

# *The* Banner

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Number 3

## *Cincinnati - Encampment City*

Twenty-five years ago the 64th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and Allied Organizations was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the week beginning Sunday, August 24, 1930. The Citizens Committee produced an elaborate souvenir program which contained the following foreword, written by Charles Theodore Greve, an eminent lawyer and historical student of the Cincinnati of that day; it is as good now as it was then:

### **CINCINNATI—AN HISTORICAL SKETCH**

A raid of Indian horse thieves in 1786 sweeping down upon the Kentucky settlements and the subsequent ineffectual pursuit first brought to the attention of prospective settlers the rich lands between the Miamis, the so-called "Miami slaughter house," a name justified by the drenching of blood its soil had received before that time and was to receive in the future.

Major Benjamin Stites, the leader of the pursuing party, was so impressed with the wonderful fertility of the soil, the magnificent forests and the clear streams that he determined to lead a colony to this valley. He walked the entire distance to New York where he succeeded in interesting Judge John

Cleves Symmes, a soldier of the Revolution and a Member of Congress who finally obtained a grant from Congress of a large section between the Miamis to be known as the Symmes purchase. Military land warrants issued to the soldiers of the Revolution were the principal medium of payment for the site of this great city. Here on what is now known as the Public Landing on September 22, 1788, a large company of Kentuckians headed by the Jersey Judge Symmes, the Indian fighter Colonel Patterson and the Kentucky historian and schoolmaster John Filson, and including Stites, Denman and Ludlow, took part in a public dedication of the lands in accordance with the plat already prepared. This therefore, is the first definitely fixed date in Cincinnati history. The first actual settlement was at Columbia on November 18, 1788, by Stites at the mouth of the Little Miami; the first in the original limits of the town of Losantiville, subsequently Cincinnati, was the landing on December 28, 1788, of the party headed by Patterson, McMillan and Ludlow at the foot of Sycamore Street (Yeatman's Cove). Symmes' land-

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The Skyline of Cincinnati which will welcome our delegates to our annual Encampment next August.

**CINCINNATI—(Cont.)**

ing at North Bend near the Great Miami was February 2, 1789.

The first settlers found here the remains of the prehistoric Mound Builders. These mounds and walls may have been for military purposes. In 1780 and 1782 George Rogers Clark had built a block house on the site of the city.

These pioneers had pushed forward into the very heart of the Indian country, subject to attack by tribes far fiercer and more implacable than those encountered by the settlers of New England and Virginia. It was after all but a military post with Fort Washington erected in the first year of the settlement as the headquarters of the Army of the United States. A military post it remained for five years, during which time it sent forth the ill-starred Harmar and St. Clair expeditions into the Indian country and finally the ever victorious legion of Mad Anthony Wayne which at Fallen Timbers in forty minutes ended forty years of warfare (1794) and led the way to the treaty of Greenville the next year. The military post became a town (incorporated in 1802) and a city in 1819. It contributed its share of men and means to the second war with Great Britain by which time it was developing rapidly. The opening of steam navigation on the Ohio (1816), the completion of the Miami Canal (1830) and of the first section of the Little Miami Railway (1843) led to the establishment of manufacturing plants which with its great agricultural, viticultural and cultural development soon made it the leading city of the West, the "Queen City of the West," the Athens of the West.

Situated on the border of the South, its relations commercial and social with that section were close. Anti-slavery agitation was unpopular, but the Abolitionists were numerous and here were the homes of Salmon P. Chase, Levi Coffin, James D. Birney, all friends of the slaves, and here was a station of the underground railway.

When the storm of Civil War broke there was no hesitation. Cincinnati was wholeheartedly for the Union and sent her full quota of men and resources and such leaders as McClellan, Pope, Hayes, Cox, Lytle, Force, Bates, McCook, Rosecrans, Moore, Mitchell, Weitzel, Hill, Anderson, Hickenlooper, Smith, Garrard, Banning, Kenner, Garrard, Willich, McLean, Ludlow and Noyes, and others of nationwide fame.

For four years, a border city, she was menaced by raids such as those of Morgan and Kirby Smith. To meet the latter in 1862 came the "Squirrel Hunters" reminding us of the "Minute Men" of the Revolution and under the martial law of Lew Wallace, every able bodied citizen did his bit in digging trenches and building defenses.

Then came Peace, the linking with the new South by a great railway, then expanding slowly but surely in all directions—a great manufacturing city of diversified industries, conservative but progressive business habits, a contented home-owning and home-loving people, a center of art and music and culture, a beauty of hills, valleys and rivers unsurpassed in the world—a city to live in, work in and be happy.

Reduced transportation rates may be secured

on railroad and bus lines by groups of three or more, provided the group travels together. This saving is considerable and the matter is well worth looking into.

The response to our appeal for the National Patriotic Instructors Fund has been most gratifying. Will your name be on the report when I submit it at Cincinnati?

C. LeROY STOUDET,  
National Patriotic Instructor.

**CARD OF THANKS**

The family of the late Mrs. Florence M. Grundy, National Press Correspondent, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, wish to take this opportunity to thank the many friends and members who so kindly expressed their sympathy at her passing.

MRS. BETTY BROOKS (daughter).

**Civil War Calendar****May:**

1, 4. Gen. R. E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia defeated General Hooker's Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville. Gen. T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson, C.S.A., was mortally wounded. On May 2 the Southerners routed Union General Howard's soldiers from their breastworks on the plank road.

5, 1864. Generals Grant and Meade battled General Lee in the first Battle of the Wilderness, near Chancellorsville, Va. Result was indecisive.

15, 1864. Gen. W. T. Sherman and the Union troops, marching through Georgia, defeated Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, C.S.A., at Resaca, Ga.

**June:**

2, 1862. Gen. Robert E. Lee, C.S.A., given command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

16, 1863. The U. S., Michigan and Kentucky cavalry fought an engagement with General Morgan's Confederate cavalry at Triplet's Br. Ky.

27, 1864. Gen. W. T. Sherman's Federal troops defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Ga.



Lincoln's Statue in Cincinnati where it is planned to hold services during our Encampment next August. All members are urged to attend as this is the first time in five years that all of the Allied Family will be together again.

**GENERAL ORDER No. 3  
Series 1954-1955**

Headquarters  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War

1135 - 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.  
1 May 1955



1. Appropriate observance of Memorial Day, our opportunity to pay due respect and homage to the memory of our fathers and grandfathers who preserved this great country "one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all," is a foremost duty of our Order. Department Commanders will see that camps in their Departments participate appropriately in the observance in their localities, joining with other patriotic organizations where the decoration of veterans' graves is already organized.

2. A hearty welcome is extended to our new camp, Redwood Empire Camp No. 25 at Santa Rosa, Calif. Congratulations to the California Department on its organization, and best wishes for a successful life to the new Camp.

3. The appropriateness of placing the Bible on the Flag at our altar continues to be questioned. The rules for showing proper respect to the Flag do caution against placing anything on it. These rules were adopted by Public Law 623, 77th Congress, second session. It is reported that the Grand Army of the Republic considered the matter and decided to continue the practice of placing the Bible on the Flag at the altar. It is so prescribed in our Ritual. The matter was debated at some length at our last National Encampment, but no amendment of the Ritual was passed or proposed. The practice is therefore, still prescribed in our Ritual and will be continued until changed by appropriate formal action. We shall not go wrong if we follow the example of the Grand Army of the Republic, and as our National Counselor has said: "The Bible is 'the rule and guide of our faith' . . . the inference or supposition that the Bible in any way can desecrate the flag of our Country is preposterous." The caution in the law is not believed to be applicable in this case.

4. Department Commanders are enjoined to make every effort to secure the attendance of full delegations at the National Encampment in Cincinnati. With our Congressional Charter and the increased activities of the past year, our Order has definitely turned a corner and a broad highway of enhanced patriotic usefulness and success lies before us, if we but have the enterprise and gumption to pursue it. For the first time in five years all the organizations of the G.A.R. family will again be meeting in the same place—this Encampment and family reunion at our invitation must be a success, an event to which we will all look back with pleasure and pride. Cincinnati, August 21 to 25, 1955, is a must to all of us Sons. Send in your hotel reservations without further delay and make your travel arrangements now. The Sons and Auxiliary will be at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel.

5. The Commander-in-Chief has wanted to at-

tend all Department Encampments; but manifestly this has been physically impossible because of overlapping dates, the size of our great Country, and other obligations he had assumed before his re-election, as was fully explained at the time. He wishes to assure any Departments which he must miss, that his failure to attend their Encampments has been due only to circumstances over which he had no control and has been most distressing to him.

6. Department Commanders, Secretaries and other officers are urged to do all in their power to increase subscriptions to the Banner, our only means of keeping ourselves informed of the Order's activities and needs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Albert C. Lambert, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.; Charles H. E. Moran, 17 St. Louis Avenue, Willimansett, Mass.  
U. S. GRANT, 3rd,  
Commander-in-Chief.

**The Swamp Angel**

This 200-pounder was the first gun to fire shells during the Federal siege of Charleston, S. C. It opened fire August 31, 1863, and burst after the 36th round. It was named The Swamp Angel by Federal troops comprising Marsh Battery on Morris Island. This Battery was part of the command of General Gilmore of

Trenton, N. J. This relic was erected and placed in position on its stone pedestal at the intersection of Perry Street and North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, N. J., in February, 1877.

The 85th Pennsylvania participated in a greater number of battles, up to November, 1864, than any other regiment in the 5th Corps. It took part in 25, next came the 1st Michigan, 24, and then the 16th Michigan, 22.

No regiment captured so much on a single charge as was captured by the 1st Vermont Cavalry at the battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Commandery-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
c/o Albert C. Lambert, National Sec.-Treas.  
River Road and Maple Drive  
Washington Crossing, N. J.

Mail Address: P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.

**H. J. 53**

In the March issue of the Banner you recall the facsimile of HJ 53 as the bill introduced to the 84th Congress, first session, by our good, hardworking friend Rep. Kenneth B. Keating of New York "designating November 19, the anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, as Dedication Day." Representative Keating played a leading role in securing for our Order its Federal Charter, authorized last August 20, and is again fighting just as hard to secure Dedication Day for us as our tribute to our fathers' hero and his ideas and ideals. Now it's your turn to get into the picture and show your interest in the establishment of November 19 as a special Day (not a holiday) on our national calendar. Your representative reads his mail from his home district because he is interested in what his neighbors back home are thinking about and want in the line of legislation. Much of this mail is re-read and receives his sober consideration. Mail from you is important to him in spite of the notion that "one letter, more or less, won't have any effect." Write your representative stating your views on HJ 53 and why the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War desire the enactment of Representative Keating's HJ 53 which is the very essence of patriotic Americanism. If your representative is not a member of the House Committee of the Judiciary, to which HJ 53 has been referred, ask him to solicit the considerate interest of the members themselves that we of the SUVCW may do a better job and better memorialize Abraham Lincoln and the Grand Army of the Republic.

**Committee on the Judiciary**—Messrs. Celler (chairman), Walter, Lane, Feighan, Chelf, Willis, Frazier, Rodino, Jones of North Carolina, Forrester, Rogers of Colorado, Donohue, Fine, Brooks of Texas, Tuck, Ashmore, Quigley, Boyle, Reed of Illinois, Keating, McCulloch, Miss Thompson of Michigan, Messrs. Hillings, Crumpacker, Miller of New York, Taylor, Burdick, Curtis of Massachusetts, Robison of Kentucky, Hyde, Poff, and Scott.  
FRED E. COLWELL, Chairman,  
National Legislative Committee.

**Flag and Altar Usage Clarified**

The following is a decision of National Counselor Locke, and should settle this question for all concerned.

The Bible is "the rule and guide of our faith." The Flag is the symbol of our Nation signifying the freedom and the rights held by all American citizens. The inference or the supposition that the Holy Bible can in any way desecrate the Flag of our Country is preposterous.

It is only by reason of the spiritual teaching of the Bible and the political principles represented by our Flag that our Country has attained its position as the best government ever devised by the minds of men. The Holy Bible and our Flag must never be separated.

The most of our beliefs are based upon the principles represented by the Grand Army of the Republic. The Grand Army always placed the Bible upon the Flag on the Altar of each Post. I have yet to know of any instance where our fathers failed to do the right thing.

**Memorial Day, 1955**

With the approach of another Memorial Day, we face an even greater challenge than even before.

Having been granted a Federal Charter, the Sons of Union Veterans, have in effect, been recognized as the heirs of The Grand Army of the Republic. Are we proving ourselves worthy of that honor? As our thoughts go back to the first Memorial Day 87 years ago, established as it was, by the Grand Army, and carried on by them until the end, the challenge goes out to us—"Will we do the same?"

How many of our Camps are really carrying on for our parents Organization, by sponsoring the observance in their Community? In too many instances we have been content to stand idly by, and leave some other Veteran or Patriotic Society take over that which we should be doing. The result is that instead of promoting the observance of the Day, we are merely invited to participate, and in many cases we do not do that. We are content to "Let George do it."

It, therefore, becomes necessary for us, if we are to justify our heritage and our existence as an Organization, to take a more active interest not only in Memorial Day, but in everything relating to the Grand Army, as well as to those civic affairs which will benefit our Community and Nation. Not until then can we answer the words of Lincoln by saying we have "Dedicated ourselves to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

C. LeROY STOUTD,  
National Patriotic Instructor.

**New Camp in California**

National Secretary Lambert informs me that a charter application has been received from the Department of California for a new Camp to be located in Santa Rosa. This Camp will be known as Redwood Empire Camp 25. The actual institution took place on March 12, but the Charter is being held open for 90 days for additional signatures. Brothers Vernon E. Cheney and James A. Hughes are listed as organizers. Congratulations to them and a warm welcome to the members of the new Camp.

**ANCIENT FORT FOR SALE CHEAP**

You can get a bargain if you want an old fort in Charleston harbor. It is known as Castle Pinckney.

The only historical value of the dilapidated structure is age and the fact it was used as a Civil War prison. The original Castle Pinckney was a log structure. An earlier version of Hurricane Hazel made a pile of fire wood out of it in 1804.

The present brick structure—or what remains of it—was completed in 1810, and named after Charleston's Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, ambassador to France after the Revolution.

Part of the masonry foundation, a frame dwelling and a large brick warehouse are about all that are left standing.

Pinckney and the island have been juggled back and forth between the U. S. Engineers, who used it as a storage depot, and the National Parks Service, which wants to get rid of it.



## Department News



**ILLINOIS**—The Department of Illinois extends sincere sympathy to the National Organization on the loss of its National Press Correspondent, Sister Florence M. Grundy.

It was with a sense of great honor and sincere humility that I learned from our National President, Sister Ellinore Konrad that the National Council had elected me to the office of National Press Correspondent, to fill the unexpired term of Sister Grundy. I wish to express my thanks and pledge myself to carry on in a manner which will not only be a credit to the office, but of great help to the Organization.—Ethel C. Heilemann, N.P.C.

The Illinois Department Officers were entertained by General Custer Auxiliary No. 30 recently. A hot dinner was served to approximately 65 guests.

On March 20, the Past Department Presidents had a luncheon at the Central Plaza Hotel, in Chicago, after which they held their meeting at the home of Past National President, Sister Eva Blackman.

Weekly card parties are being held at the home of our Department Chief of Staff, Ethel C. Heilemann, as one of her projects to raise money for the Chief of Staff Fund.

On Sunday, April 17, Auxiliary No. 7, Aurora, entertained the Department Commander and President with their staff of officers.

Old Glory Auxiliary No. 32, is entertaining the Department Officers on Sunday, April 24.

On Saturday, April 23, the Illinois Department is holding its annual Bazaar in Naperville, Illinois, the home of our Department President. Proceeds to go to the Chief of Staff Fund.

The Eva B. Blackmann Junior Auxiliary No. 3 is functioning actively, and has been invited to participate in the Memorial Day Parade, with the other Patriotic Orders in Chicago.

The Department of Illinois was saddened recently by the death two Past Department Presidents, who passed away within three days of each other: Sister Florence M. Grundy, National Press Correspondent, and Sister Mae Gabel. In fact, Auxiliary No. 32 lost four members in less than two weeks by death. "May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and may life perpetual shine upon them."

**KANSAS**—The Kansas Department is looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to entertaining the National President, Sister Ellinore Konrad for two days at its 65th Annual Encampment to be held in Topeka, Kansas, May 1, 2 and 3.

**MASSACHUSETTS**—Ex-mayor Ed Crane of Cambridge and "Hymie" Pill were made "associates" of Higginson-Couden Camp 56, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at impressive ceremonies in city hall annex, Cambridge. George E. Wells, Worcester, a member of the governor's council, is another of recent additions to this group of outstanding citizens able to affiliate with the S.U.V.

A degree staff composed of Past State Commanders and Past National Officers officiated under auspices of North Metropolitan District Association. These included Fred W. Butler, Past President Association, as master of work, with staff headed by John B. Davis, Past Commander of the New Hampshire Department, also State Department Commander Charles W. Hooper; Past State Commanders Henry F. Weiler and Louis E. Winchell, and Harold M. Drown of Stoughton, Past National Public Relations Officer.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Drown of Stoughton, served as chairman and secretary, respectively, for the State Department Encampment, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Auxiliary, which was held April 29-30 and May 1, in the Bradford Hotel, Boston. It is thought to be the first time a husband and wife have served in this capacity during the 75 years of the organization.

**MICHIGAN**—Camp No. 1, Detroit: Two more applications March 21. Observed the 45th Anniversary of Camp 1, April 18, at the Veterans Memorial Building, with two new applications and a birthday cake. Charles R. Cowdin, PDC, is in Ann Arbor Hospital with an eye infection.

**Camp No. 4, Detroit:** Commander George R. Raub, Sr., brought about a nice addition to the Detroit Memorial Day parade for May 30: the Sons of the American Revolution will parade.

**Camp No. 5, Detroit:** Gen. U. S. Grant Camp observed its First Anniversary April 15, with its new Auxiliary, which closed its charter March 21. At each monthly meeting the Camp receives one or more applications. The Auxiliary's Charter will be presented May 20 by Department President of the Auxiliary, Isabel Durand of Marshall. The Camp members will attend the ceremony.

**Detroit Memorial Day Association for 1955:** Its Annual Meeting was held March 16 at the Veterans Memorial Building. Election of officers resulted in the Sons receiving the best representation in the history of the Association. Sons elected were: Second Vice-President, Charles F. Dexter of Camp 1; Treasurer, Charles R. Cowdin of Camp 1; Trustee, George R. Raub, Sr., of Camp 4; Automobile Chairman, Milo C. Newer, Sr., of Camp 5, and Grandstand Chairman, Robert F. Woodbury of Camp 5.

The Grand Marshal appointed Brother Dexter to command the First (G.A.R.) Division in the Detroit Memorial Day parade, which is made up of the Sons, Allied Orders and National Veterans of Indian Wars.

**Central Region Conference:** A committee has been organized, composed of the Detroit Camps and Auxiliaries, to make arrangements for the Annual Conference at Detroit, as follows: Camp 1 Commander, Edward Countryman, Chairman; National Personal Aide, Charles F. Dexter, as Counselor; Camp 4 Commander, George R. Raub, Sr.; Camp 5 Commander, Milo C. Newer, Sr.; Camp 8, Past Department Commander, Donald F. Peacock; Auxiliary 8 President, Marie Peters; and Auxiliary President 16, Vallie Morehead. On March 21 the Committee voted to hold the Conference and Dinner at the Detroit-Leland Hotel, October 15 and 16, 1955. Details forthcoming later.

The City of Detroit, Memorial Hall Commission,  
(Continued on Next Page)

Department News (Continued)  
has named one of the rooms in the Veterans Memorial Building in honor of the Grand Army of the Republic. Such action is to be commended when in so many localities, the rooms that formerly were set aside for the Grand Army and their Allied Organizations have been usurped for other purposes. We say "thanks" to the City of Detroit.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**—The 73rd annual convention of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at Concord, N. H., April 22-23, was opened in form at 10:15 a. m. Friday. With much honor and respect we were privileged to welcome as a guest to our meeting, our Commander in Chief, Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, III, Ret.

The newly installed officers are as follows: Commander, Clarence M. Edmunds, Henniker; Senior Vice-Commander, Richard E. Wyman, Keene; Junior Vice-Commander, Howard Wheeler, Milford; Secretary-Treasurer, Jackson C. Carr, Hillsboro.

**Alton:** Mrs. Leon Palmer was re-elected as President of Auxiliary No. 5 at their last meeting. Delegates were elected to attend the Annual Encampment in Concord April 22 and 23.

At the Sunday morning Services on March 27, Mrs. Lois Alden, District Chaplain, presented the Alton Congregational Church with two brass collection plates, which match their Communion Plates. The presentation was one of Mrs. Alden's projects for the year.

**Keene:** The Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary has been chosen to do the floor work at the Department Encampment in Concord, April 22-23. Following the last meeting of the Auxiliary a social time was held, with music and games.

**NEW JERSEY**—Camps have been holding annual inspections which result in welcome visitations. The New Jersey State Camp held its semi-annual dinner meeting in Trenton on April 23 and received several new members. Bloomfield Auxiliary No. 7 will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a dinner on May 21. The annual Encampment will be held at the Hotel Kingsley Arms in Asbury Park on June 17 and 18. All Camps report plans in readiness for Memorial Day decoration of graves and Memorial Day observances.

**NEW YORK**—Gen. A. S. Diven Camp of Elmira has sent a resolution to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the monument to the 107th New York Volunteers be repaired. They also sent a similar resolution to the City of New York asking that the same procedure be followed in regards to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in New York City. One new member has been taken in this quarter. Plans are being made for Memorial Day.

The Annual Meeting and picnic of the Southern Tier Association will be held the third Sunday in July at the G.A.R. Hall in Halsey Valley.

King Camp, Troy, mourns the loss of William H. Burk, Sr., a 50-year member.

The Camps and Auxiliaries of Greater New York held their annual services at Grant's Tomb on April 24. Guests present were Commander-in-Chief Grant, National President Konrad, Department Commander Bruckel and Department Presi-

dent More. Due to the heavy rainfall it was necessary to hold the services inside the Tomb.

Under more pleasant weather conditions the annual services of the Northern New York Club were held at Mount McGregor on Sunday, May 1.

William B. Tibbets Auxiliary are planning to hold their fiftieth Anniversary on June 4. Ovid Auxiliary is formulating plans for Memorial Day.

**Allied Orders** of the G.A.R. Family will meet in Rochester June 22 to 25 in the three leading hotels for their annual New York Department Encampment and election of officers. Women's Relief Corps will have charge of an "Allied Order Open House" on the evening of June 22 in the Seneca Ballroom. The following day Sons of Union Veterans and Auxiliaries will hold their sessions in Sheraton Hotel. Daughters of Union Veterans will hold forth on June 23 and 24 in Powers Hotel and Women's Relief Corps and Ladies of the G.A.R. will meet in Seneca Hotel. Plans for a trip around the city and to Eastman House are in the making for out-of-city delegates.

Sons of Union Veterans will hold its annual Gettysburg Anniversary celebration in Lower Maplewood Park, Rochester, N. Y., on Sunday, July 3 from 3 to 7 p. m. This will be a basket, family picnic affair but with entertainment features throughout the afternoon and a formal program for one hour from 4 to 5 p. m. Allied Bodies and all Western N. Y. Sons of Union Veterans and Auxiliaries are invited with special request for Past and new State Department officers to be present.

**PENNSYLVANIA**—Mead Camp Reading named Mrs. Marguerite Voss Osman, executive secretary of the Berks County Civil Defense Council to receive the camp's "Good Citizen Award for 1955."

The annual Memorial Church Service will be held on May 29 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church.

**RHODE ISLAND**—At the meeting of the Rhode Island Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their Auxiliary, April 2, Department Commander George A. Strait and his staff of officers initiated one candidate, Kenneth Curtis Strait, who becomes a member of Colonel Barton Camp No. 19 of Providence. The initiation was conducted by Ins. Officer Harry J. Geer and Guide Wallace J. Macomber.

At the 67th Annual Convention of the Department of Rhode Island, April 16, the following department officers were elected and installed:

Commander, A. Waller Lewis, Jr.; Senior Vice Commander, William E. Perry; Junior Vice Commander, Clarence E. Young; Department Council, George A. Strait, Wallace J. Macomber, Arran Plante; Memorial Day Committee, Harold E. Arnold, three years; Harry J. Geer, two years; Joseph Plante, one year; Treasurer, Robert G. E. Fowler; Secretary, Harold E. Arnold.

Colonel James McQuade, of the 14th New York Volunteers, was the only regimental commander of Griffin's Brigade who escaped death during the Seven Day's Battles on the Peninsula.

General W. P. Roberts of North Carolina, was the youngest brigadier general in the Confederate Army.

## MINUTES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### April 29, 1955

1. The meeting was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Grant at 3 p. m. in the Bradford Hotel, where the following were attending the Department Encampment of the Massachusetts Department:

Commander-in-Chief U. S. Grant, 3rd; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Frederic G. Bauer, Council Member Frederick G. Davis, Council Member George Kimball, National Secretary-Treasurer Albert C. Lambert.

The Commander-in-Chief read a letter from Miss Cora Gillis which suggested that we make a donation to Comrade Woolson to help defray extraordinary expenses incurred in his recent illness. Brother Frederick Davis made a motion that we send Comrade Woolson a check for \$200.00, same to be charged to the G.A.R. Fund. This motion was seconded by Brother Bauer and was carried unanimously.

3. After discussion regarding our Permanent Fund, Brother Bauer made a motion that the National Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to take up rights to be issued by the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. This motion was seconded by Brother Davis and was carried unanimously.

4. The National Secretary announced that the disbanded Department of Missouri had sent him a check in the amount of \$60.01 representing the cash balance in their treasury. Brother Kimball made a motion that funds of all disbanded Departments be placed in the Permanent Fund. This motion was carried after being seconded by Brother Davis.

5. In connection with legislation that is being sponsored to put all holidays on Mondays, the Council indicated its opinion that May 30 should be retained as Memorial Day and desired the Commander-in-Chief to so state on our behalf, if given an opportunity to appear at a hearing on such legislation.

6. The Commander-in-Chief stated that he had assured the Order of Founders and Patriots of America that our Order would favor the preservation of Admiral Dewey's flagship, the U. S. cruiser "Olympia" and would appear in behalf of legislation to this effect, but that we regrettably could make no contribution in money, and asked the Council's approval, which was given.

7. Brother Moran being present discussed and explained proposed changes to the C. and R. that his committee proposes to submit to the 1955 National Encampment.

After general discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

### Some Civil War Pension Statistics

Some weeks ago one of our brothers belonging to a Maine Camp wrote the Veterans Administration in Washington to enquire as to how much the government was spending on war pensions, having in mind that Comrade Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn., is the only Civil War pensioner.

In reply, J. Norman Lodge, Director of Information Service, replied as follows:

"In reply to your inquiry would say as you stated in your letter, there is only one veteran of the Union Army still alive. He is Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn.

"Although we do not officially maintain records of veterans of the Confederate Army, our latest information is that three of those veterans are still living.

"A total of 6,779 dependents of deceased Union Army veterans either are receiving compensation (for service-connected death) or pension (for non-service-connected death).

"Death compensation currently is being paid to 148 widows and 60 children. Death pension currently is being paid to 5,356 widows and 731 children under the general Civil War pension laws. Another 184 widows and 300 children are receiving pensions under special acts of Congress."

### Woolson Up for Top State Honor

The state legislature was asked to bestow upon Albert Woolson, 108, Duluth, America's last surviving Union army veteran of the Civil War, the Minnesota Service Medal, highest honor award of the state.

Gov. Orville Freeman would be authorized to present the medal and a citation to Woolson under a resolution introduced in the house and senate by the Duluth delegation.

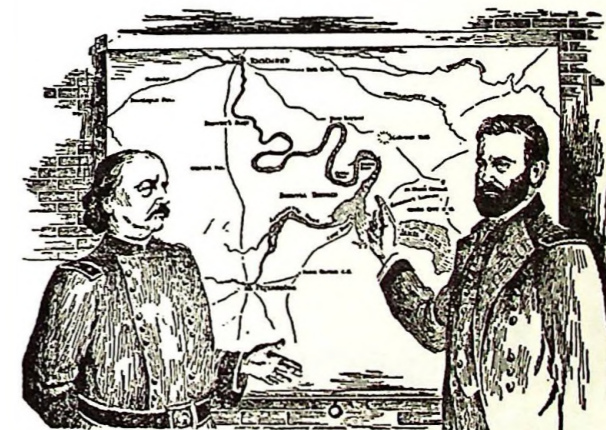
The service medal would be presented to Woolson in recognition of the military service he performed for the state and the nation. The resolution calls for Minnesota to "express to him and to the world the profoundest sentiments of respect and esteem in which he is held by all of his people."

A 10-member legislative committee will be named to present an engrossed copy of the resolution to Woolson. This committee will accompany the governor, Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Nelson, adjutant general, and members of his staff in the presentation ceremony. Date for the presentation has not yet been set.

The resolution notes that Woolson enlisted as a volunteer in Company C, First Minnesota heavy artillery, October 14, 1864, and served until the end of the Civil War.

"Mr. Woolson has for many years brought distinction to himself and the state of Minnesota through his patriotic and public-spirited service, culminating in his selection as national senior vice-commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic," the resolution said.

Wanvick said in introducing the resolution: most respected and beloved constituents. Through "He is my neighbor and my friend—one of my years his friendliness and his devotion to our country has endeared him to all who knew him, and especially to the children of the community to whom he is a teacher, a friend and patriarch.



This drawing by Hampton artist, Jack Clifton was hung recently in the Casement Museum at Fort Monroe. The picture shows Maj.-Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, left, talking with Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant who had come from the West to take command of all the Union armies in early April, 1864. The two leaders met at Fort Monroe. To Butler went the task of moving up the James against Richmond, while Grant hurled the Army of the Potomac against Gen. R. E. Lee in Northern Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,  
Washington D. C., May 5, 1868.

General Orders No. 11.

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and those bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, Comrades, as our Regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reville of freedom to a race in chains and their deaths a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remains to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon the Nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department Commanders will use every effort to make this Order effective.

N. P. CHIPMAN,  
Adjutant-General.

By command of  
JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief.

## BIBLE, FLAG AND ALTAR

(Continued From Last Issue)

With that as a starting point, thinking on the subject expanded. "During formal ceremonies an altar takes on special significance and recognition. For the time it ceases to be merely something made of wood, or marble, or other substance. It becomes a revered place for intercommunication between man and God; a place where petitions are presented to God and into his care are committed the work and objectives of the organization. To this end, the Grand Army shall have a chaplain who shall make its intercessions at the altar. Also, at the altar, in the presence of the members and Almighty God, the candidate shall take his obligation. And on the altar let us place the flag of our nation to signify that we entrust it and our country to God's special keeping." It was so ordered.

The Grand Army of the Republic leaders continued their planning. "Now," they said, "that we have made provision for God's place in the ceremonies and have placed the flag in His keeping—How shall we symbolize that this flag was saved and preserved by armed force? How shall we exemplify that the flag was protected by the valor of hundreds of thousands of our compatriots as well as by ourselves? What would be a better symbol than a sword, the flashing blade which so often led us forward? Let us, then, place crossed swords on the altar with the flag to show that the flag was preserved by the power of the sword, and that by the same power—if need come—we shall guard it!

But still the thinking of those wise men had not ended. Deep in their conviction was the belief that it was not by the sword alone that the flag and the nation had been preserved, but that it was also by the grace and will of God—on which Abraham Lincoln, their loved leader, so often placed his dependence when his generals faltered. So the Grand Army planners said: "How can our fraternity symbolize that it is our desire that God watch over our country, inspire it with Christian ideals, and join with us in being the Guardian and Protector of the flag? Surely only the Holy Bible can be the symbol of this faith and hope in Him, and that His Word is present in our midst."

Thus, finally, at the center of the post room and its ceremonies, were the Bible, the swords, the flag, and the altar. The symbolism that tied them into a composite relationship was perfect.

We who are Sons should be mindful that among our important heritages is an altar dating back nearly a century, and one that is weighted with profound and powerful meanings connecting country, flag and God into one union. When the chaplain is installed he is instructed to approach the altar with the reverence of "those who approach the Throne of God." And on our membership badge are the ever-memorable words, "Preserved by the Grace of God." We thus continue the faith of the Grand Army in that union of God and flag and country.

It is good to think of these things.

FREDERICK K. DAVIS.  
P. C.-in-C.