

# *the* Banner

National Publication of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

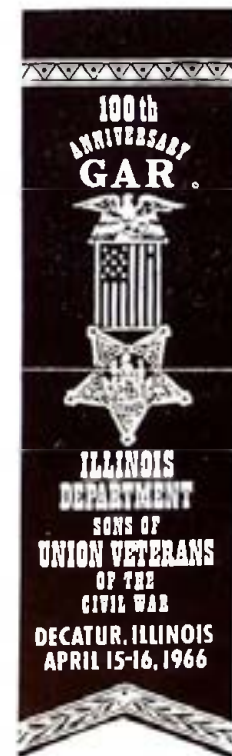
Organized 1881 — Only Male Organization Recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic — Chartered by Act of Congress

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## G.A.R. CENTENNIAL IN DECATUR



*Reproduced above are the memorial program and souvenir badge from the Decatur commemorative event.*

Descendants of Grand Army men came from many states of the Union to the town of Decatur, Ill., this past April to pay tribute to their ancestors and the organization to which they were so proud to belong — the Grand Army of the Republic. It was in this town that the G.A.R. had been founded on April 6, 1866, and the centennial observance held there 100 years later was planned and executed by the Illinois Department of our Order.

Originally planned for the weekend of April 9, the G.A.R. Centennial Observance had been later

rescheduled for the weekend of April 16 so that those attending the April 15 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in nearby Springfield could remain in the area and participate in the Decatur events. Participants were unable to take part in two events which the Illinois Department's G.A.R. Centennial Committee had scheduled for April 15, though. The first was a brief wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Maj. Benjamin F. Stephenson, founder of the G.A.R., in Petersburg, Ill., Friday afternoon. Due to a conflict in schedule, those attending the



luncheon at the Hotel Leland in Springfield were not free to attend the graveside services until these had already been concluded. The second event was to have been a concert of Civil War music in Decatur. However, arrangements for the concert were being handled for the committee by the Decatur Assn. of Commerce, and failed to materialize. Instead, many of those who had attended the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony remained in Springfield for the night of April 15 and attended the Springfield Civil War Round Table's meeting in the historic Edwards home, where Edwin C. Bearss (who had been the speaker at the luncheon earlier that day) presented an illustrated talk on the raising of the gunboat Cairo.

All of the events scheduled for April 16 did take place as planned, though, and participants were blessed with exceptionally fine weather—just the reverse of what they had experienced at the tomb ceremony the previous day. Following services at Greenwood Cemetery held in the morning, the main centennial events got under way at 1:30 p.m. in Decatur's Central Park with placing of a wreath at the tablet which marks the building in which the G.A.R. was founded. P.C.-in-C. William M. Coffin, officially representing Comdr.-in-Chief W. Earl Corbin whose illness prevented him from attending, addressed those assembled at this spot. Proceeding then to the opposite side of the park, the group witnessed a re-enactment of the chartering of the first G.A.R. post. This was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the park's Soldier's Monument, where Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder presented a wreath on behalf of the National Auxiliary, along with those being presented by the G.A.R. Allied Orders of Illinois, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U.S., the Indiana Department, and others. Dept. Comdr. Thomas L. W. Johnson of Wisconsin read a proclamation issued by Governor Warren P. Knowles, declaring 1966 as G.A.R. Centennial Year in Wisconsin. Next a parade was held through the streets of downtown Decatur, led off by the SUVCW color guard from the Illinois Department with the colors of the National Organization. Other participating uniformed units followed—the 104th Illinois Vol. Inf., the 19th Indiana Vol. Inf., and the 2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf.—behind which many members of the G.A.R. Allied Orders rode in cars. In the second section of the parade were local Decatur organizations and, in open cars, candidates for the Miss Decatur contest being held that same weekend by the Junior Assn. of Commerce.

Concluding the day's activities were the dinner and period ball held in the Orlando Hotel. With many of the men in uniforms and many of the women in gowns of the Civil War period, it was a memorable evening—the highlight of which was the presentation of Miss Decatur and her court immediately following the contest judging in a nearby auditorium. To close the weekend's observance, special recognition of the G.A.R. Centennial was included in the Sunday morning worship services at Decatur churches April 17.

What seemed surprising to many G.A.R. descendants, however, was the apparent lack of interest in these events exhibited by the majority of Decatur residents. Here was a group of history-conscious Americans commemorating the anniversary of an historically significant occurrence, the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic (the very event that put Decatur on the map, so to speak!) and the local townsfolk couldn't have cared less it seemed. Such is human

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nature. Let it be recorded, though, that the Sons of Union Veterans and all those who took the time to make the pilgrimage to Decatur did not forget those wonderful "boys" who wore the little bronze buttons... even if most Decaturites did. We have not forgotten Genl. Logan's admonition: "If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us." For us, remembering the G.A.R. will ever be a sacred obligation and an honored privilege.

Editor's Note: Negatives for the pictures which were to have accompanied this article have been lost by the photographic firm handling their processing. Should these eventually be located, they will be included in the next issue.

## BETTER-LATE-THAN-NEVER DEPT.

Space limitations prevented inclusion of this report in the two preceding issues.

### CENTRAL REGION MEETING

The Central Region held its 1965 Conference at the Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich., October 9 and 10, with Bessie Goodermont (Ill.) as presiding officer. The theme for the conference was "Making the G.A.R. Centennial a Success." Round table discussion groups constituted a major portion of the business sessions held Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The topics discussed were:

1. How can we make the public aware of the G.A.R. Centennial?
2. How can we get the public to share in the G.A.R. Centennial?
3. How can the G.A.R. Centennial best be observed by individual Auxiliaries, Camps and Departments?
4. How can the Central Region participate in the observance being planned for Decatur, Ill., the birthplace of the G.A.R.?

At the conclusion of the business sessions, two appropriations were authorized: (1) A sum of \$125 was approved for printing a brochure on participation in the Civil War by the States in the Central Region, and (2) a sum of \$100 was approved for printing a pamphlet on "The Story of the G.A.R.," to be distributed at Decatur, Ill., during the G.A.R. Centennial.

An informal banquet was held Saturday evening, followed by entertainment. Elections were held during the Sunday morning session, and the following officers were chosen for the 1965-66 term: Thomas J. Lock, 3rd (Ind.), Commander; Dora Johnston (Mich.), Senior Vice Comdr.; Paul E. Grate (Ohio), Junior Vice Comdr.; Betty Johnson (Wis.), Secretary; Gladys Sallman (Ill.), Treasurer; Margaret Beasey (Ind.), Chaplain; Helen S. Brady (Ill.), Patriotic Instructor, and Paul Selby (Ohio), Guide.

The conference was attended by delegates from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Commander-in-Chief W. Earl Corbin and National President Edith L. Snyder honored the conference by their presence. Other national officers present were: Hazel Moushey, Natl. Secretary of the Auxiliary; Ellinore L. Konrad, Natl. Counselor of the Auxiliary, and Paul E. Grate, Natl. Personal Aide, SUVCW.

P.C.-in-C. Urien W. Mackey, his wife and their committee are to be commended for the excellence of the arrangements and entertainment provided for this conference.

### CONFERENCE PLANS COMPLETED

Arrangements for the 1966 Central Region Conference have been completed. The conference will be held October 8 and 9 at the Hotel Leland in Mansfield, Ohio. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, and an informal banquet will be held that evening; the second session will open at 9:00 a.m., Sunday. The arrangements committee has asked that all room reservations be made directly with the hotel. Respect for the flag will be the topic for the discussion groups.

## 10th Annual Ceremony Held at Lincoln Tomb

Bad weather failed to halt the commemoration of the 101st anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln at his tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Ill., on the morning of April 15. P.D.C. George L. Cashman (Ill.), curator of the tomb and co-chairman in charge of arrangements, had only to consult his blueprint for Operation Rainy Day, made long ago, and confer briefly with the other chairman, Dept. Comdr. Thomas L. W. Johnson (Wis.), in order to effect the transfer of the exercise from the usually sunny outdoors to the inside of the tomb. Brother Cashman's address of welcome was directed to some 200 dedicated representatives of patriotic societies and veterans' organizations who assembled under the sponsorship of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, assisted by The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, to place 75 wreaths in memory of the Civil War president, largest number offered at any of the April 15 rites conducted each year since 1957.

Although certain of the usual military ceremonies—including the colorful opening parade—were omitted because of the limited space in the tomb's foyer, the Springfield Municipal Choir under the direction of Mr. E. Carl Lundgren was able to form in the curved corridor leading to the burial chamber and render several fine musical selections.

P.C.-in-C. William M. Coffin (Ohio), representing Comdr.-in-Chief W. Earl Corbin who could not attend because of illness, gave one of the two addresses at the tomb, closing with the recitation of Mr. Lincoln's Springfield Farewell Address of February 11, 1861, which had been delivered on a similar dreary rainy day. The other speaker was Comdr. William C. Duval, USNR (Ret.), a Past Comdr.-in-Chief of the Loyal Legion, who traced the growth of the tradition of honoring our 16th President on the anniversary of his death from its origin by a devoted handful nine years ago, and concluded with the sincere hope that none of the present participants would develop pneumonia as a reward for his patriotism.

The annual luncheon at the Hotel Leland was attended by 127 guests who were greeted by Springfield City Commissioner William Cellini. Mr. Edwin C. Bearss, Research Historian at the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park, addressed the gathering on "General McClelland's Role in the Vicksburg Campaign." Mr. Bearss, recognized as being among the most eminent military historians concerned with the Civil War, is one of the few recipients of the Harry S. Truman



PHOTO BY ANKER STUDIO, SPRINGFIELD

Among those taking part in the 1966 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony were, left to right: Sherman McAllister, Ex-Comdr., Pa. Comdr., MOLLUS; William C. Duval, P.C.-in-C., MOLLUS; Edwin C. Bearss; William M. Coffin, P.C.-in-C., SUVCW; George L. Cashman and Thomas L. W. Johnson, ceremony co-chairmen, and James L. High, Recorder, Ill. Comdr., MOLLUS.

Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War history.

Acting on behalf of a small group which has been connected with the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony for many years, Brother Johnson presented a plaque to his fellow chairman, Brother Cashman, in recognition of the latter's capable and devoted services in making possible ten consecutive annual tributes to the memory of Abraham Lincoln on the anniversary of his death. Colors were posted and retired at the luncheon by a uniformed detail from Chicagoland Hut No. 3 of the Retreats, Inc., commanded by Douglas A. Henry of Springfield, Parade Marshal. As mementos of the occasion, the Loyal Legion distributed booklets describing the Vicksburg campaign.

## 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.

To—Chester S. Shriver, Natl. Secty.-Treas.  
P. O. Box 24, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325

Kindly enter the following Civil War record on the HONOR ROLL FUND.

Name of Veteran .....  
Company & Regiment .....  
Enclosed find (\$10.00 or more) donation to the HONOR ROLL FUND from  
Name .....  
Address .....

(Donations, legacies, and bequests to this fund are welcome and will be preserved.)

Contributions are deductible for Income Tax purposes.

The following contribution has been received since the last issue of THE BANNER:

JACOB ROSENSTOCK, Co. A, 28th Pennsylvania Vols.  
Courtesy of Walter W. Cronacher—New York ... \$10.00



PHOTO BY ANKER STUDIO, SPRINGFIELD

Occupying places of honor at the speaker's table for the luncheon were, left to right: (First row) Thomas L. W. Johnson; James L. High; Gladys N. High, Natl. Treas., Dames of Loyal Legion; William C. Duval; Edith L. Snyder, Natl. Pres., ASUV; (second row) Douglas A. Henry, parade marshal; M. Fara Heglar, Natl. Pres., W.R.C.; William M. Coffin; Edwin C. Bearss, speaker, and George L. Cashman.





## GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

Series 1965-66

Headquarters  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
527 Stetler Ave., Akron, Ohio 44312

July 1, 1966

1. All department encampments have now been concluded, and your Commander-in-Chief wishes to convey the very best of wishes to each newly elected department commander and his staff of officers. May your administration be constructive during the coming year.

2. All department commanders are urged to lead their department's delegation to the 85th Annual National Encampment, to be held August 14-18, at the Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich. Your support and attendance is important.

3. A special request is made that each department secretary forward immediately to national headquarters the department election reports for preparation for the national encampment.

4. Department secretary-treasurers are to forward immediately the June-quarter per capita tax, so that it arrives at national headquarters no later than JULY 20. This is important so that the C.P.A. audit may be completed in time to be printed for the national encampment.

5. Every NATIONAL OFFICER must prepare a typewritten report, of no more than two pages in length, on his activity during the year 1965-66 for presentation at the national encampment.

6. The following are appointed to the Committee on Credentials for the national encampment:

- John Junge, Jr., *New Jersey*, Chairman
- Herman Black, *Wisconsin*
- Leonard Case, *California*
- O. G. MacPherson, *Pennsylvania*
- DeVene Williamson, *New York*

7. All resolutions are to be forwarded in advance to National Secretary-Treasurer Chester S. Shriver at national headquarters. Maj. Genl. U. S. Grant 3rd is appointed chairman of the Committee on Resolutions.

8. It was a great disappointment that illness prevented my traveling and presence at many observances and department encampments during the year. When elected as your Commander-in-Chief, I had included many plans in my personal obligation, but unfortunately have been unable to carry these out. To all of the national officers who represented our national organization during the past year, I am most grateful and can only say THANK YOU.

9. To Edith L. Snyder, National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Alice F. Harwood, National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic; Bess E. Kapp, National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and M. Fara Hegljar, National President of the Woman's Relief Corps — my deepest appreciation for your kindness, and I wish for each of you a most successful convention.

10. To every member and brother in our organization, my best wishes for good health and the finest of everything in the future.

W. EARL CORBIN  
Commander-in-Chief

## Flag Presentation Honors Commander-in-Chief

An American flag was presented to the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 30 in honor of Commander-in-Chief W. Earl Corbin. The flag was donated by the Alliance, Ohio, camp and auxiliary. E. W. Swarts, Commander of McClellan Camp 91, presented the flag to Commander-in-Chief Corbin, who in turn presented it to Richard Barber, manager of the hotel. It is to be placed in the hotel's Lincoln Room along with the portrait of President Lincoln presented earlier by the Cleveland auxiliary (see First Quarter, 1966, issue of THE BANNER).

Serving as toastmistress of the dinner at which this presentation was made was P.N.P. Edith B. Nile. Principal speaker was Hon. Arthur Day, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Court, and a member of Lookout Camp 446 in Cleveland. Chester Cook, Coordinator for the City of Cleveland, presented Commander-in-Chief Corbin with a key to the city on behalf of the Mayor of Cleveland.

Among those present on this occasion were: Natl. Graves Registration Officer Paul G. Selby, Dept. Junior Vice Comdr. John R. Decker and Dept. Patriotic Instructor Jerry Garver, SUVCW, and P.N.P. Anita M. Selby and Dept. Pres. Olive Boren, ASUV. Credit for planning this event and creating interest in it among members of the Ohio Department was given to P.D.P. Irene Polito.



PHOTO BY ELROY SANFORD, CLEVELAND  
Commander-in-Chief Corbin is shown with flag presented to Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel. Others in photo are, left to right, Mrs. Arthur Day, Judge Day, and P.N.P. Edith B. Nile (all seated) and Richard Barber and E. W. Swarts (standing).

## NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSN. MAKES ANNUAL SWORD PRESENTATION

The New England Regional Association's traditional sword presentation at the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn., was a part of the academy's Award Day ceremonies June 7. Inscribed in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, the sword was awarded "for highest quality of military leadership" to Cadet Douglas F. Gehring of Tulsa, Okla. The presentation was made by William W. Haskell, Commander of the New England Regional Assn.

On hand to witness the presentation were: Ruth A. Appleby, President of the New England Regional Assn.; Ruth Stuart, Dept. Pres. (Maine), ASUV; Edna Wade, Maine Dept. sword fund chairman; Catherine Plante (Rhode Island Dept.), and Natl. Council Member Harold M. Drown, general chairman of fund raising for SUVCW. The association has been making this award since 1952.

NOTICE: A listing of the newly elected department commanders and department secretary-treasurers could not be included in this issue because many departments failed to forward election results to National Headquarters promptly. It will be published instead in the succeeding issue.

THE BANNER



# HEAD'UM FOR POWWOW?

## It's National Encampment Time!

Have you made your reservation for the national encampment at Grand Rapids, Michigan? Time is short, and you will want to act at once.

As reported in the previous issue of THE BANNER, a very interesting tour has been planned for the delegates to this year's national encampment, followed by dinner at a famous Grand Rapids eating spot and special entertainment. Latest word from the encampment chairman is that the Campfire program will be outstanding also. It will be preceded by a band concert, given by the Grand Rapids Concert Band. The major address at the Campfire will be given by P.D.C. Frank M. Heacock, Sr. of the Pennsylvania Department, whose stirring patriotic talk at last year's Campfire won him an instant invitation for a repeat performance.

So don't put off completing your convention plans. Check over the encampment schedule below and make your final arrangements NOW!

85th Annual Encampment — SUVCW  
80th Annual Encampment — ASUV  
Pantlind Hotel Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sunday, August 14

- Morning Worship — Church of your choice
- 12:30 p.m. — Registration (ASUV), Lobby
- 12:30 p.m. — Dept. Commanders and Dept. Presidents (or their representatives) meet with Natl. Chaplains, West VandenBerg Room
- 1:00 p.m. — Registration (SUVCW), Lobby
- 1:30 p.m. — National Council Meeting, Headquarters Room
- 3:00 p.m. — Joint Memorial Service, Ballroom
- 4:00 p.m. — Practice for ASUV Natl. Aides with Natl. Chief-of-Staff, Ballroom
- 7:30 p.m. — Band Concert, Ballroom
- 8:00 p.m. — Campfire

Monday, August 15

- 7:00 a.m. — Dept. Presidents Breakfast with National Presidents (location to be announced)
- 8:00 a.m. — Registration (ASUV), Ballroom
- 9:00 a.m. — Registration (SUVCW), West VandenBerg Room
- 10:00 a.m. — Joint Opening of Sons and Auxiliary, Ballroom
- 11:00 a.m. — Business Session (SUVCW), West VandenBerg Room
- 11:00 a.m. — Business Session (ASUV), Ballroom
- 12:00 noon — Recess
- 1:30 p.m. — Business Session
- 3:00 p.m. — Presentation by ASUV Natl. Patriotic Instructor
- 4:00 p.m. — Recess
- 5:30 p.m. — Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past National Presidents' Banquet (location to be announced)
- 7:30 p.m. — Exemplification of Ritual by Auxiliary, Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. — ASUV Courtesy Hour, Ballroom
- 9:30 p.m. — Dance, Ballroom

Tuesday, August 16

- 9:00 a.m. — Business Session (ASUV)
- 9:30 a.m. — Business Session (SUVCW)
- 12:00 noon — Recess
- 1:30 p.m. — Business Session (SUVCW)
- 1:30 p.m. — Nomination of Officers (ASUV)
- 2:30 p.m. — Greetings Received (ASUV)
- 3:00 p.m. — Greetings Received (SUVCW)
- 4:00 p.m. — Recess
- 6:00 p.m. — Banquet Honoring National Officers, Ballroom
- 9:00 p.m. — Reception Honoring National Officers, Ballroom

Wednesday, August 17

- No Business Session
- 2:00 p.m. — Tour Public Museum; Dinner and Entertainment

Thursday, August 18

- 9:00 a.m. — Business Session
- 2:00 p.m. — Meeting of National Council (ASUV), Headquarters Room
- 4:00 p.m. — Meeting of National Council (SUVCW), Headquarters Room
- 8:00 p.m. — Old-Fashioned Songfest, Ballroom

THIRD QUARTER, 1966

## GOVERNOR ROMNEY PROCLAIMS G.A.R. WEEK IN MICHIGAN

The following is the text of a proclamation issued by Gov. Romney, focusing attention on our national encampment as we prepare to meet in his State during the G.A.R. Centennial Year:

*1966 is the centennial of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of soldiers, sailors and marines who had served in the armed forces of the United States during the Civil War.*

*Members of the G.A.R. were pledged to maintain the fraternal feelings of veterans, to preserve the memory of their fallen comrades, to give aid to soldiers' widows and orphans, and to handicapped veterans, and to uphold true allegiance to the United States of America. Before the G.A.R. was dissolved by the passing of its last member, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, their Auxiliary, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic assumed the responsibilities of their departed forebears.*

*These organizations will be hosts to the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, August 14 to 18, 1966.*

*Because the high ideals of the Grand Army of the Republic are today worthy of recognition and emulation, therefore, I, George Romney, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of August 14 to be G.A.R. Week in Michigan.*

## A PRE-CONVENTION MESSAGE FROM THE PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the camps and members of our Order for the many contributions that have been made to my fund. It is slowly climbing, but, if we are to accomplish our work of perpetuating the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, we must continue to make the G.A.R. Memorial Fund climb faster and higher than ever before. To date I have received only a very few contributions from the many camps we have across this great country of ours. Please, Brothers, let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Is patriotism dead? Brothers and Sisters, I say to you, we must never let it die! To us patriotism is not a dirty word; therefore, it is our solemn duty to talk it up whenever and wherever we can. Let us preach it to the high heavens and let people know that there are some who are proud to be considered patriotic. Silence may be golden, but don't let patriotism become silent.

KENNETH T. WHEELER  
Natl. Patriotic Instructor





# News of the Departments



## ILLINOIS

Members of the Illinois Department were guests of the Civil War Round Table at its 250th meeting on April 6, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the G.A.R. Over 300 persons attended this meeting, which was held in the G.A.R. Memorial Hall, Chicago Public Library Building. The address of the evening was given by Sir Denis Brogan, Professor of Political Science at Cambridge University.

Aurora Camp 21 and Auxiliary 7 entertained in honor of Dept. Comdr. John Brooks Davis and Dept. Pres. Gertrude Smith at a reception and luncheon May 15 in Aurora's G.A.R. Hall. Presentation of the Auxiliary's department scholarship award (a check for \$150) was made at this time by P.N.P. Eva B. Blackman, Dept. Scholarship Chairman, to David Paul Lippy, a senior at Oswego High School who was graduating with the highest honors.

At the 1966 department encampment held in Decatur, June 10 and 11, resolutions were adopted on these subjects: (1) Opposing Congressional bill H.R. 13643 concerning reduction in burial allowance guaranteed veterans; (2) opposing the proposed elimination of the State of Illinois' loyalty oath; and (3) favoring passage by Congress of a national law governing acts of outright disrespect of the American flag. Bro. Roderick Van Trump, Sr. was elected department commander, and Sister Beatrice Swanson was chosen department president. Honored guests at a reception for national officers, hosted by SUVCW, were Alice F. Harwood, Natl. Pres. of L.G.A.R., and Bess E. Kapp, Natl. Pres. of DUVCW.

June 12 the department conferred its annual G.A.R. Memorial Award on an outstanding cadet of the Glenwood School for Boys during the school's Flag Day ceremony. The recipient was Ernesto Diaz, and the presentation was made by P.D.C. John Brooks Davis.

A cordial welcome to our newest Illinois brothers — Frederick E. Doederlein, James Simsen and Wilson A. Smith of Camp 1, and Jack C. Cates and Thomas J. Perkins, Jr. of Camp 21.

TAPS: Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Harry F. Eshelman of Camp 48, who had been living in Fayetteville, Ark., in recent years.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Natl. Pres. Edith L. Snyder attended the department encampment at Boston in April, accompanied by her personal aide, Sister Mildred Nistico. P.D.C. John L. Day and P.D.P. Marguerite Mitcheson were co-chairmen of the encampment. Presiding at the banquet, which over 150 attended, were P.D.C. William W. Haskell and Natl. Council Member Minnie E. Maderios. A luncheon was tendered visiting national officers by Gov. John A. Volpe. Elected to the top department posts for the new term were Chester W. Adshhead of SUVCW and Dorothy Newell of ASUV.

Wreaths were placed by Dept. Comdr. Chester Adshhead and Dept. Pres. Dorothy Newell at the Auxiliary boulder-plaque in G.A.R. Memorial Park, New Bedford, on May Day. The annual exercises were held under the auspices of the local Hawes Auxiliary, with Pres. Dorothy F. Hammond serving as mistress of ceremonies. Maj. Ernest G. Wells (S.V.R.) was guest speaker.

June 25 was the date selected for the Past Commanders' and Past Presidents' annual picnic at the home of Bro. Clarence E. Young and his wife, Sister Marion Young, in Ipswich.

A picnic, box lunch and penny sale have been scheduled for July 30 at the home of Sister Alice Chamberlain, the department patriotic instructor.

Bro. Henry Bowen is arranging for special group travel by rail to the national encampment at Grand Rapids, Mich.,

and those interested are asked to get in touch with him.

A reception for Dept. Pres. Dorothy Newell has been planned for September 24 at the Elks Hall in Worcester. Hostesses will be members of Auxiliary 33.

## MICHIGAN

Wreaths were placed by the G.A.R. Allied Orders on the G.A.R. Monument in Grand Rapids during the department encampment held in that city. Mrs. Bess E. Kapp, Natl. Pres. of DUVCW, made a surprise visit to the encampment. At the SUVCW meeting, it was recommended that a special joint meeting be held in Detroit during the fireworks period, in July of 1968, to observe the 100th anniversary of the G.A.R. in Detroit. SUVCW also endorsed its department chief-of-staff, Stanley Cline Barker, for the office of National Chief-of-Staff.

## MISSOURI

The annual state conventions of the Missouri Department, Allied Orders of the G.A.R., were held May 15 to 17 at the Mark Twain Hotel, St. Louis. It was the 50th annual convention for the Auxiliary's Missouri Department. Sunday evening Sam Louis, Superintendent of Soldiers Memorial, presented awards to elementary-student winners of an essay contest on the subject "Missouri and the Civil War." A banquet was held Monday evening, at which Milton Carpenter, former Missouri State Treasurer, was the principal speaker.

## NEW JERSEY



**MEMORIAL DAY FIRING SQUAD AT TRENTON**  
Serving on the firing squad at Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, this past Memorial Day were (left to right) Albert C. Lambert, Robert L. Gerke, Richard Hines, Richard Kucker, Frank L. Clark and Robert E. Gerke.

**GOOD CITIZEN AWARD**—The New Jersey Department's fifth annual Good Citizen Award was presented during the department encampment to Hon. J. Wilson Noden, Judge of the Juvenile Court of Mercer County, for his work with children. The presentation was made at the department banquet, which was well attended and enjoyed until an unfortunate mishap. Natl. Personal Aide Mildred Nistico, who had accompanied Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder to the encampment, fell from the speaker's platform and fractured her right wrist.

**COUPLES TAKE OVER**—The new department commander and department president are Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Clark. Joan (Mrs. Clark) is the daughter of Albert and Edna Lambert. Installed at the same time were the new department senior vice commander and department vice president, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Williams.

## NEW YORK

Dept. Pres. Carrie Lent installed the new officers of Auxiliary 72, Ovid, on April 26. Sister Maud Baker is again serving as the auxiliary's president.

Although confined to a wheel chair since an accident about nine years ago, P.C.-in-C. Neil D. Cranmer attended his college class reunion this year as he has done every five years since graduating. He is an alumnus of Syracuse University,

where he received a B.A. degree in 1911 and an M.A. degree in 1912.

Oliver Tilden Camp 26, New York City, had a busy May schedule. May 22 it conducted three services at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx. These services were held (1) at the Admiral Farragut Monument, (2) at the grave of Capt. Oliver Tilden, and (3) at the Oliver Tilden G.A.R. Post plot. On the preceding day, May 21, members of this camp had been joined by those of Lafayette Camp in serving as color guard for the review and parade marking Armed Forces Day at Ft. Tilden. May 30 color guard units from these two camps participated in the Memorial Day parade in Queens, escorted by the Military Cadet Corps of New York carrying Civil War battle flags.

## OHIO

Philip Triem Camp 43, Salem, held a commemorative service honoring the G.A.R. on April 6 at Hope Cemetery. The program included a talk on the history of the local G.A.R. unit given by Bro. Harold D. Huttenhower, memorial prayer by Bro. William H. Grace, placing of a memorial wreath by Camp Commander Raymond H. Brandt, and benediction by Rev. Ivar C. Johnson of Southeast Friends Church. The 19th Ohio Cavalry (Reactivated), under the command of Col. John Simonds, fired a salute. Bros. Jerry Wolford and Frank Hoopes were in charge of the event. Also attending were members of McClellan Camp, Alliance.

A proclamation declaring 1966 as "Grand Army of the Republic Centennial Year in Salem" was signed by the town's mayor, Hon. Dean Cranmer, in March. Witnessing the signing of this proclamation were P.D.C. Carl Burcaw, Comdr. Raymond H. Brandt of Philip Triem Camp 43, and other members of that camp.

A meeting of District 1 was held in Salem on May 1, with the Salem camp and auxiliary as hosts. Following a caserole dinner, the business meeting was held, at which time Dept. Junior Vice Comdr. John Decker and Dept. Pres. Olive Boren told of plans for the department encampment in Columbus and the hospital in that city which had been selected as the department's project.

Dept. Comdr. Eldon Brown presided at the SUVCW department encampment in Columbus. Comdr.-in-Chief W. Earl Corbin was unable to attend, but Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder honored the Auxiliary by attending its encampment. Speaker at the encampment banquet was Daniel Porter, director of the Ohio Historical Society, whose talk covered the organization of the G.A.R. and the part it played in the field of politics over the years. The new department commander is John Decker of Cleveland.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Maj. Genl. Henry J. Madill Camp 141, Sayre, put on a demonstration of musket and cannon firing at a public historical function in Watkins Glen, N.Y., this past May 15. On May 30 the camp participated with other veteran organizations in local Memorial Day services, and then held its own services at the grave of Congressman David Wilmont, who was author of the "Wilmont Proviso" and an advisor to Pres. Lincoln.

34th annual banquet of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. was held April 9 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Reading. Serving as toastmaster was P.C.-in-C. Chester S. Shriver. Mrs. Percy Murphy was chairman of arrangements. The speaker of the evening was Robert E. Garretson, drug and narcotics investigator with the regional office of the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation by Genl. George G. Meade Camp 16 of its 1966 Good Citizen of Reading award to C. Wilson Austin, an attorney and the grandson of a Confederate veteran. By means of a special telephone hook-up, P.C.-in-C. C. LeRoy Stoudt — who was chairman of the committee which selected Mr. Austin for the award but was confined to his home following a heart attack — was

able to listen in on the banquet proceedings and speak to the approximately 175 persons assembled for this occasion.



**AWARDING OF 1966 GOOD CITIZEN OF READING PLAQUE**  
Kenneth L. Reber (left), Comdr. of Genl. George G. Meade Camp 16, Reading, presents award to C. Wilson Austin (right), local attorney. Looking on are Dept. Comdr. Clarence J. Riddell and Arthur L. Yeum, a past commander.

Campfire speaker at the department encampment in June was P.D.C. Frank Heacock. Sister Mary Seitz, Dept. Patriotic Instructor, presented her gift to the Good Shepherd Home. On the following day a wreath was placed at the Soldiers and Sailors Mounment in Allentown's Center Square. In the evening ritualistic work was performed by the Junior Auxiliary of Pottsville. Six national presidents (one current, five past) attended the encampment: Edith Snyder, Emma Wheeler, Dorothy Hilyard, Catherine Joyce, Anna Stoudt and Margaret McKinney. Elected to office for the 1966-67 term were Robert Workheiser, department commander, and Helen Cheyne, department president. A resolution was adopted by SUVCW calling for replacement of the descriptive tablets on the east side of Rt. 140 South (East Cemetery Hill) and the west side of West Confederate Ave., in Gettysburg National Military Park, recently removed by the park's new superintendent. Another resolution was passed censuring the editor of THE BANNER for failing to maintain the customary publishing schedule.

## RHODE ISLAND

The presentation of flags (five in all) to selected Boy Scout, fraternal and church organizations was a feature of the department's 78th annual encampment, held April 8 and 9 at Providence. The presentations were made by the department patriotic instructor. National officers attending the encampment were: Natl. Patriotic Instructor Kenneth Wheeler, Natl. Council Member Harold Drown and Natl. Historian Allen Spink of SUVCW; Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder, Natl. Council Members Emma Wheeler and Minnie Maderios and Natl. Personal Aide Mildred Nistico of ASUV; Natl. Pres. Alice Harwood and Natl. Secty. Mabel Taylor of L.G.A.R., and Natl. Secty. Bessie Coughlin of W.R.C. Also present were the commander and the president of the New England Regional Assn., William Haskell and Ruth Appleby. P.C.-in-C. Harold Arnold was toastmaster for the encampment dinner, and paid special tribute to the G.A.R. on the 100th anniversary of its founding. As a part of the dinner program, the retiring commander, Perley Wallace, was presented with a plaque in appreciation for his services, and Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder received an Easter bunny. Introduced as the new department commander and new department president were Harry Barber and Connie Hinz.

At its monthly meeting in May, SUVCW went on record as favoring passage of Congressional bill H.R. 14805, which would provide for establishment of a national cemetery at George Washington Park in northwestern Rhode Island. If passed, this bill would give New England its first national cemetery.



## VERMONT

The spring meeting of Green Mountains State Camp 1 was held at Montpelier May 21. Plans are under way to hold the summer meeting at Peacham.

Col. F. G. Butterfield Camp 91, Bellows Falls, held its meetings during the winter months on Sunday afternoons, but those from April until the fall are being held on the first Tuesday of each month.

H. E. K. Hall Camp 28, Chelsea, presented its oldest member, George Lyford, with a 50-year badge at the April meeting. Bro. Lyford is the son of one Civil War veteran, and the grandson of another.

The Country and Western Show at Brattleboro Armory in March, sponsored by Col. H. E. Taylor Camp 11 and Auxiliary 9, Brattleboro, was not as successful as hoped. The camp continues to provide the leadership, though, for the Brattleboro patriotic organizations' Memorial Day activities, with Joseph Aldrich serving as Town Chairman this year and Howard Bell as Parade Marshal.

April 3 the annual inspection of Company A, 9th Infantry Battalion, Sons of Veterans Reserve, was conducted by Col.

Clarence E. Young, Comdr., 1st Mil. Dist., at the West Chester schoolhouse. The unit put on an exhibition drill at the Grange Hall in Newfane April 27, and took part in memorial services at Keene, N.H., on May 29. On Memorial Day, Company A participated in the parade at Chester in the forenoon and at Dummerston in the afternoon.

After having lived 32 years in one location, Arthur and Glendeen Ballou have moved to smaller and more modern quarters in the town of Tinmouth (mailing address is R.F.D. 1, Wallingford, Vt. 05773).

## WISCONSIN

The national presidents of three of the G.A.R. Allied Orders were present for the department's 83rd annual encampment at Fond du Lac this past May. These honored guests were: Natl. Pres. Edith Snyder, ASUV; Natl. Pres. Bess E. Kapp, DUVCW; and Natl. Pres. Alice Harwood, L.G.A.R. Speaker for the Allied Orders banquet was Miner T. Coburn of the Illinois Dept., SUVCW, whose topic was "History of the Civil War and of the G.A.R." Chosen as department commander for the 1966-67 term was Herman Black. Re-elected department president of the Auxiliary was his wife, Raeona Black.

## MASSACRE OF CUSTER AND HIS MEN RECALLED BY BANK'S EXHIBIT

Ninety years ago, on June 25, 1876, one of the most controversial figures in American military history fought and died on an obscure battlefield against insurmountable odds. That last act of his life was as filled with color and controversy as had been his entire career. He had fulfilled his destiny.

The man was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, formerly Major General of the Army of the Potomac. Prior to his date with fate, he had been the hero of a number of Indian campaigns as commanding officer of the 7th U. S. Cavalry.

The place was the Black Hills, in Montana Territory, where the 7th Cavalry had been sent to "discipline" a tribe of Sioux, which had become angered by the continual invasion of their country by white men in search of gold. Rather than Custer's arrival at the "Little Big Horn" being met by passive resistance as expected, an awesome avalanche of 2,000 or more warriors of the Sioux Nation — the Hunkpappas, Ogallallas, Minneconjous, Brules, San Arcs, Yantonnais, Santee and Blackfeet — as well as Northern Cheyenne and Arapahoe, led by the great warriors Crazy Horse and Gall, and the famous medicine man Sitting Bull, fell on the small army Custer was leading.

The end of the foray saw Custer and his entire command — some 225 soldiers and 40 civilians and Indian scouts — lying dead on the hill. The sheer force of numbers, plus the fact that the soldiers were armed with single-shot rifles while many of the Indians carried repeating Henrys and Winchesters, had written another bloody page in the history of the American West.

To mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Little Big Horn, the Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago set up in its lobby a special exhibit of Ernest L. Reedstrom's collection relating to this historical event. Mr. Reedstrom, who is an historical illustrator and the owner of the Frontier Trading Post in Cedar Lake, Ind., has probably the largest, best-documented and most complete collection outside the Custer Park Museum. It includes weapons and uniforms of the period, Indian equipment, horse "furniture" and documents and orders from the early files of the 7th Cavalry in the field. Among the papers exhibited were the extremely rare signatures of Custer himself, along with personal letters from his wife, Elizabeth B. Custer.

One member of the bank's staff who had a special interest in the exhibit was Charles D. Wesselhoeft, assistant vice president in the Comptroller's Department. Wesselhoeft's interest in Custer stems from his connection with Gen'l. Geo. A. Custer Camp 1 of SUVCW, headquartered in Chicago, of which he is the secretary-treasurer.



PHOTO BY OSCAR & ASSOCIATES, CHICAGO  
Pointing out a newspaper account of the famous 1876 battle which is included in his collection is Ernest L. Reedstrom (center). Interested visitors to the exhibit are Roderick Van Trump, Sr. (left), Commander of Custer Camp, Chicago, and Charles D. Wesselhoeft (right), the camp's secretary-treasurer.



PHOTO BY OSCAR & ASSOCIATES, CHICAGO  
Posed before exhibit on Battle of Little Big Horn in Chicago bank are, left to right: Roderick Van Trump; Vic Reynolds, Secty. of Sioux Lakota Club; Norma Bearsldn, "Miss Indian Chicago of 1963"; Frank Fastwolf, Pres. of Sioux Lakota Club; and C. D. Wesselhoeft.