



the Banner

Published 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 95

SUMMER, 1992

No. 4



(Left to right:) National Presidents: Anne L. Gerit, Woman's Relief Corps; Irene R. Berg, Daughters of Union Veterans; Bonnie P. Weld, Ladies of the G. A. R.; Ethel Carver, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans; and Lowell Varner Hammer, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony April 15, 1992

Warm Spring weather and clear skies greeted participants in the 36th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois on Wednesday. Co-Chairman of the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Committee Thomas L.W. Johnson acting as Master of Ceremonies opened the proceedings promptly at 11:00 a.m. by calling for the presentation of the colors by the 114th Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry under the command of Co-Chairman Robert M. Graham. It was followed by

the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The invocation given by Committee member Ron Clark.

After the welcoming remarks by Master of Ceremonies Tom Johnson, brief addresses were given by Command-in-Chief Lowell V. Hammer, representing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Past Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion William H. Upham, Jr. representing Commander-in-Chief Henry Nathan Sawyer, III. Commander-in-Chief Hammer's remarks were as follows: "There are some prominent

figures in the history of our nation whose presence one can feel when walking in places where they have walked and when in places identified with them. Abraham Lincoln is, of course, one of those figures. Although I go frequently to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., I never cease to feel the presence of Lincoln when I am there. The stately statue by Daniel Chester French and Lincoln's addresses etched in stone on the walls serve as a visual reminder of the man. However, beyond that, I always feel (Please turn to page 4)

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4**

Series 1991-1992
Commander-in-Chief
12312 Espalier Place
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-6833

"With Firmness in the Right"

1. **THE BANNER:** Hopefully, the problems encountered in the publication and distribution of THE BANNER have been solved or are on the way to being resolved. As explained earlier, the use of 3rd Class Mail for distribution of THE BANNER has resulted in unacceptable delays in delivery or apparent total non-delivery in many cases. For example, many did not receive the Spring, 1991, edition until December, 1991, and many apparently never received the Fall, 1991, issue which was mailed early in the Fall. To remedy this situation, it has been decided to use first class mail for THE BANNER to the extent that our financial situation permits, even though it may result in the publication of fewer editions of THE BANNER. Thus, you should have received by now the combined Winter/Spring 1992 edition by 1st Class mail. Of course, if your Department is one of those where THE BANNER is sent in bulk to the Department Secretary, it is up to the Department Secretary to assure onward delivery. This edition, Summer, 1992, should be in your hands sometime in July, 1992.

2. NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT:

The information and reservation forms for the National Encampment in Pittsburgh, PA, were published in the Winter/Spring issue of THE BANNER so that everyone would have this information well in advance of the Encampment. Early registration will facilitate the difficult task of the Host Committee. Pittsburgh received the most livable city in the U.S. award not long ago, so we can look forward to a pleasant stay. All brothers and sisters of the Auxiliary are encouraged to attend this National Encampment which should be a most interesting and enjoyable event.

3. **ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEES:** As Commander-in-Chief, it is my responsibility to appoint several committees to function at the National Encampment. The following are the committees and the brothers appointed to serve on them:

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

Ivan Frantz, Sr., Chairman
Forrest F. Altland
Joseph Long, Jr.
Danny L. Wheeler
and Gary Gibson

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Richard C. Schlenker, Chairman
Charles A. Rogers, Jr.
Allen W. Moore
Keith G. Harrison

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Charles W. Corfman, Chairman
Keith D. Ashley
Ivan Frantz, Jr.
Alan Loomis

CONSTITUTION and REGULATIONS: (Same as the standing committee)

Joseph S. Rippey, Chairman
Clark W. Mellor
George W. Long
Edgar A. Prince, Sr.
Harry E. Gibbons

RITUAL and CEREMONIES:

Richard Gleenwalt, Chairman
Frank A. Foight, III
Richard Smyser
Alan C. Peterson

FRATERNAL RELATIONS:

(Same as the standing committee)
Allen W. Moore, Chairman
E. Ray Niffenegger
Floyd I. Blodgett, Sr.
Richard Lufkin

PRESS:

David N. Reed, Chairman
J. D. Jenkins
James O. Lee



4. **OFFICER'S REPORTS:** The reports of officers and committee chairmen should be typewritten on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper and submitted to the National Secretary by August 1, 1992. Oral reports presented on the floor of the Encampment should be limited to no more than 5 minutes and should simply highlight the important points of the written report.

5. I wish to express my personal appreciation and that of the National Organization to the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Committee for its outstanding work in arranging, organizing, and presenting this most impressive ceremony and program. Each year the National Organization participates in a wreath laying ceremony on April, 13th at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. This year in the absence of our Washington Representative and because of my travel schedule for the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony and the Massachusetts Department Encampment, National Council of Administration Member Peter A. Dixon placed the wreath of the National Organization at the Jefferson Memorial.

6. It was my pleasure to represent the National Organization at the 3rd Annual Congress of the National Congress of Patriotic Organizations held in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1992. The SUVCW and the Auxiliary are Founding Member Organizations of this body which now has 26 organization members and 91 individual Founding or Charter fellows. Thanks goes to Brothers Frank A. Foight, III, and Peter A. Dixon for assisting at the Congress. The new insignia medal of the NCPO has 24 stars around the edge of the metal, one for each of the founding organizations. As founding organizations, the SUVCW and the Auxiliary are each represented by one of these stars. I am honored to serve as one of the three Regents of the NCPO. Although individual membership as a Founding Fellow is now closed, membership as a Charter Fellow remains open at annual dues of \$10.00. Brothers or Sisters of the

Auxiliary who are serving or have served as officers at the Camp, Department, or National level and who are interested in becoming Charter Fellows may request applications from the NCPO Registrar, Raymond N. Zimmerman, 4615 Gov. Kent Court, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

7. As a member of the Advisory Board of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, I was privileged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association which was held on May 1 - 3, 1992, in Richmond, Virginia, and included tours of Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm, Malvern Hill, Weldon Railroad, Reams Station, Peeble's Farm, Hatcher's Run, White Oak Road, Five Forks and Fort Gregg where my great uncle lost his arm. The APCWS is doing a fantastic job! I urge all brothers who are not already members of the APCWS to join this organization whose goals coincide with our purpose and objectives.

8. On July 11 and 12, 1992, the National Park Service with the assistance and cooperation of Civil War oriented organizations will present a program and ceremonies to commemorate the 128th anniversary of Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C. Fort Stevens was one of the forts surrounding Washington where Jubal Early attacked in an effort to penetrate the defenses of the Capital City. The SUVCW is working with the National Park Service on this program. All brothers who can possibly do so are urged to attend.

9. **COMMENDATIONS:** I wish to commend the brothers of the New York Department for the excellence of their projects and programs this year. Special recognition is extended to Department Commander Danny L. Wheeler for his leadership in promoting these projects and programs. Particularly noteworthy is the publication of a book by the New York Department on Grand Army of the Republic monuments in the State of New York. This is an excellent work which should moti-

vate other Departments to undertake similar projects. Brother Jerry Orton and Sister Lorraine Orton deserve much credit for their special efforts on this project.

Special recognition is also due the Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26 of New York City and its Commander, Robert J. Eck, for the Grant Tomb ceremony which it has sponsored and conducted for over fifty years. This year's ceremony was the subject of a special article in the May 18, 1992, edition of the internationally famous NEW YORKER magazine.

Additionally, the J.H. Ten Eych Camp No. 154 of Albany deserves much credit for the day long program conceived and conducted by Past Camp Commander and Department Patriotic Instructor Douglas E. Smith to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the G.A.R. in New York. The program consisted of a ceremony in the morning at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Washington Park, followed by a program of speakers and living history presentations at the Military Heritage Museum in the afternoon, and a ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the State Capital in the late afternoon.

Commendations are also in order for the National G.A.R. Highway Officer, Alan Peterson, and the Department of Rhode Island for organizing and presenting the ceremony rededicating the G.A.R. Highway in Rhode Island which was held on May 30, 1992, in Johnston, Rhode Island.

The Ohio Department under the command of Commander David R. Medert is to be commended for its recruitment efforts as well as an effective program of meetings and events. Brother C.A. "Chip" Rogers, Jr., Commander of the Gov. Wm. Dennison Camp No. 125, is singled out for special recognition for the excellence of his communications to the membership and the institution of the Camp Commander's Communique. By conducting these programs we are fulfilling our mission to honor the memory of the

Grand Army of the Republic and the men who saved the Union. At the same time, the favorable publicity received gains recognition for the SUVCW nationally which in turn attracts the interest of prospective members.

I wish also to commend Brother J.D. Jenkins, Chairman of the Publications Committee, and his committee members for their excellent work in encouraging and assisting Camps and Departments to publish newsletters in an effort to improve communications with the membership.

10. For those brothers who have not already done so, I urge you to make a contribution, regardless of the amount, to the G.A.R. Memorial fund and to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's fund. These funds provide us with the wherewithal to carry on the truly important educational and commemorative activities of the Order. Contributions to the G.A.R. Memorial fund should be sent to the National Patriotic Instructor, Brother James O. Lee, 1609 S.W. Leland Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315-4946. Contributions for the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief's fund should be sent to Brother Elmer F. Atkinson, 1016 Gorman Street, Philadelphia, PA 19116-3719.

11. We mourn the loss of Brother Wendell W. Moriarty who was the incumbent Camp Commander of the Grenville M. Dodge Camp No. 75 of the Iowa Department at the time of his death. Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Brother Moriarty. All Camp Charters are to be draped for a period of thirty days in memory of Brother Moriarty. Condolences are also extended to all those who have recently suffered the loss of loved ones.

12. As my term of office draws to a close, I wish to express my appreciation to our Departments for the many courtesies extended to me during visits to Department Encampments and other events. (Please turn to page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Special thanks is extended to the Departments of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, New York, Maryland, and Michigan. I regret that it was not possible to accept every invitation extended to me because of conflicts with other Department events.

I also wish to thank the National Presidents of the Auxiliary and Allied Orders for all of their kind assistance and cooperation during the year.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the National Officers and Committee Chairmen and Members for the outstanding support which I received during the past year.

By Order of
Lowell V. Hammer
Commander-in-Chief

Presentation of Eagle Scout Certificate

During the month of May, Commander-in-Chief Lowell V. Hammer presented the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Eagle Scout Certificate to Brother Ryan E. Bartholf, a Member-at-Large from Richmond, Virginia. Brother Bartholf is 16 years old and attained Eagle Scout rank on March 4, 1992. Brother Bartholf's father, Howard E. Bartholf, is also a Member-at-Large. Both are re-enactors in the 1st New York Engineer Regimental Association.



The Bartholf's in Civil War re-enactment at Belle Isle Opening in June, 1991, at James River Point.

As his Eagle Scout project, Brother Ryan Bartholf chose to help restore and beautify historic Belle Island located in the James River at Richmond, VA. The island served as a prison camp for Union enlisted men during the Civil War. Brother Bartholf contributed over 184 hours to this community service.

(Continued from Cover Page)

the spiritual presence there of Mr. Lincoln. Similarly, when at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where Mr. Lincoln worshiped, particularly when seated in the Lincoln pew, I can feel his presence and I imagine him standing there in prayer as he was wont to do. His presence can also be felt when visiting the Anderson cottage on the grounds of the Soldier's and Airmen's Home which served as the Summer White House during Lincoln's years in Washington, D.C. Or when at Ford's Theater where his life was taken, one can feel his presence in the flag draped presidential box above the stage.

"Since Lincoln spent only four years in Washington, D.C., compared to his twenty-five years in Springfield, IL., the citizens of Springfield are literally surrounded by the memory of Lincoln and some perhaps have come to take this for granted. However, I am certain that there are many of you who continue to feel Mr. Lincoln's presence when visiting the offices where he practiced law, in the chamber of the Old State Capitol, in the rooms of his home, and here at his final resting place. I am certain that the people of Springfield can never forget Abraham Lincoln just as he never forgot them. His deep affection for Springfield and its citizens are embodied in his now famous farewell address given when he embarked at the Great Western Depot for his journey to Washington, D.C., and his inauguration.

"It was my honor as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion to represent that Order here at the 1990 and 1991 ceremonies. I was always envious of the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans because it was traditional for him to read Lincoln's farewell address to the people of Springfield. Today, as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I now have the opportunity to read what I consider to be one of Lincoln's most poignant messages. We can feel his presence at

the depot as he said: My friends, on one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance, I can not fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let me confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Following the address, Master of Ceremonies Johnson conducted the wreath laying ceremony during which approximately sixty hereditary and patriotic societies participated in paying their respects to President Abraham Lincoln on the 127th anniversary of the date of his death. Commander-in-Chief Hammer placed the wreath of the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans and National President Ethel Carver placed the wreath of the Auxiliary. The Sons of Union Veterans was represented by the Departments of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin and by Camps located in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. The Auxiliary was represented by the Departments of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin and by local Auxiliaries from those Departments. The ceremony concluded with the benediction by Ron Clark, the playing of taps, and retiring of the colors.

The traditional luncheon was held at the Lincoln Plaza Hotel during which Commander-in-Chief Hammer presented Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Committee members Tom Johnson, Ed Pree, Bob Graham, and Ron Clark with Certificates of Merit for their outstanding service to the SUVCW. At the luncheon, Mr. Lewis P. Mallow, Jr., of Eau Claire, Wisconsin presented a pro-

gram of narration and slides entitled, "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln." Included were some rare prints and detailed maps to document this tragic episode in our history. The program was very well received.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Life Members

Life Membership can be an individual purchase, a gift or a 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	\$200.00
Age 60 - 69	\$150.00
Age 70 & Over	\$100.00

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

260 Carl G. Couch	10/01/90
261 Charles E. Davis	11/01/90
262 Larry K. Swogger	11/01/90
263 Ronald E. McGonigls	11/01/90
264 Kenneth T. Wheeler	11/25/90
265 Frederic M. Fisk	11/25/90
266 John H. Hartford	03/06/91
267 Merrill D. Anthony	06/11/91
268 Bernard T. Park	06/11/91
269 Burdell E. Waffler	06/11/91
270 Christan Peterson	06/11/91
271 Andrew J. Long	06/11/91
272	
273 Preston E. Pierce	06/11/91
274 Paul D. Hodges	06/11/91
275 William E. Little	06/11/91
276 Thomas Durning, Jr.	06/11/91
277 Jeffrey Hillard	06/11/91
278 Brice F. Scalley	07/01/91
279 George V. Holland	08/20/91
280	
281 Michael Milligan	08/20/91
282 Kendall Strong	11/11/91
282 Thomas Bresnehen	12/30/91
283 Ross T. Dunlop	12/30/91
284 Gary Dolph	12/30/91
285 Wayne E. McElfresh	01/04/92

ARCHIVISMS

(Items of interest culled by PCinC Richard C. Schlenker from the first one hundred years of published Proceedings of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Encampments)

Item One

Following the Civil War there were many Union Veteran groups formed. The Grand Army of the Republic becoming the largest, nearing one-half million at its peak.

Likewise many groups of veterans sons organized, such as Sons of Veterans (1878) in eastern Pennsylvania; Sons of Veterans of the United State of America (1881) in western Pennsylvania; Earp Sons of Veterans in New England and the Post System (1888) in New York State.

The two Pennsylvania groups were invited to attend the seventeenth Annual Session of the G.A.R. in Denver, CO in July, 1883, for the purpose of uniting under one head. By then many of the eastern camps had joined the western organization which then became recognized officially by the G.A.R. This ultimately led to all other groups affiliating with Sons of Veterans of the United States of America. A name change in the early 1920's further identified the Order we know today as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

ENDORSEMENT

The Department of Indiana, at the 106th Annual Encampment held on June 13, 1992, did unanimously endorse Brother **Allen W. Moore** for Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief and will place his name in nomination at the 111th National Encampment in August, 1992 at Pittsburgh, PA.

ENDORSEMENT

The Department of Maryland, at the 105th Annual Encampment assembled on April, 25, 1992, did unanimously endorse their Brother **Peter Arrot Dixon** for Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief and will place his name in nomination at the 111th National Encampment in August, 1992, at Pittsburgh, PA.

Memorial Day in Washington DC

By Richard C. Schlenker

Undaunted by unrelenting rain, members of the Sons, Auxiliary, MOLLUS, DOLLUS, Daughters and friends, in obedience to General Logan's General Order Number Eleven, gathered on May 30, 1992, to honor our noble dead as our fathers before us have done since 1868.

Meeting on that date, regardless of what the government does, is traditional with Lincoln-Cushing Camp which plans and sponsors the event. With the thirtieth no longer being a work-free holiday, ceremonies are planned for six in the evening when the faithful gather in Arlington National Cemetery at the burial site of more than two thousand Civil War unknowns near the old amphitheater built by the G.A.R.

In falling rain the Colors were presented by the Harper's Ferry Camp Color Guard. Department Commander Stone welcomed the participants National Chaplain Foight led prayers Commander-in-Chief Hammer and others presented floral tributes followed by Taps in a shortened program.

The group then retired as usual to the nearby Ft. Myer Officers Club for fellowship and dinner. New members obligated were Joel Smith for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and DeVona Garey for the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Member Robert Bateman, an Irish historian, told of the part of Irishmen in our history and in the Civil War.

All participants left with the feeling of having lived up to their obligation to "keep green the memory of those gone on before."



Gen. Benjamin D. Pritchard
Camp No. 20, Kalamazoo
By Herbert R. Gage

Department of Michigan, Camp #20, has found a good way to advertise the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War by Adopting-A-Highway. They have adopted a two mile stretch of I-94 to keep it clean of paper and trash.

Twenty-two members from the Camp turned out to help with this project. They have agreed to clean-up their highway four times each year. These Brothers have received a lot of good compliments and many inquire about how to join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Appointment of Additional National Encampment Committees

Audit Committee:

Elmer F. Atkinson, Chair
George W. Long

Restoration of Rank Committee:

Richard C. Schlenker, Chair
Richard D. Orr
James T. Lyons

Visitation Committees:

(1) Auxiliary

Joseph S. Rippey, Chair
Richard Greenwalt
Eugene Russell
Clark W. Mellor

(2) Ladies of the G.A.R.

Norman R. Furman, Chair
Charles W. Corfman
Jonathan T. Mayhew

Central Region Conference

By Thomas L.W. Johnson

The Central Region Conference met in Lansing, MI, on October 5th and 6th, 1991, with delegates from the Departments of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin in attendance. On Saturday morning, Kerry Chartkoff of the staff of the Michigan Capital Committee gave an illustrated talk on the restoration of the Michigan Capitol now under way. The ambitious project to restore the building to its Victorian splendor of 1879, but with modern building conveniences, will ensure its use for many years to come. Ms. Chartkoff responded to numerous questions following her remarks.

The official opening of the Conference on Saturday afternoon, was at the GAR Hall in Sunfield, MI, about 25 miles due west of Lansing. There, amidst the artifacts assembled and displayed over the 90 year life of the hall, the delegates discussed the theme, "Your Success Stories," involving Camp and Department recruiting efforts and sponsorship of patriotic projects.

At the banquet session on Saturday evening, David D. Finney, chair of the History Department for the Farmington Hills School District and an instructor at Oakland Community College, spoke on the topic of "The Legacy of the Civil War." He cited the continuing significance of the Civil War experience in our own day and the fact people do not tire of exposure to that period of our history. Mr. Finney offers a high school course on the Civil War, a subject often neglected in our schools today.

The Sunday morning business session was presided over by Regional Commander Jo an Wheeler. Among the resolutions adopted were ones to (1) set aside a portion of the Conferences for the training of Department and Camp and Auxiliary officers each year and (2) to ask that a task force be appointed to catalog and index GAR records that have been deposited at Car-

lisle Barracks, PA. Concern was also expressed about the need to conserve records found in various locations so as to have copies available for study and research.

Illinois will host the 1992 Conference and the theme will be, "Membership and Recruiting: Ways and Means."

Officers elected and installed for 1991-1992 are as follows: Commander James T. Lyons, MI; Sr. Vice Cmdr. Peggy Schaeffer, WI; Jr. Vice Cmdr. Gary L. Gibson, MI; Secretary Robert M. Graham, IL; Treasurer Ellinore K. Johnson, WI; Patriotic Instructor Alan Loomis, IN; Chaplain Ronald Gill, IN and Guide W. Wayne Moriarty, IA.

The Department of Michigan and the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, Jim Lyons, and Department Commander Gary Gibson are to be congratulated for the warm hospitality extended and the special features of the program as described above which added enrichment to the weekend. It had been 25 years since the Conference last met in Michigan, but many delegates expressed an eagerness to return again soon.



Did You Know?

Commander-in-Chief Lowell V. Hammer concluded his two year term as Commander-in-Chief of the MOLLUS in October, 1991. Commander-in-Chief Hammer is the only person to have served as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War simultaneously. Major General Ulysses S. Grant, III, served as Commander-in-Chief of both Orders, but his terms did not coincide. C-in-C Hammer is also the Vice Chairman of the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee, the sponsor of the annual ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial on 12 February of each year.



Medal of Honor Recipient has an appropriate headstone

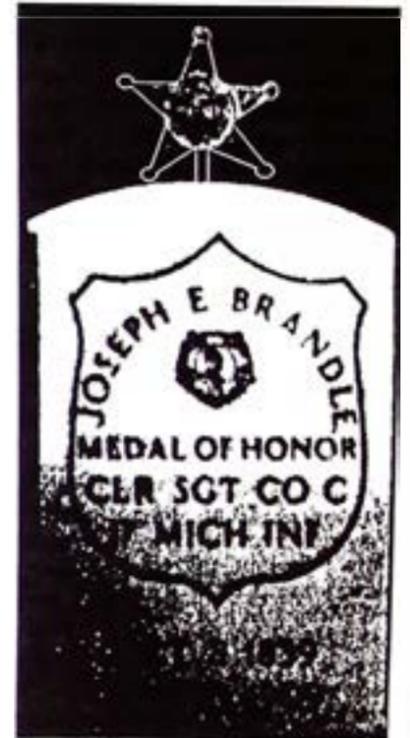
Harold I. Johnston was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO, in August of 1949. His grave had not been marked with the appropriate headstone, until recently. Thanks to Charles E. Sharrock, Nat'l. Graves Registration Officer, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brother Sharrock has spent years researching where Medal of Honor recipients are buried and placing government headstones with the Medal of Honor engraved on the gravesites.

The following information was taken from the National Medal of Honor book:

Citation: When information was desired as to the enemy's position on the opposite side of the Meuse River, Sgt. Johnston, with another soldier, volunteered without hesitation and swam the river to reconnoiter the exact location of the enemy. He succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, despite the evident determination of the enemy to prevent a crossing. Having obtained his information, he again entered the water for his return. This was accomplished after a severe struggle which so exhausted him that he had to be assisted from the water, after which he rendered his report of the exploit.

Rank and Org: Private First Class, Company A, 356th Infantry, 89th Div. Place and date: Near Pouilly, France, 9 Nov 1918. Born 3 March 1892, died 28 Aug 1949.



Joseph E. Brandle
Finally Honored

On the 124th recognition of Memorial Day, military units paid tribute to Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Joseph E. Brandle.

Honoring Brandle were members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Michigan, 17th Michigan Infantry re-enactment unit, Loomis' Battery of Michigan Light Artillery, Orcutt Post Women's Relief Corps and American Legion Post #52.

In a moving military salute, a Veteran's Administration headstone was placed at the grave of Color Sergt. Joseph E. Brandle. Other than a five pointed star placed there by the Grand Army of the Republic, Brandle's grave has remained unmarked since his death on May 13, 1909.

The deed, which earned Brandle this country's highest honor, is described below by Lt.-Col. L. L. Comstock commanding the 17th Michigan in the Knoxville campaign as recorded in the Official Records of the Civil War. The date is Nov. 16, 1863.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

"We were overtaken and attacked by the enemy at 9:30 a.m. near Campbell's Station. Col. W. Humphrey, commanding brigade, sent me orders to hold the enemy at all hazards until the brigade could find a better position and form line. The enemy crowded upon us in overwhelming numbers, and here was the most trying part of the day. The men fought well and held their ground until flanked upon both right and left. We then fell back in line of battle to the open field in front of the brigade, where Colonel Humphrey ordered us to the rear. We had marched but a few rods when we received orders to form on the left of the Twentieth Michigan and extend skirmishes farther to the left to prevent being flanked. The enemy pressed boldly forward, and the whole brigade was soon hotly engaged. Still they crowded us, but we fought them determinedly. They were flanking us on both right and left, our skirmishes were falling back in much confusion before their strong lines, and everything looked gloomy; but Colonel Humphrey came to us just in time, and ordered me to charge and drive the enemy back out of the woods. The men sprang forward with cheer after cheer, and, the Twentieth coming gallantly to our aid, we drove them back out of the woods and over the field in double-quick.

Colonel Humphrey at once ordered us to march in retreat, and under cover of the shock given by the charge we marched slowly and in good order to the large brick house in the open field. Here we filed in by the flack and crossed to the right of the road. The enemy soon came down upon us from the woods and high weeds in front. Colonel Humphrey commanded 'Fire by file,' and after one round he ordered us to right of the brigade. Here we found the enemy coming out of the woods again, but one well aimed volley sent them reeling back under cover. Here we lay in line until the brigade was relieved by colonel commanding Second Brigade, when we fell back to the creek, stacked arms, and rested until 3:30 p.m., when we marched back to the rear of the batteries, stacked arms, and rested till dark. We then fell in and marched toward Knoxville, reaching it on the morning of the 17th instant near 4 o'clock.

I can not speak in too high terms of all the officers and men of my regiment, but will mention some who are especially deserving of notice. I am greatly indebted to Capt. F.W. Swift (acting major), Capt. John Tyler, and Adj. R.A. Watts, for their brave, gallant and efficient conduct during the entire day.

Among the bravest of the men

were Color Sergt. Joseph E. Brandle, who being wounded severely, a ball entering his head, passing through the right eye, still held to the colors until ordered to the rear by myself; and Charles Thompson, carrier of the State colors, was equally gallant, and called upon the men to stand firmly by the standard he bore; also Corpl. A.P. Curtis, who took the colors from the sergeant and bore them gallantly through the remainder of the day."

This would cost Sgt. Brandle the sight of his right eye. Following the war, Brandle settled in Coldwater and ironically served as color guard for the Butterworth Post of GAR. Little else is known of Brandle's life following the war.

State Rep. Mike Nye presented a plaque bearing a proclamation from the State of Michigan to Loranetta Diebel, president of the Branch County Historical Society. The plaque will remain on display at the Wing House Museum. Nye is a member of the Jackson Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the

Coldwater Mayor Louise Wallace participated in the ceremony along with Michigan Dept. Cmdr. Galv I Gibson, and Thayne LaBanta, 87, of Jackson, Michigan and a 62-year member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Banner Subscriptions

The BANNER is published 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 \$4.00 per year. ALL subscriptions expire January First.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Dept., Aux. (Name & No.) _____

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

THE BANNER

JAMES O. LEE - EDITOR
 1609 S.W. Leland Ave.
 Des Moines, Iowa 50315-4948

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



To: James O. Lee, National Patriotic Instructor
 1609 S. W. Leland, Des Moines, IA 50315
 Enclosed please find \$ _____ in a contribution to the 1992
 Grand Army of The Republic Memorial Fund:
 Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 Camp or Auxiliary # _____
 Department _____



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1992 Appeal For The G.A.R. MEMORIAL FUND



DEPARTMENTS — CAMPS — BROTHERS:

Once a year, you are asked to support this fund. Only with your help can we keep alive the memory of the G.A.R. and continue the patriotic work we undertake in their memory.

This fund finances many national projects, including the G.A.R. Scholarship, the Lincoln Memorial and the Lincoln Tomb Services, the G.A.R. Remembrance Day observance at Gettysburg, the G.A.R. Camp Fire Program, and the Sons of Veteran Reserve.

Our task to carry on the memory of the G.A.R. is great. This is your pledge to carry on their work — your investment in our Order. No donation is too small. May I count on you? Send \$1, \$5, \$10, or more. It is a wise investment for it pays dividends in patriotism. Please send your check to me (payable to National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) and my annual report will record you as a shareholder.

James O. Lee, National Patriotic Instructor
 1609 S. W. Leland, Des Moines, IA 50315 Ph: 515-287-5962
 Contributions are deductible for Income Tax purposes — Sec. 170 of the Code of 1954.