



the Banner

Published Quarterly 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

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NO. 2

Education and Americanism Still Vital

One of the purposes of our Order is to teach the true history of the United States, as well as educate our members and fellow citizens in the duties of good citizenship.

At one time the National Organization sponsored National historical and patriotic essay contests. In some states our members actively supported these contests. In some they let the contests remain unknown and unappreciated. A few Depts. still hold these essay contests within their department.

Over the last few years the Education and Americanism Committee has been treated like our former essay contests — largely ignored by the mass of our membership.

President Reagan, Congressional Leaders, even the Natl. Education Assn. have discussed merit pay recently. The concept of paying teachers for services rendered...the better a teacher...the more the pay. A very logical idea, but not a total solution.

Much has happened in the past 200 years of independence and add the 150 years since the Mayflower and teachers have a lot to teach.

Unfortunately, some teachers leave out all that doesn't personally interest them or they become caught in a time problem — teach the entire Civil War, World Wars I & II, and all events to date in the last 2 or 3 months of the school year.

What can **you** do to change this mess?

1. **Visit your school system.** Talk to the Superintendent or principal. Suggest that history, political science or state history programs be reexamined in light of this time squeeze. Suggest offering history in sections 1607-1860, 1860-1984, etc. Or specialized time periods at the high school level: Precolonial & Early America; Ante Bellum-Civil War & Reconstruction; America growing as a World Power with the Spanish-American War to date.

Many students want substance to their courses. Likewise they need to know more about today. They do need to understand the basic differences between free enterprise and communism. It's difficult to defend a system you don't even know yourself. We must be concerned.

2. **Use Yourself.** Many of us are Civil War collectors in varying degrees. The expression, a picture is worth a thousand words is true but a relic is worth a million.

Want to get the interest of a group...elementary students, high school students, even other adult clubs...put together something they can see, touch or smell.

Make a slide presentation, borrow and show a movie, take in Civil War artifacts. "This rifle was carried by my grandfather in the Civil War." "Look how big a 58 Calibre Minnie Ball is — that is why so many soldiers lost their arms and legs." "This is a picture of the dead at Gettysburg — that is **why** President Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address."

Get Involved. Teachers like a break, too. You're a new face so the students will listen to you.

If you are in the SVR, wear your uniform. Consider this a camp or auxiliary project. Borrow from each other. If one of you is a better speaker, let him talk. Know what you are exhibiting — prepare your presentation.

Expect anything to come up if you allow questions and answers. **Be honest and frank** even if the North lost the battle or were wrong in their actions. "Yes, carpet-baggers were evil. If Mr. Lincoln had lived there would have been no Reconstruction."

If you don't know — say so but try to find out and get a reply back to the teacher. Show that **you** care.

The adult community should also be considered. Every Kiwanis, Lions Club or Rotary has a regular monthly meeting with a program. This half hour presentation must be filled each and every month and it is hard to come up with a new speaker.

Volunteer to speak.

Adults like to see relics and artifacts, too.

Other possible topics:

1. **Tracing Your "Roots".** Tell how to create a family history. Suggest **they** mark on the backs of old photos **who, what, when, where and why.** You should do this, too! Your grandchildren will love you for it too. If you don't the old pictures will probably be thrown away when they settle your estate...because no one remembers who they are, where, or what.

2. **Local GAR History.** Start with a general history of the GAR organization — some of your audience may never have heard of the Grand Army. Talk about local Civil War veterans if you can. Remember in most towns it's almost 50 years since the last Civil War veteran died.

3. **Active in the SVR?** So explain your "unusual" hobby of participating in battles, reenactments and pageants for free. The funny and sad things that have happened to you or your unit. Remember everyone loves a good human interest story.

4. **Memorial Day.** Talk about how it got started. It's early customs and traditions...the "strewing" of flowers making garlands for monuments, the full military pageant of the GAR with muffled drums and reversed arms. You might even tell the story of a local monument — when it was built, how much it cost, etc.

So, you see we've given you a number of possibilities for schools and clubs.

If you have a successful project or can explain why something you tried failed, please share it with our members. Maybe it will work for them or maybe they can find solutions for a failed project to make it work.

Write P C-in-C Harold Beilby, 49 Stonehill Dr., Rochester, NY 14615, the National Chairman of the SUV Americanism and Education Committee.



GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3
Series 1983-84
Commander-in-Chief
2025 Cleveland Ave.
West Lawn, PA 19609
215-678-9095

"STRIVE ON"

1. By this time all Camps should have elected and installed Officers for 1984. To these Brothers, whether newly chosen or re-elected, we extend congratulations and our best wishes for a most productive and active year. The full support of your National Officers is hereby pledged and hopes that Camps will have active programs which will bear witness that the SUVCW is still alive and active.

2. Important days of special interest to us are coming up and appropriate programs and ceremonies should be planned. April 15, the assassination of President Lincoln and Memorial Day on May 30. It is important that we lead the way in the observance of these days in our communities.

3. Department Encampments will be starting soon and the Commander-in-Chief will visit as many as possible. I have received many invitations and have accepted as many as I could. There are conflicts of dates and many decisions had to be made. Rest assured that no slights were intended, but visits are being made to attend the most amount possible.

4. The Banner continues to be a problem, but we are working hard to have this resolved within the very near future.

5. The Commander-in-Chief and National Auxiliary President presented our wreaths of tribute at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on a very beautiful day. President Lincoln is remembered each year on his birthday with services at the Memorial.

6. National Officers and Committee Chairman are reminded that year end reports to the National Encampment are due in the National Secretary-Treasurer's offices by July 15 in order to permit time for printing and assembling.

7. Commendations:
Brother Bob Lawrence, New Hampshire for acquiring new members. William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp No. 65-St. Louis, Mo. for the continued interest and growth of the Camp. Brig. Gen. Chester S. Shriver for the great showing of Union and Confederate troops for the services at the Lincoln Memorial.

8. It is with regret that I announce the death of Bro. William W. VanDerhoof who was serving as the National Graves Registration Officer. Bro. Bill knew his job and did it well. He will be missed.

9. Do not forget to support the Patriotic Instructor Bro. Thomas W. Graham, who has a goal of \$2000.00 to reach.

10. To all who have lost loved ones. I extend my deepest sympathy and to those who are ill, my sincere wishes for a speedy and permanent recovery.

By Order of:

William L. Simpson
Commander-in-Chief



Why Should I Belong to the Sons?

Perhaps 3 words spoken by one of our most famous members, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, will give you a reason.
HONOR...DUTY...COUNTRY

It is a Honor. It may sound trite, but not everyone is asked to join. Many are not eligible for full membership. Many of our members take pride in hanging their membership certificate for all to see the Honor of their membership bought by their father's sacrifice.

It is your DUTY. A moral obligation passed from father to son. You father, grandfather, or greatgrandfather considered it HIS DUTY to answer Mr. Lincoln's call. Not to free the slaves, though some may have been abolitionists, but to save the Union.

The poem asks "who will tell the story when the Boys in Blue are Gone?" The answer, it is YOUR DUTY to tell the story...to pass on filial pride to the next generation. If YOU lack enthusiasm, why should your son or grandson show any interest.

Country — Is there a man so dead, he doesn't feel the stir of patriotism with the passing of Old Glory or the sounds of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Sometimes, we think most Americans are apathetic...they just don't care anymore. Sometimes that seems true. BUT America needs her patriots today, too! It needs flag wavers and believers in the true history of our country. It needs concerned citizens who do give a "damn". It needs organizations like the Sons to keep it on the right track.

Don't you think you should ask someone to join? It's a privilege that few can offer. The national members at large program is available in areas with no local Camp or Department. Contact P. C-in-C Richard Schlenker, 4112 Heathfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.

Where to Write:

Comdr.-in-Chief William Simpson, 2025 Cleveland Ave., West Lawn, PA 19609...invitations, reports of illness, copies of Dept. Orders, reports by Dept. Comdrs. on their Depts., problems.

Natl. Secy-Treas. Chester Shriver, Box 24, Gettysburg, PA 17325...all Quarterly Dept. Reports & Per capita Tax, all Life membership applications, Honor Roll donations, supply requisitions including badge and jewelry orders, reports by the Natl. Officers and Committees, SVR invitations.

National Patriotic Instructor Thomas Graham, 816 Weymouth Terrace, Hampton, VA 23666...reports on local and Dept. Patriotic activities and donations to the GAR Memorial Fund (make checks payable to Chester Shriver, but send to Tom for recording).

Sr. Vice Comdr.-in-Chief Eugene Russell, 3 Hudson St., Malden, Mass 02148. Write what you think about the Sons...ways & means to improve it. Donations for Sr. Vice Comdr.-in-Chief Fund (make checks payable to Chester Shriver, but send to Eugene for recording).

Sons of Veterans Reserve programs: Contact LTC. Gordon R. Bury, the Adjt. Gen., SVR, Box 172 RD No. 1, Marshallville, OH 44645.

Natl. Members-at-Large Coordinator Richard Schlenker, 4112 Heathfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853...all members-at-large dues, change of address, membership inquiries, etc.

Banner Editor Robert J. Wolz, 462 East Main, East Palestine, OH 44413...back issue requests, new releases, stories, articles, photos of Camp, Dept. or Natl. activities, Quarterly report all membership address changes, drops, deaths or new members. Send copies of Dept. Orders. Banner Subscriptions (make checks payable to Chester Shriver).

Specific interests or problems should be directed to the chairman of the committees listed in the October Banner.

Committee members should contact his chairman so that a **committee** report can be presented at Natl. in August.

Individual dues and inquiries should be made to your local Camp Secretary.



Legislative Report

Thomas L. W. Johnson

Checking Congressional Progress — Interested in obtaining up-to-date reports on legislation and activity in Congress? Here are some telephone numbers to keep in mind. All are in Area Code 202 but are **not** toll-free numbers.

To contact Senators, Representatives, Committees or Subcommittees: U.S. Capitol, 224-3121.

To check on status of legislation: Senate, 224-2971; House of Representatives, 225-1772.

To check legislative activity on the floor of the Senate: Rep. cloakroom, 224-8601; Dem. cloakroom, 224-8541.

To check legislative activity on the floor of the House of Representatives: Dem. cloakroom, 225-7400; Rep. cloakroom, 225-7430.

To order documents from the Government Printing Office, 783-3238.

To ascertain whether or not the President has signed a specific bill, 456-2226.

Status of Lee-Jackson Day in Virginia — The Virginia General Assembly has before it a proposal to combine a holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., with a long-established holiday which honors two Confederate heroes from Virginia, Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, on the 3rd Monday in January. Backers of the King holiday measure have been trying since 1976 to gain this recognition for the slain black leader. Traditionalists have opposed merging the King proposal with Lee-Jackson Day. However, Gov. Charles Robb has indicated he will sign the measure if it reaches his desk.

Connecticut State Song — In 1978 "Yankee Doodle" was adopted as Connecticut's official song. Now an 84-year-old retired naval architect, James A. Pennypacker, is leading an effort to obtain recognition of his composition, "We're Proud of Connecticut," as the Nutmeg State's official song. Backers of his proposal as well as supporters of other entries, feel that "Yankee Doodle" is not unique to Connecticut and is not particularly

ly descriptive of the contributions made by that state. At this writing, prospects for change appear to be uncertain.

House Voting Records — Rep. William H. Natcher of Kentucky holds the record in either house of Congress for the longest unbroken voting streak having completed 29 consecutive years without missing a vote which included 9,176 roll-call votes and 3,957 quorum calls as of June 7, 1983. Rep. Charles E. Bennett of Florida is a close second having established the record for more votes cast than any other member in the history of Congress (9,610 roll-call votes and 4,282 quorum calls as of June 5, 1983) but he missed a vote on a quorum call in February 1974, which broke his consecutive string. Rep. Natcher is 73 and Rep. Bennett is 74 years old. Nice going, gentlemen!

Respectfully submitted,
THOMAS L. W. JOHNSON,
Chairman

Address Correction

In the last issue of the BANNER the Appeal forms for the GAR Memorial Fund list the incorrect address for Thomas Graham. Please use this address when sending donations: 816 Weymouth Terrace, Hampton, VA 23666.

What Was The Official Flag During the Civil War?

33 stars adorned the garrison flag which was flying over Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, on that fateful morning of April 12, 1861, when troops of South Carolina bombarded the fort at 4:30 A.M. setting in motion the great conflict which had long been smoldering.

Kansas, the 34th state, had joined the Union on January 29 but a star was not added to the field of blue until July 4th.

West Virginia joined on June 20th, 1863, thus flags of 33, 34 and 35 stars were seen during the Civil War.

Though Nevada joined on October 31, 1864, a star was not added until July 4th, after the surrender at Appomattox.

So far there have been 27 official versions of the Stars and Stripes.



Pennsylvania Civil War Flag Program

The Capital Preservation Committee's "Save-The-Flags" program is now well underway. The Committee plans to do some badly-needed conservation work on the collection of approximately 360 Civil War flags and 23 Spanish-American War colors now housed in six glass display cases in the Capitol Rotunda. To help meet the \$1,000 per-flag cost of the treatment, private contributions are being sought. For further information please contact Capital Preservation Committee, Honorable Joseph R. Pitts, Chairman, Room 144, Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120 (717)783-6000.

As part of this project, the Committee plans to publish a book that will include a brief history of each Pennsylvania regiment and illustrations of its flags. In order to facilitate research, the military historian who is researching the history of the flags is seeking access to historical materials written by or about Pennsylvania soldiers in the Civil War. Such materials include letters, diaries, post-war reminiscences, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Also, he is interested in locating any flag-related memorabilia that could be photographed for possible inclusion in the book. For further information, contact: Capital Preservation Committee, House of Representatives, Mr. Richard A. Sauers, Military Historian, House P.O. Box 231, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 (717)783-6484.

When you buy something for a song, look out for the accompaniment.

Success is the ability to get along with some people — and ahead of others.

Collecting Sons Badges

The concept of a "Sons" organization began in several sections of the country. New York started a "Post System" patterned after the GAR posts. Philadelphia had "Cadet Corps" and New England had sons groups named after their organizer Bro. Edwin Earp of Lynn, Mass.

The Pittsburgh based Sons of Veterans, USA started by Maj. A. P. Davis eventually absorbed the other groups and we are today based upon that Order. However, we have had some simplification and changes. One change was noted in the last issue, when in 1904 the Order became "civilian". Another major change occurred in 1925 when we changed our name from Sons of Veterans USA to the present, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The badges of our Order likewise have reflected these changes. The Sons of 1881 were much more accustomed to heraldic meanings than most members are today. The National Colors of red, white & blue combined with gold and the symbolic use of precious medals was widespread.

Camps were designated with blue, the state Division (later, department) was red, Grand Divisions (several states grouped by region) were white and the National Commandery-in-Chief by gold.

The Bronze regulation membership badge was based upon the GAR membership badge that was originally made from captured bronze Confederate cannons.

The awarding of Past Rank followed the degree of service.

The "Iron Cross" with blue ribbon was awarded individuals who served a term as Camp Commander. The same design is used today.

The "Bronze Cross" with red ribbon was awarded by the Department to those veterans who had served in war. The first were awarded with the Spanish American War.

The "Silver Cross" with red ribbon was awarded for service as a Division (Dept.) Commander.

The "Gold Cross" with white ribbon was awarded to Past Grand Division Commanders. The Grand Division was abolished in 1886. After which the Commandery-in-Chief awarded this Gold Cross for meritorious service to the National Organization. None have been awarded since 1913. The design was similar to the silver Past Dept. Comdr. Badge.

The "Golden Star" with the gold Commandery-in-Chief colors was awarded to our Past Commanders-in-Chief. Its design is based on a star — the rank of General held by our Commander-in-Chief in the beginning of our military Order.

Of course, most of these had "SV" monograms later changed to SUV monograms. The reverse designs varied on the membership badge at least 3 times. Some early badges show a tricolor ribbon on members badges with the Blue Camp colors reserved for current or past Camp officers.

Our official lapel button is known in at least five different designs. Likewise, the badges of the smaller "Sons" organizations that merged into the Sons of Veterans could still be found. Presumably as both membership badges and past officers badges.

The History Book committee would like to obtain photographs of ALL the membership badges that existed. If you have any that you are willing to allow us to photograph,

please contact Brother Jerry Orton, P.O. Box 223, Syracuse, NY 13201. We have the current badges. If you would like to donate any of these **older** badges for a permanent Headquarters collection. Please contact our Commander-in-Chief. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BANNER.



Senior Vice Commander Report

The Program and Policy Committee studying the wealth of suggestions for improving our Order and realizing the difficulties confronting the efforts of any Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief to collect funds for this Committee's work, now that the obvious and pressing need for a centennial fund has passed — feels that the delegates at the next National Encampment should select one main project as a permanent financial goal to which contributions may be made with the members feeling that their donations are being put to the furtherance of a realistic and reasonably realizable end. Members — please put this idea at least on the back burner to simmer and perhaps boil over along with our quaker oats at Akron. In the meantime any contribution to the Program and Policy Fund will be gratefully received and held in reserve for use hopefully in some formally designated manner.

Eugene Russell

3 Hudson St., Malden, Mass 02148.



Descendents of W. Va. Soldiers Sought

Approximately 5,200 Civil War medals, struck in 1866 for distribution to West Virginia's Union soldiers, are available to be claimed by rightful heirs through the Department of Culture and History's Archives and History Division. Lists of soldiers for whom the Department still holds medals are arranged geographically according to muster information, and are available to enable heirs of the honored to claim the medals which were commissioned by the West Virginia Legislature 122 years ago.

"In years since the 26,000 medals were first available, eighty percent have been claimed by either the soldier or a surviving family member, leaving the approximately 5200, unclaimed," explained Fred Armstrong, Associate Director of the Department's Archives and History Division. "Claimants have been few over the past several years with only 75 since 1977. Today it is our aim to broaden and publicize the opportunity for the heirs of these men to come forth and receive the medals to be passed down through their families."

Armstrong explains that the unclaimed medals are still stored in the small cardboard boxes in which they arrived from A. Demarest of New York following the 1866 commissioning by the legislature. Written in longhand on the outside of each box is the soldier's name and his unit. The medals were struck in three separate classes: Class I medals for officers and soldiers in the volunteer army who were honorably discharged from the service; Class II medals for officers and soldiers who were

killed in battle; and Class III medals for officers and soldiers who died of wounds or diseases contracted in the service. Early records show that the largest portion of medals ordered were Class I.

The specific design of the medals varies from a figure of Liberty holding a laurel wreath (Class I) to a funeral scene (Class III). The medals were patterned after the British awards to veterans of the Crimean War in Sevastopol and Balaklava. Each is bronzed-covered copper and bears the name and regiment of the honored soldier die-punched on the milled edge.

The Department of Culture and History will award the medals to heirs who can provide documentation establishing a direct line of descent from the Union army veteran. Armstrong specified that such documentation might be drawn from military records, census records, birth records, death records, marriage records, and other generally accepted genealogical research records. The applicant for the Civil War medal must present certified copies of the necessary records, many of which are available in the Cultural Center's Archives Library, to the Archives and History Division. Personal family documents—letters, diaries, Bible records — may also prove useful in establishing sufficient documentation.

He states that the person documenting the most direct line of descent from the Civil War veteran will receive the medal at the end of a six-month period following submission of the claim. "The six-month period will enable verification of the claim and ample time for any secondary claimants to come forward," Armstrong explained. "In the case of equal claims, the person who first submitted the

documented claim to the Department will be awarded the medal." The Archives and History Division will accept researched and documented claims until April 12, 1985.

Identification and information on Union soldiers for whom unclaimed medals remain may be obtained by writing the Archives and History Division, Department of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305.

Son of Veterans Reserve National Encampment



1. Subject to final contract signed by 15 May 1984, the **14th Sons of Veterans Reserve National Encampment** will be held September 1-3, 1984 adjacent to the Antietam National Battlefield at Sharpsburg, MD. This is Labor Day weekend.

2. Through the **untiring efforts** of a few SVR Officers, it was disappointing to receive last minute refusals of two locations for this year's National Encampment. One in New Jersey resulted in a recruitment of an Infantry Company of 22 men in the SVR **BUT** the sponsor and Host Unit for the SVR National "fell through". The other location in Pennsylvania resulted in 95% acceptance but the 5% resulted in rejection.

3. It was not an easy task to continue at a late date. Many had to list vacation dates via January 1, 1984; others planned trips to include the possible July 4th week. **For this we at National Headquarters regret. HOWEVER** ... the location at Antietam is on a private Farm where the early stages of "The Bloodiest Day of the Civil War — September 17th, 1862" encamped thousands of Federal Troops.

4. Contrary to "**unfounded reports and rumors**" — there have been no previous Orders, Information Bulletins or letters published regarding Gettysburg or other locations. Therefore, The Commanding Officer SVR request that all Officers and Unit Commanders wait until **May 15, 1984** when the National Headquarters issues **ALL** information regarding the Encampment Site, Host, Registration information, etc. The 14th SVR National promises to have and provide items never before furnished to every person. Do not write any Officer on the National Staff as all info is "frozen" until May 15th. Your Commanding General SVR can only promise the experience of sleeping and soldiering at the 14th SVR National on Battleground.

SUVCW LIFE MEMBERS

Life Membership can be an individual purchase, a gift or bestowed honor. Payment may be in full or 1/3 down with the balance paid within 3 years. The fee is invested in our Permanent Fund and established as follows:

Under age 60 \$150.00
Age 60-69 \$125.00
Age 70 & over \$100.00

The Life membership goes into effect only after full fee has been paid. Each year interest is paid to the Camp Treasurer in lieu of the life members dues.

Welcome New Life Members

No. 147 Keith Ashley,
Pomeroy, OH \$150.00

No. 150 Donald Roberts
Condor, NY \$125.00

No. 151 DeVerne Williamson
Orlando, FL \$125.00





AUXILIARY NEWS

Sisters please submit ready to print copy to Natl. Press Correspondent Miss Dorothy Hammond, 39 North Sixth St., New Bedford, Mass 02740.

AUXILIARY HONOR ROLL

From Anita's Carnation Club \$10.00
In Memory of Anita Selby, Past National President

From Lincoln/Cushing Auxiliary \$10.00
No. 3, Maryland-Delaware
In Memory of Marie Milans, Auxiliary No. 3

From Esther G. Peiper, Nat'l. Treasurer \$10.00
In Memory of Lillian Iona Sutton, National Chaplain and Past Department President of Ohio

AUX LIFE MEMBERS

Life Membership can be an individual purchase, a gift or bestowed honor. The fee is invested in our Permanent Fund and established as follows:

- Under age 60 \$150.00
- Age 60-69 \$125.00
- Age 70 & over \$100.00

Men are the only people on earth who think they have more sense than women.

Money doesn't talk these days — it goes without saying.

The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.

"The Lincoln Tradition"

The Late George Cashman, PC in C
Former Curator, Lincoln Tomb

Lincoln and Humor

Abraham Lincoln was a master of the art of story-telling, and sometimes his anecdotes were tinged with color. While, on occasion, he recited doggerel satire of his own concoction, he said that he was not a maker of stories but was only a retailer. Lincoln never told a story for the sake of the story itself, but always to press home a point. He knew that a well-chosen anecdote, used as an illustration, could often eliminate much long and boring discussion. Ben Perley Poore, in his book, said, speaking of Lincoln, "Many a meta-physical argument does he demolish by simply telling an anecdote which overturns the verbal structure."

It is said that a picture is worth ten thousand words. If this is true, then certainly a well-chosen story, used to illustrate, must be equally as effective. Lincoln's stories were always bright, piquant, penetrating and pertinent to the occasion.

Lincoln's matchless power in story-telling helped to make him a great favorite wherever he went. On the old Illinois Eighth Judicial circuit, yarn-spinning was expected of all the lawyers and others who gathered in the evening, after a day spent in court, to exchange experiences and stories. In this way, life during the long months away from home, was made more

easy and endurable. Lincoln's stories were always sought after, and he was loath to disappoint his many friends. He enjoyed the pleasure he gave to others by his, seemingly endless, supply of anecdotes.

Lincoln had a great appreciation for humor, and he was particularly fond of the writings of such humorists as Petroleum Nasby (David Ross Locke) and Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne), whose witticisms made him laugh. Laughter was a stimulant to Lincoln, and he said, "Laughter is my antidote for tears, if I did not laugh I should die."

Lincoln's sense of humor was frowned upon by one or two members of his cabinet when, in the midst of a serious cabinet discussion, he would interrupt and read a funny passage from one of his favorite humorists. Their staid and proper demeanor was shocked by such a display of what seemed to them, to be ill-mannered buffoonery. They were unable to understand the importance of laughter to Lincoln.

Lincoln's reputation as a humorist sometimes suffered as the following incident illustrates. Two women were discussing the probable outcome of the Civil War. One said, "I think that Davis will succeed." Asked for her reason for so thinking, she said, "Because Davis is a praying man." But so is Lincoln," replied the other. "Yes, but the Lord will think that Lincoln is joking," was the rejoinder.

TO Chester Shriver, Natl. Sec-Treas.
PO Box 24
Gettysburg, Pa 17325

Quantity	Description	Price	Total
	Rosette	\$ 4.00	
	Membership Badge	14.00	
	Associate Badge	14.00	
	War Medal	20.00	
	Tie Tack (tac back)	3.00	
	Tie Bar	3.50	
	Cuff Links	4.25	
	Lapel Button	4.00	
	Ritual .. Ceremonies Booklet	3.00	

I would like to purchase a Life Membership. Enclosed \$.....
Please accept my donation of \$10.00 or more to the Honor Roll in memory of.....
Veterans name.....
Company and Regiment.....
My name:.....
My address:.....
City, State .. Zip.....



Reprint from the National DAR Magazine, February 1953.

Lincoln's Last Night

by Helen Leale Harper, Jr.

A 23-year-old Army doctor, Charles A. Leale, who was the surgeon in charge of the Wounded Commissioned Officers Ward at the United States General Hospital, Armory Square, Washington, D.C., had been greatly impressed with President Lincoln's appearance when the Chief Executive delivered his last public speech. This experience left Dr. Leale with the great desire once again to behold the President's inspiring face.

Having been told that President Lincoln would be present at Ford's Theater to see the play, **Our American Cousin**, Dr. Leale, after completing his hospital duties for the day, changed to civilian dress and went to the theater. As Ford's Theater was crowded, Dr. Leale obtained the last seat which was in the Dress Circle about forty feet from the Presidential box.

When the President's party arrived at the theater, the play was in progress. The President's entrance caused a cheering ovation. Out of respect to President Lincoln, the acting ceased. After the Chief Executive was seated in his box, the play was resumed.

Suddenly, a shot was heard. The assassin leaped from the Presidential box caught his spur, and fell to the stage. Quickly he hopped off the stage and disappeared into the night.

In response to shouts for a doctor, Assistant Surgeon Leale vaulted over the seats to the Presidential box. Being an Army surgeon, he was the first person permitted to enter the box, where he found Mrs. Lincoln holding the President upright in his chair. When Dr. Leale identified himself as an Army surgeon, Mrs. Lincoln beseeched the young doctor to take charge of the case and to do everything possible for

the President.

The President's pulse was imperceptible. In an effort to revive the Chief Executive, his body was moved to the floor where Dr. Leale examined the dying President. Raising the eyelids, Dr. Leale saw signs of a brain injury. Quickly the young surgeon ran his fingers through the President's hair, discovering the mortal wound behind the left ear. From time to time, he removed the blood clot from the wound, thus relieving the pressure on the brain. Dr. Leale administered artificial respiration until the President was able to breathe independently, so preventing the President's immediate death.

This diagnosis of Dr. Leale was telegraphed throughout the country: "His wound is mortal; it is impossible for him to recover."

When Dr. Charles S. Taft and Dr. Albert F. A. King arrived, they gave their assistance. The surgeons decided that the President would be unable to survive the long journey over the rough cobblestones to the White House, but, instead, he should be carried to the nearest house.

The guards cleared the passage through the crowds as the President was carried by Dr. Leale, Dr. Taft, Dr. King, and a number of other persons into Mr. Petersen's house, which was across the street from Ford's Theater. As the bed was much too short for the tall President of six feet four inches, his body was stretched diagonally across it. After the Chief Executive had been placed in the most comfortable position, the surgeons examined him for additional wounds, but no more were found. Then Dr. Leale dispatched messengers to call Captain Robert T. Lincoln, Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes, Surgeon D. Willard Bliss, Dr. Robert K. Stone, the Rev. Dr. Gurley, and every member of President Lincoln's Cabinet.

When Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton arrived, he transformed an adjoining room into an office. During the night he met with his counsellors and dispatched messages to various Army and government officials. In those important hours, Secretary Stanton was of great service to his country.

Dr. Leale remained by President Lincoln, holding his right hand, until the end came at 7:20 A.M. on April 15, 1865. Those who remained in the room knelt around the bed as the Rev. Dr. Gurley prayed.



From the desk of the National Patriotic Instructor

The office of National Patriotic Instructor is a special one. Probably one of the most important jobs our Order has to offer. Our object; to promote patriotism through Civil War heritage is extremely difficult when you live in the "heart of Dixie". When the birthdays of Lee and Jackson are state holidays and the mention of Sherman and Grant raises eyebrows, you know you live "down South". I was extremely proud to read in our local newspaper about one of the projects we have been involved in. Our Organization, through the efforts of the Commander-in-Chief's liason, John Davis, have been aiding the cause of raising the Monitor. Last summer the anchor of the boat was brought up and is now undergoing restoration at East Carolina University. How proud we should feel that we have had a small part in preserving that piece of Civil War memorabilia for future generations. That is why Brothers, I am coming to you. In the last issue of the BANNER, you were each given an individual plea request. Several of our members filled them out; wrote a check and returned them to me. To you I say a big thanks. To those of you who haven't mailed yours yet, please take time to do so today. This anchor which in ancient days symbolized hope, should serve as a beacon to all of us for the future in the building and growing of our Organization. That building and growing can only be accomplished through the combined efforts of us all. Please be willing to do your part no matter how large or small.

Thomas W. Graham
816 Weymouth Terrace
Hampton, VA 23666

After a promotion to a more responsible job many of us wonder why we sought it so eagerly.

Every man who means well isn't a man of means.



Department News

Indiana: On April 8, 1984, the Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 at Indianapolis honored eight students from the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home School at Knightstown. These students were participants in a patriotic essay contest. Monetary prizes and certificates were presented to all contestants. Refreshments were served during a social hour by the Woman's Relief Corps of Indianapolis.

Colorado: It is with deep regret we announce the loss of the last actual son in the Colorado Dept., Col. John B. Tipton.

Wisconsin: The annual Washington-Lincoln-McKinley Luncheon was held in Milwaukee on Saturday, February 11. Lt. Jim Borzych of the Milwaukee Fire Dept., gave an interesting talk on "The Polish Heritage in Milwaukee." Included were references to prominent Poles who fought in the Civil War. Dept. President Rhoda Lemanski presided as president of Auxiliary No. 4, the host organization this year. Among those present was Ethel Johnson of Shawano, Wis., national president of the Ladies of the G.A.R. An appeal was made to urge individuals to write to the U.S. Postal Service in support of a proposed commemorative stamp intended to honor the four Cushing brothers of Delafield, Wis., who distinguished themselves individually in their defense of the Union cause during the Civil War.

Maryland: Lincoln-Cushing Camp and Auxiliary in Washington DC held annual business meetings in February, observing the 175th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. All current officers were re-elected for another term.

New Camp members are Lowell Hammer, Thomas Quesinberry and Lee Stone. Catherine Heim is the newest Auxiliary member.

We regret very much the passing of Bro. Edmund Koenig, who rendered long service to the camp and Sr. Marie Milans who was a daughter of a Civil War veteran.

Ohio: The reception honoring Dept. Comdr. Ralph Shadel was held on April 8 at the Mansfield G.A.R. Hall. A nice group attended with everyone enjoying themselves.

We regret to announce the death of Natl. Aux. Chaplain Lillian Sutton. Her sudden passing was a shock to all.

Membership-at-Large News: An article in the January Civil War Times resulted in over 75 inquiries about our order. 25 of those have since become Members-at-Large, including 1 Life Member.

We report with sorrow the death of MALs Charles H. Webber of Rochester, NY and William W. Willis of Princeton, KY.

New member, Lewis C. Ball of Atlantic Beach, FL is a "Real Son".

We are fortunate that our rate of growth balances our attrition.

Endorsement

Chickamauga Camps at Large No. 1 and No. 21 hereby endorse Gordon R. Bury of Ohio for the office of Junior Vic Comdr. in Chief.

HONOR ROLL

Our Permanent Fund was authorized to unite and to assure a permanent association. No member is obligated to contribute nor may he be assessed. Anyone may contribute in memory of his family or friends or to honor a Civil War ancestor and perpetuate the memory of his name. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS are tax deductible.

The following contributions have been received since the last issue of *The Banner*:

Dr. Clarence Duncan II, Kenai, Ark \$10.00
In Memory of Clarence S. Duncan, Sr. and James Duncan, Co. H, 41st Regt.

No party can be held responsible for what individual members of it say and do.

Revolutionize through the ballot box, and restore the government once more to the affections and hearts of men by making it express, as it was intended to do, the highest spirit of justice and liberty.

The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.

President Lincoln

Banner Subscriptions

The Banner is published quarterly by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. — the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic. Founded in 1881 and incorporated by Act of Congress as a non-profit patriotic, fraternal historical society. SUVCW members receive the Banner at no additional charge. Subscriptions are welcome at \$3.00 per year and may be pro-rated. ALL subscriptions expire January First.

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