such disability was not incurred in service against the United States.

Prior to this time sailors had been debarred from the privileges of these Homes, and all applicants had been required to prove that their disabilities were incurred in the service. Under this bill all disabled soldiers and sailors are

entitled to admission, whether their disabilities were incurred in the service or since discharge.

This Home has since been established at Leavenworth, Kansas. The bill was more liberal and beneficial in all its provisions than any previously passed.

## PENSIONS

The Committee on Pensions presented a majority report and a minority report. The majority of the committee favored legislation for pensions to survivors of rebel prisons suffering from disability without requiring proof that such disability was actually incurred in the service.

The minority report favored pensions for all ex-prisoners-of-war, whether disabled or not.

The committee also opposed legislation for the issue of land warrants to soldiers and sailors, without occupancy of the land required under the laws, and from this the minority dissented. The subject was ably and exhaustively debated, and the majority report was adopted.

Report of the Committee on Address of Commander-in-Chief R.B. Beath.

The showing made of the substantial increase in membership during the past year, and of the excellent financial condition of the Order, are sufficient evidences of the executive ability of the Commander-in-Chief, and entitle him to commendation for the energy, skill and ability he has brought to bear for the advancement of the interests of the Grand Army during his administration, and also demonstrate that he is worthy to rank among the most worthy and able of his predecessors in office.

We concur in his recommendation that Departments assume the expense of inspections, and thus relieve Posts therefrom.

We especially call attention to that portion of his address, which relates to the history of the manufacture of badges, and heartily commend his action in relation to the same.

We desire to commend the action of the Commander-in-Chief in causing the publication for general distribution, of the ably prepared digest of Comrade J.R. CARNAHAN, thus placing within the reach of every Post, knowledge of the law, which governs our Order, and we recommend to Post Officers, a careful study of the same.

That well regulated camp-fires, or Grand Army social entertainments, conducted with a view of interesting the communities in which the Posts are located, are beneficial both to the Posts and communities, we think is a well established fact; but we are of the opinion that a proper regard for the Sabbath should be observed, so that no offense may be given to that portion of our people who followed our marches and our battles with their prayers, and gave us substantial aid in the days of our dire necessities, through that noble band familiar to all of us as the Christian Commission.

We therefore commend the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief upon this subject, and urge Posts to cultivate friendly relations with their people through this medium.



We are of the opinion that his course of referring to the Encampment the question of aid to homes for Confederate veterans, before acting upon the request for aid, was wise and prudent, as we believe that although one of the great tenets of our Order is charity, we would not be teaching another, that of Loyalty to the Union, by making the Grand Army a medium for that charity.

Whatever individual Posts or individual members may consider their duty in this direction, and thus do "for sweet charity's sake," is a question which concerns none but themselves and the beneficiaries of their charity, but we are opposed to aid of this kind on the part of the Grand Army as a National body, and prefer that Posts and individuals be left to use their own discretion as to giving aid to the unfortunate survivors of the "lost cause," toward whom we feel no bitterness, but only pity and charitable consideration.

The part of the Commander-in-Chief's address relating to the Woman's National Relief Corps, gives evidence of the wisdom of the action of the Annual Encampment in recognizing their efforts as a worthy band of co-laborers in our charitable work, and we extend to them our hearty congratulations on the growth and success of their organization, and we bid them God-speed in their noble undertaking.

We are of the opinion that the admonition to guard against the introduction of political questions in any meeting of the Grand Army is timely, and should be carefully observed in letter and spirit, so that no one may give offense to any comrade who may differ with him in political sentiment, but not in sentiments which should alone govern our fraternal intercourse, the sentiments of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

If the Grand Army is to stand sponsor for the Order of the Sons of Veterans, we are of the opinion that such action should be taken as will harmonize the apparent distinction between the "Sons of Veterans of the U.S. of A.," and the Sons of Veterans," and we are opposed to the idea of admitting to the privileges of the Order, only the eldest sons and his descendants, and also to the conferring of higher military titles upon the children of veterans, than were attained by hosts of gallant veteran sires, who earned their titles and honors upon the bloody fields of the Rebellion. We should either formulate their ritual, or divorce their Order from ours.

We are glad to be able to heartily concur with the Commander-in-Chief in his suggestions in regard to pension legislation, and recommend that all petitions and resolutions by Posts, upon the subject of pension legislation, be required to be forwarded to National Headquarters, through Department Headquarters, for the information of the National Committee on Pensions, believing that the greatest good to the greatest number will accrue from such a regulation. Organized effort in the right direction may often be defeated by indiscriminate and sometimes hasty and ill-judged separate action.

In the opinion of this committee, this Order has too long been made to pose as a supplicant for unequal recognition by demanding equal consideration for the maimed and the un-maimed; the broken-down soldier and the robust survivor. The beneficent bounty of the

Government should not be looked upon as a matter of spoils, but a staff upon which the decrepit soldier may lean. With the Commander-in-Chief, we heartily approve of united action, and moderate demands, and that reason and justice should not be ignored in what we do and ask.

That the Nation, saved by the heroism and patriotism of its soldiers and sailors, has entered upon a plane of prosperity never before attained, and that its treasury is full and overflowing, should not be made the pretext for schemes to deplete it, in the name of the heroes whose glory it is that they saved the nation.

What is just in the matter of equalization of bounties has been too long ignored. The soldier who enlisted at the beginning of the war, and fought in all the battles of his command, is surely entitled to no less consideration than the recruit who entered near its close while the disparity between the meagerness of the bounty of the one and the lavish endowments of the other, has never ceased to bear the brand of shameful injustice, and to this we would once more, not vainly, we hope, call the attention of our law-makers.

We desire to express the thanks of the Committee to the Commander-in-Chief for the clear, full and terse suggestions and points made in his address, which serve to lighten to a considerable degree, the labors of the Committee, and enable us to concur in all his recommendations, whether herein specially mentioned or not.

In order to carry out these suggestions and recommendations, we recommend the adoption of the following:

*Resolved.* That the Council of Administration be instructed to cause a suitable testimonial to be procured and presented to the Commander-in-Chief, as a token of our recognition of his eminent services in behalf of the Grand Army.

*Resolved.* That hereafter the various Departments be requested to assume and pay the expenses of the inspections required by the Rules and Regulations.

*Resolved.* That all petitions, resolutions and memorials by Posts, in regard to pension legislation, be required to be forwarded to National Headquarters, through the Department Headquarters, and that Posts be forbidden to make separate and independent applications to Congress, for legislation upon the subject of pensions.

*Resolved.* That in accordance with the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, the thanks of the Encampment are due and are hereby extended to Comrade Carnahan, for his faithful services in preparing the digest of the laws governing the Grand Army.

The report of the committee was adopted unanimously.

On Report of the Adjutant-General John M. Vanderslice:

We most heartily concur in his recommendation, that in future the organization of Provisional Departments be abandoned, and that Posts established in any State or Territory, not having a department organization, report directly to National Headquarters.



We also feel the force of his remarks concerning the embarrassment provoked by the careless and causeless delay and neglect, by the Post and Department Officers, in forwarding their returns and reports within the specified period. Some legislation should be enacted, if any such be possible that will secure greater uniformity and promptness in this regard.

The danger of loss and destruction of the records by the yearly migration of National Headquarters, is a matter deserving serious consideration, but the practicability of establishing any place as permanent Headquarters, is a question upon which the committee does not feel free to make any recommendations.

The Committee cannot close their report without commenting upon the manner in which the duties of Adjutant-General have been performed by the present incumbent. The faithfulness and efficiency with which Comrade J.M. VANDERSLICE has performed the duties of his office are worthy of the highest and most public recognition. The table contained in his report, showing the strength of each Department for the past twelve years, has involved an amount of laborious research and compilation of the old records and reports, such as one who is not familiar with the un-uniformity and inconsistencies of such reports, will be entirely unable to appreciate.

There are other features of the report which are indicative of the tireless industry and zeal in the performance of his official labors, which has invariably characterized the conduct of Comrade Vanderslice throughout the many years of his active service in the Grand Army of the Republic, and your committee earnestly recommend that a suitable testimonial be prepared, and presented to him, as a token of the appreciation in which his services are held by this Encampment.

#### On Report of Quartermaster-General John Taylor:

We have examined the books of account of the Quartermaster-General, and find them correct.

We most cordially endorse the various recommendations of the Quartermaster-General, and trust that this Encampment will instruct the Council of Administration to carry out the same into effect.

We take pleasure in congratulating the Order, upon the faithful and efficient services rendered by Comrade JOHN TAYLOR, Quartermaster-General, and recommend the adoption of his report.

#### On Report of Inspector-General C.A. Santmyer:

Your Committee on the Report of the Inspector-General having made a careful examination of the printed report, and also of the tabular statement and annexed papers, most heartily commend the same as furnishing in compact space and convenient form for reference, a large amount of valuable information, conclusively testifying to the fidelity and ability of the Inspector-General and his several assistants.

We concur in the opinion that some charge ought to be made in the form of blanks to be used for the inspection

of Posts, but the Rules and Regulations give the Inspector-General and the Commander-in-Chief full authority in the premises. We also concur in the views of the Inspector-General as to the importance of frequent and thorough inspections, especially of those Departments that have made large gains in membership in recent years.

We recommend that the question of semi-annual inspections be left to the discretion of the several Departments.

### RULES REGULATIONS AND RITUAL

The Committee reported on all the propositions submitted. The principal change recommended was the provision for the election of Trustees in Posts. Sec. 9, Art. 8, Chapter 2.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

*Whereas*, It has pleased the Grand Commander of the Army above to remove from our midst, since the last Encampment, Comrade GEORGE BOWERS, of Nashua, New Hampshire, Past Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, a veteran of the Mexican War, and the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, who had done valiant work for the Grand Army of the Republic;

*Resolved*, That the National Encampment tenders to the family of the deceased comrade, their heartfelt sympathy for the great loss they have sustained.

Upon the resolution that the Encampment endorse the Grand Army of the Republic Veterans' Rights Union, in its purposes of enforcing the United States Statutes Laws, in the preferment, for Government service, of honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine, and acknowledges the importance of the Union, throughout the United States, as established in Pennsylvania and New York, they report:

That the declared objects of the organization referred to may be safely approved, as they are, among others, the object of attention of the Grand Army of the Republic, but the committee doubt the expediency of any formal recognition of other societies or orders, and therefore recommend that the resolution lie on the table.

The Committee recommends the adoption of the resolution of Comrade D.A. Alexander, viz.:

That it is the sense of this Encampment that Section 1754, Revised Statutes, which provides that "persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness, incurred in the line of duty, shall be preferred for appointments to civil offices, provided they are found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices," not only applies to original appointments, but to promotions from one grade of clerkships to another, as set forth in the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, of date, February 13, 1884, addressed to the Collector of Customs at New York.

*Resolved*, That in the action taken by the Honorable Charles J. Folger, Secretary of the Treasury, we recognize an honest effort by a faithful officer, to give effect to a



statute, which, since its enactment, has been large in promise and little in performance.

That the giving of balls, the holding of camp-fires, picnics, excursions, or other form of public amusements on MEMORIAL DAY, by Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, is violative of both the spirit and the declared purposes of the day, and is hereby condemned.

That it is the sense of this Encampment that demonstrations of a public character on Sunday, by the Grand Army of the Republic (except only for purposes provided by the Ritual), are improper and are hereby discouraged.

That the giving of the Regulation Badge to person unauthorized to wear it, is impolitic, productive of evil to the Order, and is emphatically condemned.

#### Resolution of Comrade Chill W. Hazzard, Pa.:

That the Council of Administration ask for designs for a small pin or button, that may be worn and acknowledged as a mark of membership, and when a design is offered that meets its approval, the same shall be promulgated in Orders, and become a recognized badge under such regulations as may be deemed advisable by the Commander-in-Chief and Council of Administration.

That the restrictions governing the sale of the regulation Grand Army badge shall apply to the sale of the miniature badge suggested by the resolution of Comrade C. W. Hazzard, of Pennsylvania, and the same shall be copyrighted in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic. See Chapter on Badges.

#### Comrade Davis of New York

*Whereas*, By the rules and regulations of some cemeteries and religious bodies, the internment of comrades of the Grand Army with military honors and with the performance of the last rites of the Grand Army, is prohibited; and *Whereas*, We believe that through proper explanation of the mission of the Grand Army of the Republic, all objection thereto may be removed; therefore *Resolved*, That the Commanders of the several Departments be requested to communicate with the heads of the various religious denominations in their jurisdictions, requesting the removal of such prohibitions, and requesting that we may be permitted to inter our comrades with all honors of the Order.

A resolution approving the objects of the Sons of Veterans was referred to a special committee to consider the whole subject and report at the next Encampment; consisting of Louis Wagner, Pennsylvania; Ira M. Hedges, New York; John D. Billings, Massachusetts; H.P. Lloyd, Ohio; L.I. Dickason, Illinois; Edwin Nicar, Indiana; H. W. Pond, Kansas; Rush J. Shank, Michigan; W.F. Chamberlain, Missouri; H.M. Nevius, New Jersey; John C. Linehan, New Hampshire; Frank M. Smith, Maryland; Benj. Williams, Maine.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

## RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

Comrade William Warner offered the following:

*Resolved*, By the Comrades of the 18<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in convention assembled, that we fully appreciate the munificent and what is better, the hearty treatment we and the visiting comrades have received at the hands of the comrades and citizens of the state of Minnesota, and especially the generous hospitality that has welcomed us at every turn, during our delightful stay in the city of Minneapolis, by its good citizens.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed, of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman, to prepare a set of resolutions that shall properly express our gratitude and appreciation; that said resolutions shall be prepared in triplicate and appropriately engrossed, and the Governor of Minnesota, the Mayor of the city of Minneapolis and the Department Commander of Minnesota, each be furnished with a copy of said resolutions, so engrossed.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Committee: - Comrades Wm. Warner, H.A. Barnum, J.R. Carnahan, J.W. Burst, S.S. Burdett, T.J. Anderson and Commander-in-Chief R.B. Beath.

The Committee afterwards performed this duty by presenting the testimonials ordered by the Encampment at a large public meeting held in Minneapolis.

The testimonials to the State and city were beautifully engrossed and handsomely framed; that to the State reading as follows:

#### FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

The Grand Army of the republic in the Eighteenth Annual Session of the National encampment, assembled at Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 23, 24, and 25, 1884, desire to express in this manner their grateful appreciation of the munificent hospitality of the people of Minnesota, extended on every hand to them, and to their comrades and friends in attendance at this reunion. For the first time gathered in the great Northwest, in a State that has developed such wonderful resources, adding so greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the nation, we are made more than welcome, and citizens have vied with public authorities in making our stay pleasant and memorable.

Therefore it is unanimously

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to convey to the people of Minnesota, through the honored Executive of the State, His Excellency, Governor L.F. HUBBARD, the earnest thanks of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The testimonial to the city read as follows:

#### FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

At the Eighteen Annual Session of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in the city of Minneapolis, July 23,24 and 25, 1884, it was unanimously



*Resolved*, That in cordial appreciation of the many evidences of generous welcome shown in the decoration of public and private buildings, the reception and attention given by the officials of the city, and the open-hearted hospitality extended by the citizens to the ex-soldiers and sailors of the Union, in attendance at the Encampment, the hearty thanks of the Grand Army of the Republic should be conveyed to the people of Minneapolis, through its esteemed representative, His Honor, the Mayor, GEORGE A. PILLSBURY, whose personal attention and kindness will also be long remembered by the participants of this our largest Encampment and Reunion.

Signed by the Committee on Testimonials.

JOHN S. KOUNTZ

*Commander-in-Chief*  
W.W. ALCORN  
*Adjutant-General.*

For the Department of Minnesota it was deemed more appropriate to change the form of the Testimonial to some object more directly identified with our organization. The Committee selected a large sized Grand Army badge, cast from a model originally made for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The badge proper is entirely from captured cannon-metal furnished by National Headquarters for this purpose. It was handsomely framed with a back-ground of red velvet; the inscription, engraved on a cannon-metal plate, reading:

Presented to the Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, Comrade E.C. BABB, Commander, by the National Encampment, for fraternal courtesies received at the Eighteenth Annual Session, held at Minneapolis, July 23-25, 1884.

#### RELIEF OF COMRADE JOHNSON

Comrade Tanner called attention to the fact the Comrade Johnson, who had come from Dakota to take part in this reunion, had met with a severe accident requiring the amputation of one of his legs; that the comrade had a wife and three little children; was in poor circumstances, and this was an excellent opportunity for the exercise of practical charity. He moved the \$500 be appropriated for the benefit of the comrade. This resolution was adopted, and Comrade H.P. Lloyd, of Ohio, in seconding the motion, said the delegation from Ohio would add \$100. Immediately a number of comrades endeavored to obtain recognition of the chair to announce subscriptions on behalf of their Departments, the whole summing up as follows:

National Encampment, \$500; Ohio, \$250; New York, 293.50; Comrade William Warner, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, \$25; Pennsylvania, \$250; individual subscriptions of delegates, \$50; Comrade W.D. Saphar, Philadelphia, \$10; Illinois, \$20; Iowa, \$100; Kansas, \$100; New Jersey, \$55; Rhode Island, \$50; Comrade T.W. Manchester, Providence, \$25; Missouri, \$100; Massachusetts, \$100; Nebraska, \$50; Potomac, \$50;

Vermont, \$50; Oregon, \$50; Wisconsin, \$50; New Mexico, Comrade Fitzgerald, \$10; Maryland, \$25; Minnesota, \$50; Indiana, \$100; Virginia, \$25; West Virginia, \$25; Tennessee, \$25; New Hampshire, \$50; Kentucky, \$25; Connecticut, \$50; Arkansas, \$25; Colorado, \$25; Maine, \$25; Michigan, \$100; cash contributions, \$21.50; Dakota, \$200; total \$3,190.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected:

Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz, Toledo, Ohio  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John P. Rea, Minneapolis  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Ira E. Hicks, Bridgeport, Connecticut  
Surgeon-General W.D. Hall, Altoona, Pennsylvania  
Chaplain-in-Chief T.M. Shanafelt, Three Rivers, Michigan.

#### COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Arkansas, Thomas H. Barnes; California, Walter H. Holmes; Colorado, C.D. Hoskins; Connecticut, Fred A. Spencer; Delaware, W.H. Purnell; Dakota, John B. Dennis; Florida, B.F. Stearns; Gulf, A.S. Badger; Illinois, W.W. Berry; Indiana, D.P. Hammond; Iowa, John K. Deal; Kansas, H.L. Millard; Kentucky, Samuel T. Jack; Maine, Frank W. Haskell; Maryland, W.O. Saville; Massachusetts, Henry B. Peirce; Michigan, Samuel Wells; Minnesota, W.P. Roberts; Missouri, J.S. Sterrett; Nebraska, J.O. West; New Hampshire, Daniel B. Newhall; New Jersey, Joseph R. Van Syckle; New Mexico, J.J. Fitzgerald; New York, Herman F. Fox; Ohio, J.J. Sullivan; Oregon, B.B. Tuttle; Pennsylvania, Samuel Harper; Potomac, John Cameron; Rhode Island, William J. Bradford; Tennessee and Georgia, Edward S. Jones; Utah, F.M. Bishop; Vermont, L.F. Terrill; Virginia, H. de B. Clay; Washington Territory, A. McMickin; West Virginia, H.V. Daniels; Wisconsin, Philip Cheek, Jr.

The installation of officers was performed in the presence of the officers and members of the Woman's Relief Corps, and the officers of the Woman's Relief Corps were then installed by Mrs. E. Florence Barker, the retiring National President.

Addresses were made by General Sherman, Mrs. Kate B. Sherwood, National President, Chill W. Hazzard, Pennsylvania, J.W. Hector, Pennsylvania, William Warner, Missouri.

Commander-in-Chief Kountz appointed as the Pension Committee for the ensuing year:

S.S. Burdett, Potomac; Louis Wagner, Pennsylvania; Geo. S. Merrill, Massachusetts; C.H. Grosvenor, Ohio; James Tanner, New York; John C. Linehan, New Hampshire; O.R. McNarry, Kansas.

#### RE-UNION PROCEEDINGS

A large Camp had been located near the city, designed CAMP BEATH, where several thousand comrades enjoyed themselves camping out. An informal



reception was held at the Camp under the management of Major B.R. Henderson, of the local committee.

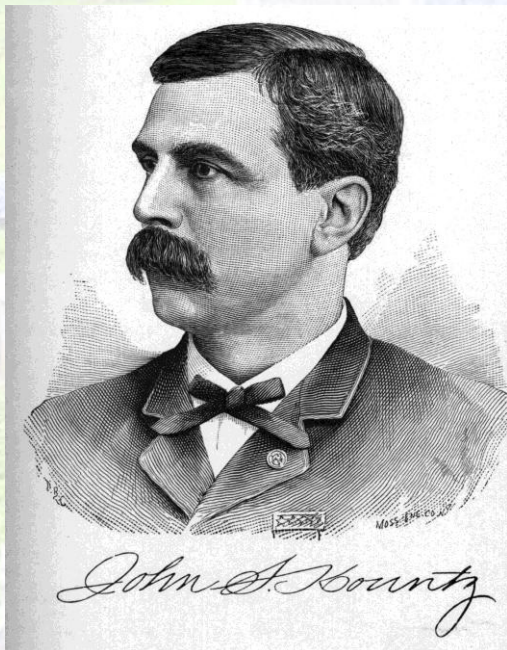
Governor Lucius Hubbard, a Minnesota soldier, extended a cordial welcome on behalf of the people of Minnesota. His address was responded to by Commander-in-Chief Beath. Mayor Geo. A. Pillsbury extended a welcome on behalf of the citizens of Minneapolis, which was appropriately responded to by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Warner.

Addresses were also made by Department Commander E.C. Babb, Past department Commander H.G. Hicks; General Chas. H. Grosvenor, Ohio, General William H. Gibson, Ohio, Paul Van Der Voort, Past Commander-in-Chief.

In the evening a grand Camp-fire was held at the main stand of the Fair Grounds, where speeches were made by General S.S. Burdett, Potomac, Governor J.M. Rusk, Wisconsin, General W. H. Gibson, Ohio. General John A. Logan, General Lucius Fairchild.

On Wednesday there was a large parade, participated in by the regular troops stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, State Troops, and Posts and delegations of the Grand Army of the Republic, Captain D.M. Gilmore, Grand Marshal.

The Flambeau Club of Topeka, Kansas, gave one of their magnificent pyrotechnical displays and drills in the evening, in the presence of not less than fifty thousand people.



## CHAPTER XXII

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JOHN S. KOUNTZ  
NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION, PORTLAND, MAINE,  
June 24, 1885

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KOUNTZ established his Headquarters in Toledo, Ohio, and appointed the following staff:

Adjutant-General, W.W. Alcorn, Ohio  
Quartermaster-General John Taylor, Pennsylvania  
Inspector-General Oscar A. Janes, Michigan  
Judge Advocate-General D.R. Austin, Ohio  
Assistant Adjutant-General P.H. Dowling

Commander-in-Chief Kountz was the youngest comrade elected to this position. He was born in Ohio, March 25, 1846, and was but fifteen and a half years of age when he enlisted as a drummer in Company G, 37<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vols.

In the battle of Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863, he threw away his drum, seized a rifle and joined his company as it was advancing to the assault, and was so severely wounded as to require amputation of his leg. He was mustered out by reason of disability, April 25, 1864.

When but 25 years of age he was elected County Treasurer of Lucas County, Ohio and was afterwards County Recorder.

He has built up a large Fire Insurance business in Toledo. Was a charter-member of Forsyth Post No. 15, Toledo, on its organization in 1866; served three terms as Adjutant and three terms as Commander of the Post; also served in positions in the Department and, as Department Commander in 1881, achieved great success in recruiting that Department.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John P. Rea. See Commander-in-Chief, Chapter XXVI.

Captain Ira E. Hicks, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, enlisted September 9, 1861, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and served with that principally in the Tenth Army Corps, as Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and Captain.

Became a charter-member of Post No. 11, New Britain, Connecticut, and served five years as Post Commander. Has also served in the Department as Inspector, Junior and Senior Vice Commander and Department Commander.

Rev. T.M. Shanafelt, D.D, Chaplain-in-Chief, was born in Clarion, Pennsylvania, April 30, 1840. Was graduated from Bucknell College, 1861 and enlisted that year in the 28<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, serving until 1865. Was ordained in the Baptist ministry in 1865. In 1879, he joined Post 38, East Saginaw, Michigan, and served as Chaplain. Afterwards transferred to Post 72, in which he also served as Chaplain.



Dr. W.D. Hall, Surgeon-General, entered the three months service, April 18, 1861 as a Private in Company K, 17<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Vols. At the expiration of this term, enlisted as a Private in Company c, 1<sup>st</sup> New York (Lincoln) Cavalry. Promoted to Corporal, Sergeant, First Sergeant and Second Lieutenant. Brevetted First Lieutenant for gallant services at Dinwiddie Court House, March 31, 1865, and a Captain, April 6, 1865 by General G.A. Custer.

Joined Post 114, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1869. Removed to Altoona, Pennsylvania, and joined Post 62, in which he served in various offices, being Post Commander, 1884; Medical Director, Department of Pennsylvania, 1882.

W.W. Alcorn, Adjutant-General, enlisted September 1861 in Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vols., and was mustered-out September, 1864. Was Commander for one term of Forsyth Post No. 15, Toledo, and has taken an active interest in Post work and in military affairs of that city.

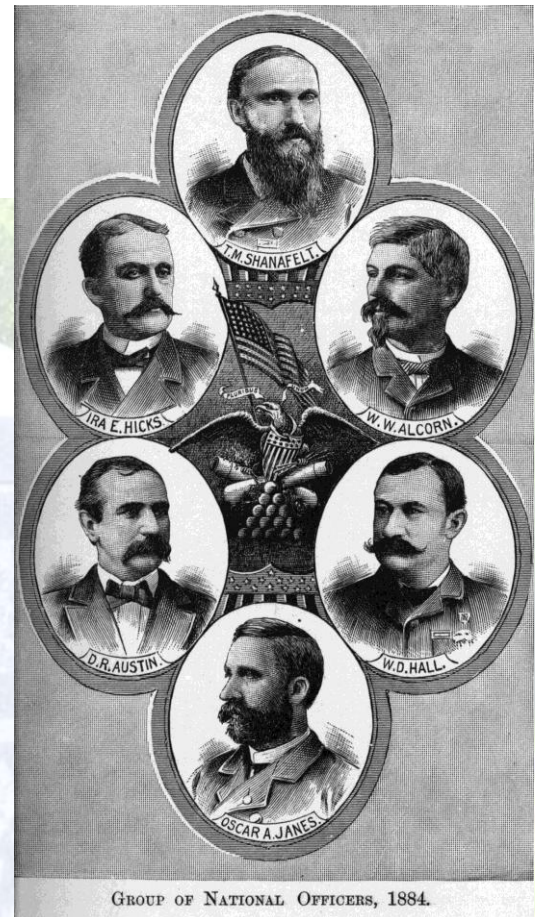
Quartermaster-General John Taylor, re-appointed. (Portrait and sketch, Chapter XXI).

Inspector-General Oscar A. Janes was born in Wisconsin, July 6, 1843 and left college to enlist in the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Vols. Served with his regiment in the Army of the Potomac, and was badly wounded at the "Weldon Railroad," resulting in the amputation of an arm. After his discharge from the service he returned to college and was graduated in 1868.

He has taken an active part in public affairs, and has held a number of civil positions. Served as Judge of Probate for Hillsdale, Michigan, February 26, 1879; served as its Commander. Was Junior Vice Commander of the Department in 1882, and Department Commander, 1883

Judge Advocate-General D.R. Austin, enlisted in June 1862 in the 100<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vols. And was promoted First Lieutenant. Was mustered-out by reason of disability, May 28, 1863.

He joined Forsyth Post No. 15, Toledo, Ohio in 1878, and was Judge Advocate of the Ohio Department in 1884, and member of the National Council of Administration.



GROUP OF NATIONAL OFFICERS, 1884.

## NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION, PORTLAND, MAINE JUNE 24, 1885

The National Encampment assembled in Portland, on the above date, Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz presiding.

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John P. Rea  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ira E. Hicks  
Chaplain-in-Chief T.M. Shanafelt  
Adjutant-General W.W. Alcorn  
Quartermaster-General John Taylor  
Inspector-General O.A. Janes  
Judge Advocate-General General D.R. Austin

### COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

California, W.H. Holmes; Connecticut, Fred. A. Spencer; Colorado, Geo. W. Cook; Dakota, John B. Dennis; Delaware, W.H. Purnell; Florida, Wm. Emerson; Illinois, J.C. Black; Indiana, Edwin Nicar; Iowa, John K. Deal; Kansas, H.L. Millard; Kentucky, Samuel T. Jack; Maine, F.W. Haskell; Maryland, W.O. Saville; Massachusetts, Henry B. Peirce; Michigan, Samuel Wells; Minnesota, W.P. Roberts;



Nebraska, J.O. West; New Hampshire, D.B. Newhall; New Jersey, J.R. Van Syckle; New Mexico, J.J. Fitzgerald; New York, Herman F. Fox; Ohio, J.J. Sullivan; Oregon, B.B. Tuttle; Pennsylvania, Samuel Harper; Potomac, John Cameron; Rhode Island, W.J. Bradford; Tennessee, E.S. Jones; Utah, F.M. Bishop; Vermont, L.F. Terrell; Virginia, H. DeB. Clay; Wisconsin, Phillip Cheek, Jr.

#### DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED

Arkansas, 1; California, 5; Connecticut, 16; Colorado, 8; Dakota, 7; Delaware, 7; Florida, 1; Gulf, 2; Illinois, 29; Indiana, 22; Iowa, 24; Kansas, 23; Kentucky, 5; Maine, 22; Maryland, 6; Massachusetts, 29; Michigan, 21; Minnesota, 13; Missouri, 13; Montana, 1; Nebraska, 12; New Hampshire, 17; New Jersey, 14; New Mexico, 2; New York, 42; Ohio, 35; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 46; Potomac, 16; Rhode Island, 11; Tennessee and Georgia, 6; Texas, 2; Utah, 2; Vermont, 12; Virginia, 4; Washington Territory, 2; West Virginia, 2; Wisconsin, 16. 38 Departments and 497 Department Officers and Representatives.

#### ADDRESS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Commander-in-Chief Kountz then read his address in substance, as follows:

He had visited 34 Departments, traveling more the 30,000 miles. Referring to the large gains in membership during the term, more fully stated in the report of the Adjutant-General, he called attention to the large number of members suspended as due in great measure to the negligence of Post Officers.

#### BADGES

The sale of badges provides a large revenue, which saves necessity to increase *per capita* tax and thus every comrade is pecuniarily interested in procuring badges through National Headquarters. Every comrade should feel a just pride in wearing a badge manufactured from captured cannon, and in no other way can they obtain a genuine captured-cannon badge.

Commander-in-Chief Beath reported to the last Encampment as having contracted with the Ordnance Department for twelve bronze pieces of rebel cannon, which have been delivered to us, weighing in all 10,253 pounds, for which we have paid \$1,948.07. The pieces are all of Confederate manufacture and gave evidence of hard usage.

For the Hon. Robert Lincoln, Secretary of War, General Stephen V. Benet, Chief of Ordnance, and Past Department Commander D.S. Alexander, of the Department of the Potomac, who kindly interested themselves in securing these cannon, we have had prepared and presented to each a profile cast of Ex-Presidents Lincoln and Garfield, made of cannon metal and handsomely framed. These were prepared and presented without charge, on behalf of the National Encampment, by Comrade J.K. Davison, of Philadelphia.

He had felt it necessary to caution against wearing the Grand Army of the Republic badge or uniform at political meetings, as being against the spirit of the Rules and Regulations.

He heartily endorsed the aims and purposes of the "Veterans Rights Union," in securing to veterans the rights guaranteed them under the laws of the United States.

He had appointed a committee, consisting of Comrades W.S. Rosecrans, California; M.T. McMahon, New York; and J.C. Linehan, New Hampshire, to lay the nature and work of the Grand Army of the Republic before the proper Catholic Ecclesiastical Authorities of the United States, and the chairman, Comrade Rosecrans, had reported to him:

That, in the fulfillment of that duty, I corresponded with the other members of the committee, and thereupon address letters to the Primate, the Most Rev. Archbishop Gibbons, of Baltimore, and Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, stating to them that while we do not expect to ask any endorsement or ecclesiastical approval of our Society, we were anxious to have its nature so understood that it might be known to all confessors that Catholics might, lawfully and with good conscience, be members thereof.

In response to their kindly suggestions, I furnished ample explanations, written and printed, showing that our association was for the noble objects of cultivating among its members the spirit of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, and that in its nature temporary. I also conversed with other archbishops, bishops and theologians and conferred that the Society of the Grand Army of the Republic, as now organized and conducted is not, in the ecclesiastical meaning of the phrase, "a secret society," and that Catholics may, with all good conscience, belong to it.

In congratulate our Order that, in the opinion of such dispassionate judges, we have builded, as we intended, an association so broad, liberal and just that it may be worthy the great Republic for which we have periled our lives, and for which so many have shed their blood. I congratulate you, also, for happily having undertaken the good work of eliciting these expressions of opinion, so important to the honor and future of our Order.

The Church of the United Brethren, in Conference, decided that there is no objection to their members uniting with our organization, and we are advised that the United Presbyterians have left the matter to the conscience of their individual members.

#### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

The Woman's Relief Corps is faithfully fulfilling its mission, and we welcome all who would aid us in our great work, under whatsoever name, I cordially commend this representative organization of loyal ladies to the continued confidence and respect of the Grand Army of the Republic.

#### MEMORIAL DAY

A disposition had been shown in some cases tending to mar the solemnities of Memorial Day by making the occasion for frivolity and amusement. He admonished



comrades to refrain from any such violation of the day set apart in memory of our fallen comrades.

He duly acknowledged the efficient services of the officers of the Encampment, and of his staff, during the term just closed, and in conclusion said:

It will always be a source of pleasure and pride to look back upon the year in which I had the honor of serving you as Commander-in-Chief. The associations and experiences will ever be among the brightest of life's memories. Comrades may the God of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty preserve and prosper our organization until the last muster-out of the last member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Chaplain-in-Chief, T.M. Shanafelt reported that he had delivered addresses and discourses in the Departments of Michigan, Indiana, Nebraska, Kansas and Maine, and had maintained an extensive correspondence on subjects relative to the Order.

The rapid growth of public sentiment in favor of Memorial Day, and the general participation of all classes of citizens in the observance of the day we have set apart to the memory of our fallen comrades, is an indication that the popular heart is with us in this special feature of our organization. It has become so thoroughly one of the established institutions of the whole country that its perpetuity is assured. As we, who yet survive, are called away, we can go down to our graves confident that they will not be left unmarked or unnoticed, nor our deeds be forgotten.

#### REPORTS OF STAFF OFFICERS

Adjutant-General W.W. Alcorn reported the formation of the Department of Montana, March 10, 1885, the Department of Texas, March 25, with 6 posts transferred from the Department of the Gulf.

#### RECAPITULATION

Members in good standing, March 31, 1884	233,824
Gained by muster	77,040
Gained by Transfer	5,438
Gained by reinstatement	20,949
Aggregate	337,251
Loss by death	2,544
Loss by honorable discharge	2,518
Loss by dishonorable discharge	324
Loss by transfer	7,889
Loss by suspension	54,292
	67,567
Members in good standing, March 31, 1885	269,684
Number of Posts reported March 31, 1884	4,256
Number of Posts reported March 31, 1885	5,026
Net gain in membership during the year	41,394
Net gain in Posts during the year	992

Amount expended for relief during the year, \$170,092.77. Number of members relieved, 11,000; number of others relieved, 4,406 – total 15,406.

Quartermaster-General John Taylor, Jude Advocate-General D.R. Austin and Inspector-General O.A. Janes, presented reports of their several departments.

#### U.S. GRANT

Comrade R.B. Brown, Ohio, offered the following which was adopted by an unanimous and rising vote:

*Resolved*, by the Nineteenth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, assembled in the city of Portland, Maine, representing 300,000 soldiers and sailors in the United States, that in this, the first hour of our assembly, we tender to the distinguished comrade, soldier and statesman, General ULYSSES S. GRANT, our profound sympathy in his continued illness, and extend a soldier's greeting to our beloved Commander and Comrade, who has for months endured unspeakable agony with that characteristic that has challenged the admiration of the world.

This resolution was immediately telegraphed to General Grant, and the following response was received:

Mt.

McGregor, N.Y. June 24, 1885

JOHN S. KOUNTZ,

*Commander-in-Chief*

General Grant directs me, in reply to your dispatch, to tender through you, to each one of the three hundred thousand veterans, his comrades, now represented at Portland, his thanks for their interest in his health and welfare. General Grant wishes to take this occasion to also thank them for their splendid services which have resulted in giving freedom to a race, peace to a continent, and a haven to the oppressed of the world.

#### F.D. GRANT

Comrade Geo. H. Patch, presented on behalf of the artist H.W. Berthrong, of Post No. 33, Department of Massachusetts, a life-size portrait of General Grant. It was decided to have the portrait suitable framed, and presented to Mrs. Grant on behalf of the Encampment.

Department Commander J.B. Hall, of Maine, stated that a member of the National Encampment, Past Department Commander Winson B. Smith, had died that morning in Portland. He offered suitable resolutions to mark the sad event, which were unanimously adopted.

Comrade H.P. Lloyd, Ohio, reported the Past Commander-in-Chief William Earnshaw was dangerously ill, and moved that an expression of affection and sympathy of the comrades be sent him with their prayers for his restoration to health.



Department Commander Hall, Maine, presented to the National Encampment on behalf of Dr. W.H. Eldridge, of Post 47, Department of Maine, a gavel and box, containing wood from every State and Territory in the Union.

### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

On Address of the Commander-in-Chief: - D.S. Alexander, Potomac; John C. Linehan, New Hampshire; Ira M. Hedges, New York; David N. Foster, Indiana; R.H. Warfield, California.

On Report of the Adjutant-General: - Thomas J. Stewart, Pennsylvania; John Cameron, Potomac; O.F. Lochhead, Michigan; C.B. Stilson, Iowa; Thomas L. Mathews, Maryland.

On Report of the Judge Advocate-General: - H.P. Lloyd, Ohio; Henry M. Nevius, New Jersey; A.B. Beers, Connecticut; Samuel Harper, Pennsylvania; Isaac E. West, Dakota.

On Rules and Regulations: - R.B. Beath, Pennsylvania; R.B. Brown, Ohio; Henry A. Barnum, New York; J.L. Bennett, Illinois; H.E. Taintor, Connecticut.

On Report of the Inspector-General: - Geo. S. Evans, Massachusetts; A.B. valentine, Vermont; Theodore Wiseman, Kansas; O.A. Reynolds, Kentucky; A.H. Prince, Maine.

On Report of the Quartermaster-General: - W.S. McNair, Delaware; S.B. Jones, Nebraska; R.A. Becker, Minnesota; Philip Cheek, Jr., Wisconsin; Eugene A. Corey, Rhode Island.

On Resolutions: - Henry B. Peirce, Massachusetts; Thomas Boles, Arkansas; James A. Waymier, California; A.V. Bohn, Colorado; Frank D. Sloat, Connecticut; J.C. Gipson, Dakota; Daniel Ross, Delaware; William Emerson, Florida; Henry Schorten, Gulf; John A. Logan, Illinois; Robert Stratton, Indiana; W.R. Manning, Iowa; George T. Anthony, Kansas; James C. Michie, Kentucky; A.C. Hamlin, Maine; John W. Horn, Maryland; B.F. Graves, Michigan; Ela C. Waters, Montana; J.H. Culver, Nebraska; Marcus M. Collins, New Hampshire; George B. Fielder, New Jersey; J.W. Crawford, New Mexico; John Palmer, New York; C.H. Grosvenor, Ohio; George S. Sears, Oregon; Chill W. Hazzard, Pennsylvania; C.C. Royce, Potomac; Charles R. Brayton, Rhode Island; H.C. Wardleigh, Utah; J.H. Goulding, Vermont; Edgar Allan, Virginia; O.B. Johnson, Washington Territory; John I. Ruhl, West Virginia; Geo. A. Hannaford, Wisconsin.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

On the Address of Commander-in-Chief John S. Kountz, the Committee reported:

The work of this year evidences the fidelity and ability of the Commander-in-Chief. Despite the Presidential contest, the depression of business and the rapid growth of the Grand Army in former years, rivaling all other organizations whether civic or military, yet under his splendid leadership our numbers have been increased and the high character of the Order fully sustained. The earnest desire which has inspired him to do his whole duty is

illustrated by the extent of his visits, ranging from Maine to the Golden Gate, and including all Departments, except three. These visitations have been characterized by wisdom, modesty, zeal and economy, and the result that followed justify his action. Wherever he has gone greater interest in the Order has not only been manifested, but the respect shown him indicates the high esteem in which he is held as Commander-in-Chief, and the personal regard which is entertained for him as a comrade and a gentleman. For his efficient and kindly management of all affairs of the Grand Army, he is worthy the hearty and sincere thanks of this Encampment, and it is recommended that the council of Administration be instructed to procure and present him a suitable testimonial as a token of our recognition of his essential services in behalf of the Grand Army.

Your Committee commend the address of the Commander-in-Chief to your careful perusal as a thoughtful and suggestive paper. His recognition of Comrade Stephenson as the originator of the Grand Army is timely and eminently proper, while the mention of the Hero of Appomattox, "whose heart grandly responded when duty called, and melted in compassion when mercy pleaded," is as beautifully expressed as the sentiment is true and patriotic.

We commend also his words respecting Memorial Day, and the introduction of politics into our Order. It should be the endeavor of every comrade to cultivate the one and avoid the other. Memorial Day is the choicest in the calendar of the Grand Army – a day of sweet remembrances, dear to every loyal heart, and any violation of its sacredness by making it the occasion for frivolity and amusement, such as characterize the Fourth of July, should be treated as an indignity to the comrades who died that this country might live. In a similar spirit should be treated any attempt to inject politics into our Order. It is the high privilege of soldiers, in upholding the great principles for which they struggled and sacrificed so much, always to act as their judgment may dictate, but as comrades of the Grand Army, should scorn to degrade our Order, or lower its standard by using it for purposes other than those which come legitimately within the spirit and letter of its governing regulations.

The careful and economical administration of Commander-in-Chief Kountz has materially increased the funds of the National Encampment. This is a cause of great congratulation, for it behooves the Grand Army of the Republic, now in its prime, carefully to husband its resources, that in its declining years it may not suffer the inconveniences of poverty, or become an object of public charity. Your committee recommend that \$10,000 of the amount now in the hands of the Quartermaster-General be invested in State and municipal securities, or in first mortgage bonds upon real estate worth not less than three times the amount thus loaned, the investment to be made under the direction of the incoming Commander-in-Chief, and the new Council of Administration.

Attention is called to the increased number of members suspended during the year. These suspensions cheapen the Order, setting adrift in the community a class of men who know its countersign, possess its badge, and



represent its membership, without having sufficient interest in its welfare to perform its duties. The reasons assigned by the Commander-in-Chief for this delinquency are generous and honorable to the kindness of his heart, and we respectfully submit to whatever inability to pay dues is known as the real cause of such failure, it should be regarded as a privilege as well as a duty to remit them. But it is undoubtedly true, as the Commander-in-Chief asserts, that a very large number suspended – more than 54,000, or nearly 20 per cent of the entire membership – is due to negligence and inefficiency of Post officers. For this there is but one remedy – the election of Post Commanders pledged especially to discharge the duties imposed upon them relating to membership, who shall also be clothed with the power of appointing Post Quartermasters. The Commander-in-Chief, as well as Department Commander, is charged with the appointment of their Quartermasters, and it is believed that the same privilege should be accorded to Post Commanders. It is recommended, therefore, that Article VI, Section 1, be so amended.

Attention is especially called to the matter of badges. Unless made of captured rebel cannon, a badge is a lie, and the Post officer or other comrade who procures them from any source other than through National Headquarters, merits court-martial and prompt dismissal. Of the twelve bronze rebel cannon now being used for badges, the history of their manufacture, service and capture is well known, and as a simple and beautiful relic of the war, therefore, the badges made from them should be eagerly sought, and are worth many times the price paid. In this connection, it is recommended that during the coming year the Commander-in-Chief be requested to give this matter his individual attention to the end that the manufacture of spurious badges be stopped, and that the parties now engaged in obtaining money under false pretenses by their sale be properly dealt with under the law. It is recommended, also, that in making their inspections, Inspecting Officers be charged with the duty of closely examining every badge for the determining of the genuineness.

In the appointment of special committees to confer with the authorities of the Catholic Church and other denominations who were opposed to our Order under the impression that it was a secret organization, the Commander-in-Chief exercised good judgment, and the success of the committee in removing a serious obstacle to the admission to our ranks of thousands of surviving soldiers ought to be an occasion of joy to every comrade. There is not in the wide world, outside of the Christian church, an association founded on such broad and liberal principles as that of the Grand Army of the Republic. Under the folds of its banner are gathered men of all creeds and nationalities. Lessons of mutual forbearance and toleration have been learned through bitter experience, and the ties which bind those who for four years fought to maintain the integrity of the nation cannot easily be served on this side of the grave. We therefore recommend earnestly the heartiest endorsement of the Encampment for the labor of the Commander-in-Chief in the settlement of this important question.

The reference of the Commander-in-Chief to the Veterans' Right Union, accompanied by his hearty endorsement, must meet with an earnest response from every comrade loyal to this organization, and alive the interests of the rights of the veteran soldier, decreed to him by statute, but which, for many years, have practically proven a dead letter. It is the timely and pertinent, and it behooves this Encampment to give a portion of his report their emphatic endorsement, as the representatives of nearly 300,000 veterans organized to protect the interests of the old soldier.

Your committee heartily concurs with all that has been said of the work and aims of the Woman's Relief Corps. It was a grand undertaking, and has been carried out in the grandest manner. Side by side with the Grand Army it has pressed forward, accomplishing in the name of Faith, and Love and Charity, what the comrades could not have done without its assistance. It has our earnest wishes for its continued success, our hearty support of the purposes of the organization, and our cooperation in all its undertakings. We offer its members now, as ever, the strong right hand of our comradeship, which will never weaken in its grasp of love, respect and sympathy.

In order to carry out these suggestions and recommendations, we recommend the adoption of the following:

*Resolved*, That the Council of Administration be instructed to cause a suitable testimonial to be procured and presented to the Commander-in-Chief.

*Resolved*, That the incoming Commander-in-Chief and Council of Administration be authorized to invest \$10,000 of the amount now in the hands of the Quartermaster-General in State and municipal securities, or in first mortgage bonds upon real estate worth not less than three times the amount thus loaned.

*Resolved*, That the Commander-in-Chief be requested to ascertain who are manufacturer and sellers of spurious badges and to take such steps to secure the suppression of the same as he may deem proper.

The report was adopted unanimously.

## COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions, on the question of pensions, presented a majority and minority report – the majority adverse to the bill known as the Eight Dollar measure, viz.:

That all officers, soldiers and sailors who served in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States for a period not less than 60 days, between March 4, 1861 and July 1, 1865, and who were honorably discharged therefrom, shall receive a pension of \$8 per month during the remainder of their lives. This act shall take effect from its passage.

The minority favored this bill. An extended debate was had on the question.

The majority report was adopted.

The Committee recommend the following:



WHEREAS, The National Encampment is cognizant of and heartily approves the fraternal spirit which has during the past year so nobly fulfilled its purpose in the organization of bureaus of employment for those whom the Revised Statutes of the United States (Sec. 1754) more particularly applies, as well as for the institution of "Emergency Funds," by which relief is granted to those for whom they are organized to help; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the work done by the Memorial and Executive Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic for Brooklyn, New York, through its Bureau of Employment and Emergency Fund, meets with our warmest thanks, and its aims and purposes are commended to the consideration of our Order everywhere.

*Resolved*, That this National Encampment recommends that similar bodies be instituted in the larger cities, to the end that such care be taken of those for whom we entertain so much solicitude, as will prevent their ever becoming a charge upon the municipality while a Grand Army Post remains in official existence.

A resolution appropriating the sum of \$500 for the relief of Mother Bickerdycke, an army nurse was adopted.

The Committee closed with the following:

*Resolved*, That for ourselves and the comrades we thank our hosts for cordial invitation, warm welcome, generous reception, hearty greeting, and that every visitor will carry back to his hearthstone and cherish for years to come the memories of this visit to the Forest City, coupled with warm gratitude to our comrades of Maine, and to her free, loyal citizens generally, for all the courtesies and kindness extended to us in the homes of their hearts and hopes.

The Committee on "Sons of Veterans," reported:

That all resolutions of recognition of any of the branches of Sons of Veterans heretofore passed by this National Encampment be, and they are hereby repealed; but that we recommend an early and complete consolidation of all these branches with one body, wishing them Good-speed in their united and patriotic labors.

On Report of Adjutant-General W.W. Alcorn:

We concur in the recommendations regarding the necessity of making a record of all existing Department charters, both provisional and permanent, with date of the formation of the first Post therein; and the re-issue of those that have been lost or destroyed.

The most important recommendations are those referring to delinquency in reports. The Rules and Regulations make it the duty of Post Commanders to forward reports to Department Headquarters. These reports are in their detail the work of the Adjutant and the Quartermaster respectively, and no good reason exists why the work shall not be sufficiently far advanced on the last meeting night of the quarter, so that it will only be necessary to add the changes made necessary at the meeting, when they can be completed, and handed to the Post Commander to endorse and forward.

The trouble seems to be that the delinquency of Posts is unknown to the comrades, unless the same be published in General Orders, and the committee recommends that a form of receipt be prepared for the purpose of acknowledging receipt of reports and per capita tax, and provide that the receipt must be read to the Post on the first meeting night after the Commander receives it.

We are of the opinion that the recommendation to suspend Post Commanders is in conflict with the Rules and Regulations, and cannot be done without amending or changing our present laws. A Post Commander that respects his obligation, or has any regard for the law governing us, will not be found delinquent. The penalty or rebuke under the present law will be even a greater punishment than that recommended inasmuch as it suspends the entire Post, and is consequently a greater reflection on the delinquent officers, and each comrade appreciating his membership will be directly interested in having reports forwarded, and the Post placed in good standing.

We concur in the recommendations suggesting change in form of consolidated report regarding the reporting of Posts as delinquent instead if suspended.

We take especial pleasure in commending the work of the Adjutant-General during the past year. His devotion to duty and able administration of the affairs of his office deserves more passing recognition. While \$500 has been appropriated for clerk hire, but \$59 have been expended, the Adjutant-General performing all the work of his office. Himself. We recommend that in future no sum be set aside for the clerk hire, but that a salary of the Adjutant-General be \$2,000 per annum, to include clerk hire and that the unexpended balance of \$1,500 salary and \$500 clerk hire for the present term be paid to the Adjutant-General.

On Report of Quartermaster-General Taylor:

Your Committee respectfully reports that they find it a very full and complete statement on the financial affairs of the National Encampment.

They also find two important new features, viz., the table of supply accounts of the Departments with the National Headquarters, and the table of consolidated reports of the Assistant Quartermasters-General. The latter is necessarily incomplete, because reports have not been received from some of the Departments. We recommend that Departments be required, as nearly as practicable, to conform to the rule adopted at Baltimore, requiring that requisition for supplies be accompanied by the money therefore.

We heartily commend the Quarter-master General for his promptness and uniform courtesy in the discharge of his official duties and the economical and thorough business manner in which he has managed the affairs of his Department.

On Report of Inspector-General:

We have carefully examined the report and regret to find that four prominent Departments have failed to make any report to the Inspector-General, thus preventing as complete a report of the condition of all our Departments as



could be desired at this time, and your committee would respectfully suggest that the incoming administration use every exertion to the end that each Department furnish its Inspector's Report to the Inspector-General in time to be presented in print at the next National Encampment.

We heartily endorse the recommendation of the Inspector-General in relation to Post Inspections, believing that such inspections are for the best interests of our organization.

Upon the Report of the Judge Advocate-General D.R. Austin, majority and minority reports were presented, which gave rise to a long and animated discussion. The question in dispute, known as the "Kane case," was finally referred back to the Department of Pennsylvania.

### PENSIONS

The Committee on Pensions reported as follows:

During the winter session of Congress the Committee met in Washington, the Commander-in-Chief also being present. We found that, owing to the brevity of the session and the consequent pressure of public business, it was impossible to secure the introduction, with any promise of passage, of just such a pension bill as met with the approval of your Committee.

To the Mexican Pension Bill, as passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate had attached several amendments directly in the line of the recommendations of the Pension Committee and the action of the National Encampment.

Although not altogether what was to be desired, this bill included so many excellent features that your Committee united in urging its passage as the only measure possible to succeed in the then state of legislative business. The bill finally failed of passage by only a few votes.

We recommend the pursuance in the future of the well-defined line of action concerning pension legislation heretofore marked out by the repeated action of the National Encampment.

The recognizing the great usefulness of the "Army and Navy Survivors' Division," on the Pension Office, as recently organized by the comrade Commissioner of Pensions, and that its further value must largely depend upon the continued co-operation of the Grand Army of the Republic, therefore.

*Resolved*, That the Commander-in-Chief be requested by General Order to explain the nature and value of the work done, and to invite the active co-operation of Departments, Posts and comrades in its further prosecution.

Adopted.

### VETERANS' RIGHTS UNION

A Committee was appointed to urge the heads of departments at Washington to carry out the laws favoring the employment of Union soldiers and sailors in public positions

Committee: - John Palmer, New York; John F. Kumler, Ohio; Wm. Gibson, Potomac; E.B. Loring, Massachusetts, J.P.S. Gobin, Pennsylvania; Edgar Allan, Virginia; Ira M. Hedges, New York; S.S. Burdett, Potomac; John S. Kountz, Ohio.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Commander-in-Chief Samuel S. Burdett, Washington, D.C.  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Selden Connor, Augusta, Maine  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief John R. Lewis, Atlanta, Georgia  
Surgeon-General J.C. Tucker, Alameda, California  
Chaplain-in-Chief L.H. Stewart, Perry, Ohio

### COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Arkansas, Thomas Boles; California, Walter H. Holmes; Colorado, George Ady; Connecticut, W.G. Gallagher; Dakota, W.V. Lucas; Delaware, G.W. King; Florida, J. De V. Hazzard; Gulf, Henry Schorten; Illinois, R.F. Wilson; Indiana, Charles A. Zollinger; Iowa, L.S. Tyler; Kansas, B.R. Hogin; Kentucky, William Bowman; Maine, Samuel W. Lane; Massachusetts, James F. Meech; Maryland, Thomas L. Matthews; Michigan, Henry S. Dean; Minnesota, Perry Starkweather; Missouri, J.S. Sterrett; Montana, Ela C. Waters; Nebraska, J.O. West; New Hampshire, Alfred E. Emery; New Jersey, John F. Lovett; New Mexico, W.N. Smith; New York, Joseph L. Follett; Ohio, J.W. O'Neill; Oregon, George C. Sears; Pennsylvania, Samuel Harper; Potomac, Chas. H. Ingram; Rhode Island, William D. Mason; Tennessee and Georgia, Edward S. Jones; Texas, H.W. Nye; Utah, C.A. Wood; Vermont, D.L. Morgan; Virginia, John W. Boynton; Washington Territory, O.B. Johnson; West Virginia, S.F. Shaw; Wisconsin, Wm. S. Stanley, Jr.

### UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Twenty-three thousand men marched in the parade in Portland, on June 23, General Geo. L. Beal, Chief Marshall. "CAMP U.S. GRANT: was occupied by several thousand veterans, whose wants were all dully attended to by an efficient Committee of Arrangements.

A grand reception was given to the visitors in the City Hall. Comrade Frederick Robie, Governor of Maine, made the address of welcome, followed by Mayor Deering of Portland. Commander-in-Chief Kountz responded for the Grand Army, and addresses were made by General R.A. Alger, Governor of Michigan; General Lucius Fairchild, Wisconsin; General Geo. T. Anthony, Kansas; Hon. Thos. B. Reed, Maine; Judge Advocate-General D.R. Austin; Comrade H. Patch, Massachusetts and Chas. A. Boutelle, Maine.

A clam-bake and festivities on one of the Islands of Saco Bay was enjoyed by several hundreds of the members of the National Encampment.