

# *the* Banner

National Publication of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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VOLUME 71

SECOND QUARTER, 1967

NUMBER 2

## OLD ABE -- The Story of a Symbol

*By Elizabeth C. Bogan*



Old Abe, the Civil War eagle mascot, from a photograph taken in 1876 (one of the "Centennial photos"). Reproduced by permission of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

This is the story of what was probably America's most illustrious bird — Old Abe, the magnificent American bald eagle, mascot of the 8th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, of Civil War fame.

Old Abe was an immature bird when he first joined the Northern Army, but when he returned home four years later with the men of his regiment, he was wearing the resplendent plumage of the adult bald eagle. His majestic presence in the front of their ranks, next to the Stars and Stripes, seemed to inspire the men to perform feats for which they became famous.

The Eighth received Old Abe by the devious route of barter and trade. His home was in the Flambeau section of Wisconsin, where, in the spring of 1861, as a fledgling, he was stolen from the aerie by a Chippewa Indian, who traded him to a farmer for a bushel of corn. The Eighth (or Badger Regiment) acquired him that summer, and forthwith became the Eagle Regiment.

Evidently, up to this time, Old Abe had been treated with kindness, for he was tame and tractable, and soon endeared himself to every man in the ranks. Early in September, 1861, the Eighth moved from Eau Claire, where it had been recruited, to Camp Randall, near Madison. Here the regiment was to be mustered into the Union Army, along with its majestic mascot.

During the parade from the railroad station to Camp Randall, the spectacle of the magnificent eagle, riding high next to the Colors, caused tumultuous ovations by the people along the line of march. The music, the din and the excitement of the occasion were too much for the great bird, and, like the living national symbol that he was, he reached out, caught the corner of the flag in his beak, and with wings outspread and fanning, he held it high until the parade reached regimental headquarters. The story of this striking behavior became so widespread that thousands of persons visited Old Abe during the month that his company was encamped at Madison. This was the first of many legends about this remarkable bird.

In October, 1861, the Eagle Regiment left for the front. A man had been assigned to care for Old Abe, and on a perch adorned with a shield of the Stars and Stripes and the regimental emblem, the regal bird rode off to war. During four years of savage fighting, Old Abe had four handlers. The charmed life that he led also applied to these men, inasmuch as not one was even nicked by a bullet.

The eagle soon learned the language of the bugle. On hot dusty marches, he liked to take a drink from his soldier-keeper by throwing his head back while the soldier poured water from his canteen down the bird's throat. Old Abe developed great affection for each of his handlers. It is said that after the war, when one of these men would visit him, he would demonstrate his affection by making a cooing sound while rubbing his head against the man's face.

The legends are many about this bird. One was that he developed a vocabulary for every occasion — during battle or at rest in camp. With his sounds, he had the faculty of inspiring, comforting or showing affection. His alertness and his warning signal in one instance caused the capture of an enemy courier.

Old Abe's uncanny ability to do the right thing at the right moment is shown in a story related by Hosea Rood, a Wisconsin historian. Mr. Rood recounted: "I saw Old Abe but once during the war. Early in December, 1862, my regiment, the Twelfth Wisconsin, was marching toward the front in a skirmish near Waterford, Mississippi. The Eighth was in line along the road. As we came near, one of our boys said: 'This is the Eighth Wisconsin, and there is their eagle close by the flag.'"

"As we approached, Old Abe was standing quietly on his perch, but when our flag came before him, he rose to his full height, spread his broad wings and flapped them three or four times, after which he settled down and watched us go by. It is a real pleasure to me now, 58 years later, to have seen Old Abe thus salute Old Glory that day down in Mississippi."

Of the many battles in which the eagle participated, the Battle of Corinth, in 1862, was probably the most outstanding as far as his performance was concerned. A shot came so close that it cut his tether. Immediately, Old Abe rose above the fury of the fighting, and, in the spirit of the symbol that he was, he soared and hovered over the battle lines, until finally he plummeted down to the Union side and his perch.

Vicksburg proved to be an ordeal for the Federal forces. Disease, as well as hunger, was rampant. During the siege,

## THE BANNER

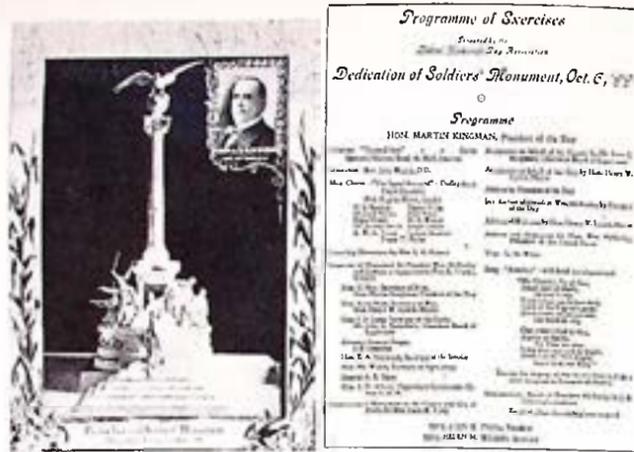
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Program from 1899 dedication ceremony for Soldiers' Monument in Peoria, Ill. The sculptor was Fritz E. Triebel, and the ceremony was attended by Pres. William McKinley.

Old Abe's presence proved invaluable as a morale builder. After the capture of Vicksburg, when the blue lines marched into the fallen city, the great feathered warrior, in recognition of the unique part he had played, rode in with the colors beside General Logan.

Old Abe's fame had become so well known throughout the Confederate forces that he was coveted by them. General Sterling Price was heard to say: "I'd rather capture Old Abe than a whole brigade."

In September, 1864, when a portion of the Eighth Regiment's Company C returned to Wisconsin after completing their three-year enlistments, Old Abe returned home with his comrades. Great sums of money were offered for the splendid bird, but they were spurned by the men of the Eagle Regiment, who offered him to their state. He was formally accepted by the Governor of Wisconsin, and was placed in comfortable quarters in the State House. During daylight hours he had the freedom of the beautiful surrounding park. Visitors by the thousands came to view the famous bird. Even as a retired veteran, Old Abe was still active. His presence at fund-raising drives for veteran organizations always caused spectacular success.

One night in February, 1881, a fire broke out in the Capitol building close to Old Abe's quarters. Before the bird was rescued, he had inhaled great quantities of noxious fumes and gases. His health was so greatly affected by this experience that he died on March 28, 1881. His body was preserved by a taxidermist, but that too was destroyed a few years later by another fire in the State Capitol.

Volumes have been written about Old Abe, as is attested by the size of a file in the archives of the State Historical Society. In the Wisconsin Capitol Memorial Hall, there is a replica of him, as well as a handsome painting done from life by James A. Stewart.

However, residents of my home town do not have to journey to Madison, Wis., to see a replica of the famous bird, for he is immortalized in our midst. Few persons now realize that the beautiful bronze eagle, poised for flight atop the shaft of the Soldier's Monument in the Court House plaza in downtown Peoria, Ill., is Old Abe. This elegant monument in honor of the Civil War dead was a gift to the city by the women of Peoria. Here is our link with the stirring events of a century ago.

Have you a replica of Old Abe in your town, too?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing article appeared originally in The Audubon Bulletin No. 137 (March, 1966) of the Illinois Audubon Society, and is reprinted here by permission of the author. Pictured on this page is the printed program from the dedication of the monument the author mentions, which includes an illustration of the monument.

## CALIFORNIA NOW BOASTS ITS OWN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

What is believed to be the first Civil War museum on the west coast was opened officially on February 19 at Upland, California — and a Past National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans is primarily responsible for its existence. Sis. Beatrice S. Riggs, who served as National President in 1960-61, is now President of the Chaffey Communities Cultural Society, and as such heads the Upland Branch of the San Bernardino County Museum Assn. which is operating the museum.

It was Sister Bea's dream that the citizens of her area might one day establish such a museum, and through her persistence and the help given her by various service and civic clubs, this has now come about. Actually the museum does not restrict its displays to Civil War items, but rather accepts for display articles of historical interest, heirlooms and collections of antiques from the Civil War period on into more recent years. It does not seek materials from earlier periods of our nation's history, though, because these are being collected for museums located in other areas of the county which specialize in these earlier periods.

Many pledges of both financial and physical assistance originally made for this project were not fulfilled, but Sis. Riggs and a band of faithful workers stayed with the project and can now share a great sense of satisfaction over the results achieved. The museum is located at 525 W. 18th St. in Upland, housed in the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church which had stood at F St. and Euclid Ave. since it was constructed in 1911. When St. Mark's congregation found it needed to move into a larger building recently, the fate of their old building was uncertain until the local museum group acquired it as a gift. Then with the donation of land and waivers of some fees by the Upland City Council, the museum project was under way. In saving the old church building, the museum group not only solved its own problem of locating a museum site, but it also assured the preservation of highly prized murals of the late Henry L.



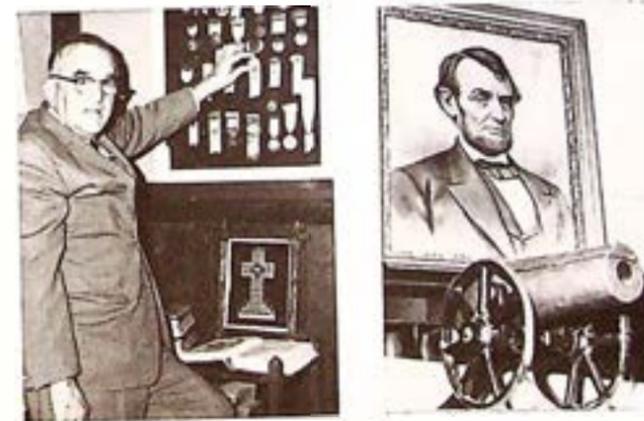
P.N.P. Beatrice Riggs poses before former church building which now serves as home for the newest Civil War museum.

McFee, noted artist and teacher in the Southern California area, which had been added to the church's interior in 1950. These murals illustrate the shields of the 12 Disciples, depicting their trades, and had taken the artist five years to complete.

Volunteer labor put the museum into shape after the building was relocated, and over 300 persons attended the dedication ceremonies on February 19. An American flag — which had been flown first in Washington, D.C., and was then presented to the museum by Senator Thomas H. Kuchel — was raised on a large flag pole outside the museum. The American Legion Auxiliary of Upland presented the museum with an indoor flag. Three attractive amber windows were presented by Zela Stone in memory of the late Rev. T. Stone. While music was being played in the background and committee members were busy greeting guests, others were officiating at the tea table where refreshments (courtesy of the Southern California Edison Co.) were being served. Boy scouts assisted in the parking of cars and escorting visitors up the museum's steps. What had once been but a dream was now a reality, and the entire community was showing its interest!

Exhibits included a flat-iron collection, a collection of sea shells and a mineral collection which had been donated to the museum. Of special interest to Civil War buffs was a collection of G.A.R. encampment badges in three cases; these had been assembled by Frank Woerner, Commander-in-Chief of SUVCW, and the late Earl F. Riggs who had served as Commander-in-Chief in 1958-59. There were also pictures of Civil War scenes and leaders which had been hung in places of honor throughout the building. The material on exhibit proved of sufficient historical significance to prompt the California Historical Society to arrange for a tour of the museum the following June.

The museum group expects to expand its displays as additional artifacts are made available by donors. In addition to objects permanently displayed there, the museum will feature temporary exhibits and special programs by various organizations from time to time. Books on the period in which the museum specializes are also being sought, so that a library may be operated in conjunction with the museum. At the same time, the group will continue to seek financial assistance in order that long-range plans for the community's "cultural center" may materialize. These include plans for construction of a modern, fireproof museum building and art gallery, a multi-purpose recreational building for indoor adult and youth activities, and an amphitheater with band shell for presentation of dramatic plays and outdoor concerts.



Left — Comdr-in-Chief Frank Woerner arranges G.A.R. encampment badges in case for display at museum. This is part of an extensive collection of such badges now on exhibit there. Right — Effectively displayed beneath a steel engraving of Abraham Lincoln is this unique ballot box, resembling a miniature cannon, which was used by U.S. Grant Post of the G.A.R. in San Diego, Calif.

SECOND QUARTER, 1967

## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WOERNER ATTENDS ANNUAL OBSERVANCE AT LINCOLN'S TOMB

A warm and sunny April 15 greeted the participants who paused to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of his tragic death. Accompanied by the strains of martial music from the 33rd Division Band, Illinois National Guard, the stage was set for the memorial service at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill., presided over by P.D.C. George L. Cashman (Ill.), curator of the Tomb. A total of 68 wreaths were offered in memory of the Emancipator by veterans' groups and patriotic societies invited to participate in this ceremony, which is held annually by the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, assisted by The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Comdr.-in-Chief Frank Woerner of SUVCW spoke reverently of Mr. Lincoln and closed his remarks with the immortal "Farewell Address" of February 11, 1861, delivered by the President-Elect as he began his journey from Springfield to Washington, D.C. Comdr. William C. Duval, USNR (Ret.), Past Comdr.-in-Chief of MOLLUS, ably represented the commander-in-chief of that order, Col. Walter E. Hopper, Jr., as he delivered an absorbing talk which ended with a prayer which has become traditional at these rites.

Following a stirring rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" by the band, under the baton of William Vetter, Jr., the wreath bearers prepared to answer the role. As each name was called, the individual was met by a uniformed member of the 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (Reactivated) who acted as an escort. The unit was under the command of Bro. Roland D. Persenico.

This year the State House Inn, located in the shadow of the Prairie State's capitol dome, provided the site for the luncheon attended by 93 guests following the exercises at the Tomb. The principal speaker was Springfield attorney Edward G. Pree, a past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Mr. Pree traced the education and early experiences of our 16th President, and demonstrated how these had helped to shape Mr. Lincoln's life. Although not a new theme, it was given new vitality and interest by the enthusiasm which the speaker displayed, as well as by his knowledge of the subject.

Two of the founders of the first such ceremony held in 1957 — P.C.-in-C. William M. Coffin and P.D.C. J. Colby Beekman (Ill.) of SUVCW — were introduced by Bro. Cashman, the master of ceremonies, and each had words of greeting for the assembled guests. In a moving tribute to a beloved brother and companion, the late James L. High, also a founder and supporter of these annual observances, Comdr. Duval rendered a heartfelt salute to the memory of a man who will long be remembered for his active participation in both SUVCW and MOLLUS. P.D.C. Thomas L. W. Johnson (Wis.), co-chairman of the event, read a letter of regret from P.C.-in-C. U. S. Grant 3rd, who was unable to attend but warmly praised the efforts made on behalf of the occasion.

Entertainment at the luncheon was provided by Frank G. Coulter, a member of the Springfield Civil War Round Table, who, accompanied by his daughter, sang several ballads from the Civil War period. Colors at the luncheon were posted and retired by uniformed members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve's Illinois unit under the direction of Douglas A. Henry of Springfield, parade marshal. The Illinois Commandery, MOLLUS, was praised for its decision to present each luncheon guest with a copy of a Lloyd Ostendorf wash drawing of Abraham Lincoln as a memento of the day.

THE BANNER

## S.V.R. Represents our Order At Lincoln Rites In Washington, D.C.

The colors of the Sons of Union Veterans were present at two events held in our nation's capital this year in commemoration of President Lincoln's birthdate. The first was the memorial service in the Washington Cathedral on Saturday, February 11, where four color guard units participated in the processional and recessional and the SUVCW colors were accorded the lead position. The United States Navy Band's Sea Chanters sang "Once to Every Man and Nation" for the offertory anthem, and the memorial address was delivered by the Rt. Reverend William F. Creighton, Episcopal Bishop of Washington. An estimated 250 persons attended this service, and viewed the partially completed Lincoln Bay of the cathedral afterwards. The walls of the bay are in place, and the intricate marble flooring has just been finished, but the stone-carved embellishments the plans call for, the special windows and the impressive statue of Lincoln which is to dominate the bay, are still to be added as funds become available. Our National Organization authorized a financial gift to the cathedral at the 1966 National Encampment to aid in this work.

The Commandery-in-Chief's colors were again present when the annual ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial was held on the following day, February 12. This hour-long ceremony was held in subfreezing weather. An address was given by Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson, and the United States Marine Band provided appropriate music. A recording was played of Sen. Everett M. Dirksen's rendition of the Gettysburg Address. Representing our Commander-in-Chief at this wreath-laying ceremony was P.C.-in-C. Chester S. Shriver. The National Organization's District of Columbia Representative, Bro. Arthur R. Glenum, and others from the Lincoln-Cushing Camp in Washington, D.C., were also present.

Both events were sponsored by The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and the SUVCW colors displayed at each event were carried by members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, pictured on this page.



S.V.R. members post on steps of Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Left to right: Chester S. Shriver, Barry Snyder, Robert Pyles, James Martin, Kenneth Mummert and James Y. Ledwith.  
SECOND QUARTER, 1967



PHOTO BY DEL ANKERS PHOTOGRAPHERS

Colors of the Sons of Union Veterans are shown with those of the Lancaster Fencibles of Lancaster, Pa., as both groups stand in the partially completed Lincoln Bay of the Washington Cathedral.

### PERMANENT FUND

Our Permanent Fund was authorized to unite us and to assure a permanent association. No member is obligated to contribute, nor may he be assessed. All funds in the Permanent Fund must be voluntary to fulfill its intent and purpose. Any member may contribute in memory of his family or Civil War ancestor to honor and perpetuate the memory of their name.

To—Chester S. Shriver, Natl. Secty.-Treas.  
P.O. Box 24, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325  
Kindly enter the following Civil War veteran's name on our HONOR ROLL.  
Name of Veteran.....  
Company & Regiment.....  
Enclosed find my donation of \$..... (\$10.00 or more) for the HONOR ROLL FUND.  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Donations, legacies and bequests to this fund are welcome and will be preserved. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

The following contributions have been received since the last issue of THE BANNER:

#### HONOR ROLL

NELSON T. BROWN, Btry. D, 3rd New York Lgt. Art.  
Courtesy of Myrtle K. Brown.....\$10.00  
COL. JAMES CAMERON, SUVCW Camp 160, Pa. Dept.  
Courtesy of Ross E. Fortner.....\$10.00  
WILLIAM SMITH, Co. G, 11th Ill. Cav.  
Courtesy of Earl J. Smith.....\$10.00

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

MARVIN W. REED, Richmond, Ind.....\$100.00  
Member, Genl. Wm. P. Benton Camp 28, Ind. Dept.



### GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

Series 1966-67

Headquarters  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
11200 Eastwood Ave., Inglewood, Cal. 90304

1. By the time this order reaches you, many new Department Commanders and other department officers will have been elected. I want to thank those of you who served for the year 1966-67; your cooperation has been wonderful. Your Commander-in-Chief will be visiting the New England states during the month of April, hoping to gain new friends and renew acquaintances with old friends. I want to thank those who have attended many meetings and brought the greetings of the Commander-in-Chief when he was unable to attend.
2. My motto for the year is "Work and We Will Grow." You have been asked to get one new member before our next National Encampment. I got mine; did you get yours?
3. I have just received an answer to a letter sent to Philip E. Frank, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, stating that he will be at our Camp Fire program August 6. He also wrote: "But we here in the east are in an almost losing fight with a powerful group who are dedicated to eliminating every vestige of patriotism from our schools. . . . The reason I bring this up is to ask you, as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans, to get your organization at its 1967 National Encampment to set up some type of active committee to ardently promote patriotism in every hamlet in this country where you have a camp."
4. Each National Officer and National Committee Chairman, please have your written report ready at the time of the National Encampment. Each must be a written report

of no longer than two pages (single spaced) or four pages (double spaced).

The following committee appointments are hereby made for the 1967 National Encampment:

#### Credentials

John C. Yocum (Pa.), Chmn.  
Devenc Williamson (N.Y.)  
Herman Black (Wis.)  
Elmore J. Houston (Ohio)  
Lew W. McKee (Ore.)

#### Resolutions

U. S. Grant 3rd (D.C.), Chmn.  
Alton Sharp (N.J.)  
Allen Spink (Conn.)  
Roderick Van Trump, Sr. (Ill.)  
Frank M. Heacock, Sr. (Del.)

#### Officers' Reports

Albert C. Lambert (N.J.), Chmn.  
Norman R. Furman (N.Y.)  
Eugene R. McCoy (Calif.)  
John H. Stark (N.Y.)  
Harold E. Arnold (R.I.)

#### Response to Allied Orders' Greetings

Albert E. DeHaven (Me.) — LGAR  
Urien W. Mackey (Mich.) — DUVCW  
Cleon E. Heald (N.H.) — ASUV  
Joseph S. Rippey (N.Y.) — WRC

#### Restoration of Rank

Kenneth T. Wheeler (N.H.), Chmn.  
Bertram Isaacs (N.Y.)  
Arthur R. Glenum (D.C.)  
James M. Blackman (Ill.)  
Henry S. Bowen, Jr. (Mass.)

#### Ritual and Ceremonies

C. LeRoy Stoudt (Pa.), Chmn.  
Robert J. McCarthy (Md.)  
Orion Hardy (N.H.)  
Philip E. Hamlin (Me.)  
Frank L. Clark (N.J.)

5. All Department Secretaries, please send the names of the newly elected department officers to the National Secretary, Chester S. Shriver, P. O. Box 24, Federal Building, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325, immediately after the close of your department encampment.

6. Your Commander-in-Chief and his staff convey their condolences to the families who have had loved ones pass away since the last issue of THE BANNER — especially the families of Bro. Howard L. Dissinger and Past Commander-in-Chief Roy J. Bennett.

FRANK WOERNER  
Commander-in-Chief

Army Corps, which had been organized in February of 1864 to participate in Sherman's march to the sea, the band utilizes all authentic band instruments of the 1860's . . . instruments which were actually played by Yanks in regimental bands from Vermont, Wisconsin, Maine, Massachusetts and Iowa.

The band plays the music of the 3rd New Hampshire Infantry's regimental band, recently found in the Library of Congress. Thus these stirring patriotic airs are being heard once again after an absence of 100 years. Most of the numbers were composed by the master brass-band composer of the Civil War era, Claudio S. Grafulla. The unique instruments (including 15 over-the-shoulder horns of government issue) produce a quaint and beautiful sound — one which few Americans living today have ever heard. You will not want to miss this unusual musical performance.

### YES . . . the War IS Over!

The Sons of Confederate Veterans recently issued its 1967 Directory, a 36-page booklet containing the names and addresses of its national officers, state officers and camp commanders, as well as rosters of officers for such other Southern societies associated with the Civil War period as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Order of the Stars and Bars, and the Confederate High Command. It is interesting to note that page 34 of this booklet is devoted entirely to a listing of the national officers of *our organization!* This is certainly tangible evidence of the continuing good relations between the two organizations since our meeting at Richmond, Va., in 1965, where the warm friendship and hospitality of our Southern counterparts was so genuinely displayed.

## 86th Annual National Encampment Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Pick-Congress Hotel — Chicago, Illinois

Sunday, August 6, 1967

- Morning Worship . . . . . Church of your choice.  
12:30 p.m. — Department Commanders (or representatives) meet with National Chaplain.  
1:00 p.m. — Registration . . . . . Rendezvous Room  
1:30 p.m. — Council of Administration Meeting . . . . .  
. . . . . Headquarters Suite  
2:00 p.m. — Wreath-laying ceremony at Genl. Logan monument, 9th and Michigan Avenue.  
3:00 p.m. — Joint Memorial Service . . . . . Gold Room  
7:30 p.m. — Camp Fire . . . . . Gold Room

Monday, August 7, 1967

- 9:00 a.m. — Registration . . . . . Florentine Room  
10:00 a.m. — Joint Opening, SUVCW and ASUV . . . . . Gold Room  
11:00 a.m. — Business Session . . . . . Florentine Room  
12:00 noon — Recess  
1:30 p.m. — Business Session . . . . . Florentine Room  
4:00 p.m. — Recess  
5:30 p.m. — P.C.-in-C. and P.N.P. Banquet . . . . . Shelby Room  
8:30 p.m. — Courtesy Hour . . . . . Gold Room

Tuesday, August 8, 1967

- 9:30 a.m. — Business Session . . . . . Florentine Room  
12:00 noon — Recess  
1:30 p.m. — Business Session . . . . . Florentine Room  
3:00 p.m. — Greetings Received . . . . . Florentine Room  
4:00 p.m. — Recess  
6:00 p.m. — Banquet honoring National Officers of SUVCW and ASUV . . . . . Gold Room  
9:00 to  
12:00 p.m. — Dancing . . . . . Florentine Room

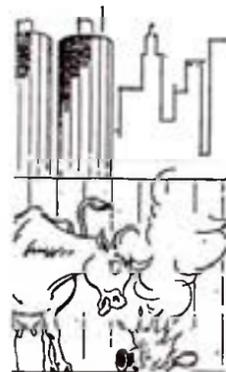
Wednesday, August 9, 1967

- No Business Sessions Scheduled  
10:00 a.m. to  
1:00 p.m. — Sight-seeing tour. Busses will load outside hotel entrance at 9:30 a.m.  
7:30 p.m. — Special Entertainment . . . . . Gold Room

Thursday, August 10, 1967

- 9:00 a.m. — Business Session . . . . . Florentine Room  
12:00 noon — Adjournment  
1:00 p.m. — Council of Administration Meeting . . . . .  
. . . . . Headquarters Suite

WARM WELCOME  
AWAITS YOU  
IN FAMED  
WINDY CITY



The Illinois Department has planned a royal welcome for members of the Sons of Union Veterans, their Auxiliary and the Ladies of the G.A.R. when they arrive for the 1967 National Encampment at Chicago in August. Plans have been made to entertain you during your stay at the hotel, and to also show you a bit of the town that Mrs. O'Leary's cow booted unceremoniously into national prominence 96 years ago. General chairman of the encampment committee is P.N.P. Eva B. Blackman of ASUV.

Dept. Comdr. Roderick Van Trump, who is in charge of the campfire program, assures the encampment delegates they are in for a rare treat when they assemble in the hotel's Gold Room on Sunday evening, August 6. Scheduled to give the pre-campfire band concert is the "1st Brigade Band" — the only Civil War military band in existence. Taking its name from the 1st Brigade Band, 3rd and 4th Divisions, 15th

### We are honored to be your host for THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, AUGUST 6 TO 10

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
LADIES OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

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## RIGHTS and DUTIES

(as expressed in a church bulletin)

INDEPENDENCE DAY — bells ring, whistles blow, rockets flare, and Americans take a holiday. Across the land they gather to speak of their freedoms and their inalienable rights. "Inalienable rights," the founding fathers said, and they acknowledged that these rights come from God himself.

It is really a day of thanksgiving. Properly so, we Americans talk about our freedoms — of speech, of worship, of work, from want and from fear. Properly so, we are jealous of them for they are precious.

If we are wise, however, we see that rights bring duties. A spokesman of our time, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., said, "I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."

In this knowledge let us approach the celebration of our Independence Day, remembering that freedom to exercise our rights does not mean freedom for unbridled selfishness nor freedom from responsibilities. As we celebrate, let us be more inclined to say, "Because of my heritage of freedom I have a responsibility for . . ." rather than, "Because of my heritage of freedom I have a right to . . ."

Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

— Luke 12:48 (R.S.V.)

### IN MEMORIAM

COL. CLARENCE E. YOUNG  
May 23, 1967

Col. Young was a past commander of the Rhode Island Department, having served as its head in 1960-61, and was also a past president of the 60-20 Club. Active in the Sons of Veterans Reserve, Col. Young had been commanding officer of the 1st Military District, and, upon the death of Col. O. G. MacPherson, had advanced to command of the National Military Department. He is survived by his wife, Marion.

### IN MEMORIAM ROY J. BENNETT

Past Commander-in-Chief

P.C.-in-C. Roy J. Bennett was called to his eternal rest on March 14, 1967. Born in Ottawa, Ill., on July 15, 1883, he had resided at Des Moines, Iowa, for the past 60 years. Bro. Bennett had become a member of Grenville M. Dodge Camp 75, SUVCW, at Des Moines on September 19, 1922, and had been exceptionally active in the work of our Order. He served in every office of the camp and also in every office of the department. He was elected Commander of the Department of Iowa in 1936. In addition, he had served in many different national offices. In 1951 he was honored by election to the highest office in our Order, that of Commander-in-Chief.

Always a conscientious worker and concerned for the good of the Order, Bro. Bennett continued active in SUVCW work until the last. He was particularly active in the establishment of the G.A.R. Highway, and continued on that committee up to the time of his passing. In business life, he was the proprietor (prior to his retirement) of the Standard Machine & Die Co. of Des Moines. During World War II his company engaged in highly classified government work. As a principal hobby, Bro. Bennett machined, cut and polished precious and semiprecious stones, and made many articles of beautiful jewelry. Though he belonged to other orders and was accorded a Masonic burial, he will always be remembered for his kindness and untiring work on behalf of our Order. He was preceded in death by his wife, but is survived by a son, a daughter and two sisters. With them, we mourn a great loss.

Jacob Kirchner, Secty-Treas.  
Department of Iowa

### IN MEMORIAM

P.N.P. MAUDE B. WARREN  
February 18, 1967

Sis. Warren joined Capt. R. B. Grover Auxiliary in 1922. She was elected Auxiliary President in 1927, held various offices in the department and was elected Department President in 1932. She served as National Secretary from 1937 to 1943, and as National President in 1943-44.

O. R. B.

### IN MEMORIAM

COL. HOWARD L. DISSINGER

Col. Howard L. Dissinger, Past Department Commander of Pennsylvania and Chairman of the National Military Affairs Committee, died March 10, 1967. He was buried in the Moravian Cemetery in Lititz, Pa., in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, on March 14, with 14 Sons of Veterans Reserve officers and enlisted men participating. Firing of the volley and taps were handled by 10 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and six uniformed policemen also assisted in the service.

Col. Dissinger had been a member of SUVCW for 37 years, and had attended 19 National Encampments. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, of which he was a Past District Commander, and of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S. Currently he was serving as the Commanding Officer of the Sons of Veterans Reserve's 2nd Military District, and had served as Military Aide on the Commander-in-Chief's staff for the 1962-63 term.

Chester S. Shriver  
Past Commander-in-Chief



## News of the Departments



### CALIFORNIA

Illness visited the homes of many department members during the winter months. Dept. Treas. Mary Gately and Dept. Patriotic Instr. Margaret French both suffered fractured hips, and Sis. Grace Greer was hospitalized also. Seriously injured were Sis. Nellie Hilliard and Sis. Minnie Noltensmeier.

TAPS: Auxiliary 14 regretfully reports the death of another member — Sis. Della Hampton on February 10.

### ILLINOIS

Genl. Geo. A. Custer Camp 1 and Auxiliary 30 held their annual Lincoln Day Dinner on February 12 at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago. Maj. James F. Ginnett and P.D.P. Viola E. Hartwig served as dinner co-chairmen. The speaker was Dr. Gerhard P. Clausius, a vice president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

The G.A.R. Anniversary Dinner, held April 8 at the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel in Chicago under the sponsorship of the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans Banquet Assn., was preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Genl. John A. Logan monument in nearby Grant Park. The dinner speaker was Elmer C. Brinkman of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, whose topic was "The Military Career of Genl. John A. Logan." Honored at this banquet were Dept. Comdr. Roderick Van Trump, SUVCW, and Dept. Pres. Hazel B. Lutz, DUVCW.

A reception honoring Dept. Comdr. Roderick Van Trump and Dept. Pres. Beatrice Swanson was given by Old Glory Camp 61-65 and Auxiliary 32 on May 26 at the Austin Town Hall, Chicago. Rev. A. Marcel LaVoy, a past commander of the camp, acted as master of ceremonies for a program of special entertainment.

The department encampment was held June 9 and 10 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago. Speaker at the G.A.R. Family Banquet was Dr. George A. Fleming of St. Joseph's College, who spoke on "Genl. John A. Logan and the Political Generals." A demonstration of Civil War manual of arms and drill was performed by members of the 104th Illinois Vol. Inf. (Reactivated), commanded by Roland D. Perseico. P.D.C. John Brooks Davis was general chairman of the encampment for the Allied Orders, and master of ceremonies at the banquet. Dept. Comdr. Roderick Van Trump was re-elected by SUVCW for another term, and Sis. Helen S. Brady was elected department president of the Auxiliary. P.D.C. Charles A. Brady, Jr., sang "Wishing Will Make It So" to his mother during the installation ceremony.

### MARYLAND - DELAWARE

The Auxiliary's 73rd annual department encampment was held May 5-6 at the Holiday Inn, Wilmington, Del., with several guests from the Pennsylvania Dept. in attendance. Sis. Ada J. Anderson was honored at the banquet held May 5. Chosen as the new department president on the following day was Sis. Hazel Koffman.

### MASSACHUSETTS

The department encampment was held at New Bedford on April 28, 29 and 30, with Dept. Comdr. Chester W. Adshad presiding over the SUVCW sessions and Dept. Pres. Dorothy A. Newell presiding over the ASUV sessions. Both Comdr.-in-Chief Frank Woerner and Natl. Pres. Flora D. Bates were present. During the encampment a luncheon was served the delegates courtesy of Gov. John A. Volpe, and

a tea was held courtesy of Mayor Edward Harrington of New Bedford, who also addressed the assembly. Rededication of the G.A.R. Memorial marker was well attended. At the memorial service, a special tribute to P.N.P. Maude B. Warren was given by P.D.P. Bessie T. Drown. The newly installed department heads are Herbert Jackson, Dept. Comdr., and Leila Turner, Dept. Pres.

The dedication on May 28 of the Memorial Bell Tower at the Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, N.H., was attended by an estimated 10,000 persons. Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts was the main speaker, and representatives of patriotic orders from all over the nation were present. Gov. Volpe stressed that "while patriotism may be to some 'old fashioned,' it should never be out of fashion." The Memorial Tower is the first national tribute to American women who have given their lives during conflict, and ASUV's National Organization gave a large donation to this cause during the administration of P.N.P. Emma Wheeler. Natl. Pres. Flora D. Bates attended the ceremony.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dept. Pres. Alice Sharkey presided at the 59th annual encampment of the Auxiliary's New Hampshire Department in Concord on April 28 and 29. Representing the national president at this encampment was P.N.P. Edith L. Snyder. P.N.P. Emma Wheeler had the pleasure of installing her daughter, Jacquelyn Johnston, as department president, and her husband, Kenneth Wheeler, as counselor when she installed the Auxiliary's new department officers. P.D.C. Kenneth Wheeler served as installing officer for the SUVCW department encampment at which Dept. Comdr. Arthur Sharkey, Sr., and his staff were installed for the 1967-68 term.

Over 200 attended a reception given in honor of Dept. Pres. Jacquelyn Johnston at Milford on June 10. A program of varied entertainment included a "This Is Your Life" skit, with special songs ("Daddy's Little Girl" and "Sweetheart of the Auxiliary") sung by Olive Gaspar. P.N.P. Ethelyn C. Tucker represented the national president, and the commander-in-chief was represented by Sr. Vice C.-in-C. William W. Haskell. SUVCW and ASUV members from other states — Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine — were also present, as well as four generations of Sis. Jacquelyn's family and a champion of longevity, Sis. Catherine Hickey of Auxiliary 1, Bennington, who is 91.

### NEW YORK

The Civil War Round Table of Rochester held its 8th annual dinner February 4, at which Bro. I. Richard Reed, Dept. Historian of SUVCW, was the featured speaker. Bro. Reed has been Civil War writer for the Niagara Falls Gazette for some years, and his writings on western New York Civil War soldiers have been put in book form and can be obtained through the newspaper.

Sunday, February 12, Chaplain P. G. Cook Camp 223 of Buffalo, under the leadership of P.D.C. Norman Furman (currently Natl. Graves Registration Officer), held a ceremony at the Lincoln statue on the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society's grounds in commemoration of Pres. Lincoln's birthday. Six organizations participated in the program, which will be made an annual event.

Bro. John F. McCormack, Jr., Secty. of George B. McClellan Camp 74, Yonkers, was the author of an article entitled "The Perils of Trench Warfare" which appeared in the December issue of Civil War Times Illustrated. Data

for the article was taken from the diary of Pvt. Charles M. Parsons, father of Bro. Herbert A. Parsons who is currently the commander of McClellan Camp.

February 26 the Rochester Public Schools' patriotic ceremony, known as the Transfer of Flags and Washington Birthday Exercises, was held for the 78th time since it was begun by Genl. Geo. H. Thomas Post of the G.A.R. in 1889. SUVCW members who had an active part in this event were P.C.-in-C. Joseph S. Rippey and Bros. George Weidinger, Grover C. Scott and Henry R. Dutcher, Jr.

When the Northern New York Club held its election of officers in March, Bro. DeVene Williamson was elected president for another term.

Auxiliary 1 held its installation April 24, with Dept. Pres. Margaret Beilby as installing officer.

Sis. Marjorie Tagart installed the members of Auxiliary 23 on April 26.

Though a rainy day, the services held the first Sunday in May at the Grant Cottage, Mt. McGregor, marking the birthday of Genl. U. S. Grant, drew a good attendance. Held under the auspices of the camps and auxiliaries which comprise the Northern New York Club, the ceremonies included the raising of the flag at Lookout Point.

On May 22 members of Auxiliary 1 held a joint memorial service with the camp members, with Bro. William Phillips and Sis. Agnes Brundage in charge. Memorial services with various veterans' organizations as well as the Gold Star Mothers were held on May 27.

The Tri-City Past Presidents' Club, made up of former auxiliary presidents from the auxiliaries in Amsterdam, Schenectady and Gloversville, is holding a picnic in July. This group belongs to the Federation of Women's Clubs, and has been in existence for over 47 years. This year's president is Sis. Orlena Hagadorn, Past Pres. of Auxiliary 56.

## OHIO

Three Lincoln Day dinners held in Ohio were those at Alliance, Salem and Cleveland. The Alliance banquet was sponsored by McClellan Camp 91 and its Auxiliary, with P.N.P. Edith Nile as general chairman and Sis. Margaret E. Gehret as mistress of ceremonies. The camp commander spoke on "Why Do We Honor Lincoln?"

At the Salem dinner, where Senator John Longworth from the 30th District was the speaker, Past Commander badges were presented to Bro. Harold D. Huttenhower and Bro. Robert Wolz. The Cleveland dinner was sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Council, Sons and Daughters of Civil War Veterans. Dept. Comdr. John R. Decker and Dept. Pres. Anita M. Selby attended this Lincoln observance. Also attending were Dorthea Meyers, Natl. Jr. Vice Pres., DUVCW, and Berthana Norman, Dept. Pres., DUVCW. The speaker was Hon. Frank D. Celebrezze, Judge of the Common Pleas Court.

The SUVCW and ASUV District 1 meeting in Minerva was well attended. There were 17 department officers present, including Dept. Comdr. John R. Decker and Dept. Pres. Anita Selby. P.C.-in-C. W. Earl Corbin, District President, was unable to attend and Bro. Robert J. Wolz of Salem Camp 43 was elected in his stead.

P.D.P. Grace Tennis, who had been recuperating from a broken hip, suffered a fall which resulted in considerable bone injury. She is confined to Health Center, 145 E. College St., Alliance 44601.

P.C.-in-C. W. Earl Corbin has been returned to his home, 527 Stetler Ave., Akron, Ohio 44312. He is still undergoing treatment and would be pleased to hear from his friends.

At the May meeting of District 2, held in Memorial Hall at Newark, close to 100 members of SUVCW and ASUV enjoyed a casserole dinner. Dist. Pres. Mary Beilstein was in charge of the meeting. At its conclusion, a plaque to be placed on the life-size portrait of "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" (Genl. John Lincoln Clem) which hangs in Memorial Hall was dedicated by the Hon. Paul Reed, Mayor of New-

ark. This portrait of probably the youngest boy ever to wear his country's uniform had been displayed unmarked for many years. Johnny Clem — also known as "Johnny Shiloh" — had attached himself to Co. C of the 22nd Michigan Vol. Inf. in 1861 at the age of 9. The 60-lb. lad could not be mustered in because of his age, and for a long while received his pay from a group of the men in his unit. He was discharged in 1864, a battle-scarred veteran of 13. Especially noteworthy was the presence of six descendants of Genl. Clem at this dedication: Mrs. Elizabeth A. Burmingham, his niece; Mrs. Helen Adam and Mrs. Mary Margaret McGreevy, grandnieces; and Jane, Susie and Amy Hutchinson, great-grandnieces. It is understood that Genl. Clem's widow is still living and resides in Texas. The Mount Vernon Fife and Drum Corps played several Civil War selections during the program, under the direction of Col. W. W. Dorsey.

The department's 81st annual encampment was held June 17 and 18 at the Southern Hotel in Columbus. Natl. Press Correspondent Olive Boren represented Natl. Pres. Flora Bates, who was unable to be present because of illness. A check for the purchase of a wheel chair was presented to the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Home by Dept. Patriotic Instructor Jane Greenwalt. P.N.P. Edith Nile was mistress of ceremonies for the joint SUVCW-ASUV-LGAR banquet, and also served as installing officer for the Auxiliary's installation. The new department president is Sis. Margaret Gehret of Alliance Auxiliary 91, and the new department commander is Bro. Richard Greenwalt.

## RHODE ISLAND

The Auxiliary's 45th annual department encampment was held at the Sheraton Biltmore Hotel in Providence April 7-8, with Dept. Pres. Gertrude Peterson presiding. Installed as department president for 1967-68 was Sis. Faith Gibbs.

TAPS: The department regrets to report the passing of P.D.C. Joseph Randall, who had served as Dept. Comdr. in 1958, and P.D.C. A. Waller Lewis, who headed the department in 1955-56. Also the death of Bro. Aram Hinz, Chaplain of Camp 11.

## VERMONT

P.D.C. Arthur Ballou and wife Glendeen celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on March 24.

TAPS: H.E.K. Hall Camp 28, Chelsea, regretfully reports the passing of P.C.C. George Lyford. This brother was a 50-year member, and had the distinction of having had both his father and his grandfather serve in the Civil War.

## WISCONSIN

The annual encampment of the orders affiliated with the G.A.R. was held in Oshkosh on May 20 and 21. Dept. Pres. Raecna Black was in charge of the ASUV sessions. Elected to succeed her as department president for the new term was Sis. Helen Wilbur.

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### THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO SAY . . .

he has asked to be relieved of his post and a new editor is to be named at the national encampment. Sincere appreciation is expressed to those who so faithfully kept the editor informed of news about our Order. Apologies are extended to those whose contributions had to be used only in part or omitted entirely. Material for THE BANNER should continue to be sent to P. O. Box 6165, Chicago 60680, until official notification of the present editor's successor; all such material will be forwarded to the new editor when the appointment is announced.