



CHARLES L. MESSER

It is with heavy hearts and a deep sense of sorrow that we report the death of Commander-in-Chief Charles L. Messer. Elected Commander-in-Chief at the 80th National Encampment held in Indianapolis last year, he entered upon his duties with enthusiasm, and devoted his entire time to the Office, of which he was very proud. He died in his sleep on May 3, and was buried in Memory's Gardens, Albany, N. Y. on May 6th.

To his wife, Lillian, his brother, two sisters, three sons, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, we extend such comfort and consolation as may flow from our assurance of profound love and sympathy in this dark hour.

May the blessing of God's peace, that passeth all understanding, rest upon and abide with them always.

Benjamin Franklin has likened death to an invitation from dear friends to join them on a pleasant trip abroad which is to last forever. We shall all receive invitations, but all of us could not conveniently start together. Brother Messer has gone before us, and we who are to follow will know where to find him.

We have lost a wonderful member. He has left us, but his good deeds will linger in our memories.

1868 - 1962

As the years pass by a habit becomes a custom, and a custom becomes a tradition. With each year comes the spring, and with each spring comes May 30—Memorial Day. This year is the 94th Memorial Day, counting from May 30, 1868 when General John A. Logan, then Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, determined that there should be a fitting tribute to his comrades.

In those days, the young men who had fought at Shiloh, at Appomattox, in the Wilderness and at Gettysburg still marched in solid ranks to honor the comrades who had died for the great and bloody victory just achieved.

Now the ranks have disappeared, to be replaced by others. The veterans of newer wars, bearing their tributes to fresher graves now march in the place of the men of the G. A. R. The day has altered in significance as well.

In its earlier years, this observance served both as a tribute of honor to the men who had worn the Union blue and as a means of keeping alive the enmities and passions of the fierce struggle that had only recently ended. With the passing of time, old wounds have been closed, hatreds have been ended and new wars have forged stronger ties of unity between the old sectional divisions of the land.

Memorial Day honors all men who bore the heat and burden of the day, who waited fearfully and prayerfully through the terrifying barrage to advance before a rain of shrieking steel and who, in the end, gave all they had that was precious, even life itself, for their country's cause. As the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will carry on their tradition by decoration of graves, holding services, and parades.

In each Banner you have heard our plea for support of the G. A. R. Memorial Fund. I would like to take a minute now to acknowledge the support given not this year, but last year. As you have been told, one of the projects supported by the G. A. R. Memorial Fund is an annual scholarship to a deserving student. National headquarters has advised me that the Dean of Gettysburg College has announced that the scholarship for this year has been awarded to Raymond E. Menges, Jr., who is a freshman there.

Mr. Menges is an earnest and hardworking young man who is keenly interested in certain aspects

THE BANNER

Published bi-monthly by National Headquarters of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This Order was founded in 1881 and is the only male organization recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic. A Congressional Charter has been granted to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

All items for publication must be received by the 25th day of December, February, April, June, August, and October. Subscription \$1.00 yearly—all subscriptions expire on the first day of each year.

Albert C. Lambert, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.

of American History. Education is more than precious, in this day and age it is costly. But a student of history has received the vital help he needs, and this was made possible by last year's contributors to the G. A. R. Memorial Fund. On behalf of everyone concerned, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who contributed to this fund. Next year's scholarship will bring help to another deserving student IF you help today. If your contribution to the G. A. R. Memorial Fund has not been mailed, do it TODAY. The precious heritage you help to save not only may be, but is, your own. Mail your contribution to me at 117 Palmer Lane, Trenton 8, N. J. My thanks will be insignificant in comparison to your great pride in knowing a good job will continue to be "well done."

* * * *

By action of the 1961 National Encampment, Forms 60 and 61 have been discontinued. In lieu of Form 61, Department Patriotic Instructors are requested to submit a duplicate copy of their annual report to the National Patriotic Instructor.

ALBERT W. LAMBERT,
National Patriotic Instructor.

National Membership Committee

As Chairman of the National Membership Committee I have written to all District Chairmen, and as far as possible to the Department Jr. Vice Commanders appointed by Commander-in-Chief Messer to serve on that Committee. I urge all Committee Members to put forth every effort in the remaining months of this administration to boost our membership. Whether your labors produce one new recruit or twenty, it will all contribute to the total at the end of this year.

I have spoken in the interests of the Membership endeavor in many places this winter both to large and small meetings as well as to individuals. The winter just past has been an exceedingly difficult one in many ways for our organization; meetings were curtailed, sometimes cancelled, and sickness or death has entered the homes of a great many of our Brothers. Our sympathy and our love goes out to those so afflicted.

I do feel very much concerned that our total membership is declining as rapidly as it is at the present time. We are losing by death many of our senior members, and we are not replacing them as we must if this Order is to survive. It is a difficult task we face, I know, for we encounter the many attractions of the modern ways that people use for entertainment in the vast amount of leisure available today.

Then too the Patriotism of the sort known in bygone days seems to many folks Old Fashioned; many people are indifferent, apathetic; I hope America wakes up before it is too late.

Our Nation was founded on Faith in Almighty God—Our Fathers believed in GOD; that same Faith will sustain our beloved Country today.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War believes in the principles of the Grand Army of the Republic. Let us keep our ranks strong! Our Organization is needed in the nation today.

I request all Districts and Departments to report to the National Chairman by August first so that the National Report to the Encampment may be completed by that time.

Let's all pull together for a substantial increase in membership, thus showing our pride in our heritage, and proving ourselves worthy of the faith our Fathers had in us.

ARTHUR LEWIS BALLOU,
Chairman of National Membership Committee.

YOU'RE LUCKY

You can positively enjoy every moment of the Civil War Centennial. You had a father, a grandfather, or a great-grandfather, who served in the Union forces during the U. S.' most remembered war. In fact, your whole family can enjoy this exciting period by reliving the stirring events of the 1860's with you.

The battles and marches, the arguments and contentions, the victories and defeats can be as real to you as when they happened to your ancestor. All you need is a little preparation.

Most of you have a box put away in a drawer—or a trunk in the attic—or in the cellar—wherein you have the letters—or the effects—or the trophies of your Civil War progenitor.

Resurrect them—take them out—rearrange them in as much of a chronological order as you can (you'll probably find photos and pictures—and perhaps the story of his regiment). You'll find the whole story of his campaigns and adventures beginning to grow on you.

Wherever you live, when you get the chance, take a trip to the different places he mentions and absorb the sights, scenes, and atmospheres—remembering what happened to him there. If you are fortunate to live close enough to these places, you can do this on week ends. In any event, this is a thrilling way to spend your vacations. You will find the sites of his battles already developed for your purposes by the government—local or state or national. In many cases, monuments and statues will commemorate great happenings—and they will re-create themselves in your mind more and more vividly.

This will be an extraordinary experience for you. You will find yourself becoming increasingly personally identified with your ancestor (as you plan his and your next move, why it was made, and what he must have felt)—and surprising discoveries will come to you. You will learn more real history than from a thousand books. You will know the tides of battle as they flow back and forth across a given terrain—and I'll bet you'll even hear the bugles blowing as if from afar off.

You will probably have a friend—or friends—who will envy you your pleasures. Share them with him. Tell him, if he thinks he had an ancestor who served in the Union or Confederate forces, to write to the National Archives, Washington 25, D. C. Give his ancestor's name and state from which he served. In return, this service will be confirmed and the name of the unit given. For \$1. you can obtain copies of the records.

Elaborate histories of most regiments were printed in after years. You may find his at the local library, or at the historical society of the particular state from which he served. The most complete collection is in the New York Library. In addition, you can get information about his unit's battles and campaigns through the state historian. The National Archives also has records of units.

If your friend did not have an ancestor in the war, he can "adopt" a regiment. Most Civil War units were raised by states and even by counties and towns. Probably his town sent a group of volunteers. With little difficulty, he can learn the number of a regiment and follow it through the war. He may even find descendants in the town. The local library most likely has a history of the regiment.

Then, tell us of your adventures with your Civil War Veteran. We believe they will make most entertaining reading (and probably instructive as well).

ERNEST G. WELLS, Chairman,
Civil War Centennial Committee.

Another difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.

If Patrick Henry thought taxation without representation was so terrible, he should see it with representation.

Love of country means love of countrymen.

General Order No. 4
Series 1961-1962

Headquarters
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
633 Clinton Avenue
Albany, New York

May 1, 1962.

1. Once again your Commander-in-Chief greets each member fraternally, and with best wishes for all the year. As our fiscal year draws to a close, and warm weather is in the offing, it is time to put our shoulders to the wheel, and get behind the Membership Chairman and his committee. New members are the life blood of our Order, and without them we will cease to exist. I am happy to announce that Russell E. Lawrence of Bristol, Conn. has been appointed a Special National Aide for securing five new members.

2. The following have been appointed as members of the Membership Committee:

William Loomer	Frank Woerner
19 Haydock Ave.	11200 Eastwood Ave.
Shrewsbury, Mass.	Inglewood, Calif.

3. Department Encampments will be held during the next two months, and I request all Junior Vice Department Commanders to get busy on the membership drive. They are requested to report to me by August 1st on how many new members are secured in their Departments. I sincerely hope that each Department will show a gain in membership.

4. Memorial Day is fast approaching. I sincerely wish that every Brother will participate in the services commemorating the services of the Grand Army of the Republic who founded Memorial Day, after preserving the Union.

5. Services at the Cathedral of the Pines will again be held on May 30, and as I will not be able to be present, I will be represented by P. D. C. Harold Shepardson and Brother Moses Heiman of Massachusetts.

6. The next General Order will contain convention appointments for our National Encampment to be held in Washington, August 19-23. To all those who have sickness in their families, and to those who have lost loved ones, your Commander-in-Chief extends deepest sympathy, and with a sincere wish that those who are sick will soon be restored to health.

7. Your attention is called to the importance of supporting the G. A. R. Memorial Fund. I hope that all Members, Camps and Departments will send donations to Natl. Patr. Instr. Albert W. Lambert.

CHARLES L. MESSER,
Commander-in-Chief.

The easiest person to deceive is yourself.

LINCOLN ASSASSINATION MARKED



40 separate patriotic societies and veterans organizations presented 53 wreaths at the annual memorial ceremony at President Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, on April 15, the ninety-seventh anniversary of the Civil War President's death. This marks the sixth consecutive year in which the date has been commemorated under the sponsorship of our national organization, assisted by The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. The many wreaths bespeak the reverence in which Mr. Lincoln's memory is held today by all Americans.

The posting of the Colors was perhaps the most vivid portion of the exercises. Under the direction of Douglas A. Henry, Parade Marshal, 13 units, each with its flags, marched to their positions at the top of the steps in front of the Tomb. The invocation and benediction were given by Frank B. Huntington, Chaplain and Ex-Commander of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion, who has performed this duty each year. A squad from the Springfield Inter-Veterans Council fired the salute and a bugler from the same organization sounded Taps.

There were two addresses at the Tomb. Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cecil McConahay of our Order recited Mr. Lincoln's February 11, 1861 Springfield farewell, which has come to be an integral part of the service, and was followed by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief H. Durston Saylor II of the Loyal Legion.

Immediately after the ceremony, 112 people gathered at the State House Inn for a luncheon. Seated at the head table were Douglas A. Henry, Springfield Inter-Veterans Council; Mrs. Capitola Rehrmann, Natl. Secy. Aux.; Mrs. Irma M. Taylor, Dept. Pres. Ill. DUVCW; Mrs. Gladys N. High, Natl. Chaplain Dames of the Loyal Legion; Cecil McConahay, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief SUVCW; George L. Cashman, Dept. Comdr. Illinois SUVCW; James L. High, Recorder, Illinois MOLLUS; Rev. Wellington P. Witkop, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield; S. Phil Hutchison, guest speaker; H. Durston Saylor II, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief MOLLUS; Mrs. Marie Robinson, Natl. Pres. DUVCW; and Frank B. Huntington, Chaplain Illinois MOLLUS.

As in the past, Mayor Lester E. Collins of Springfield welcomed all to his city. The guest speaker was S. Phil Hutchison, a former president of the Sangamon County Bar Association, a student of Lincolniana, and a member of the Abe Lincoln Players of Springfield. Each person received a small Lincoln plate presented by the Loyal Legion.

A chartered bus, furnished through the courtesy of the Sons of Union Veterans, operated between the State House Inn and the Tomb.

Co-Chairmen of the Committee in charge were George L. Cashman, Curator of the Lincoln Tomb as well as Illinois Department Commander of the Sons, and James L. High, Recorder of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion. The other Committee members were M. J. Burns, Jr., Carl G. Hodges and W. Glen Davis, all of the Illinois Department.

ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING

Amvets—National and Illinois Department
Amvets—Auxiliary, Springfield Post 61

American War Dads—National
American War Mothers

(Continued on Page Five)

Grand Army History News

Gary C. Krug, of the Orders and Medals Society of America, has sent us a most interesting letter, as follows:

"My interest in the Grand Army of the Republic is through medal collecting. For my money, the G.A.R. membership badge was THE United States Civil War Campaign Medal for 40 years, until the Federal Government came out with their medal in 1905 for Civil War Service.

"In my collection is the Congressional Medal of Honor given to Martin J. Hawkins, one of the Andrews Raiders. Along with the medal is the Ohio Civil War Medal and the G.A.R. medal. This group of three pieces is the pride of my collection.

"My interest in G.A.R. pieces has not extended to all of the National and State Encampment pieces, but it easily could. Just this past week, I was taken up with some G.A.R. post cards which I thought would help me in displaying my G.A.R. and Civil War material.

"A good collection of G.A.R. pieces is held by the President of our Society, while I am told that another member in the Philadelphia area has an extensive collection of this material.

"I am now trying to find out about a variety of the G.A.R. Badge, in which one of the corps badges in the reverse design is different than the majority of the pieces that are met with. I would also like to get a complete list of Commanders so as to attribute the various initials preceding the serial numbers on the stars. (This has already been sent him. E.G.W.) Also, I want to find out when the serial numbers was discontinued.

"What cooperation would you like from our group? Please let me know."

We should do whatever we can to encourage contacts with good people like Mr. Krug and the Orders and Medals Society of America.

Whoever can help him, or answer his questions, please write to Gary C. Krug, 502 No. Waiola Ave., La Grange, Illinois.

ERNEST G. WELLS, Chairman,
National Grand Army History Committee,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

OUR SOLDIER DEAD

Where the flaming cannon had roared their hate
And the stuttering guns their chant of hell,
Where the Blue and the Grey met face to face
In the crimson whirlpool of wrath they fell.

In the ghostly light of a misty morn
By the side of streams that were running red,
Mid the fearful lash of the leaden hail
They joined with the army of silent dead.

Neath the blazing drench of a noonday sun
Where the earth was swept with consuming breath,
Where the Gods of War hurled their deadly bolts
They smiled as they rendezvoused with death.

Where the churning ground in the frightful din
Was upward flung on the lance of flame,
They reddened the soil with a scarlet stream
As they kept unsullied the Nation's name.

There in the hush of a star spangled hour
When the shells had spread their lurid light,
In the sudden crash of the screaming steel
Death singled them out and their souls took flight.

And now in the calm of a later day
When the Angel of Peace her wings have spread,
With reverent hearts our tributes we pay
In honor and love for our noble dead.

As the moons and the suns of tomorrows
Over their graves shed the silver and gold,
May the memory, pride and affection
Of our hearts never wane and grow cold.

Elmer P. Whittredge,
Camp 51, Chelsea, Mass.

RICHARD F. LOCKE Past Commander-in-Chief

Died April 25, 1962

We deeply mourn the passing of Brother Richard F. Locke, a colorful, loyal, and energetic member for more than sixty years.

A friend, consultant, and confidant of many Past Commanders-in-Chief, he served the Order that he loved, in many capacities, serving as National Counselor on numerous occasions.

He served as Department Commander of the Illinois Department, and in 1935 was elected to the office of Commander-in-Chief. He presided at the National Encampment held in Washington, D. C. in 1936.

He was buried from the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois on Saturday, April 28th. At the request of the family, flowers were omitted. Contributions in his memory may be sent to the Illinois Masonic Children's Home.

"Dick" Locke has made a lasting impression on a grateful organization, and will always be remembered for the principles that he so long advocated.

To his family, we extend deep sympathy in their great loss.

The Mayflower invites you to attend the National Encampments

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
AUGUST 18-23, 1962

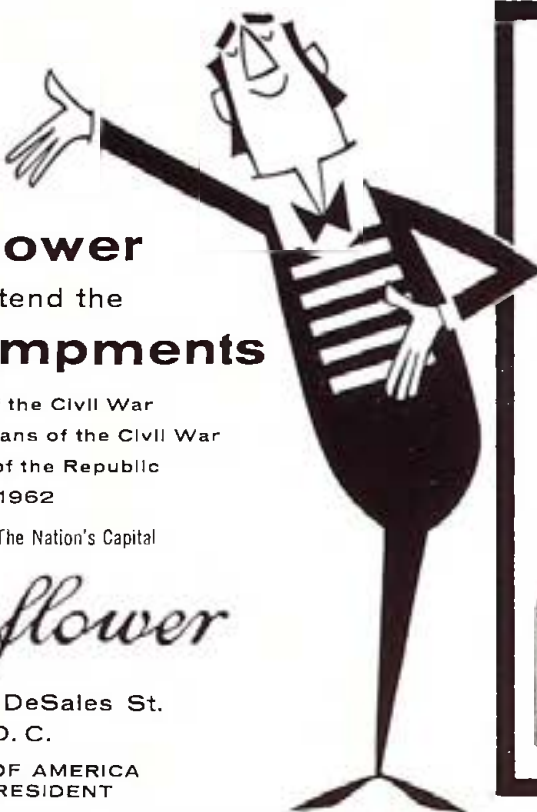
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The 81st National Encampment

Will be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., August 19-23, 1962 and promises to be outstanding. Previous Washington Encampments were in 1902, 1909, 1915, and 1936.

The Camp-Fire to be held on Sunday evening, August 19 in the Ballroom of the Hotel will feature addresses by U. S. Senator Karl Mundt of South Dakota, and U. S. Senator Kenneth B. Keating of New York. Many hereditary and veteran groups will be represented with their colors.

The United States Marine Band will play at the Camp-Fire. This is the first time we have been so favored since the 1949 Encampment in Indianapolis. Plans also call for an outstanding Choral Group to participate.

The Columbia Historical Society will have a Civil War exhibit in the lobby of the hotel during the Encampment.

A four hour conducted bus tour of Washington will be featured on Wednesday afternoon, August 22, including many stops of great interest.

All hotel reservations should be made directly to the Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and DeSales Street, Washington 6, D. C., giving date of arrival and date of departure. Reservations must be received not later than two weeks prior to opening date of the convention. Be sure to mention what convention you are attending to secure special convention rates as follows:

Singles	\$9.00
Twin Bed Rooms	14.00

All rooms are with private bath, and the hotel is completely air conditioned.

A detailed Encampment Program will be published in the July-August issue of The Banner.

No. 4, Springfield, with Camp Commander Mike Burns officiating. A wreath in the name of the Illinois Department will be placed at the Mound by members of the local Camp.

Department Commander Cashman has filled speaking engagements recently in Springfield, New Salem, Roodhouse, Canton, Yorkville, Oak Park, Rantoul, Kankakee, Decatur, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Ind., Hamilton, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich. He also acted as Master of Ceremonies at a testimonial luncheon given in honor of Natl. Pres. Ann Atkins, of the Woman's Relief Corps, at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield.

Past Commander-in-Chief Richard F. Locke, 86, died suddenly in his office on April 25. He was the father of DuPage County Probate Judge Philip Locke, and practiced law at

Department News

ILLINOIS

The annual Memorial Day services will be held at the Grand Army of the Republic Mound in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. The Sons of Union Veterans will again be represented by the General John A. McClelland Camp

NEW JERSEY

Sister Hilda Junge, Dept. Patr. Instructor recently visited the one remaining Civil War widow at the Vineland Soldiers Home, at which time she presented her with a suitable gift from the Department.

Our Department Encampment will be held June 8-9 in the Madison Hotel, Atlantic City along with our Department Auxiliary. Eugene Patten will preside at the business session which will take place on Saturday, June 9th. On the evening of Friday, June 8th the Encampment Banquet will be held, at which time the Department Good Citizen Award for 1962 will be made. This will be the 80th Encampment for the Sons, and the 60th Encampment for the Auxiliary.

NEW YORK

The Past Presidents Club of Greater New York held its 40th anniversary dinner on April 28th at Rosoff's Restaurant with Marjorie J. Tagart, Dept. Pres. and DeVene F. Williamson, Dept. Commdr. as guests. On the following day, April 29th, the annual Grant Birthday exercises were held at Grant's Tomb on Riverside Drive under direction of the Department.

ORCHIDS TO BERT AND LUCILLE—Congratulations are being received by Department Secretary-Treasurer Bertram Isaacs, and Miss Lucille Clarice Avreen on the occasion of their marriage which took place on April 8th.

ROCHESTER—Grover Scott installed the officers of Glidden-Pierce-Lomb Camp 6 on April 23rd, with Raymond Hightree as the new Commander. Scott was assisted by P.D.C. Joseph S. Rippey and P.D.C. Robert McMahon. The Camp, Auxiliary, and the DUVCW will hold a Joint Memorial Service on May 26 at the G.A.R. Plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery, when over 700 graves will be flagged and services held at the graves of Colonels Glidden, Samuel Pierce, Francis E. Pierce, Patrick O'Rourke, and Capt. Henry Lomb. On May 27 the Camp will participate in a Memorial Day parade at Henrietta, N. Y. and will also attend the 73rd annual Memorial Sunday service. On May 28 the annual Joint Memorial Service of the Camp and Auxiliary will be held at 8 P. M. in Room 124, War Memorial Building with Chaplain Wm. J. Phillips in charge. On May 30th the Camp will participate in the annual Rochester Memorial Day parade with over 5,000 marchers and some 50,000 observers.

MRS. BERTHA HOWE—We regret to report the death of Mrs. Bertha Howe, wife of Past Commander-in-Chief Fred Howe on March 10th. They were married for more than 54 years, and were familiar figures at State and National Encampments. We extend sincere condolences to Fred and the family.

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT—The Allied Orders of the G.A.R. will hold their Department Encampments at the Hotel Henry Hudson, 57th St. and 9th Ave., New York City, June 27-30. As this is the first encampment to be held in New York City since 1886, the committee is striving to make it outstanding. The Camp-Fire will be held June 27 at 8:15 P. M., and the banquet will be held June 28 at 6 P. M. P.D.C. Wm. F. Bruckel is chairman of the SUVCW committee.

NEW YORK CITY—On April 10 P.D.C. Dr. Wm. F. Bruckel installed officers of Oliver Tilden Camp 26 in services held in the G.A.R. Room in the Municipal Building, assisted by P.D.C. Clarence Maples. Eugene J. Smith, a World War II Veteran was installed as Commander. Dept. Commander DeVene Williamson addressed the gathering.

PENNSYLVANIA

Close to 200 persons attended the Appomattox Dinner in Reading, including representatives from all Allied Orders. Mrs. Carrie Heabner was chairman of the committee in charge. Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Chester S. Shirver was toastmaster, while Rev. Frank E. Radcliff delivered the principal address. Others on the program included Mr. Richard Troop, Chaplain of the Allied Orders; Mrs. Mary E. Liddick, Natl. Pres. Aux. to Society 28th Division; Mrs. Edna C. Smith, Dept. Pres. W.R.C.; Mrs. Martha Hieber, Dept. Pres. Ladies of the G.A.R.; Mr. Elton P. Koch, Dept. Commander SUVCW; and Mrs. Catherine Hilbert, Dept. Pres. Aux. SUVCW.

On April 24, Camp 200 held an open meeting in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh. Commander

the time of his death. He was master in 1908 and 1909 of the Rockford Masonic Lodge No. 102, a Charter Member of the Glen Ellyn Lions Club and also belonged to the DuPage Shriners, the Sons of the American Revolution, Glen Ellyn Century Club and the Tebala Temple in Rockford. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution be made to the Illinois Masonic Children's Home, 339 Ninth St., La Grange. Survivors include his wife, Grace, 12 children, 41 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

MAINE

The Eastland Hotel in Portland will be the scene of our Department Encampment, June 8-9. The G.A.R. Family Dinner will be held June 8 at 6 P. M.

The organization has sustained a great loss in the passing away of Charles Webster, who died of a stroke on March 31st. Charles was a dedicated worker for the Order. Since joining he continually served his Camp, the Department, and National in various offices. He served as Department Commander, National Chaplain and on the National Council, and has served as Chairman of his local Memorial Day committee for over 30 years. His host of friends will miss him.

A reception was held in Bath on March 17 for Commander-in-Chief Charles L. Messer and National President Dorothy Hilyard on their official visits to Maine. Mrs. Messer accompanied the Commander.

The Maine Auxiliaries cooperate in placing flags and markers on veteran graves, as well on the graves of deceased members. Plans are under way to entertain at the Pineland Home for Children.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Past Commanders and Past Presidents combined monthly meetings with a fund raising day for Departmental Officers at G.A.R. Hall, Abington, under auspices of the Plymouth County Assoc. Minnie E. Madeiros, Pres., and Barbara D. Brown, P.D.P., supervised the program consisting of luncheon, supper and penny sale. Dept. Commander Bresette and Dept. Pres. Mrs. Mary Sampson were guests. Clark W. Mellor, P.D.C., was elected President of the Past Commanders Assoc.

Two Auxiliaries observed 50th anniversaries during this Centennial Year—Hartsuff of Rockland and Willie Grout of Worcester.

Rockland's was sponsored by their own Camp, with Allen B. Howland the prime mover, and "M.C." Dept. Pres. Mary Sampson and Dept. Commdr. Bresette were guests. Chief feature was a coverage of entire Civil War events and songs in form of a narrative by Michael Gale and Marjorie Davis, of Brockton business and professional Woman's Club. A score of P.D.C.s and P.D.P.s took the different roles.

Grout Auxiliary proudly bears the name of the one about whom "The Vacant Chair" was written. Their hero, Willie Grout, of Worcester was killed in action at Balls Bluff, Virginia. Mrs. Dorothy E. Newell, general chairman, gave a complete resume of the Auxiliary history. Guests included Dept. Pres. Sampson, Dept. Commdr. Bresette, Natl. Council Member Flora Bates and Barbara D. Brown of the Massachusetts Civil War Centennial Commission.

Mrs. Jessie G. Wells, P.D.P. of Mass. Aux. has been elected to head the Department Ladies of the G.A.R.

MICHIGAN

The Department was saddened by the death of beloved Past Commander Walter Herbert Brooks of Finch Camp 14 of Grand Rapids. He was Michigan Past Commander of the United Spanish American War Veterans, and a member of the Michigan Veterans Facility Board of Managers, of the Park Congregational Church and DeMolay Commandery 5 Knights Templar of Freemasonry. Rev. Hughes of Park Congregational Church provided funeral service and the Camp provided pallbearers. The United Spanish American War Veterans provided grave service with an honor guard of ten comrades. SUVCW was represented by P. C. in C. Mackey, and Michigan Past Commanders Edgar M. Linsley, Homer R. Savage, Thomas L. Wilson and Myrle K. Brown. Other organizations represented were Allied Orders of the G.A.R., Memorial Day Federation, United Veterans Council, Old Residents Association, Americanization Council, and Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Joseph Reese opened the meeting and then turned it over to Herman Poehler, chairman. The speaker was John Bloom of Lincoln Civil War Round Table. Seventy-six persons attended from Camps and Auxiliaries of Philadelphia, as well as representatives from the Muzzle Loaders and Bucktails. Department Commander Elton Koch and Mrs. Koch were among the guests.

Reading Good Citizenship Award



Dr. Sidney J. Sondheim, M.D., receives the 1962 "Good Citizen" Award of Meade Camp 16 from Edward A. Haigh, Camp Commander, left. The presentation took place at the 30th annual Appomattox Day Banquet of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. on April 7th. Looking on are Past Commander-in-Chief C. Leroy Stoudt, chairman of the awards committee, and, right, Elton P. Koch, Department Commander. Dr. Sondheim was chosen in recognition of his work as chairman of the Fellowship Week committee.

RHODE ISLAND

Our 74th Department Encampment was called to order April 14 by Dept. Commander Dexter M. Combs in the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, Providence. Following a constructive meeting Commander-in-Chief Charles L. Messer installed the following, with Millard Brown, P.D.C. of Mass., acting as guide: Commander Earl Hinz, Sr. Vice Commdr. Hadley Burdick, Jr. Vice Commdr. Charles Reynolds. Council Members Dexter M. Combs, Wallace J. Macomber and George A. Strait. P. C. in C. Harold E. Arnold continues as Department Secretary-Treasurer. Visitors to the Encampment also included Natl. Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Hilyard, National Council Member Flora Bates, and Council of Administration member Allen B. Howland, Mass. Dept. Pres. Mary Sampson and Past Department Commanders Ellery Renell, Millard Brown, Henry Bowen and William Fuller.

Auxiliary Officers installed by Natl. Pres. Hilyard include: President Bessie Coughlin, Vice-Pres. Ruth Appleby, Council Members Gladys Lawton, Jane Barber and Beatrice Smith, Secretary Gertrude Peterson, and Treasurer Dorothy Macomber.

A sad aftermath of the Encampment was the unexpected death of Mrs. Mabel F. Hinz, wife of the newly elected Department Commander. Mr. and Mrs. Hinz went home to change for the banquet in the evening and were waiting for a taxi when Mrs. Hinz suffered a double stroke followed by a cerebral hemorrhage. She passed away the following day.

VERMONT

CHELSEA—At the April 2 meeting of Hall Camp 28, four new brothers were initiated into the Camp, and five new members were taken into the Auxiliary. P.D.C. William Reed, a member for 68 years was recently honored at a supper preceding a regular Camp meeting. Through the efforts of P.D.C. Arthur W. Robinson, sixteen new markers have been erected on Route 15, the G.A.R. Highway.

BURLINGTON will host the spring gathering of the Winooski Valley District meeting. P.D.C. Roy Ring is the President of the District.

BRATTLEBORO—Archie Aldrich has been appointed Chairman of our Memorial Day Committee, with Edwin Taylor and Charles Cota as assistants. On May 4 Camp 11 and Aux. sponsored the Clyde Joy Show with WMUR-TV, Manchester, N. H. in the Community Building. District No. 5 will meet in Grange Hall May 26 with supper at 6:30 and meeting at 8 P. M.

BELLOWS FALLS—Camp 91 was host to District No. 5 on March 24, with an excellent attendance. Prior to the meeting, a group of Department Officers held a conference, with Department Senior Vice Commander Howard K. Reed as chairman.



General Order No. 11 Series 1868

By command of
Gen. John A. Logan
Commander-in-Chief,
Grand Army of the Republic

I. The 30th 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 whose 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 reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death 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 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 remain in us.

Let us then at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with 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 as sacred charges 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 for simultaneous compliance therewith.

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