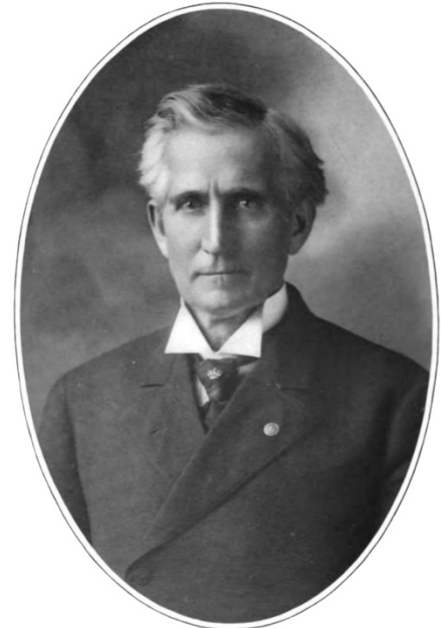


**National Patriotic Instruction  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**March 2024**

*Excerpt from the report of GAR National Patriotic Instructor J. S. Hoagland to the 45<sup>th</sup> National Encampment at Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1910:*

“For many years after the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic the office of National Patriotic Instructor appeared to be merely a place of honor with no prescribed duties attached to it. All members loved the flag they had fought for. They were patriotic, had proved their loyalty, and stood ready to fight again if necessary. Hence patriotic instruction within the organization was not necessary, and but little work was done in the way of promoting patriotic education among the children of our country. Now, however the office of Patriotic Instructor is the most important office in the Grand Army of the Republic. All other offices are merely administrative, judicial, and legislative within the jurisdiction of the Order, while the jurisdiction and duty of every G.A.R. Patriotic Instructor extends to the children of the entire country, who are soon to take the places of their sires in the management of the affairs of State and nation. They are the ones to be reached by us; they are the persons who are to be the patriots and defenders of our flag and the nation we preserved for them. No more important duty rests upon citizens of a nation of and by the people, than to instruct those who are soon to become rulers, in the art and science of government, and in the principle of patriotism.”



**J. S. Hoagland**  
GAR National Patriotic Instructor

While I do not contend that the Patriotic Instructor is the *most* important office in the SUVCW, I do agree with Comrade Hoagland that it is a vital one. It should not be occupied by someone who isn't prepared to do the work of the Order, just to fill in a blank space on a form.

As our late Comrade pointed out, the Patriotic Instructor's duties extend far beyond the members of a Camp or Department. His Brothers in the SUVCW are already amongst the most patriotic members of our society, otherwise they would not have joined this fine Order. The educational value of the Patriotic Instructor then, is to reach out to the public, and especially to the youth — and to encourage his fellow Brothers to do the same. Through school programs and other educational opportunities, the SUVCW has the opportunity to at least introduce, if not inculcate, a sense of patriotism — *love of country* — into our youth.

So, fellow Patriotic Instructors, do not think that your purview ends at the Camp or Department level. It is our duty to reach out to the public and actively seek opportunities to educate the next generation in the true meaning of Patriotism!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC  
National Patriotic Instructor