



### Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**SUVCW – CIVIL WAR**

Material of the Sculpture =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet =  Bronze \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Cannon =  Bronze  Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
 Markings on muzzle = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial?  If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points  
 Monument or Base: Height 33.5" Width 22" Depth 1" or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)  
 Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found \_\_\_\_\_

The "Dedication Text" is formed:  cut into material  raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address  
 A Tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic at the 69th Annual Encampment  
 Placed by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
 September 11, 1935

### Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery           | <input type="checkbox"/> Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"      | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office        | <input type="checkbox"/> School          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol      | Other: _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse         | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus     | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Library | _____                                    |

**General Vicinity**

Rural (low population, open land)  
 Town

Suburban (residential, near city)  
 Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

Industrial  Commercial  
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet  Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)  
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)  
 Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition Information**

**Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (Look for signs of exterior rust)	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? (Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? (Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	___
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	___

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**Does there appear to be a coating? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

\_\_\_ Gilded \_\_\_ Painted \_\_\_ Varnished \_\_\_ Waxed \_\_\_ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)**In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial? \_\_\_ Well maintained 

Would benefit from treatment \_\_\_ In urgent need of treatment \_\_\_ Unable to determine

**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition &amp; any concern not already touched on) .

The plaque is in good condition but has 78 years of soil from airborne dust and dirt.

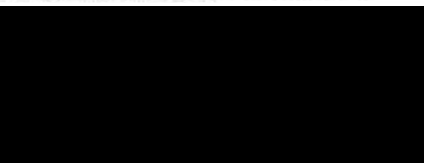
**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**Date of On-site Survey 1.2.2013Your Name Bruce B. ButgereitAddress 1691 Summerfield St. SECity Grand RapidsState MI Zip Code 49508Telephone (                      )What Order or Organization is submitter a member of? SUVCW

Please send this completed form to

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail. SONS OF UNION V

CIVIL WAR VETERANS OF THE National Civil War Memorials Committee



1809



1865

FOURESCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS  
BROUGHT FORTH ON THE CONTINENT A NEW NATION  
CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPO-  
SITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR  
TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO  
CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG ENDURE.  
WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLE-FIELD OF THAT WAR  
WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD  
AS A FINAL RESTING-PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE  
THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS  
ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD  
DO THIS.

BUT IN A LARGER SENSE, WE CANNOT DEDICATE  
WE CANNOT CONSECRATE-WE CANNOT HANLOWE THIS  
GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN LIVING AND DEAD WHO STRUG-  
GLED HERE, HAVE CONSECRATED IT FAR ABOVE OUR POOR  
POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT. THE WORLD WILL LITTLE  
NOTE, NOR LONG REMEMBER, WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT  
IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS  
FOR US THE LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO  
THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE  
HAVE THIS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER  
FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK  
REMAINING BEFORE US, THAT FROM THESE HONORED  
DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE  
FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF  
DEVOTION: THAT WE HERE HIGHLY REJOICE THAT  
THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN, THAT  
THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH  
OF FREEDOM AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE,  
BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH  
FROM THE EARTH.

GETTYSBURG, NOVEMBER 19, 1863

A TRIBUTE  
TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
AT THE 62<sup>D</sup> ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

PLACED IN CHARGE  
BY THE UNION LEAGUE OF THE GREAT WEST  
SERVING IN 1904



FOUNDED 1869

INCORPORATED 1902

# THE T. F. McGANN & SONS CO.

## Ornamental Bronze Work

114 Portland Street  
BOSTON, MASS.

FOUNDRIES AND WORKS  
SOMERVILLE STATION,  
SOMERVILLE, MASS.

**PRODUCTS.**

We are manufacturers of BRONZE WORK of every description, SCULPTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL and DECORATIVE: DOORS, AIR-TIGHT and DUST-PROOF WINDOWS, GRILLES, BANK COUNTER SCREENS, RAILINGS, MAUSOLEUM DOORS, MORTUARY WORK, MARQUISES, MEMORIAL TABLETS, BUSTS, RELIEFS, COLOSSAL STATUARY, LAMPS, ELEVATOR ENCLOSURES and ELEVATORS, THEATRE RAILINGS, FENCES, BRACKETS, STAIRCASES, BALCONIES, FOUNTAINS, DUMB-WAITERS, ECCLESIASTICAL BRASSES, etc.

**FACILITIES.**

Our works are most complete in every detail, including foundries, shops, designing and modeling departments, which enables us to do the work in the most skilled manner.

All ornamental bronze having "undercut" sections are cast by a patent process which affords the architect possibilities that have been prohibitive heretofore on account of exorbitant cost.

**ILLUSTRATIONS.**

The illustrations shown on this and the following page are intended to convey an idea of the character of work executed by us.

**ESTIMATES.**

We will be pleased to furnish estimates on any class of work in our line and on any size contract.

**TRADE-MARK.**

The Boston Bronze Mongers. "They Be Just."



MEMORIAL TABLET TO REV. WILLIAM THOMAS SHERRY  
Size, 46 inches by 36 inches  
Jos. J. DONAHUE, Architect



COLOSSAL NUMIDIAN LION, MAIN ENTRANCE HARRIS TRUST CO. BUILDING, CHICAGO, ILL.  
One of two right and left casts, 10 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in. each  
SHEPLEY, RUTAN & COOLIDGE, Architects

Continued on next page



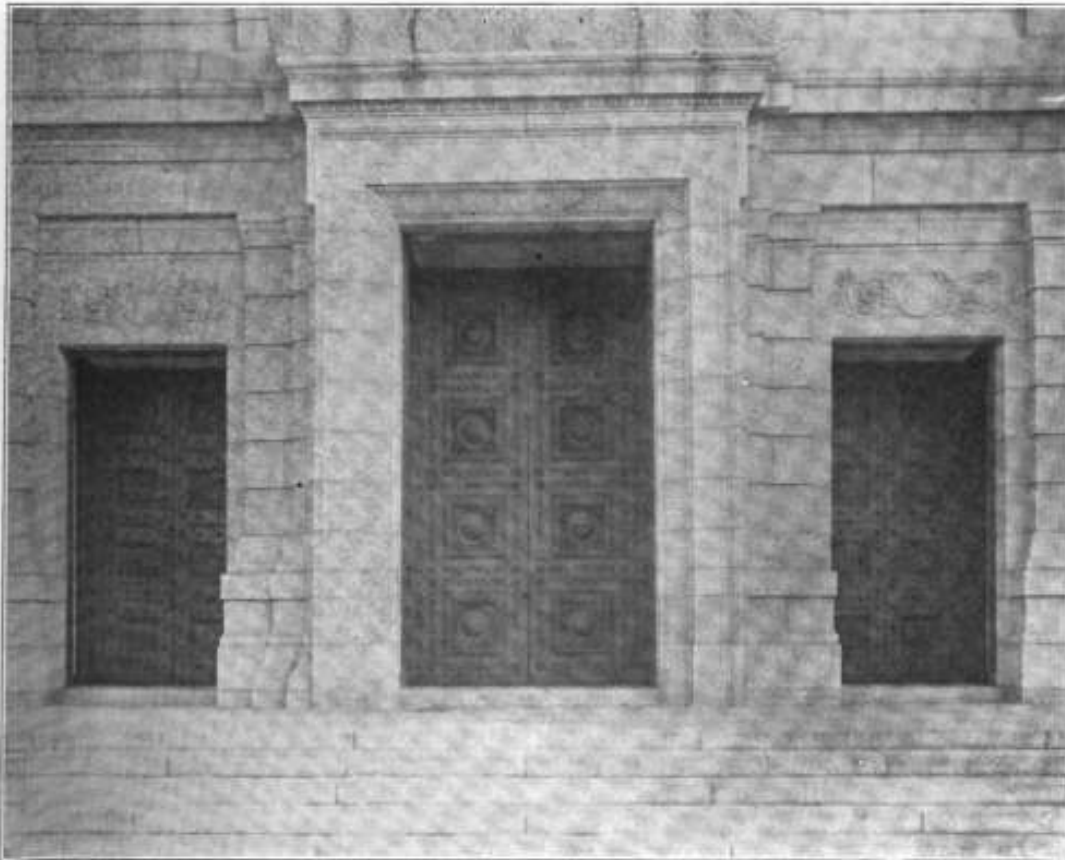
MEMORIAL FLAG-POLE  
BASE ERECTED AT  
ROCKLAND, ME.  
Height, ten feet  
R. CLIPSTON SPURDIN, Architect



A MAIN ENTRANCE LAMP, LADD RESIDENCE,  
BAR HARBOR, ME.  
GUY LOWELL, Architect



COLOSSAL BRONZE COPY OF  
LEMNIA ATHENA, LIBRARY  
WELLESLEY COLLEGE,  
WELLESLEY, MASS.  
Cast for SHEPLEY, RUTAN &  
COOLIDGE, Architects



MAIN ENTRANCE DOORS, MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, MASS.  
GUY LOWELL, Architect

A Bronze Tablet  
The Story of the First Award Given to a Host Community by the Sons of Union Veterans  
Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC

On a research mission at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library in early 2013, the head of the Local History Department took me to his office and showed me a large bronze tablet bearing the words of President Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg. While the Gettysburg Address is most prominent, it was the text just below those famous words though that caught my attention –

A TRIBUTE  
TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
AT THE 69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

PLACED BY THE  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
SEPTEMBER 11, 1935

The following is an accounting of the tablet as found in the proceedings of the fifty-fourth annual encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held at Grand Rapids, Michigan September 10-12, 1935 (Source: Library of Michigan; Lansing, MI) –

**Page 12:** (Report of the C-in-C). “National Patriotic Instructor Charles D. Donaldson has been a most efficient officer and has done far more than the duties of his office called for...I am extremely grateful to him for agreeing to solicit from the Department Patriotic Instructors a fund for the placing of a bronze tablet at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.”

**Page 14:** (Report of the C-in-C. Historical Marking or Memorials section). “The Committee on Program and Policy advocated and recommended the matter of historical markings and suggested that under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, the National Patriotic Instructor should take charge of the matters. It has always been a matter of regret that our organization did not follow the custom of the allied bodies of the G.A.R. in leaving some tribute or memorial at the place of annual Encampments. I therefore thought the present was the time to put this matter into execution and requested the National Patriotic Instructor, Brother Donaldson, to solicit the Department Patriotic Instructors to raise a fund so that we might place a tribute to the G.A.R. at Grand Rapids. The response was slow at first, but with added requests for contributions from my Aides and others, enough money has been donated to assure the placing of a bronze tablet. I hope that some money will be left which will be turned over as a nucleus of a fund to continue this custom. To Brother Donaldson and all who assisted I extend my sincere thanks.”

**Pages 54 & 55:** (Presentation to Ryerson Public Library).

At noon, Wednesday, September 11, in the lecture room of the Ryerson Library, a bronze tablet containing Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was presented to the library. National Patriotic Instructor C. D. Donaldson presided.

Musical selection – Sixth Infantry Field Music, Sons of Veterans Reserve of Pennsylvania.

Address – National Patriotic Instructor C. D. Donaldson:



For the first time in the history of our beloved Order we are doing that which should have been done at every National Encampment that our Order has had: Presenting an appropriate gift to the city entertaining the Encampment which will be a lasting memento of our presence here. Commander-in-Chief Kirchgassner suggested that I should raise a fund for this purpose from the several Departments through the Department Patriotic Instructors. I have had marked success in securing the fund for purchasing this Memorial for the Grand Army of the Republic which is now able to be unveiled and presented to this Library. It is highly appropriate to present this gift because it keeps in remembrance Abraham Lincoln who stood for the institutions and the principles for which our Order stands. The constitutional foundations upon which all that is worth while in our national life rests, is being menaced today by the following dangers:

1. The fundamental principle in our form of government in respect for the will of the majority when that will is embodied in law according to our constitutional forms. There is a lack of respect today for the will of the majority. This is manifested by mob violence which is one form of direct action that is the favorite mode commended by those who unthinkingly believe that the end justifies the means. In order to right a wrong at once the common people in their blindness are following leaders who are attacking the very foundations of your liberty and of my liberty which our fathers, through heroic sacrifices, preserved for us.

2. Our constitutional foundations are being more insidiously attacked by our legislative bodies, state and national, when they openly advocate the passage of laws without carefully considering the constitutionality of such laws. This throws the burden of protecting our constitutional rights wholly upon the courts. This tends to bring in a very marked way the hatred for our courts by the great mass of our common people because they are told that the courts stand between them and all of the wonderful things promised them by such legislators and executives. We as an Order are not opposed to changing or amending the constitution. All that we stand for is that these changes in the constitution shall be made as the constitution itself provides. We feel that many executives today, state and national, are committing the same kind of folly that was committed by Tiberius Gracchus when he violated the laws of the Roman Republic in order to secure through such violation a great good for the people.

3. The third danger is found in the teaching of doctrines in our public schools and especially in our institutions of higher learning which are extremely menacing to the foundations of our liberty. Opinions and doctrines are openly advocated and taught in our classrooms to our young people that are ruinous to everything that we as Americans hold dear. The first two dangers I have discussed do not lie in my field; the first one lies in the field of the sociologist and the second lies in the field of the constitutional lawyer. But this third danger lies in my own field and I am convinced that it is more menacing than is generally acknowledged. The teaching of theories that have not been scientifically established to the highly impressionable minds of our youth is to do to the youth of our land the most dangerous and lasting injuries that could possibly be conceived. We need men and women as the teachers and the leaders of our youth who are deeply grounded in the love of our American principles and institutions. Men and women who are fearless in their standing for the principles and institutions for which our fathers fought. But men and women who can grow and who will not antagonize our youth by adhering blindly to outgrown systems.

In conclusion, I ask you, my hearers, to foster in every legitimate way the righteousness of our form of government and to promote and foster the principles and institutions of our American Republic which have cost so much in blood, suffering, and treasure that you and I and all of us might have the blessings of a free government, the greatest heritage of any people in all of the ages.

Remarks – Mrs. Gertrude M. Sautter, National President of the Auxiliary, congratulating the Sons' organization in initiating this custom and expressing the hope that it might be continued.

Address of Presentation – Commander-in-Chief Kirchgassner: It is a very happy privilege to come here today as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to present to the Library Board of Grand Rapids this bronze tablet containing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

It seems most appropriate that these immortal words of the Commander-in-Chief of our fathers, soldiers in the Union Army during 1861 to 1865, should be placed on the walls of the Public Library of your city, where come those who seek historical and other knowledge, that here they may see this masterpiece of the English language.

These words, spoken at a great event nearly seventy-two years ago, have lessons that apply as well today to the problems confronting our country.

It is therefore with a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Johnson, that I present to you, and through you to the City of Grand Rapids this tablet of enduring bronze, as a tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic at the Sixty-ninth Annual Encampment by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Unveiling of Tablet.

Address of Acceptance – President Johnson of the Library Board: This memento which you so graciously bequeath to us and which I have the honor to accept on behalf of our board of library commissioners and the people of Grand Rapids, is a casting into enduring bronze of the soul of America. It echoes an immortal utterance by that great immortal who belongs not alone to us and to America but to the ages and to all mankind.

Music, "America" – Sixth Infantry Field Music, Sons of Veterans Reserve of Pennsylvania.

I then learned from a member of the library board that more information about the dedication was in the historical archives (Collection 109; GRPL Administrative Archives).

Here is what was recorded September 28, 1935 –

The Committee has directed the Librarian to incorporate as a part of the report of this Committee a complete statement of the program, etc. connected with the placing of the Lincoln memorial bronze tablet in the Ryerson Library building on Wednesday, September 11. We believe that this is a matter of such importance that a permanent record should appear in the records of the Board, and furthermore that a resolution of appreciation be entered on the

records, and that the Librarian be instructed to send a copy to the National Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in Bronze  
Placed in the Library

The bronze tablet placed by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is 22 inches wide by 33 1/2 inches high. It was placed on the brick wall between the doors of the Registration Room and the Historical Room on the west side of the lobby of the Ryerson Library building by a workman from Owen, Ames, Kimball Co. As soon as it was in place it was covered to be unveiled at the time of the dedication.

The tablet is fastened to the wall by four rosettes, the workman boring holes into the brick, and then putting into these expansion bolts.

At the top of the tablet, to the left, appears the date, 1809; in the center, a bas-relief of Lincoln's head; and on the right, 1865. Then follows in raised letters, their faces brightened to be more legible, the Gettysburg address, with the autographed signature, A. Lincoln, at the foot. Following Lincoln's signature is the place and date:

Gettysburg, November 19, 1863

At the bottom of the tablet is the following:

A Tribute  
To the Grand Army of the Republic  
At the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment  
Placed by the  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
September 11, 1935

The Library building was open for this dedication about 11:30 Wednesday, September 11, and by 12 o'clock at least 100 persons were present, and a number of persons came in afterwards.

The meeting was called to order by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Frank L. Kirchgassner, of Jamaica Plains, Mass. He introduced Mrs. Gertrude N. Sautter, of Wilksburg, Pa., National President of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She gave a brief address stating that on Monday afternoon they had presented a memorial bench in Fulton Street Park, and that it was appropriate that these two memorials of the Grand Army National Encampment should be so near to each other, since they represented the sons and daughters of Union veterans.

This was followed by an address by Mr. C.D. Donaldson, of Eau Claire, Wis., National Patriotic Instructor of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His address was of considerable length, emphasizing the excesses and dangers of present-day life to be avoided.

The National Commander then unveiled the tablet and in a brief speech presented it to the Library and the City.

The response to this address was given by President A.P. Johnson of the Library Board, who stated that he represented both the Board of Library Commissioners and the people of Grand Rapids. Many of Mr. Johnson's friends who have heard him speak on various occasions stated after the meeting that it was one of the finest addresses they had ever heard him give. The Chicago Tribune referred to this in its account of the doings of the day, and played up his statement that this tablet was "the Soul of America in enduring bronze."

A drum and fife corps was present, and they rendered several selections.

In preparation for this dedication the Library has removed all the tables and loose furniture usually in the center of the lobby and had placed there chairs from the reading rooms on this floor.

It was necessary to bring in a considerable number of additional chairs and in addition many persons were seated on the stairway. When it came time for the unveiling the lights were turned out and a spotlight from a stereopticon lantern was thrown on the tablet, a screen having been placed in the lantern so that the light covered no more than the tablet itself. This was a very effective method and the light was kept on in this way until the close of the dedication. All in all it was a most dignified and a most impressive ceremony, and many persons so remarked.

We recommend that the President of the Board and the Librarian form a committee to frame a resolution, expressing the appreciation of the Board, the same to be signed by the President and the Librarian, with the seal of the Board attached, and then sent to Commander Kirchgassner, and the same to be added to the Board records at this point.

The following is the minutes as per above:

Lincoln's address at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, has world-wide recognition as a masterpiece of English literature. To have this address on a beautifully designed tablet of enduring bronze is a most fitting addition to the walls of any library; for here, to the thousands who frequent such a building daily, it will be a perpetual reminder of noble patriotism in inspired words which express the soul of the American people.

It was a most happy thought, therefore, that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War should, On September 11, 1935, place a bronze tablet containing this most famous Lincoln address in the Ryerson Library building of the Grand Rapids Public Library as a tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic on the occasion of its 69<sup>th</sup> annual encampment held in Grand Rapids at that time.

The Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on behalf of the Grand Rapids Public Library and the people of our city, both of the present and future generations, is honored in accepting this splendid gift and hereby enters on its records the grateful thanks of the Library, of the Library Board, and of the people, to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

(Signed) A.P. Johnson, President  
(Signed) Samuel H. Ranck, Clerk and Librarian



All of which is, respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Laurence W. Smith  
Administrative Committee

Mr. Gallmeyer moved the adoption of this report. Carried. Yeas: Butler, Gallmeyer, Oltman, Smith, 4. Nays: None

Original location in library lobby:



Condition of tablet today in library vestibule.



## Bronze Tablet in Grand Rapids, MI

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From: **Bruce Butgereit** [REDACTED] This sender is in your [contact list](#).

Sent: Tue 11/05/13 11:57 PM

To: Walter Busch [REDACTED], Robert Petrovic [REDACTED]

4 attachmen

The story.pdf (211.1 KB) , GRPL Bronze Tablet 1935.jpg (4.1 MB) , Pages from Sweets Catalogue of Building Construction.pdf (387.5 KB) , CWM Form 61 Grand Rapids MI Bronze Tablet.pdf (1267.8 KB)

Greetings Brothers,

Please find attached Form CWM61 for a bronze tablet of the Gettysburg Address located at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library in Grand Rapids, MI.

This is not just another tablet but the first gift ever given by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to a community for hosting a National Encampment. It was awarded in 1935.

In storage for many years, this historical piece has been rehung in the library but is in need of restoring/cleaning. The SUVCW Charitable Foundation has agreed to give \$372 towards the cost to restore this tablet.

I have attached some photos and the complete story using minutes from the Library and the journal of the National Encampment.

Brother Petrovic, if you could advise me as to when you receive my request for a grant, I would appreciate that.

Fraternally,

Bruce B. Butgereit, CW Memorials Officer

Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 & Department of Michigan

**MEMORIAL DEDICATION**

**OF  
HISTORICAL TABLET  
COMMEMORATING  
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**

**A TRIBUTE  
TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
AT THE 69th ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**



**PLACED BY THE  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
SEPTEMBER 11, 1935**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MAIN LIBRARY  
GRAND RAPIDS, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN CAMP No. 1,  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

## CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

From 2011-2015, we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865). Today's ceremony will rededicate the newly restored bronze tablet hanging inside the vestibule that includes the words spoken by President Lincoln at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Our ceremony will take place 150 years to the day and nearly to the exact time of day that Lincoln made his "few appropriate remarks."

The sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War provides an opportunity to reach a new generation of students and the return of this tablet to the walls of the library will go a long way in sharing what many consider the greatest of speeches ever made.

For the Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we take additional pride in being part of this ceremony as this tablet was the first ever gift given to a host city during a national encampment of the G.A.R. by the Sons of Union Veterans.

The Department of Michigan is also a member of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners as authorized by the Michigan Historical Commission.

Our website is: [www.micw150.us/](http://www.micw150.us/)





## THE CEREMONY

**Welcome and Program**

**Bruce B. Butgereit** - Memorials Officer  
Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1,  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Speaker**

**Ms. Marcia Warner** - Library Director  
Grand Rapids Public Library

Images from Gettysburg, November 19, 1863  
Courtesy Library of Congress



Above: Parade from town to cemetery  
Below: The crowds of people



## THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

In a letter written to President Lincoln on November 2, 1863, Attorney David Wills said, "*It is the desire that, after the Oration, You, as Chief Executive of the Nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks.*"

Today, we refer to those remarks simply as The Gettysburg Address. In fact, it would be nearly forty years after Lincoln delivered his words before the reference was made as The Gettysburg Address, as if it were the only words spoken that day.

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

## THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

State and Federal leaders, including President Lincoln, had promised to care for “those who have borne the burden, his widow, and orphans.” They had little knowledge of how to accomplish the task. In addition, there was little political pressure to insure the promises were kept after Lincoln’s assassination.

With that as background, groups of men joined together – first for the camaraderie and then for the political power. Emerging, as the most powerful among the various organizations, was the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), with 409,489 Civil War veterans by 1890.

The GAR was founded in Decatur, Illinois, on April 6, 1866, by Benjamin F. Stephenson. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.



The structure included the National Organization, State level organizations known as Departments and local units known as Posts. All members belonged to a Post. The Post usually met twice a month. Delegates represented the Post at annual meetings of the Department known as Encampments. The Department Encampment elected delegates to attend the annual National Encampments.

In Grand Rapids, there were five G.A.R. Posts -

**Gen. John A. Logan Post No. 1**

Custer Post No. 5; later changed to Post No. 6

**Champlin Post No. 29**

A.B. Watson Post No. 395

**Gd. Rpds. Post No. 408; changed to Innes Post 408**

## THE G.A.R., continued



The objects of the G.A.R., as originally set forth in their Constitution, are: First, the preservation of those kind and fraternal feelings, which have bound together, with the strong cords of love and affection, the comrades in arms of many battles, sieges, and marches ; second, to make these ties available in works and results of kindness, of favor and material aid to those in need of assistance ; third, to make provision, where it is not already done, for the support, care, and education of soldiers' orphans, and for the maintenance of the widows of deceased soldiers; fourth, for the protection and assistance of disabled soldiers, whether disabled by wounds, sickness, old age, or misfortune; fifth, for the establishment and defense of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially, and politically, with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of their services to the country, and to a recognition of such services and claims by the American people.

The Indianapolis Convention, the first encampment of the new organization, held November 20, 1866, added the word "sailors," and also a new section, taken from the Constitution of the " Loyal Legion," which reads as follows : The maintenance of true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by the discountenancing of whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection,



## The G.A.R., continued

treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions, together with a defense of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.



In 1868, perhaps one of the most significant traditions began under the leadership of General John A. Logan, the Commander in Chief of the GAR at the time. He sent out General Order No. 11 declaring that each May 30 should set aside to decorate the graves of soldiers who gave their lives during the war. Today, it is known as Memorial Day. The General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of

Union Veterans of the Civil War conducts the traditional GAR Memorial Day service at the Civil War monument in Monument Park each year before the parade and service at Veterans' Memorial Park.

The GAR founded soldiers' homes, performed relief work and actively pursued pension legislation. Five members (the same five were members of the MOLLUS) were elected President of the United States. For a time, it was impossible to be nominated on the Republican ticket without the support of the GAR voting bloc – although the organization claimed it was non-political.

The final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1949. The last member, Albert Woolson died in 1956, at 109 years of age. A monument to Mr. Woolson is located near the High Water Mark on the Gettysburg Battlefield. It overlooks the wall where many reunions took place between Union and Confederate veterans after the war ended. Those reunions concluded with each side “shaking hands across the wall.”

## THE S.U.V.C.W.

Many G.A.R. Posts sponsored Cadet Corps, composed of their sons, and from this, the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) was organized on November 12, 1881. In 1923, the SV name was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), under which its federal charter was issued by the 83rd Congress with Public Law 605 in 1954. The SUVCW is legally recognized as the heir to and representative of the GAR.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic and educational organization whose purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic; to assist in every way practicable in the preservation and making available for research the documents and records of the GAR; to cooperate in giving honor to ALL who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship and the true history of our country and the love and honor of our flag.

Today, the SUVCW concentrates their efforts in preserving history, teaching patriotism and honoring the soldiers of the Civil War. They locate Civil War veterans' graves and register them in an "online" database for researchers. A Memorials Committee registers monuments and memorials to the G.A.R. as well as assessing their condition and assisting in their preservation. They also seek, locate and preserve G.A.R. Post records and other materials relating to the Civil War and veterans to preserve them for research.

Camps, along with other Veteran and Patriotic organizations, participate in ceremonies and parades honoring the men and women who have served in the United States military, with special emphasis on those who sacrificed life or limb.

Traditional Memorial Day (May 30), or Decoration Day as it

## THE S.U.V.C.W.

was originally known, is observed with special services. Veterans Day (November 11) is also observed. Many of our Camps put on educational programs for schools and civic organizations.

The local camp of the SUVCW is the General John A. Logan Camp No. 1. We meet at the Veterans' Home as did our namesake G.A.R. Post.

## THE BRONZE TABLET

The bronze tablet placed by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is 22 inches wide by 33 1/2 inches high. It was placed on the brick wall between the doors of the Registration Room and the Historical Room on the west side of the lobby of the Ryerson Library building by a workman from Owen, Ames, Kimball Co. As soon as it was in place it was covered to be unveiled at the time of the dedication.

Images (circa 1965) of its original location -



Photos courtesy of the GRPL

The Library building was open for this dedication about 11:30 Wednesday, September 11, and by 12 o'clock at least 100 persons were present, and a number of persons came in afterwards.

## THE TABLET, continued

*“The Committee on Program and Policy advocated and recommended the matter of historical markings and suggested that under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, the National Patriotic Instructor should take charge of the matters. It has always been a matter of regret that our organization did not follow the custom of the allied bodies of the G.A.R. in leaving some tribute or memorial at the place of annual Encampments. I therefore thought the present was the time to put this matter into execution and requested the National Patriotic Instructor, Brother Donaldson, to solicit the Department Patriotic Instructors to raise a fund so that we might place a tribute to the G.A.R. at Grand Rapids. The response was slow at first, but with added requests for contributions from my Aides and others, enough money has been donated to assure the placing of a bronze tablet. I hope that some money will be left which will be turned over as a nucleus of a fund to continue this custom. To Brother Donaldson and all who assisted I extend my sincere thanks.”*

- 1935 Frank L. Kirchgassner  
Commander-in-Chief

*“For the first time in the history of our beloved Order we are doing that which should have been done at every National Encampment that our Order has had: Presenting an appropriate gift to the city entertaining the Encampment which will be a lasting memento of our presence here.”*

- 1935 C.D. Donaldson  
National Patriotic Instructor

*“This memento which you so graciously bequeath to us and which I have the honor to accept on behalf of our board of library commissioners and the people of Grand Rapids, is a casting into enduring bronze of the soul of America. It echoes an immortal utterance by that great immortal who belongs not alone to us and to America but to, the ages and to all mankind.”*

- 1935 A. P. Johnson  
President, Library Board

## THE TABLET, continued

The tablet before restoration -



After the tablet was restored, we were able to identify the manufacturer -

FOUNDED 1849

INCORPORATED 1861

### THE T. F. MCGANN & SONS CO.

Ornamental Bronze Work

114 Portland Street  
BOSTON, MASS.

FOUNDRIES AND WORKS  
SOMERVILLE STATION,  
SOMERVILLE, MASS.

#### PRODUCTS.

We are manufacturers of BRONZE WORK of every description, SCULPTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL and DECORATIVE: DOORS, AIR-TIGHT and DUST-PROOF WINDOWS, GRILLES, BANK COUNTER SCREENS, RAILINGS, MAUSOLEUM DOORS, MORTUARY WORK, MARQUESES, MEMORIAL TABLETS, BUSTS, RELIEFS, COLOSSAL STATUARY, LAMPS, ELEVATOR ENCLOSURES and ELEVATORS, THEATRE RAILINGS, FENCES, BRACKETS, STAIRCASES, BALCONIES, FOUNTAINS, DUMB-WAITERS, ECCLESIASTICAL BRASSES, etc.

#### FACILITIES.

Our works are most complete in every detail, including foundries, shops, designing and modeling departments, which enables us to do the work in the most skilled manner.

All ornamental bronze having "undercut" sections are cast by a patent process which affords the architect possibilities that have been prohibitive heretofore on account of exorbitant cost.

## Special Thanks

We wish to acknowledge the following people for their contribution to this rededication -

Mr. William Baldrige, Library Board member for his faithful care of the tablet and his vision to reinstall it.

Mr. Tim Gleisner, head of the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections Department, for bringing the existence of this tablet to our attention.

Ms. Marcia Warner, Library Director, for her willingness to work together and trusting this piece of history to our care for the restoration.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Foundation for their financial assistance in this restoration.

Mr. Ken Dahalman, Maintenance Supervisor, for his expertise in reinstalling (twice) the tablet.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Grand Rapids  
Bruce B. Butgereit  
<http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp1.php>



# SONS OF VETERANS PRESENT MEMORIAL

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Grand Rapids Press, Wednesday

Sep 11 1935 Page 20 Col 3

## Dedication of Lincoln Bronze Is Conducted at Library Wednesday.

Sons of Union Veterans dedicated a bronze memorial of Lincoln at Ryerson library Wednesday noon with Frank L. Kirchgassner of Jamaica Plains, Mass., commander; Mrs. Gertrude M. Sautter of Wilkinsburg, Pa., and C. D. Donaldson of Eau Claire, Wis., patriotic instructor of the sons, participating in the presentation ceremonies.

A. P. Johnson, president of the board of library commissioners, in accepting the gift, said:

"Over the more than 100 years that this has been an American settlement, village and city there has come into our lives a no more inspiring and wholesome influence than on the three occasions when the Grand Army of the Republic and its affiliated organizations have honored us with their presence.

"This memento which you so graciously bequeath to us and which I have the honor to accept on behalf of our board of library commissioners and the people of Grand Rapids, is a casting into enduring bronze of the soul of America. It echoes an immortal utterance by that great immortal who belongs not alone to us and to America but to the ages and to all mankind. Grand Rapids, its men and women, but more than all its children, to whose service this institution is primarily dedicated, thank you for this gift."

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SUVCW MEMORIAL GRANTS REQUEST

2013-2014

Grant Request #2013-2014-5

Camp/Depart: Gen John Logan Camp #1, MI

Name of Monument: Gettysburg Address Tablet

Monument Location: Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids MI

Contact Person: Bruce B. Butgereit Phone: [REDACTED]

Check Payable to: Bruce B. Butgereit

Send Check to: Bruce B. Butgereit  
1691 Summerfield St, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Amount Requested: \$195

Total Cost of Project: \$800

Amount Approved: \$195

Amount Collected so far: \$605

Existing Monument  X  New Monument \_\_\_\_\_ Last Soldier Project \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial your vote next to your name, then sign and date below, once completed email to Don Martin [REDACTED] who will send it to Richard Orr, National Treasurer for payment.

Approved Denied Tabled

Don Martin, PDC

DLM

Steve Hammond, PDC

[Signature]

Donald W. Shaw PDC

DWS

Signature

[Signature]

Date 6 Dec 2013

Signature

[Signature]

Date 12/8/13

Signature

[Signature]

Date 7 Dec. 2013

Comments: Gettysburg Address plaque in Grand Rapids Library was placed by the SUVCW in 1935. The tablet measures 33.5" by 22" with Pittsburg restoration.