

The Banner

Published bi-monthly by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Organized 1881—the only male organization recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic—Chartered by Act of Congress

Volume 62

P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.—November-December, 1958

No. 6

THE WOOLSON MEDAL

Public Law 730 of the 84th Congress authorized and directed the Secretary of the Treasury to strike gold medals in honor of the four surviving veterans of the Civil War. At the time of this enactment, the sole surviving Union Veteran was Albert Woolson, of Duluth, Minn. However, he died before the medal could be presented to him. As Comrade Woolson had designated the Sons of Union Veterans to be the recipient of all his Grand Army property, and as his three living daughters were in agreement, H.R. 9989



“An Act to provide for the presentation of his medal to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War” was introduced in the 85th Congress. This Act was passed by both the House of Representatives and the United States Senate and was signed by President Eisenhower on August 14, 1958. The medal was presented to Maj.-Gen. U. S. Grant, 3rd, U. S. A., Ret., by Mr. Julian B. Baird, Undersecretary of the Treasury and Mr. William H. Brett, Director of the Mint. Gen. Grant in turn presented this “collector’s item” to our National Encampment in Boston last August, and at present the medal has been insured and placed in a safe deposit box. By action of the National Encampment, Commander-in-Chief Riggs has appointed a committee consisting of Gen. U. S. Grant, 3rd, Albert C. Lambert and William C. Duval to investigate and recommend a suitable location for the permanent display of the Woolson Gold Medal. Anyone wishing to recommend a suitable place for the display of the medal should do so by communicating with U. S. Grant, 3rd, Maj.-Gen., U. S. A., Ret., 1135 21st Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

One of my principle purposes during my term as National Patriotic Instructor will be to weld all Patriotic Instructors, throughout our organization, into a more cohesive team. I want to make every member of our great Order "Patriotic Instructor Conscious," especially the Patriotic Instructors themselves. Their office gives them a very great opportunity to be of real service to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, through their Camps and their Departments; but in too many instances they fill their office only passively. I hope that I may have the cooperation of all Patriotic Instructors in bringing the importance of their office up to its proper level. All Patriotic Instructors will hear directly from me as soon as I can get their names and addresses. In the meantime, why not save time by getting in touch with me?

In line with my responsibility for raising funds for the Commandery-in-Chief, I am offering for each donation of \$5.00 a Certificate of Lineal Descent, properly filled in and signed by officers of Green Mountains State Camp No. 1. These certificates were designed by me and were printed at my expense. They are suitable for framing, and those who take pride in being a descendant of a Union Veteran will take pride in having one of these certificates. With your donation, please be sure to send the Union veteran's name and rank and also his war record. In addition, please send the line of descent; for instance: I am the son of who was the daughter of etc., establishing your line from the named veteran. I hope to place many of these attractive Certificates of Lineal Descent. Surely you need one, our organization needs the money and I need your help in raising it.

Our Order needs the three M's—Memories, Members and Money. Of these three we have enough of only one, Memories. Memories of the great Grand Army of the Republic, memories of dedicated patriots and their noble sacrifices for the cause of human freedom, and for the unity of their country. These glorious memories are not only the force which binds us together; they are the force we must use to build up the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We must use this force constantly, enthusiastically, wisely and persistently. We may broaden our rich asset of Memories to include memorials and memorabilia. In whatever form we use these memories, if we use them faithfully and well, our membership will surely increase and our treasury will prosper.

I need the help of all members if I am to accomplish what I want to for the good of our Order by the time of our next National Encampment. Please let me hear from you.

Thomas A. Chadwick,
National Patriotic Instructor,
Chester, Vermont.

To preserve independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or perfusion and servitude. —Thomas Jefferson.

Yanks and Rebs Close Ranks

Four score and 13 years ago, the North and South ended that holocaust of four-years known as the Civil War. Today, the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons belonging to the Sons of Union Veterans and the Sons of Confederate Veterans have decided to get together to promote membership.

Oliver Tilden Camp of New York City and the South's New York Camp casually swap ideas to encourage eligible men to join their ranks. The friendly atmosphere between the two groups is helped by the fact that some of their members have ancestors on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. One such person is Robert Maguire, a member of Tilden Camp, who is conducting the joint drive in Queens. Both of his grandparents fought for the North, but his paternal great-grandfather was Dr. Hunter Maguire, a physician on the staff of General Robert E. Lee.

The Rebels and Yanks got together for the first time for this year's Memorial Day parade. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 12th in the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Room in the Municipal Building, Manhattan. Other members of Tilden Camp that are active in the membership drive are Matthew Werner, John Robbins, and Bert Sack.

Gettysburg Rites Planned

On November 15th the Second Annual G.A.R. Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Comrade Albert Woolson monument in Ziegler's Grove, Gettysburg Battlefield at 2:30 P. M. A parade will form at the High Water Mark and proceed to the statue. The program will include a pageant by Camp No. 112 entitled "Transfer of Records to Camp Eternal." P. C. in C. John H. Runkle will be the master of ceremonies. Acceptances have been received from National Presidents and Department Presidents of all five Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

On the evening of the same day, at 6:30 P. M. the 28th Annual Past Commanders and Past Presidents Association dinner will be held in the Hotel Gettysburg, celebrating the Gettysburg Address delivered by President Lincoln on November 19, 1863.

Tax Ruling Aids Delegates

The Internal Revenue Service has announced a new ruling which will permit delegates attending conventions of veterans and other non-taxable organizations to deduct unreimbursed expenses from their taxable income.

According to the announcement, these expenses are contributions within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code and are therefore deductible.

The designation "Delegate" includes all voting members of the National Encampment, but not visitors and guests.

Therefore, all such Delegates that attended the 1958 Boston National Encampment, and future National Encampments may take as "charitable" contributions to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, such unreimbursed expenses made in the direct service of the Order, the same to be listed as deductions on the Income Tax Report for the current year. You may cite as authority therefor: Sec. 170(c), Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and Rev. Rul. 58-240, and letter of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, dated September 30, 1958 (T:S: Rf-BT).

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.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



Earl F. Riggs, Upland, California

Elected Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 77th Annual Encampment held in Boston, Mass. on August 20th. His grandfather, Charles W. Riggs, served with Company H, 3rd Ohio Cavalry and was a member of Ring Post, G.A.R. of Unity, Ohio at the time of his death.

His father, Charles F. Riggs joined the Order at Winona, Illinois where he served as Captain at the time of the birth of twins, Earl and Carl Riggs. He was a 55 year member at the time of his death.

Earl joined Podrasnik Camp No. 15 of Ontario, Calif. in 1936 and has been an active member since. He has served as Camp Commander for three terms; as Department Commander in 1948; as Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 1951; and as Natl. Patr. Instr. in 1958. He was educated in Illinois and Ohio and moved to California in 1911 where he became a Citrus Grower and is still active on his ranch. He is the father of two sons, Park and Robert; and two daughters, Geraldine Schuchard and Virginia Hitter; and has 10 grandchildren.

Ethel, his first wife passed away in 1945, and in 1947 Earl and Bea were married. He is a member of the First Methodist Church of Upland.

The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.

* * * *

A man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Mrs. Ursula Shepardson, Springfield, Mass.

Elected National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 72nd National Encampment held in Boston, Mass., August 20, 1958.

National President Shepardson is a member of Col. Mason W. Tyler Auxiliary No. 12 of Amherst. She joined this Auxiliary on November 20, 1923, where she has served as President and is an active member.

She was elected Department President in 1927, and has served as a Member of the National Council, as well as National Vice President and National Chief of Staff.

She attended Amherst High School and Northampton Commercial College. She is a resident of Springfield since her marriage to Harold P. Shepardson who is a member of L. A. Tift Camp No. 15 of Springfield, where he is a Past Commander as well as a Past Department Commander.

Ursula's Great Uncle, Solomon Williams, served as Private in Company D, 27th Massachusetts Volunteers for three years and twenty-seven days, being discharged September 27, 1864.

National President Shepardson attends the St. James Methodist Church of Springfield.

The question "Who ought to be boss?" is like asking "Who ought to be the tenor in the quartet?" Obviously, the man who can sing tenor.

* * * *

Knowledge and timber should not be used much until they are seasoned.

ALL 1958 SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE WITH THIS ISSUE

So that you will not miss a single issue, why not send in your 1959 subscription NOW. Camps are urged to subscribe for all of their members. Send your name and address together with \$1.00 to THE BANNER, c/o Albert C. Lambert, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.

Don't Put It Off—You May Forget—Do It Now



General Order No. 1 Series 1958-1959

Headquarters
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
1371 West 7th Street
Upland, California

November 1, 1958

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief at the 77th National Encampment held in Boston, Mass., command is hereby assumed. Headquarters are hereby established at 1371 West 7th St., Upland, California. Telephone JUKon 2-3333.

2. The following Committee Chairmen are announced:

Grand Army of the Republic Highway:

Frank Woerner, 11200 Eastwood Ave., Inglewood, Calif.

Legislative:

Fred Colwell, 28 N. Goodman St., Rochester 7, N. Y.

Americanism and Education:

Charles L. Messer, 633 Clinton Ave., Albany 6, N. Y.

Membership:

Carder A. Perkins, Chairman; Harold Arnold, R. I.; John Ruggles, Penna.; Jacob Kirchner, Iowa

1959 Encampment Committee:

Frank Woerner, Chairman; Roy Kelchner, Harry Tallman, Earl Leach, Dr. L. J. Snow, William Woods, Manning Green, B. W. Coon, A. B. Schoonover.

National Publicity Director:

Harold Drown, Massachusetts

Additional appointments:

Guide: Robert W. Heald, New Hampshire

Musician: John B. Davis, Massachusetts

Color Bearer: Charles P. Lowe, Iowa

Guard: A. G. Myers, Colorado and Wyoming

National Aide: H. S. Rainwater, California

3. By action of the National Encampment, a G.A.R. Medallion is to be presented to the Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, N. H., to be placed in the base of the Altar of the Nations.

P. C. in C. Cleon E. Heald is hereby appointed and authorized to arrange for the presentation.

4. The Cathedral of the Pines will display annually on a deceased Veteran's Birthday, the casket Flag of the deceased. If you or your friends wish to have a deceased Veteran so honored, write to Mr. Douglas Sloan, Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire for full details.

5. The 78th National Encampment will be held August 16-20, 1959 at Long Beach, California. Headquarters Hotel and Encampment program will be published in a future issue of The Banner.

6. The Commander-in-Chief will soon start planning his traveling itinerary and would appreciate having dates of Department and Camp functions at your earliest convenience.

7. I regret to announce the Rev. Thomas H. Langdon has suffered a stroke and is confined to

a rest home. We sincerely pray that Rev. Langdon will soon recover.

Address change: Dept. Secy-Treas. L. B. Jones, 516 Vermont St., Waterloo, Iowa.

8. We extend to the Department of Massachusetts our sincere appreciation for their hospitality and the efficient manner in which arrangements for our recent National Encampment were made and executed.

9. To the National Presidents of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, I extend best wishes for a most successful year. May you each enjoy health and happiness in abundance.

10. To the National President of our Auxiliary, Mrs. Ursula Shepardson, congratulations and best wishes for a most successful year. My wish for you and your wonderful organization is that you have health and happiness; that friendships will grow; and that all your dreams may come true.

11. May I take this opportunity to express to each and every one my humble and deep appreciation for the honor and responsibilities conferred upon me personally and to the Department of California and Pacific. I pledge to each of you my untiring efforts on behalf of our beloved Order during the coming year. I ask in return that each of you in your own way, in your local Camps and Communities promote our Order by word and deed. If each of us will do just a bit, the cumulative results will be beyond our fondest expectations, and 1958-1959 will be a historic year in the life of our Order. The principles and institutions bequeathed to America by the G.A.R. are in jeopardy. May we join together as a solid front for pure unadulterated Americanism. This is our challenge and duty. If we meet this challenge the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic will not only be perpetuated, but we will also have rendered a supreme service to generations of Americans yet unborn.

EARL F. RIGGS,
Commander-in-Chief.

OMNIBUS

DID YOU KNOW that Camp meetings can be Ritualistic Meetings or Dinner Type Meetings, whichever is preferred? With the growing preference for Civil War Round Table type meetings, perhaps your Camp would prefer this type of gathering. The Ritual provides that Ritualistic Ceremonies in the conduct of meetings is optional.

BOYS IN BLUE—Twice a week at Ohio State University in Columbus they prepare to fight the Civil War again, where a squad of Union infantrymen and their Commander, William Vance, drill with authentic 1863 vintage Springfield rifles. Members of the Pershing Rifles, a national ROTC group drill and march according to the book—in this case the War Department's 1863 Drill Manual. They and a Confederate group at the University of Kentucky are the only Civil War drill squads left in the nation. In the last "skirmish" between the two, the Blues won in both sham battle and drill competition.

—Ft. Lauderdale Daily News

COMMERCIALIZING OF MEMORIAL DAY—Members of Meade Camp SUVCW of Reading, Pa. recently adopted a resolution condemning the commercialization of Memorial Day. This was given prominent mention in the press, resulting in unanimous action being taken by the Chamber of Commerce of Reading and Berks County supporting the move. The trade group stated that "it both condemns and disapproves of any commercial retail establishment being open on Memorial Day or any other legal holiday during the year."

Plan to Attend . . .

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Long Beach, Calif.

AUGUST 16-20, 1959



A scenic packed tour to the 1959 National Encampments of the Sons of Union Veterans, their Auxiliary and the Ladies of the G. A. R. has been planned by the Burlington Railroad. You will have ample time to get acquainted with fellow members of the party, and to see some of the greatest attractions of our country.

The finest of trains and routes have been selected and pleasant sightseeing side trips have been arranged in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Disneyland, San Diego, Catalina Island and The Grand Canyon.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT—Mr. Kruse of the Burlington Railroad has requested us to announce that to secure adequate railroad and hotel accommodations, it is imperative that those wishing to be included in this trip, make tentative reservations by January 15, 1959. This will in no way obligate you should you decide not to go, but will give him the necessary information to secure the required space.

For brochure describing the trip day by day, as well as complete information about cost, write to Natl. Secy-Treas. Albert C. Lambert, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.

The War of 1861 to 1865 in America

was not a War Between the States

But a Civil War

1. A war between states, if such were possible, would be a war of one state against another, or of one state against a group of states or between two groups of states.

2. Each of these hypothetical cases ignores the existence of a Federal government. Or it presupposes a situation in which the Federal government would stand idly by as a neutral and take no part in an armed struggle between its own political subdivisions. Such an absurdity would be unthinkable and would be a clear violation of the Constitution. Article I, Section X.

3. The Federal government is a governmental entity, separate and apart from the government of any state. This is axiomatic in the American political system.

4. The War of 1861 to '65 was a war of rebellion by a group of states against the Federal government, with the object of seceding from the Union.

5. The soldiers who fought under the flag of the United States did so, not as state troops but as United States troops, mustered into the Federal service. They took their orders from the President of the United States, not from the governor of any state. "The President shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States and of the militia of the several states when called into the actual service of the United States . . ." Constitution of the United States, Article II, Section II.

6. If by War Between the States is meant a conflict between two sovereign nations, using the word state as synony-

mous with nation, the term is still incorrect. The states which proclaimed their secession from the Union in 1860-61 were never legally out of the Union. They were never recognized as an independent nation by the United States or any foreign power. Therefore, the conflict was not between two sovereign nations but was a civil war within one nation.

7. Repeated decisions of the United States Supreme Court support this position. "At no time were the rebellious States out of the pale of the Union." White v. Hart, 13 Wallace 646. See also Texas v. White, 7 Wallace 700; Daniels v. Tierney, 102 U. S. 415; Hickman v. Jones, 9 Wallace 197; Dewing v. Perdicaries, 96 U. S. 193; Hanauer v. Doane, 12 Wallace 342; Knox v. Lee, 12 Wallace 457; Hanauer v. Woodruff, 15 Wallace 439; Cornet v. Williams, 20 Wallace 226; Sprout v. United States, 20 Wallace 459; and others.

8. If it was a war between states as sovereignties it could have been terminated only by a treaty of peace between the warring factions. This, of course, did not occur, and could not occur under our form of government. The surrendered armies simply laid down their arms and went home.

9. Lincoln always referred to the conflict as a civil war or a war of rebellion. See the Gettysburg Address, Emancipation Proclamation and numerous letters and public documents.

10. Congress has published the record of the war in 130 volumes entitled, "War of the Rebellion, Official Record of the Union and Confederate Armies."

11. If a term other than Civil War or War of the Rebellion is desired, why not call it the War for the Union, as expressive of the purpose for which it was fought, just as the Revolutionary War is often referred to as our War of Independence? War of Secession would also be a correct term for the same reason. But never War Between the States.

Grove McClellan, Chaplain,
Cook Camp No. 223,
Buffalo, New York.

News of the Civil War Centennial

A GUIDE FOR STATE COMMISSIONS to aid local groups in their planning of Centennial observances, has been distributed by the National Commission, which describes the following:

WHAT STATE COMMISSIONS CAN DO

1. Develop Promotion and Publicity.
2. Arrange Memorial Observances.
3. Locate and Preserve Valuable Documents.
4. Sponsor Educational Activities.
5. Encourage and Sponsor Publications.
6. Reenactments, Pageants, Etc.
7. Report on Activities to the National Commission.

WHAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN DO

The National Commission sincerely hopes that local communities and local enterprise will in true American style take steps immediately for their own commemorations. Such plans, it is realized, should be coordinated through the respective State Commissions, but the initiative must come from the local level, and should not be dependent upon encouragement from the state and national levels alone.

WHAT THE NATIONAL COMMISSION CAN DO

National Centennial Headquarters maintains constant contact with leading daily and weekly newspapers in every state throughout the country, and give substantial aid in publicizing nationally any observances which merit it. It has prepared an extensive chronology of the events of the War. From it, for distribution to states and communities, will be compiled specialized and individual lists.

With the limited funds Congress has authorized, it is evident the National Commission cannot conduct every commemorative exercise all over the nation. What it has in mind is the true American approach: for each locality to plan and commemorate the chief events of its history and its citizens during the great national crisis.

You may either win your peace or buy it; win it, by resistance to evil; buy it, by compromise with evil.

Walter's Christmas Story

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

There was another "night before Christmas," some seventy odd years ago and several years after the publication of the poem so well known to us all. The time was in the early eighteen-eighty's and the scene was in an extremely modest home in what is now known as South Philadelphia.

Let us go back to the close of the great Civil War. The Union Veterans of the Civil War had returned to their homes and in some instances, had found new places to live. A great many of the Veterans, due to their injuries, were not able to follow their regular lines of occupation. Several were not even able to make a livelihood. It is one of the former to which we refer and as time went by, he became unable to work and his physical condition grew worse.

Many weeks before the Christmas season, this Veteran, a husband and father, had become so ill that it was necessary to have some one sit up with him as was the custom in those days. In a great many instances, lodge brethren formed "Relief Committees" to do just that. However, in this particular instance, the "Relief Committee" was composed of Comrades of the local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic who, nightly, sat up with their Comrade, permitting the wife to secure some rest.

One of the youngsters in the family, the oldest (age eight at that time) was Walter. The mother was expecting another in the not too far distant future.

The Christmas season was fast approaching and with the passing of each day, the Comrade continued to grow worse. The wife and mother had a problem, endeavoring to feed her family on the small pitiful pension received and was able to do it only with the aid given her by the Post and those Comrades who could assist by occasionally bringing the substantial items so badly needed.

And so, it was another "night before Christmas" but one that was far less cheery than the family had known before. Fate, the respecter of no time or person, visited that home on this sad Christmas Eve and the husband-father died, leaving the widow and the orphans with only the world in which to make a living.

Staunch and true to the vows of their Comradeship, the members of the Post came again to the aid of ones in dire need. So the youngsters, despite the loss of their father, would not lose faith and courage in mankind, the Comrades came with food stuffs, some toys and a few of the niceties that makes Christmas what the youngsters expect.

The Comrades, remembering their obligation, planned as best they could, the necessary funeral arrangements, permitting the widow as little difficulty as possible. Already, her difficulties were plentiful,—a family of small children, one yet unborn and no income.

How could she go on? Could this widow-mother find it possible to keep her small brood together? What would happen when the new member of the family arrived, needing tender care and careful feeding?

Shortly afterwards, the newest member of the family and Walter's brother arrived and despite untold hardships, the family remained together.

Again, the mother took in washings and to help, Walter secured a job as office boy which required him to clean the office each day before he would go to school. To make certain that the office was properly cleaned, the owner would hide pennies in various parts of the office and it was Walter's responsibility to find these pennies by cleaning the office thoroughly and turning in the pennies before he went to school. Many times he was late because of the places in which the pennies were hidden and could not be found.

For additional income, he secured an afternoon job in "Sharpless' Sweet Shop" where the ladies could gather for tea and hot chocolate. This little shop was located at 8th and Market Streets, some twenty odd blocks from Walter's home. The income from this job like that from his office job, was turned over to his mother to help support the family.

As time went by, Walter's mother remarried and eventually a step-brother and a step-sister enlarged the family. Walter admired his new father and called him "Pop Homsher" and the step-father admired Walter equally as much. There were no prejudices; there were no jealousies. They all made one big family, enjoying their few pleasures and sharing their griefs and sorrows.

Statistics of Civil War

The staff of the Civil War Centennial Commission has checked the following:

Total number of Soldiers, Union Army	2,898,304
Reduced to a 3-year basis (2000 regiments of 1000 men, exclusive of batteries)	1,556,678
Killed in battle or died of wounds	110,000
Died of Disease	200,000
Wounded, not fatally	275,175

The following has not been checked for accuracy:

Occupations Before Entering Army

Farmers, nearly one-half or	48%
Mechanics, nearly one-fourth or	24%
Laborers, nearly one-sixth or	16%
Commercial Pursuits, one-twentieth	5%
Professional Men, one-thirtieth	3%
Miscellaneous	4%

Nationality of Soldiers

Native born Americans, about three-fourths	
Foreign born about one-fourth	
Colored men enlisted	178,975
Fatalities among them	36,847

Comparative Casualties

In Union Army 63 Regiments lost in single engagement over	50%
In Union Army 120 Regiments lost in single engagement over	36%
First Texas Confederate Regiment lost at Antietam	82-3/10%
First Minnesota Union Regiment, Gettysburg	82%
141 Pennsylvania Union Regiment, Gettysburg	75-7/10%

One morning, "Pop Homsher" could not be found. He could not be far away because his pipe was near by. Walter started searching for him and found him in another section of the house. "Pop" had taken his own life and now the twice widowed mother had a larger family to keep together.

True it was, she had a small candy store, but the income was insufficient and there was no widow's pension available because Walter's mother had remarried and the step-father had not been a Veteran. There was only one thing left to do and Walter did just that. He left school and went to work, securing jobs that were ten and twelve hours per day and seven days a week that the mother, brother and sister as well as the step-brother and step-sister might have it a little bit easier.

Walter had learned the true meaning of Comradeship and devoted all his extra time around the Post Room, helping to keep it tidy, remembering what they had done for his mother in time of need. Walter knew only too well, what it meant when he joined the Sons of Veterans, to perpetuate the ideals and memories of the Grand Army of the Republic. Walter knew from his own Christmas Story.

On the Christmas eve of 1957 there were saddened eyes and heavy hearts but not in the heavens above because on this particular Christmas eve, Walter joined with his father, his mother, his step-father as well as the brothers and sisters that had preceded him in death.

Walter was true to his ideals because he lived his "Christmas Story."

The writer knows this to be the story in brief of one who served the Order for more than fifty years. This story of his youth is here recorded as best memory will permit, having heard it told by the one who lived it . . . Walter C. Mabie. Hence, the title, "WALTER'S CHRISTMAS STORY."

Frank M. Heacock, P.D.C.,
Pennsylvania.



Department News



CALIFORNIA

On September 3 Phil Kearny Camp extended a warm welcome home to Commander-in-Chief Earl Riggs. On September 11 he was a guest of the Upland Business and Professional Womens Club and spoke on the policies of our organization.

There was a nice attendance at the meeting of District No. 1 held in Ontario on September 19. On September 21 Dept. Chief of Staff Jimmy Riggs served a chicken dinner for his fund.

Lawton Camp 10 of Long Beach held a meeting on September 26 with a large attendance to welcome the Commander-in-Chief. On September 27 the Past Camp Commanders held their meeting to plan for the coming National Encampment.

CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN Aux. 1 held a Pot Luck Supper and Inspection October 16. Dept. Pres. Mary Buchanan was guest of honor.

EAST HAMPTON Aux. 20 entertained Dept. Officers at the Inspection October 2.

ROCKVILLE Aux. 5 participated in the rededication of the War Memorial Tower during the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration.

COLORADO & WYOMING

Camp and Aux. 5 motored to Hanaruc where Patr. Instr. L. O. Kent presented a flag to a new church there. Past Dept. Pres. Augusta Sullivan of Aux. 5 presented two flags to the Pythian Sisters.

Dept. Pres. Gwendolyn Miller had the misfortune to fall and injure a hip after encampment. She is able to be home and up now.

INDIANA

The September meeting in Indianapolis featured a "Round Table" program with William Wildhack, well-known columnist for the Indianapolis News discussing "A Newspaper Reporter During the Civil War." The Grand Army League held an "Open House" on October 19. Visitations to the Soldiers Home at Lafayette were held October 14 and at the Knights-town Home on October 16.

We regret to announce the death of Past National President, Mrs. Emma Finch on October 24th. The funeral was held on October 27 from the Buchanan Mortuary, Indianapolis, Ind.

On September 28 a reception was held in the Court House G.A.R. Room at Frankfurt honoring Department and National Officers.

On October 5 a reception was held in the G.A.R. Room at the Court House in Lafayette honoring Dept. Pres. Florence Bodle and Natl. Council Member Margaret Horn. Plans were made to attend the Knightstown Home, the Soldiers Home at Lafayette and the Regional Meeting in Aurora, Ill.

IOWA

During October Dodge Camp 75 and Tuttle Camp 77 and their Auxiliaries of Des Moines held a reception in honor of their National and Department Officers. A fine program was presented and refreshments were served.

MAINE

Lincoln Camp and Auxiliary at Sherman Mills held their annual inspections on September 6th. On September 20 Staples Camp and Aux. of Augusta gave Dept. Pres. Marguerite Miller a very well attended reception.

We are pleased to report that P. C. in C. Albert B. DeHaven is at home following a pneumonia attack that had him hospitalized in September.

Staples Aux. and members of the Allied Orders honored Dept. Pres. Marguerite Miller at a reception September 20 in Perkins Hall, Augusta. All Dept. Officers were present as well as Dept. Commdr. Clarence Renell of Portland.

Lincoln Aux. of Sherman held their Inspection recently, preceded by a supper. Mrs. Georgia R. Thompson of Rockland was inspecting officer. Dept. Pres. Miller also attended.

MARYLAND

Appomattox Aux. 2 of Wilmington, Del. held a surprise birthday party following their October meeting in honor of P.N.P. Celeste D. Gentieu who celebrated her 79th birthday. Natl. Press Corr. Dorothy L. Hilyard presented her with a cake, in the form of an American Flag. Her friends in the Auxiliary presented her with a Past National Presidents Pin. The Past Presidents Club of the Auxiliary will hold their Annual Banquet on November 19.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Department, Auxiliary, assisted by Col. Mason W. Tyler Aux. No. 12 of Amherst will tender a Testimonial Dinner and Reception in honor of National President Mrs. Ursula W. Shepardson on December 6th in the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel, Boston. Reservations are to be made no later than November 15 with Addison A. Quinn, 78 Washington Ave., Chelsea, Mass.

Following the National Encampment, George W. Kimball, who had recently served on the National Council of Administration, was hospitalized, where he answered the last roll call on September 8. Since his wife's death, approximately one year previous, George had gradually failed in health. The Kimballs celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary shortly before Mrs. Kimball's death. George gave over 50 years of service to our Order. He was Department Commander in 1946 and had held other Department Offices. However, his greatest effort was in his beloved Chelsea. Always an officer in his own Camp, he held the post of Secretary-Treasurer most of the years. Every Civic, Fraternal and Veteran group welcomed him, either in an active or an honorary capacity. For over 50 years he was a correspondent of the Chelsea Record, a daily city publication. He also served the Boston Metropolitan Association for 22 years as Secretary, with one year as President.

Fifteen Past Department Commanders attended the reception given Barbara D. Brown on September 20 at New Bedford. This is just about the maximum number which could possibly be present. Dept. Commander Edwin J. Lennon, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Carder A. Perkins, Allen Spink, and Harold Drown were among the 300 guests who assembled.

The Old Timers Assoc. with several having membership close to 70 years met on September 27 for their annual dinner. Louis E. Winchell, Sr., presided. Dept. Comdr. Edwin J. Lennon and Natl. Publicity Director Harold M. Drown representing C. in C. Riggs were guests. Mrs. Russell Taylor, daughter of the President, entertained with readings and Solos were contributed to Jack Day and Addie Quinn. Emerson Whitman is the new President, with Eugene Wallingford, Secy-Treas.

By the time The Banner readers receive this edition, important November meetings will have been held. Affiliates of the G.A.R. met in Roxbury on November 1 for 38th annual banquet, with the "Sons" heading the affair and P.D.C. John B. Davis, General Chairman. The New England Regional Assoc. was held in New Britain, Conn. on November 8 for a quarterly meeting. The Pioneer Valley Assoc. observed the Gettysburg Address anniversary in Holyoke on November 15 and Capt. R. B. Grover Camp 17, Brockton, held a similar meeting on November 19 with Hon. Herbert L. Jackson, son of a fugitive slave who fought in the Union Army as their speaker. William W. Haskell, P.D.C., was General Chairman.

MICHIGAN

The Camp at Jackson has received a supply of Canadian Flags for use on the graves of Canadian Veterans buried in Jackson. This was arranged by A. C. Marvin, a member of the Jackson Camp that lives in Canada. Brother Marvin also arranges to have American Flags placed on the graves of American Veterans buried in Ontario.

NEW JERSEY

The semi-annual dinner meeting of the State Camp was held on October 25th in the Military Park Hotel, Newark, N. J. Dr. Morando DeFronzo of Millburn spoke on a phase of the Civil War, and Mr. Jack Sellman of Kearny spoke on the life of General Phil Kearny. Entertainment was furnished by "The Antics." Edward J. Bolan presided as Commander

and William H. Vanderhoff, Jr., is the newly elected Commander.

The mid-winter meeting of the Department will be held in the War Memorial Building, Trenton, N. J. on Sunday, December 7th at 2 P. M. All Camps are requested to attend. Following the meeting a supper will be served by the members of Dayton Auxiliary No. 5. Department Commander Richard Kucker will preside.

On October 4 Dayton Camp and Aux. No. 5 of Trenton honored Dept. Commander Richard Kucker and Dept. Pres. Mrs. Jean Kandrak with a testimonial dinner at the Washington Crossing Inn. At the same time Camp No. 5 celebrated their 75th anniversary.

NEW YORK



Shown above is Department Commander Joseph S. Rippey presenting the New York Department award to Cadet Midshipman Thomas J. Taylor of Philadelphia, at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N. Y. at the graduation exercises held July 31.

The New York Department annually presents an engraved sword and belt to the Captain of the Drill Team of the Academy for outstanding performance as a cadet and drill master.

LONG ISLAND NATIONAL CEMETERY—Plans are now in progress to install a Carillon of Bells in the Long Island National Cemetery as a lasting Memorial to all departed comrades. These Carillons are the same as are in the Arlington National Cemetery and are 61 Bell Schulmerich Electronic Carillon and will cost \$50,000.00. A committee composed of representatives of all major veteran organizations is cooperating. Contributions of individuals and/or organizations may be as memorials and should be made payable to: Carillon Committee and sent to First National Bank of Farmingdale, L. I., New York.

UTICA—On September 27 Aux. 15 held a reception and dinner honoring Dept. Pres. Emma Hughes and Dept. Commdr. Joseph Rippey. Mae Burnham was Chairlady and P.D.C. Charles L. Messer was Toastmaster. Included in the many guests were the Department Presidents of all of the Allied Orders.

ALBANY—On October 12 two busses from Ten Eyck Camp made a trip to the Cathedral of the Pines in New Hampshire which was enjoyed by all. On November 15 the Camp will hold its Annual Dedication Day Dinner and reception to the Dept. Pres. and Dept. Commdr. at Pannatta's Restaurant.

RENSELEAR—On October 15, Cooley Aux. 6 held a dinner and reception to the Dept. Pres. and Dept. Commdr. at the Hill Top Restaurant which was enjoyed by the large gathering in attendance.

OHIO

Third District meeting was held in Dayton October 19 in Memorial Hall. Grant Camp 100 celebrated Veterans Day on November 11 with a noon luncheon. On November 19 the Camp celebrated Dedication Day with traditional services at

the Lincoln Statue in Lytle Park, Cincinnati. This was followed by a luncheon and a business meeting which included election of officers.

PENNSYLVANIA

Ellis Camp 9 of Phila. has again been honored by Sgt. Hamilton Fish Post 20 V.F.W. For the past twenty-five years the Camp has been participating in the Armistice Day parade honoring the War Mothers of America. Company B of Ellis Camp will again fire a rifle salute at the War Mothers monument at 20th and Belfield Ave. Many other military groups take part including American Legion Posts, V.F.W. Posts, their Auxiliaries, bugle and drum corps, and Boy Scout organizations. Ellis Camp regrets to report the death of Roy Huffnagle and William Moore, both of whom have been active members of the Camp.

Buchanan Aux. 177 of Indiana, Pa. will hold a Banquet and Reception honoring Natl. Vice-Pres. Beulah Cummins on Saturday, November 8th.

VERMONT

In May a new Auxiliary was formed in Brandon. Both Dept. Pres. Dora M. Robinson and Dept. Commdr. Walter Morse attended the National Encampment held in Boston during August.

A reception was given for the Dept. Pres. and Dept. Commdr. on September 27 in the Sarah Holbrook Community House at Burlington. A fine program was presented to the large attendance, following which refreshments were served.

WHEN ORDERING SUPPLIES

1. Order on official requisition blank—Form No. 1.
2. No orders will be filled unless accompanied by remittance.
3. Anticipate your needs, thereby avoiding last minute rush orders and disappointments.
4. All supplies to be ordered from Natl. Secy-Treas. A. C. Lambert, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.

MORE TAPE RECORDINGS have been added to our library with the addition of recordings made by Past Commander-in-Chief U. S. Grant 3rd at Shiloh on April 4th and a recording by Senator William E. Jenner entitled "The truth about the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law."

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Have no fear of change as such and, on the other hand, no liking for it merely for its own sake.

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Some people are easily entertained—just listen!

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.

<p>To—Albert C. Lambert, National Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 457, Trenton 3, N. J.</p> <p>Kindly enter the following Civil War record on the HONOR ROLL FUND.</p> <p>Name of Veteran</p> <p>Company & Regiment</p> <p>Enclosed find (\$10.00 or more) donation to the HONOR ROLL FUND from</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p> <p>(Donations, legacies, and bequests to this fund are welcome and will be preserved.)</p> <p>(Contributions are deductible for Income Tax purposes—Section 170 of the Code of 1954)</p>
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