

# Stephenson Memorial (Grand Army of the Republic)

National Mall and Memorial Parks , Pennsylvania Avenue

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PROCEEDINGS  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEPTION  
AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
STEPHENSON GRAND ARMY  
MEMORIAL

PRESENTED BY THE GRAND  
" ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

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JULY 3, 1909



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1911

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[S. Con. Res. 7.—Passed March 2, 1911.]

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That there be printed and bound, in the form of eulogies, including illustrations, seven thousand copies of the proceedings on the occasion of the dedication of the Stephenson Grand Army memorial, in Washington, July third, nineteen hundred and nine, of which one thousand five hundred shall be for the use of the Senate, three thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives, and two thousand to be delivered to the Stephenson Grand Army memorial committee.*

Attest:

CHARLES G. BENNETT,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

Attest:

A. McDOWELL,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

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PROCEEDINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
RECEPTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
STEPHENSON GRAND ARMY MEMORIAL

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At the Forty-third National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 12 and 13, 1909, a resolution was passed appointing a committee, composed of the comrades mentioned below, to prepare the necessary data for the volume containing the proceedings on the occasion of the dedication of the Stephenson Grand Army memorial, in anticipation of the passage by Congress of concurrent resolution 7.

The members of the committee are as follows:

Thomas S. Hopkins, chairman.

Commander in Chief S. R. Van Sant.

Gen. Louis Wagner.

John McElroy.

In 1902 Congress passed the following joint resolution:

[Public resolution, No. 19.]

JOINT RESOLUTION Granting permission for the erection of a monument or statue in Washington City, District of Columbia, in honor of the late Benjamin F. Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That permission be, and is hereby, granted the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States of America to erect a statue to the memory and in honor of the late Benjamin F. Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States of America, on one of the public reservations of the city of Washington, District of Columbia, other than the grounds of the Capitol or Library of Congress, to be designated by the Secretary of War, the Joint Committee on the Library, the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, and the committee of the Grand Army of the Republic appointed by it for that purpose: *Provided*, That the statue,

with pedestal, shall cost not less than fifteen thousand dollars, and that it shall be presented to the people of the United States by the said Grand Army of the Republic.

Approved, May 3, 1902.

This resolution was repealed by the joint resolution (Public resolution, No. 23) approved March 4, 1907, which is as follows:

[Public resolution, No. 23.]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the selection of a site and the erection of a pedestal for the Stephenson Grand Army memorial, in Washington, District of Columbia.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the Senate, the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of War, and the secretary and the treasurer of the Stephenson memorial committee of the Grand Army of the Republic are hereby created a commission and authorized to select a site upon the property belonging to the United States in the city of Washington, other than the Capitol and Library grounds, for the erection of the Stephenson Grand Army memorial, to be presented by the Grand Army of the Republic to the people of the United States.

SEC. 2. That for the preparation of the site so selected and the erection of a pedestal upon which to place the said memorial, under the direction of the commission hereby created, the sum of ten thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. That the joint resolution "granting permission for the erection of a monument or statue in Washington City, District of Columbia, in honor of the late Benjamin F. Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic," approved May third, nineteen hundred and two, is hereby repealed.

Approved, March 4, 1907, 11 a. m.

It seems proper that a brief history of the inception of the movement for the erection of the memorial and a short account of the events that led to the successful completion of the work should be here recorded.

At the Thirty-fourth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in the city of Chicago,

Ill., August 29 and 30, 1900, the committee on resolutions recommended that the following resolution, in furtherance of the object set forth in a preamble and resolution presented by the department of New York, be approved, and the recommendation was concurred in:

*Resolved by the encampment, That the Grand Army of the Republic favors the passage of a joint resolution by the Fifty-sixth Congress, introduced by Comrade Amos J. Cummings, M. C., of New York (House Res. No. 153), which undertakes to grant authority for the erection of a monument or statue at the Capital of the Nation to perpetuate the memory of the late Benjamin F. Stephenson, M. D., of Illinois, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, the further purpose in view being to honor by such a memorial the greatest and most powerful patriotic organization in the world, and that the proper steps be taken to procure the necessary subscriptions from the posts of the Grand Army of the Republic for the purposes above indicated. (Journal Thirty-fourth National Encampment, G. A. R., Chicago, Ill., Aug., 1900, p. 250.)*

August 7, 1902, Commander in Chief Ell Torrance, in General Orders, No. 6, after reciting the action of the Thirty-fourth National Encampment and the passage by Congress of the above joint resolution, appointed a committee—

to aid in the consummation of this most worthy and patriotic object; \* \* \* to represent the Grand Army of the Republic in selecting a suitable site for said statue; to determine the design and character thereof; and to take the proper steps to procure the necessary funds from the posts of the Grand Army of the Republic to defray the cost of said statue, in accordance with the requirements of said joint resolution of Congress.

The committee named was—

Charles A. Partridge, Chicago, Ill.

James Tanner, Washington, D. C.

Louis Wagner, Philadelphia, Pa.

John McElroy, Washington, D. C.

Thomas S. Hopkins, Washington, D. C.

(Journal Thirty-sixth National Encampment, G. A. R., p. 345.)

This committee organized, and elected Comrade Charles A. Partridge as chairman, John McElroy as secretary, and Louis Wagner as treasurer.

During the next six years the committee received from members of the Grand Army and their friends over \$28,000.

Congress, by the resolution approved March 4, 1907, appropriating \$10,000 for the erection of the pedestal upon which to place the memorial, also provided that the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the Senate, the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of War, and the secretary and the treasurer of the Stephenson memorial committee of the Grand Army of the Republic should constitute a commission with authority to select a site upon the property belonging to the United States in the city of Washington, other than the Capitol and Library grounds, for the erection of the memorial.

The chairman of the Committee on the Library of the Senate was Hon. George Peabody Wetmore; the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives was Hon. James T. McCreery, who was succeeded by Hon. Samuel W. McCall; the Secretary of War at that time was Hon. William Howard Taft, who was succeeded by Hon. J. M. Dickinson. The secretary of the commission was Hon. Fred W. Carpenter.

On February 29, 1908, the commission met in the city of Washington and selected the site where the memorial now stands, and also approved, with some modifications, the model submitted by the sculptor, J. Massey Rhind, of New York City.

On April 8, 1909, the committee, accompanied by Commander in Chief Henry M. Nevius and Senior Vice Commander in Chief J. Kent Hamilton, called on the President and invited him to be present at the unveiling ceremonies, which invitation was graciously accepted, and the date, Saturday, July 3, 1909, at 2.30 o'clock, was agreed on.

By a resolution of the committee Thomas S. Hopkins was appointed a committee of one, with power to add others, in his discretion, to arrange for the details of the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the memorial. The other members of the committee will be found on page 11, under the title "Executive Committee."

About 3,000 invitations were sent out to Members of Congress, Government officials, patriotic societies, comrades of the Grand Army, and distinguished citizens. The form of invitation was as follows:

[G. A. R. emblem.]

The Benjamin F. Stephenson Memorial Committee  
requests the honor of your presence  
at the unveiling of the Memorial to  
Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson  
Founder of  
The Grand Army of the Republic  
At the intersection of Seventh Street and Louisiana Avenue  
Washington, D. C.  
Saturday afternoon, July the third  
nineteen hundred and nine  
at two thirty o'clock

As an illustration of the manner in which the Grand Army of the Republic is viewed by those outside of this country, and the surprising knowledge by others of the principles of the organization, a single instance is given below.

Through the minister of Guatemala to the United States, Señor Dr. Don Luis Toledo Herrarte, an invitation to attend the unveiling ceremonies was sent to His Excellency Manuel Estrada Cabrera, President of Guatemala.

President Cabrera cabled the following to Minister Herrarte:

Señor Dr. Don LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE,  
*Minister of Guatemala, Washington.*

SIR: With singular satisfaction I have received an invitation to be present at the ceremonies attending the unveiling of the

monument in honor of the late Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, founder of that great patriotic society, the Grand Army of the Republic, on July 3, at Washington. I desire you, as my representative, to attend these ceremonies and to communicate to the committee representing the surviving veterans of the sanguinary four years Civil War my high appreciation of their courtesy. The motto of the Grand Army is "Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty." By their unbending loyalty to the Federal Union and to the principles and person of the lamented Lincoln its members saved the State as a cherished heritage for posterity; and by their manifestations of fraternal feeling and magnanimous charity for a fallen and honorable foe they have challenged the admiration of the world. All honor to the Grand Army of the Republic and its worthy founder.

MANUEL ESTRADA CABRERA,  
*President of Guatemala.*

The monument is located on the circle (United States Reservation No. 36-A) at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue, Seventh and C Streets NW. It is constructed of granite, is triangular in shape, and in height is 40 feet above the base. Upon each of the three sides are life-size figures in bronze, representing the three cardinal principles of the Grand Army of the Republic, viz, Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. On the west face of the monument, below the figure representing Fraternity, is a bronze tablet, containing, in relief, the bust of Dr. Stephenson. Immediately under this and between two bronze Grand Army badges is the following inscription in letters of bronze:

Grand Army of the Republic  
Organized at Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 1865,  
By Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, M. D.

The designs for the program, decorations, and the unveiling were contributed by Mr. Frederick D. Owen.

The music at the unveiling was furnished by the Marine Band. All the available troops at Fort Meyer and in the Washington Barracks, detachments of the Marine Corps and sailors from the vessels on the Potomac, and the District Militia were ordered out to partici-

pate in the exercises, with Maj. Gen W. W. Wotherspoon, United States Army, as grand marshal and Maj. S. D. Sturgis, United States Army, as chief of staff.

The orders for the parade of the military, etc., printed on the second and third pages of the program, show in detail the order of exercises and the composition of the several committees.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,	
GENERAL ORDERS, }	GOVERNORS ISLAND,
No. 73. }	<i>New York City, June 11, 1909.</i>

In compliance with instructions from the War Department, dated May 28, 1909, troops from posts hereafter named are detailed to participate in the parade and ceremonies incident to the dedication of a memorial to Dr. Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be held at Washington, D. C., July 3, 1909, at the junction of Seventh Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Louisiana Avenue, and at the proper time will proceed, fully armed and equipped, to that place, so as to arrive not later than 12 o'clock, noon, on that date:

*Fort Myer, Va.*—Headquarters, band, and three troops, Fifteenth Cavalry, and two batteries, Second Battalion, Third Field Artillery.

*Washington Barracks, D. C.*—Engineer band, and Companies A and B, First Battalion of Engineers, to be organized into three provisional companies.

*Fort Washington, Md.*—Two companies of Coast Artillery, to be selected by the post commander.

Maj. Frederick S. Foltz, Fifteenth Cavalry, will command the regular troops that are to participate in these ceremonies, and he will communicate direct with Mr. Thomas S. Hopkins, Hibbs Building, Washington, D. C., in regard to the details of concentration, march, strength of organizations, place and hour of assembly, and other details, and communicate same to the organizations named above. He will also communicate direct with post commanders involved, and by concert of action arrange all details with them.

All available officers at the posts named will accompany the troops so that they will have as full a complement of commissioned officers as practicable.

All organizations will be sized before leaving stations, and dress and equipment will be complete.

It is desired that in appearance and bearing these troops shall be as nearly perfect as it is possible to have them.

Only a sufficient detail to perform the necessary guard and other duties will be left at posts where the entire garrison is detailed by this order.

The full-dress uniform will be worn on this occasion.

All officers required to be mounted will make necessary arrangements for proper and suitable mounts, the Quartermaster's Department furnishing transportation therefor.

Departures and arrivals, stating strength of commands, etc., as required by paragraph 820, Army Regulations, 1908, will be promptly reported, by telegraph, by commanding officers, direct to The Adjutant General, Department of the East.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation; the Subsistence Department, suitable rations; and the Medical Department, such medical supplies and attendance as may be deemed necessary by the post surgeon. (32409.)

By command of Major General Wood:

GEORGE S. ANDERSON,  
*Colonel, General Staff, Chief of Staff.*

Official:

H. O. S. HEISTAND,  
*Adjutant General.*

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#### ORDER OF EXERCISES

Saturday, July 3, 1909, 2.30 p. m.

Music—Overture, "1863" (Rollinson), United States Marine Band.  
Calling to order and presentation of presiding officer, by Chas.

A. Partridge, chairman Stephenson G. A. R. memorial committee, Hon. William Warner, United States Senator and past commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, presiding.

Invocation, Rev. John Fletcher Spence, D. D., chaplain in chief, Grand Army of the Republic.

Presentation of the memorial to the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Gen. Louis Wagner, treasurer Stephenson G. A. R. memorial committee.

Acceptance of, and presentation to the United States, Henry M. Nevius, commander in chief, Grand Army of the Republic.

Unveiling of the memorial, Mrs. Grace Ross Van Casteel.

Music—"The Star-Spangled Banner," Mrs. Anna Grant Fugitt, accompanied by the United States Marine Band.

Address, the President.

Music—"Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," soprano solo by Mrs. Anna Grant Fugitt, accompanied by the United States Marine Band.

Presentation of the sculptor, J. Massey Rhind.

Address—"The Enlisted Man," Hon. J. Hampton Moore, Member of Congress from Philadelphia.

Benediction, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D.

Concluding music—"My Country, 'Tis of Thee," audience and United States Marine Band.

Parade by detachment of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, and District Militia, Maj. Gen. W. W. Wotherspoon, United States Army, grand marshal; Maj. S. D. Sturgis, United States Army, chief of staff.

#### CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION

Chairman of the Committee on the Library of the Senate.

Chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary of War.

The secretary and the treasurer of the Benjamin F. Stephenson memorial committee.

#### THE BENJAMIN F. STEPHENSON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Charles A. Partridge, chairman, Chicago, Ill.

John McElroy, secretary, Washington, D. C.

Louis Wagner, treasurer, Philadelphia, Pa.

James Tanner, Washington, D. C.

Thomas S. Hopkins, Washington, D. C.

J. Massey Rhind, sculptor

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thos. S. Hopkins, chairman.

John McElroy.

Col. John Tweedale, U. S. A.

George H. Patrick.

James Tanner.

Arthur Hendricks.

James L. Davenport.

## COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION

Edwin H. Holbrook, Commander Department of the Potomac,  
G. A. R., chairman.

Past department commanders, Department of the Potomac,  
G. A. R.:

A. H. G. Richardson.	M. Emmett Urell.	Israel W. Stone.
George E. Corson.	J. M. Pipes.	B. F. Bingham.
Harrison Dingman.	A. F. Dinsmore.	I. G. Kimball.
Charles C. Royce.	S. E. Faunce.	A. Hart.
Samuel S. Burdett.	Nathan Bickford.	A. P. Tasker.
D. S. Alexander.	John McElroy.	B. P. Entrikin.
Newton M. Brooks.	Thomas S. Hopkins.	Newton Ferree.
Jerome B. Burke.	Arthur Hendricks.	John S. Walker.
Charles P. Lincoln.	Calvin Farnsworth.	
William S. Odell.	George H. Slaybaugh.	

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## COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS AND USHERS

Frederick D. Owen, chairman.

Sidney I. Besselièvre.	Harry O. Hall.	Henry Moser.
Frank L. Biscoe.	Samuel Herrick.	Henry W. Samson.
Frederick C. Bryan.	Edwin A. Hill.	Frank R. Wheeler.
John D. Carmody.	Earl G. Marsh.	Francis B. Wheaton.
Chester M. Clark.	H. S. McAllister.	John L. Wirt.
John C. Dalphin.	Wallace D. McLean.	Dr. William D. Wirt.
U. S. J. Dunbar.	F. L. Molby.	
Francis F. Gillen.	Wilton D. Morrill.	

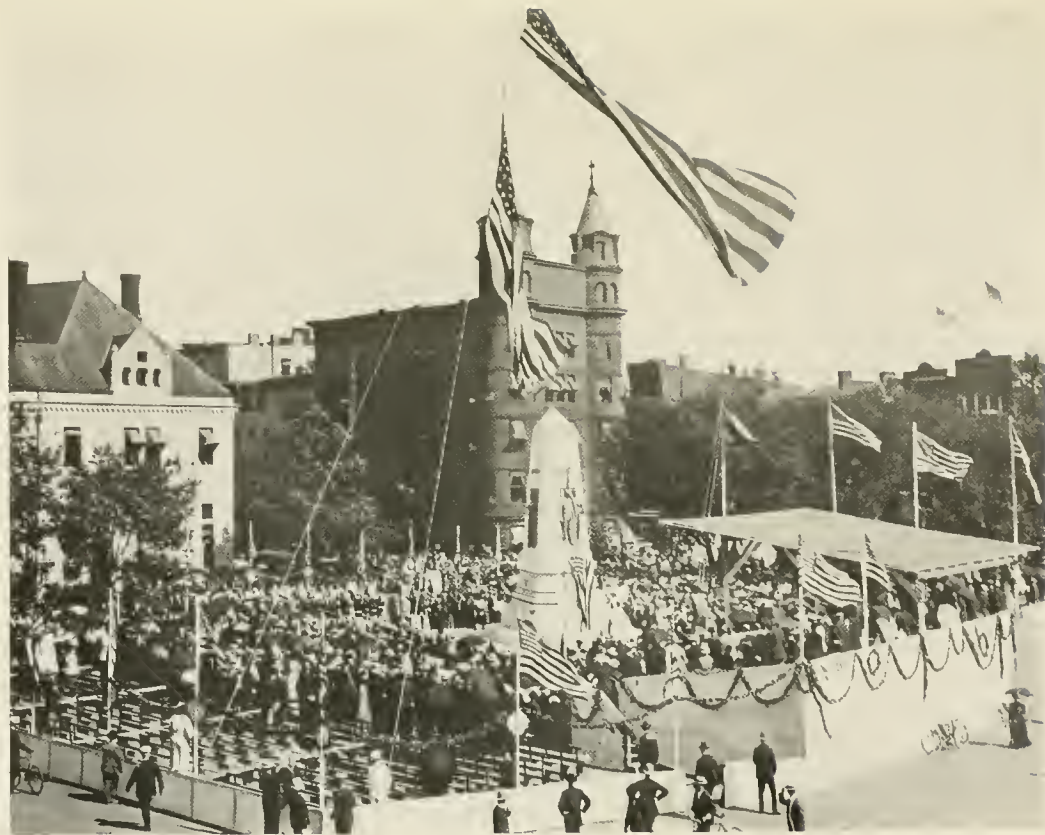
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Designs for the court, decorations, and the unveiling contributed  
by Frederick D. Owen.

George C. Hough, assistant.

The day was an ideal one, and nothing occurred to mar the ceremonies.

There were about 6,000 persons in attendance. Three thousand seats were provided. Members of the Grand Army from all over the country were present. A prin-



THE UNVEILING.

cipal stand for the speakers and distinguished guests, including all past commanders in chief and past department commanders of the Grand Army, accommodated 300.

The President, accompanied by Col. Spencer Cosby, United States Army, and Assistant Secretary Wendell W. Mischler, arrived promptly and was greeted with hearty applause.

It was an inspiring scene, especially at the moment when Mrs. Grace Ross Van Casteel, the daughter of an Illinois veteran, released the cord holding the two great American flags that veiled the memorial. As they parted and gracefully rose in the air to a position above the shaft, the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the audience rose and gave a mighty cheer.

## ADDRESSES BY THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE UNVEILING CEREMONIES

At 2.30 p. m. Comrade Charles A. Partridge,<sup>1</sup> assistant adjutant general of the Department of Illinois and chairman of the Benjamin F. Stephenson memorial committee, stepped to the speakers' stand and called "Attention!" There was an instant hush, and he continued:

"Comrades and fellow citizens: The Grand Army of the Republic has arranged a formal service, dignified and impressive, intended for ceremonial occasions of this character. But the committee having in charge the arrangements for this event, remembering the capriciousness of Washington weather and recalling that on a recent occasion, when an event of vast national interest was pending—the inauguration of a President—the Government Weather Bureau was unable to predict or give warning of an impending storm, determined to abridge the program so that, even in the sultriness of a July day, it should not be unduly wearying, and so omitted the formal, ritualistic service.

"The local committee of arrangements, of which Comrade Thomas S. Hopkins is chairman, has arranged a program which we trust will prove pleasing to those who have assembled here. As the first step in the carrying out of that program it becomes my pleasant duty, as chairman of the general committee, to present, as the presiding officer for this occasion, a United States Senator and a much-beloved past commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Hon. William Warner."

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<sup>1</sup> Died December 13, 1910.

Senator Warner then took the chair as presiding officer, and in chosen words introduced the several speakers.

Invocation of Rev. Dr. John F. Spence, chaplain in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic:

O Thou divine and blessed Father, Thou infinite God, whose loving kindness is over all Thy works, we put our trust in Thee. We recognize Thy presence and Thy goodness as ever with the children of men. We thank Thee, O God, for the companionship and the comradeship, with all the tender and thrilling memories that gather about us as we enter upon the duties of this hour. We thank Thee for the life and work of the Jehovah called, appointed, and directed martyred President Lincoln. We thank Thee especially for that one stroke of his pen which burst the bonds of more than four millions of blacks and caused universal freedom to reign triumphant on the battered throne of slavery, so that, no matter where a man is born or the color of his skin or where his liberties were cloven, down to the moment his foot touches Columbia's soil, his soul walks abroad in its liberty.

Divine Father, we pray Thy blessing upon our Chief Executive. We thank Thee for his presence with us. May the Spirit Divine direct him in the supreme leadership of our Nation. May the words which he shall speak to us this day be golden and fall upon our hearts as drops of "honey from the Great Rock."

We thank Thee, O God, for the Grand Army of the Republic and for what it has accomplished for the Nation and for the world. We thank Thee for the life and work of its founder, Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, whose monument we this day unveil and dedicate in the spirit of true comradeship and loyalty.

Our God and our fathers' God, bless the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, and all loyal organizations whose generous hearts and open hands made this dedication possible. We thank Thee for a reunited country, for the one flag, under whose folds Federals and ex-Confederates may harmoniously march to the conquest of the world for freedom and for God.

O God, wilt Thou quicken our physical vision so that we may discern and read the wireless messages of our great unseen comrades who may be near us observing this patriotic event.

Dear Father in Heaven, we pray that this blood-baptized Nation may remain, as now, forever solidly one, and be all-powerful in the federation of the whole human family, whose immortal and sacred watchwords shall be, in their deepest and divinest meaning, Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. Amen.

REMARKS OF GEN. LOUIS WAGNER, PAST COMMANDER IN CHIEF, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Mr. President, Commander in Chief Nevius, ladies and gentlemen: The Thirty-fourth National Encampment, held at Chicago, Ill., in 1900, authorized the appointment of a committee to select a site, and so forth, for a statue of Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. On August 7, 1902, the present committee, consisting of Comrades Charles A. Partridge, Thomas S. Hopkins, James Tanner, John McElroy, and myself, was appointed to raise funds for that purpose.

This matter had engaged the attention of the members of the G. A. R., and especially those of the Department of Illinois, where, in the city of Decatur, the first post was organized on April 6, 1866, but no successful results had been achieved.

The newly appointed committee commenced work promptly, but at first with very moderate prospects of success.

Circulars were issued and sent to every post, and also to many friends of the Grand Army, but the contributions received were few and far between.

By persistent labor and continued agitation in the encampments of the larger departments and in the national encampments the interest in this matter was increased, but it was not until 1906 that sufficient funds had been assured to justify the appointment of a sub-committee, consisting of Comrades James Tanner, Thomas S. Hopkins, and myself, to consider plans and, after their approval, to proceed with the work.

Suggestions and models were invited, and after careful consideration the offer of Mr. J. Massey Rhind, of New York City, was accepted by the committee.

As chairman of this committee, I have the honor, as well as the privilege, to be one of the speakers of this interesting occasion.

It is not my intention in connection with this unveiling to tell you about the Grand Army of the Republic, its organization, and the purposes for which it was established. The commander in chief will no doubt do that. Neither will I refer to the difficulties encountered by our committee, but it is my pleasure to mention very briefly the encouragement and the valuable assistance received at the hands of our friends in official position in Washington.

Hon. George P. Wetmore, Senator from Rhode Island, then and now chairman of the Committee on the Library of the United States Senate, has always been interested in our work, and to him much of its success is to be attributed.

Hon. J. Hampton Moore, Member of the House of Representatives from the third Pennsylvania district, cared for the joint resolution of Congress to appoint a commission in connection with this memorial after it had passed the Senate and had reached the House of Representatives, and to his persistence the passage of the resolution must be ascribed, it having failed of passage the previous year because no Member of the House seemed to be specially interested in it.

The commission appointed under this resolution had for its chairman the Secretary of War, now the President of the United States, and I am sure that it is a source of intense gratification to us that he, in his high and exalted position, is with us to-day to accept, in the name of the United States of America, this memorial.

The work originally contemplated a memorial to Dr. Stephenson, but as it progressed and as contributions

increased in amount, it was thought advisable to enlarge its scope and to make it not merely a memorial to the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, but of the Grand Army itself, a memorial of which our comrades might feel proud, and which will be recognized by future generations as emblematic of a Grand Army which made the United States of America a possibility.

In conclusion, I beg to add that the cost of this memorial is \$35,000—\$10,000 of this sum having been appropriated by Congress to pay for the foundation and substructure, and it is with great pleasure I add that our committee has more than enough money to pay all the bills, including the unveiling of the memorial.

Commander in Chief, in the name of the committee on Stephenson memorial, I present to you this structure ready for unveiling.



FIGURES REPRESENTING "FRATERNITY."

REMARKS OF HENRY M. NEVIUS, COMMANDER IN  
CHIEF, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC<sup>1</sup>

Mr. President, Comrade Warner, chairman of this ceremony, Comrade Partridge, chairman of the Stephenson memorial committee, comrades, ladies, and gentlemen: As your chairman has announced, I come from a sick room to you to-day to participate in the dedication of this memorial, and as I look over this large, intelligent, and enthusiastic audience, considering the extreme heat of the day, my physical condition, and the distinguished gentlemen who are to follow me, I am admonished that I must be brief.

As the representative head of the Grand Army of the Republic and in behalf of that noble organization, it affords me great pleasure to receive at your hand, Comrade Wagner, one of the members of the Stephenson memorial committee, who has labored so long, so earnestly, and so effectively in the necessary work of collecting the funds for the proper construction of this memorial, and to receive from you, representing as you do the committee appointed by the Grand Army of the Republic, this magnificent structure, fashioned by the hand of the sculptor and the artisan from solid granite and bronze, the magnificent monument which stands before us, now being dedicated to the name and memory of Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, a soldier of the Civil War and the comrade who organized the Grand Army of the Republic and who was the first commander of the Department of Illinois, where the organization originated, and who drew the ritual, the by-laws, and the constitution of the order.

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<sup>1</sup> Died January 28, 1911.

Comrade Dr. Stephenson and Comrade Rutley, the chaplain of his regiment, and other comrades had considered the idea of organizing the survivors of the Civil War into a grand organization to preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion and to perpetuate the memory and history of our comrades dead.

It was not, however, until after the close of the Civil War that Comrade Dr. Stephenson had perfected his plan for the proper organization of the Grand Army of the Republic. In April, 1866, the first Grand Army post was organized at Decatur, Ill., which culminated in the organization of many posts in that department, and from this beginning departments were formed in different States until to-day every State in this grand old Union represents and contains a department of the Grand Army of the Republic—an organization of men each and every member of which possesses an honorable discharge from service in the Civil War, and an organization into which no man on whom the stain of treason rests can come.

The history and life of Comrade Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, the organizer and originator, are so interwoven with the history and life of the Grand Army of the Republic that it seems impossible to sever the originator from the organization itself.

Upon the face of this beautiful monument is the profile, in bold relief in bronze, of Comrade Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, and beneath it in bronze is the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic, both the obverse and reverse sides. This badge was designed by Comrade Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, and from the date of the origin of the order has been worn and ever will be worn by the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic. This monument, which is triangular in its form, has upon each of its three sides figures in bronze

representing the cardinal principles of the Grand Army of the Republic—Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

It is meet and proper that this memorial should be erected and dedicated here in the Capital City of our country as a lasting tribute to those who freely offered their lives that this Nation might live.

From time immemorial, in all lands, monuments have been erected in honor of the name and memory of men and women who by their activities in life have made themselves famous. In almost every State in this Union monuments have been erected to the name and memory of General Washington and other famous generals and statesmen.

At Bunker Hill there stands a monument whose proud apex pierces the clouds as it greets the rising sun of the early morn, where it long has stood and forever will stand as a memorial to the deeds of valor, heroism, loyalty, and patriotism of the men and women of 1776, who achieved the liberty and independence of our common country and who established for themselves a constitution and a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

In 1861, when our sister States of the South tore down the flag of Washington and engaged in the mad attempt of severing the bonds of Union established by our fathers and to destroy the Constitution of the Government and its institutions, the men who comprise the Grand Army of the Republic responded to the call of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, to enforce the law. And then began the bloodiest struggle of ancient or modern times. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States faced a firm and determined foe, and behind them, in almost every State in the Union, were foes who were not actually taking up arms, but who did all in their power to assist the Southern Confederacy; and a strong political party went before the country with

a platform denouncing the war and demanding a cessation of hostilities, declaring for peace upon any terms, even the dissolution of the Union. But the men who had responded to the call of the President and who enlisted for the war with a firm determination that the Union, one and indivisible, must and should be preserved, never faltered and never wavered.

I remember well the night of July 10, 1864—the only time, in my judgment, that this Capital City was ever in danger. Gen. Jubal A. Early was sweeping down the valley; he had fought the battle at Monocacy, and on that night was approaching the city of Washington on this very street where we now are, which at that time was called the Seventh Street Pike. The regiment to which I belonged had reached Baltimore from City Point for the purpose of being remounted. We were immediately loaded, not in palace cars or ordinary coaches, but in cattle cars, and rushed here. And at midnight on July 10 we marched out over this very ground and up the Seventh Street Pike, being joined by fragments of commands who were here and by convalescents from the hospitals, to Fort Stevens; and on the morning of July 11, when Early marshaled his forces to capture this city, we went out over the breastworks and, confronting him, informed and satisfied him that he, Early, was late. At that time I lost my left arm. At 4 o'clock on that afternoon the advance of the Sixth Corps had reached Silver Springs, and the Capital was safe, and the gallant Sheridan hurled Early and his forces back up the valley. From that time on the Union Army and Navy never knew defeat. The love and confidence existing between them and Abraham Lincoln, their Commander in Chief, inspired all with a zeal and energy that overcame all opposition until at Appomatox, when the last armed foe laid down his arms, when the question was forever settled that under our Constitution the National Government is and forever must be supreme.



FIGURE REPRESENTING "CHARITY."

Then peace was declared and law reestablished throughout the length and breadth of our land.

Long years have passed since then, and the men who stood on the firing lines on the two sides in that great conflict have clasped hands o'er the bloody chasm, and let us thank God that to-day the men who comprise the two armies are, as American citizens, vieing with each other in upholding, upbuilding, and maintaining this great Nation under the one flag, beneath whose sheltering folds all men enjoy protection in their life, liberty, and property.

And now, Mr. President, to you, as the Chief Executive of this great Nation, it is my privilege and my pleasure, on behalf of my comrades, to present this beautiful monument, erected to the name and memory of Comrade Benjamin F. Stephenson and the Grand Army of the Republic, organized by him. May you and those in authority under you and your successors in office ever guard this memorial, erected and dedicated to the memory of the noble sons of those worthy sires whose monument stands at Bunker Hill.

## ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT TAFT

Mr. Chairman, my fellow citizens: We are met to dedicate a memorial to a Union soldier who served four years as a surgeon in the Civil War and who also builded an institution by which there should be united in the bonds of fellowship all the sweet association, all the deep lesson of loyalty, and all the pride of patriotism that such a civil war as that could arouse in millions of hearts. When men at the formative period in life—from 18 to 22—are associated in any work, whether it be in college, in society, in church, or otherwise, they carry with them afterwards the fondest memories and associations for each other because they have passed through a common mold. But how much greater must be the sweet association and the bond of union between men who for four years passed through the dangers of the Civil War, those who survived thinking of the tender memories of those who gave up their lives for their country; those surviving carrying with them the sweet association, the stories of courage, and tales full of humor and of pathos. I can conceive of no bond of union stronger than that which unites the men who fought from 1861 to 1865 in the Grand Army; and it was to the credit of the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic that he saw the solid basis upon which such a structure as that great society could be erected.

You will recollect that there were prophets of evil with respect to the fate of the United States after the war should cease, after the end should be accomplished for which the North was fighting, and it was said that the aggregation of a million men in arms threatened our

free institutions. They recalled that the Pretorian Guard of Rome was an instrument in furthering the ambition of those who would suppress free institutions and who were to assume despotic power. But all those prophecies faded into nothingness. The men who composed that million were men in favor of free institutions, who had fought for them, and did not intend to sacrifice them to anything else. There was no man with the ambition to use that Army as an instrument of despotism, even if it had been willing to furnish itself as such; and so it was the marvel of other countries that this great body of organized force, than which there never was a stronger or better disciplined army, faded out and disappeared into the paths of peace, preserving nothing but the sweet memory and association they had formed during the war and the consciousness that they had in their own hearts of having rendered that greatest service, to wit, the preservation of their country.

Stephenson organized this Grand Army of the Republic to preserve the essence of that Army in its finest characteristic—in its democracy and in its patriotism. Far be it from me to criticize in the slightest such organizations as the Cincinnati and the Loyal Legion. They are great organizations, and those who belong to them may well have pride in them, but the Grand Army of the Republic knows no limitation but service to the Government in the Civil War; and therefore it is that Congress, recognizing the usefulness of such an organization in preserving patriotism, in maintaining it in its intensity during those years when commercial greed seemed to make many people forget it, properly contributed \$10,000 to this memorial and recognized the Grand Army of the Republic as an institution which may well have national gratitude and national recognition. More than that, the Grand Army of the Republic is most useful in this: It represents the concentrated opinion of the men who fought in the War to Preserve the Union, and it there-

fore may give authoritative expression, which no other body and no other part of the people can give, to that forgetfulness of the bitterness of the strife which existed during the four years of the war. I am glad to say that, while that bitterness may in a few instances obtain, you will never find it to exist between the men who actually exposed their lives on one side and the men who exposed their lives on the other. The union of the two sections has been molded strongly and more strongly by those meetings, which ought to be encouraged between the Blue and the Gray to occur as often as possible. Even within my recollection, on occasions like this and on Memorial Day and on Fourths of July, I have seen the ranks of the Grand Army thinned. I know there are many who, by jaunty step and by keeping their hats on, are able to deceive the people as to their age, but the fact is that those ranks are thinning from day to day—perhaps a hundred a day are going to their long home. It is fitting that such an association, which in the course of the next generation will pass away, should have such an enduring monument as this to testify not only to the patriotic service that they rendered during the war, but also to the service to the country that they have rendered by their holding high loyalty and patriotism since the war to the present day.

Mr. Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, inasmuch as Congress contributed to this monument and provided for its erection, I am here officially to accept at your hands, on behalf of the Government of the United States, this fitting memorial of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.



FIGURE REPRESENTING "LOYALTY."

ADDRESS OF HON. J. HAMPTON MOORE, MEMBER  
OF CONGRESS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, fellow citizens: In honoring the founders of the Grand Army of the Republic we are paying tribute to the soldier of the Civil War who fought on land and sea. He is familiar to the present generation as "the veteran," grizzled and gray; the wearer of a modest suit of blue, the quiet dispenser of the garlands of May upon the graves of his departed comrades of the ship, the camp, and the field. He has become a benign, historic figure, typifying "Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty" in the personal as in the national sense, and has earned the undying gratitude of the American heart, than which perhaps no greater tribute has ever fallen to martial hero. "Veteran" though we regard him now, it is well to remember that he was of the youth and flower of the land when marching forth to battle from 44 to 48 years ago.

LINCOLN'S FIRST CALL

Lincoln called for volunteers the day following the assault upon Sumter, in April, 1861. The country was then in a high state of excitement, so that the first call, for 75,000 men, was promptly responded to. The issue then was not the overthrow of slavery. The President demanded that the laws of the Union should be respected and enforced, and for this the volunteers enlisted. It was not expected they would long be needed in the field, but those who hoped for a short campaign were counting "without their host." The seceding States were determined to defend the position they had taken, and pre-

pared to fight to "the last ditch." Amongst the Confederate leaders there were men like Lee and Stephens, who had opposed secession, but when the "die was cast" their loyalty to their States was stronger than their love for the Union and they had to fight. With what determination they fought the early victories of the Confederate Army well attest.

#### FROM THREE MONTHS TO FOUR YEARS

The President's call was for three months' service, but he was soon obliged to issue other calls, and these were followed by drafts upon the male population, until the northern troops had swollen to great bodies of men who ultimately sang as they marched from their homes in the North to the bloody Southland, "We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more."

With each succeeding clash of arms, with each defeat or victory throughout the whole of the first year's struggle, the spirit and determination of Unionist and Confederate were equally aroused. Patriotism and the sense of personal obligation to a cause were never displayed with greater earnestness. The whole country was called upon for fighting men. The war lengthened into years and did not end until at least 1,000,000 men a year had been engaged for every one of the four years of strife. It had developed into the cruelest and the bravest, the bloodiest and the most heroic, of all the wars of history. Fully 350,000 soldiers upon the Union side fell in their tracks or died from their wounds. The Confederates killed or dying from their wounds were less numerous.

#### CONSIDER THE SACRIFICE

That war has passed. The vast majority of those who returned from the service have gone to the great beyond. Millions of afflicted parents and martyred wives and sisters of the combatants have been gathered to their

fathers. It is only the veterans few who now remain to tell of the sacrifice.

And oh, in the light of history, what a sacrifice that was! Up to the time that Sumter was fired on we had prospered as a nation. We had built the superstructure upon the foundation which our fathers laid in 1776 and 1787. We had been fulfilling the destiny which they had mapped out for us. From 4,000,000 of people under the administration of Washington we had grown in 70 years to be 32,000,000 under Abraham Lincoln. We had progressed as a common country in all essentials save one. We could not agree upon the question of slavery. If in the present day we are to give full understanding to the sacrifice of the soldier of 1861, we must take an account of the stock of our country at that time.

#### FAREWELL TO OPPORTUNITY

We had long since settled down to business as a Union under the Constitution of the United States. We had fought a successful second war with England. We had just closed victoriously a war with Mexico. We had brought the Indians under governmental regulation and we had begun to discover the wealth of our own great resources. Gold had been found in California, and with its discovery the trend of empire took its westward way. We had experienced and overcome the effects of a financial panic in 1857, the result of our own excesses. We had just learned that there was silver in Colorado and Nevada; that there was natural gas and petroleum in Pennsylvania. We had begun to penetrate the Oregon country. We had established a growing merchant marine; our ships were known upon all the seas, and Commodore Perry had opened up the ports of Japan. The railroad had begun to people the wilderness and bring it to the metropolis. We were beginning to appreciate the telegraph. The steam printing

press had been invented; the steam shovel, the power loom, and the sewing machine were new creations; the harvester and the reaper and other mechanical devices had come to the relief of labor. It seemed, indeed, as though the golden age of opportunity had set in for the youth of the land.

#### YOUTH AND OLD AGE ENLISTED

The relinquishment of all these was a part of the sacrifice, but not all. The call to duty put them by, but the youth who shouldered his musket to engage in the hazard of deadly warfare must also say good-bye to mother and to fireside; the man must say farewell to wife and children, farewell to hopes and aspirations, farewell to ease and opportunity, farewell, indeed, to life itself. Old men or young men, it made but little difference then; the cause demanded fighting men, and on to war they went.

Down the streets of Philadelphia, in August, 1861, marched a regiment the average age of whose members was 19 years. "Why, they're only schoolboys," said a bystander, but schoolboys though they were, Birney's Zouaves were famous soldiers before that war was over.

#### "A DRESS PARADE OF THE DEAD"

The youth of the Army! Remember the One hundred and fifty-first Pennsylvania? A regiment with a hundred school teachers and their scholars. Have you heard the story? Under the command of a Juniata pedagogue that gallant regiment stood at Gettysburg, face to face with the enemy, administering shot for shot and blow for blow until 56 per cent of its members had fallen dead and wounded. They spoke of the fallen of that regiment as "a dress parade of the dead," so accurate was their alignment as they fell.

## THEY WERE NOT HIRELINGS

But all the gallantry was not upon the side of the young men. There were fathers in those battles leading their sons or loyally following the lead of their sons. "I want to fight with your regiment," said old John Burns at Gettysburg—and all day long his "bell-crowned hat" and his "swallow-tail coat" were conspicuous with his musket where the fighting was thickest. His silver hair and his 70 years had not diminished his patriotism nor lessened his love of the Union.

These were the men, both old and young, whose achievements invoke our admiration. Not hireling soldiers, not the professional—

He who fights and runs away,  
May live to fight another day—

but the soldiers of duty; soldiers who answered their country's call, who went into the fray to stand until they had won or lost.

## SERVICE OF THE RANK AND FILE

Associated with the exercises of this day are memories of heroism such as the world had never seen. The paltry few medals of honor which the Congress of the United States has bestowed upon worthy men went chiefly to private soldiers, sergeants, corporals, and other noncommissioned officers. Admiring comrades and companions have reared their shafts of bronze and marble to the memory of beloved and gallant commanders. The private soldier, more than any other, knew the value of able and magnetic leaders, but in no other instance, it is believed, has a memorial sprung so directly from the hearts of the people in honor of the private soldier—the modern veteran—as does this memorial of the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. We may not—aye, we dare not—minimize the glory of the victorious com-

mander; but we must not—indeed, we shall not—disregard the services of the rank and file.

#### HEROES AT THE BLOODY ANGLE

Where in the world's history has there been such self-sacrifice, such gallantry, as in the American Civil War? Who can stand at the Bloody Angle and not bow low in reverence to the gallant men of Pickett's Division, whose desperate charge repulsed was the turn of tide in the war, and who of the eulogists of that command will fail to bow in turn to those intrepid, those immovable, Union men who met and drove the heroes back? Neither artist nor historian has yet been found to adequately paint the picture of that immortal clash of heroes.

You read "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; you catch the swing and rhythm of the lines. You see the dash, you hear the clash, and then, in imagination, you witness the sad return of the broken regiment. But did you ever read the simple story of the First Minnesota Regiment? May we not compare it to "The Charge of the Light Brigade"?

#### A SENTENCE OF DEATH

"Colonel Colvill," said General Hancock at Gettysburg, "move your regiment forward and take those colors!"

"Forward the Light Brigade,  
Charge for the guns," he said.

It was the sentence of death. Home and loved ones all behind them and knowing duty only, the First Minnesota, tired and broken from losses and long marches, moved steadily upon an entire Confederate division:

Their's not to make reply,  
Their's not to reason why,  
Their's but to do and die.

But that deadly charge served the purpose of the commanding general; it saved a break in the Union line, and consequent disaster.

Oh, the wild charge they made!

sang the poet Tennyson:

All the world wondered,

And yet, world renowned as was the battle of Balaklava, the total loss inflicted upon the Light Brigade was only 37 per cent.

What was the loss of the First Minnesota? Of the 262 men who made that awful charge at Gettysburg, 215 were killed or wounded. Only 47 came back. Will not some modern Tennyson write the unparalleled story of the First Minnesota, with its 82 per cent of death?

#### INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL BRAVERY

"Colonel," said a beardless youth at Chancellorsville, "if you need the ammunition on the other side of the field, I will get it." He performed the task and marched backward to the regiment while the bullets whistled round him. "Why did you walk backward?" said the commander. "Because, if they hit me, I wanted them to hit me in the face. It would look better to the folks at home."

"No, sir," said a soldier at Gaines Mills, who had been shot in the thigh, "that ambulance is for those who can not walk." And he walked, though his trousers were stiff with blood.

"You're a Yank," said a stricken 'Confederate at Petersburg, as he received the canteen of a passing Unionist, "but you've saved my life."

"Well," said a lad whose cheek bone was shattered by a piece of shell at Fredericksburg, "this is what I came for," and he marched on.

## REMEMBER THE UNKNOWN DEAD

These are a meager few of innumerable incidents by which we may judge the personal valor of the private soldier. Take him collectively: A regiment is ordered to make an assault to serve a strategy of the commander. They strike blindly; hundreds fall, some to be reported killed, some wounded, some missing. By the side of a swamp the command is given to march, and through "the slashing" a thousand men proceed, climbing over the limbs and branches and through the vines, unable themselves to fight, while the enemy pours its deadly fire from the other side.

In the swamp they fall, in the wilderness they drop, in the trench they lie. Men unscathed or wounded men return from battle and are justly glorified and feted, but what of those who were left behind, unheralded, unmarked? Where is the poet who has written the praises of those who came not back? Where is the monument that fittingly records the heroism and the sacrifices of the uncounted dead? Let us include them in the exercises of this hour. Let us hope the extent of their great sacrifice may some day be measured and more fully appreciated by mankind.

Lay him low; lay him low,  
' Neath the clover, or the snow;  
What cares he, he can not know;  
Lay him low.

## WORLD'S RECORD OF LOSSES

Statistics vary with regard to the losses in the wars of the world, but regimental losses were greater in the Civil War than in any prior war of history. No record has been produced showing a regimental loss of 50 per cent in any of the world's wars. The Light Brigade at Bala-klava lost 37 per cent. The Garde Schutzen at Metz lost 46 per cent. The Third Wesphalen at Mars la Tour lost 49 per cent.<sup>1</sup> But in the Northern Army were 70 regiments, representing nearly every State of the North,

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<sup>1</sup> Computed by Gen. St. Clair A. Mulholland.

that lost in single engagements alone more than 50 per cent of killed and wounded. There were 150 regiments of the Northern Army which lost more in single combats than did the Light Brigade at Balaklava. Witness the Fifth New York (Duryea's Zouaves), which went into the first Bull Run fight with 462 men and came out with 351 killed or wounded; or that heroic company of colored troops under Capt. John McMurray, at Chapin's Farm, which lost 87 per cent killed and wounded, the greatest percentage of company loss in the whole war.

#### THE MORALE OF THE ARMY

He was not a soldier of fortune who enlisted from 'sixty-one to 'sixty-five. He was fighting for the integrity of his country—the northern man for the preservation of the Union, the southern man for the rights, as he believed them, of the separate States. He was not a marauding soldier, the soldier of 'sixty-one, for the lines of either side were strictly drawn and moral standards were established not to be shaken. The bushwhacker and the coward had no welcome place in the ranks.

"I never entered a battle," said a northern general recently, "without suggesting first the offering up of prayer." A member of the Cabinet of the great harmonizer, the present occupant of the White House, who graces this occasion with his presence, was a child in Texas during the war. His father was a Union man and duty called him North. "But he would never have gone," said his distinguished son, "had he not full faith that southern chivalry would protect his wife and children from molestation."

#### THE GLORY OF THE SOLDIER

One glory of the true soldier is in having "met a foe-man worthy of his steel." Since there is small honor in a one-sided victory or a battle with weaklings, the martial glory of the Union soldier was in having met those who were his equals on the field of battle or in the ships. The

four long years of fighting, the scales tipped now in favor of one and now in favor of the other, proclaims forever the fighting prowess of the two great armies. But viewed from the standpoint of the citizen soldier of the North, the veteran type, whom the Grand Army of the Republic was organized to honor, the chief glory of the war has been the preservation of the union of the States and the resumption of that great progress which was halted in the early days of 'sixty-one. Nor is it stretching the truth to say that the veterans of the southern armies, laying aside the bitterness and disappointment of defeat, have come to realize the strength and wisdom of the Union and the inviolability of the Constitution and the laws.

#### A NEW ACCOUNTING OF STOCK

After the lapse of nearly half a century, we are enabled again to take an accounting of the Nation's stock and to compare it with those conditions that prevailed, with those opportunities that were postponed, when Lincoln first sounded the tocsin of war. We had 32,000,000 of people, including nearly 4,000,000 slaves, in scattered and conflicting States then. We have 90,000,000 of people and no slaves in 46 united States to-day. Then the per capita circulation of the country was approximately \$14; to-day it approximates \$35. Then the estimated wealth of the country was \$16,000,000,000; to-day it is estimated at more than \$116,000,000,000. Then, largely by reason of the lack of a union of States, there were no national banks, and deposits in State banks, perhaps, did not exceed half a billion. The total deposits in national banks and kindred companies throughout the United States now exceed the wonderful total of \$13,000,000,000. The war plunged us into a debt of more than two and a half billions, and this we have reduced to approximately a billion. No nation upon earth, united as we have been since the great struggle, has prospered as we have in the United States. We have come to be the great wealth-

producing nation of the world. We have resumed the work that was stopped in 1861, and have proven our industrial and agricultural capacity until we are able to create a wealth of \$25,000,000,000 per annum.

#### OUR PROGRESS WITH PEACE

So vast, indeed, have been our national operations that our wealth is now equal to that of Great Britain and Ireland, of France, and of Italy combined, and, strange as it appears in comparison with these old-world countries, our debt is less than that of either of them. What if this Union had not been preserved? What if it had not been possible that this Grand Army of the Republic had ever been formed? In the wonderful rehabilitation of the country it was the veteran soldier who took a leading and an honorable part. He had saved the Union; now he must preserve and develop it. He caught the spirit of Grant at Appomattox, and with enthusiasm turned from the sword to the plow. He returned to the farm, the factory, and to the mine. He resumed his clerical and business pursuits; he took up again the studies in law, in medicine, in commerce, that had been interrupted when he marched to the front.

#### A SAFEGUARD OF THE NATION

What better time than this to own our obligation, our eternal gratitude, to the Grand Army of the Republic! Tested in the crucible of war, it has taught us the holiest lessons of peace. It has stood for "Fraternity," that worthy soldiers might know and better appreciate each other; it has stood for "Charity," that the poor and the feeble and the desolate might not go unattended; it has stood for "Loyalty," that the Union might never again be short of defenders; and, over all, it has set an example of citizenship, which is the truest safeguard of the Nation. So long as the Grand Army of the Republic is a power in the land and so long as its memory shall last, this Government will not fail.

## CONCLUSION OF CEREMONIES

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the monument, the troops, which during the services had been massed on Louisiana Avenue and adjoining streets, were called to attention and put into motion.

The President, the commander in chief of the Grand Army, and other officials took their positions on the west side of the tier of seats where they had been seated during the exercises, facing Seventh Street.

About 2,000 soldiers were in line. The two divisions, under command of Gen. Wotherspoon and preceded by a platoon of police, marched down Louisiana Avenue into Seventh Street, past the reviewing stand, to the Avenue. Then the column moved west along the Avenue to the Treasury and up Fifteenth Street to New York Avenue, where it was dismissed.

The first division, under command of Col. Joseph Garrard, of the Fifteenth Cavalry, was composed of regular troops. Behind the Engineer Band came Companies A and B, United States Engineers. Two companies of Coast Artillery, two companies of Marines, and a detachment of seamen from the United States Navy followed the Engineers.

Two batteries of the Third Field Artillery and a squadron of cavalry formed the rear of the column in the first division.

Brig. Gen. George H. Harries, commanding the National Guard of the District, was marshal of the second division. The entire brigade of the local guardsmen took part in

the parade with the exception of the First Battery of Field Artillery. Behind Gen. Harries rode the general staff and general noncommissioned staff. The band preceded the First Infantry, under command of Col. Ourand. The Second Regiment was commanded by Maj. Sims. The First Separate Battalion, the Naval Battalion, and the Ambulance Corps followed the Second Regiment of Infantry.

It was a fitting close to a day that was eventful in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic. The martial music, the note of the bugle, the glittering of bayonets, the clanking of sabers, awakened sleeping memories in the minds of the veterans—memories of the days when they were young and followed the flag through the smoke of battle. Many were heard to congratulate each other that they had lived to see the day and the event.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF DR. BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN STEPHENSON AND OF THE ORGANIZA-  
TION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson was born in Wayne County, Ill., October 3, 1823. He was the son of James Stephenson, of South Carolina, who emigrated to Kentucky, and there married Margaret Clinton, of North Carolina, and he was one of 11 children.

When Dr. Stephenson was about 3 years of age his parents removed to Sangamon County, where he passed his early youth. This was a virgin country into which the young child was brought. It was a wilderness, and out of it, here and there, men who had become toughened and hardened by a pioneer life were building homes and character, and laying the foundation of the Nation's greatness. Those who constituted the advance guard of civilization felt but lightly the constraints and limitations of the law, and they were quick to resent any interference with their personal liberty. They drank deeply from the waters of freedom, and it permeated every fiber of their bodies and created a strain in their blood that exists in their descendants to this day, and when Fort Sumter was fired upon and the rights and liberties of the people were threatened the descendants of these freedom-loving pioneers, as if by instinct, arrayed themselves upon the side of the Union.

Miss Stephenson, in her memoir, says:

The schools to which my father was sent were such as the new country afforded—one end filled with a big fireplace which roasted one's face, while the back froze, or vice versa—and the seats were of split logs, and the walls were innocent of plaster. The spaces between the logs were nicknamed "windows." The "master" flourished a big ferule, and was not sparing of its use. \* \* \* Notwithstanding these extremely

primitive educational advantages, Frank (as he was called in boyhood) learned rapidly what the rural pedagogue professed to teach. The curriculum, however, extended but little beyond the three "R's." When still quite young he was noted for his proficiency in spelling and in the rural spelling schools he was quite a champion.

These pioneers knew none of the luxuries of modern life. Their clothing was made of homespun material, the spinning and weaving of cloth being one of the principal occupations of the women of the household.

Their fare was simple, but wholesome and abundant. The woods furnished game and nuts and honey. They had milk and butter and corn bread, and the garden supplied vegetables.

Miss Stephenson says:

The settlers' families were widely scattered. Springfield was but a village; the nearest church, or preaching station, was several miles distant. My grandfather (Mr. James Stephenson) used to call the family together on Sunday and have scriptural reading. Sometimes they would meet at the house of a neighbor and read the Bible together. My grandfather's library consisted chiefly of books on church doctrine, expositions of the Bible, moral philosophies, etc. There were, however, among the books, some histories, and a few volumes of poetry. Of these, Frank's chief favorite was Milton, over whose sublime pages he was accustomed to pore in his boyhood's leisure hours.

Later he became a devoted reader of Shakespeare.

As was the custom in those days, as the boy grew older he spent less and less time in the school and more and more upon the farm. This assistance in the clearing and the cultivation of the farm was a necessity. He did not give of his time and strength grudgingly, but he helped his father cheerfully and efficiently, though the work was hard and the hours long. But hard work could not and did not overcome the ambition to better his condition.

There was an elder brother, William, who had settled in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and there practiced medicine and kept a drug store. When Frank was about 23 years of age he joined his brother, assisted in the store, and

studied medicine. Later he attended medical lectures at Columbus, Ohio, and during the winter of 1849-50 he studied at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and received his diploma from that institution February 7, 1850.

His health having become seriously impaired, he did not begin the practice of his profession for nearly two years. He then settled in Petersburg, Ill., on the banks of the historic Sangamon River.

March 30, 1855, he married Miss Barbara B. Moore, who was a native of Kentucky, but who emigrated to Springfield, Ill., with her father, in 1853. There were born to them one son, Dr. B. M. Stephenson, of Peoria, Ill., and two daughters, Mary H. and Carrie, of Petersburg, Ill., all of whom, at the present writing, are living.<sup>1</sup>

Miss Stephenson says:

Concerning the domestic relations of my father, I can truly say that he was a most affectionate and exemplary husband and father. Such was his character, and so uniform his tenderness toward his family that words fail me to express the affection, akin to worship, with which his children regarded him, and still regard his memory.

Soon after his marriage he accepted a professorship in the Iowa Medical College, at Keokuk, Iowa, and lectured there during 1855, 1856, and 1857.

The events which led up to the War of the Rebellion were now beginning to engross the hearts and minds of the people. Political feeling ran high. Dr. Stephenson was bitterly opposed to slavery, and when Mr. Lincoln was nominated he became his ardent supporter.

The dark cloud of war which had been gathering so long, now that Mr. Lincoln was elected, grew blacker and blacker, and at last burst with the firing on Fort Sumter and the massacre of the Massachusetts troops in the streets of Baltimore.

Dr. Stephenson was among the first to offer his services to his country. He enlisted at Jacksonville, Ill., May 25, 1861, and was subsequently appointed surgeon of the

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Stephenson died January 7, 1911.

Fourteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Col. John M. Palmer commanding. About the middle of September in the same year he was discharged.

In February, 1862, Dr. Stephenson was reappointed surgeon of the regiment and rejoined it at Fort Donelson. Some time later he was appointed brigade surgeon, and for meritorious services at the Battle of Shiloh Gov. Yates conferred upon him the rank of major. At Shiloh he started into the battle on Sunday morning with his regiment, but he was soon separated from it, being busily engaged in caring for the wounded. As the tide of battle ebbed and flowed, he was so engrossed with his duties that he took little note of the shifting positions of the two armies, and he was inside of the enemy's lines six times on that memorable day.

He was present with his regiment at the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Big Hatchee, Vicksburg, and others.

Col. Cyrus Hall, commanding Fourteenth Illinois, who, in his report of the Battle of Shiloh, dated April 10, 1862, names several of the field officers, including Dr. Stephenson, says:

All proved themselves gallant, brave, and indefatigable officers. (Rebellion Records, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 225.)

The regiment in this battle lost 33 killed, 143 wounded, and 19 missing.

Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, commanding Second Brigade, Fourth Division, district of west Tennessee, in his report dated October 9, 1862, of the battle of Hatchee, says:

Maj. Stephenson, senior surgeon of the brigade, devoted himself to the relief of the wounded, and his skill, energy, and devotion to duty were seen and felt by my whole command. (Rebellion Records, Series I, Vol. XVII, part 1, p. 324.)

Dr. Stephenson's military record, as shown by the official records of the War Department, is as follows:

B. F. Stephenson was enrolled May 25, 1861, at Jacksonville, for the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry Volunteers. He is shown on the records with the rank of lieutenant surgeon, and is re-

ported present on the muster roll dated August 31, 1861. As Benjamin F. Stephenson he was mustered into service to take effect April 7, 1862, as surgeon of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, to serve three years. On the muster roll dated October 31, 1862, he is shown present, with remark, "Detached as brigade surgeon." In Special Orders, No. 247, Seventeenth Army Corps, dated October 31, 1863, he was relieved from duty as surgeon in charge of post hospital at Natchez, Miss. He was mustered out of service June 24, 1864, at Springfield, Ill., as surgeon, Fourteenth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, by reason of expiration of term of service.

After leaving the Army, Dr. Stephenson located at Springfield, Ill., and resumed the practice of medicine. He was made a member of the board of examining surgeons at Camp Butler, near Springfield, and early in 1865 was placed in charge of the hospital at that point and remained in charge until the soldiers were all mustered out.

From the time he left the service he was noted for his affection for his comrades. It was no fad of the hour with him. The ties formed on the field and in the camp were as sacred to him as if they had been ordained from on high. It was genuine love, the wellsprings of which were deep down in his heart. The knowledge that a comrade or the widow or child of a comrade was in want or distress appealed to him so strongly that he knew no rest or peace of mind until relief had been provided.

He gave employment to soldiers, soldiers' widows and orphans whenever he could and induced others to employ them. He attended them in illness, free of charge, if they were unable to pay. An appeal from them was an open sesame to his gentle heart and to his generous purse.

It is probable that about the time of the close of hostilities he conceived the idea of some kind of an association or society composed of the veterans of the Civil War. At first it did not take shape or form in his mind, but he gradually worked out a plan, and in January, 1866, he consulted with some of his comrades as to the formation of a society to be called "The Grand Army of the Republic," whose motto should be "Fra-

ternity, Charity, and Loyalty." It was to be a secret order, with grips and passwords, nonpartisan and loyal. He did not receive much encouragement. But he was persistent. By February, 1866, he had prepared the complete ritual, rules, and regulations for the organization. Col. Daniel Grass, a friend, who saw and read the original manuscript, says that it was submitted to him by Dr. Stephenson in the early part of February, 1866, and that it was all in his (Dr. Stephenson's)—

own handwriting, including erasures, interlineations, and punctuations. There was not a line, word, or letter in it written by any other person \* \* \*. The whole was printed and used, at first, in the organization of posts of the Grand Army of the Republic almost literally as submitted to me by Dr. Stephenson.

On the 6th of April, 1866, the anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, Dr. Stephenson established the first post of the Grand Army of the Republic—Post No. 1, of Decatur, Ill. The charter members were Capt. M. F. Kanan, Maj. George R. Steele, George H. Dunning, Col. Isaac C. Pugh, Lieut. Col. John H. Nalc, J. T. Bishop, C. Riebsame, Dr. J. W. Routh, B. F. Sibley, I. N. Coltrin, Joseph Prior, and A. Toland.

The next post organized was at Springfield, Dr. Stephenson's home, and was named Stephenson Post, No. 2. From this time on the order grew with amazing rapidity. In 1890 it contained 409,000 members.

After Dr. Stephenson had organized 40 posts, an encampment was called, which met at Springfield on the 12th of July, 1866. Gen. John M. Palmer was elected department commander of Illinois. Dr. Stephenson was elected provisional commander in chief. On the permanent organization of the order, at the first national encampment held at Indianapolis, Ind., November 20, 1866, he was elected adjutant general. At that encampment the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas we, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, recognize in Maj. B. F. Stephenson, of Springfield, Ill., the head and front of the organization: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That for the energy, loyalty, and perseverance manifested in organizing the Grand Army of the Republic he is entitled to the gratitude of all loyal men, and that we, as soldiers, tender him our thanks and pledge him our friendship at all times and under all circumstances.

In a short account of the organization he says:

The idea originated with me in the month of January, 1866, and I consulted a number of my former comrades and friends as to the feasibility of organizing the soldiers into a mutual benefit society. This idea was suggested to me by the number of soldiers' widows and orphans then in want in our country. I was discouraged by almost all. The plan was pronounced altogether wild and impracticable.

Up to this time (the organization of the Department of Illinois, July 12, 1866) not a single man of distinction in this or any other State had dared to connect his name with the order, and even then many of them did it with trepidation.

No man disputed my claims to its origin while its success was problematical. Then it was my order.

In another article from his pen he says:

We claim to stand aloof from all party politics other than that which pertains to the perpetuity of this Union and the interest and well-being of the soldier.

He could have truthfully added that he had practically impoverished himself in his efforts to establish the Grand Army.

Dr. Stephenson continued his interest in the Grand Army until his death, which took place at Rock Creek, Ill., August 30, 1871. His body lies at rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Ill., having been laid there, with appropriate ceremonies, by Estill Post, No. 71, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois.

The comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic owe him a debt of gratitude which they can never repay, but as long as they live they will cherish with tenderness the memory of the one who laid deep and strong the foundations of that wonderful structure, the like of which never was and never will be again.

## APPENDIX.

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REPORT OF THE B. F. STEPHENSON GRAND ARMY MEMORIAL  
COMMITTEE TO THE FORTY-THIRD NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, SALT LAKE CITY,  
AUGUST 12, 1909.

### *To the Forty-third National Encampment:*

Your committee on the B. F. Stephenson Grand Army Memorial respectfully reports that since the last annual encampment their work has been practically completed.

The monument, which occupies an admirable location at the National Capital, is a dignified and imposing structure, symmetrical in design and pleasing in appearance. It is fully paid for, as are all bills incurred by the committee in connection with its dedication.

In accordance with the action of the Forty-second National Encampment, the exercises were under the direction of the commander in chief, your committee, however, cooperating in the preparation and carrying out of the program.

Inasmuch as the commander in chief has dwelt somewhat at length in his address upon this event, describing the memorial and giving in detail the program of the exercises, we would be merely repeating what has already been placed before the encampment to say more regarding this very interesting occasion. A resolution is now before the Congress of the United States which provides for the publication by the National Government of a memorial volume giving in detail the addresses made

on the occasion of the unveiling. It is confidently expected that at the next session this resolution will be adopted, and that before our next encampment these volumes will be ready for distribution.

The accompanying statement of the treasurer gives in detail the receipts and expenditures of the committee.

Submitted in F., C., and L.

CHARLES A. PARTRIDGE,  
*Chairman.*

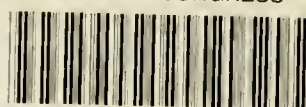
JAMES TANNER.

LOUIS WAGNER.

JOHN McELROY.

THOS. S. HOPKINS.





## Inscriptions

Front bas relief

FRATERNITY

Obelisk, bottom

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

ORGANIZED AT DECATUR ILLINOIS, APRIL 6, 1866.

BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STEPHENSON M.D.

Obelisk, top

1861 - 1865

Bas relief, northeast side

CHARITY

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY

Bas relief, southeast side

LOYALTY

WHO KNOW NO GLORY BUT HIS COUNTRY'S GOOD

Obelisk, bottom edge

RANKIN KELLOGG AND CRANE

ARCHITECTS

J. MASSEY RHIND

SCULPTOR