

HISTORY
OF THE
GRAND ARMY
OF THE
REPUBLIC,

By ROBERT B. BEATH,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

GENERAL LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

ILLUSTRATED.

NEW YORK.

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1889.



Robert B. Beath

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INTRODUCTION.

I have been asked to write a few prefatory words to this History of the Grand Army of the Republic.

That society whose watch-words are Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty — Fraternity so wide-spread as to embrace all who honored themselves by enlisting in the Union Army; a Charity so broad as to have included within its benefactions sufferers of every class, and of all sections of our country; a Loyalty that maintains "true allegiance to the United States of America based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, its constitution and laws," that discountenances "whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason or rebellion," and encourages "the spread of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men," and which constantly inculcates the spirit of good-will and friendship for all law-abiding citizens of our common country, needs no commendation to the readers of this book.

Comrade Past Commander-in-Chief Beath hardly needs an introduction to the public at large, and certainly not to the members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He is well known as one of the most excellent and valuable members of our Order. His fitness for this task is beyond question. No man has more complete knowledge of the aims and objects of the Grand Army or of the results accomplished by it. No man is more fully imbued with an ardent love for

its principles, or is more thoroughly versed in its laws. His heart is in this work and the result is a history that will give to the world an intelligent and accurate account of the society from its birth to the present time.

The members of the Grand Army are to be congratulated that Comrade Beath has consented to do them this great favor.

Of the necessity of such a history I need not speak—it is the general opinion throughout our membership that the time has arrived when the annals of the Order should be collated and imperishably preserved. The work should have, and will doubtless enjoy, a wide circulation and a permanent popularity, and will surely go forth with the good wishes of every loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Fraternally yours,

Lucius Fairchild

P R E F A C E .

THE comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic have long cherished a desire to have in permanent form an official history of the origin and growth of their organization; an organization whose cardinal principles are FRATERNITY, CHARITY and LOYALTY. "With charity for all and malice toward none," they have gone on perfecting and strengthening their organization, until it now stands acknowledged as one of the noblest in its works and purposes of any fraternal and charitable association known.

The records of the Grand Army of the Republic, when transferred to Adjutant-General Chipman in 1868, were in an imperfect condition. He and his successors sought diligently to replace missing records and secure reliable data relative to the institution of the Grand Army, but unfortunately the materials so gathered, with all the other books and records to that time, were destroyed in the disastrous fire which occurred in Boston on Memorial Day, 1872. When serving as Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department of Pennsylvania, I began collecting for my own use, duplicates of General Orders and Journals. Later, when appointed Adjutant-General of the Order, I sought to secure for National Headquarters missing copies of Orders and Journals, and was able to report to the National Encampment in 1876, that thirteen full sets of the Journals had been collected and bound. The announcement of this fact stimulated a desire for copies, and some seven hundred were printed and issued to subscribers. These, up to this time, have been practically the only available records of the National Encampment for the years above referred to.

General Fairchild, during his term as Commander-in-Chief, strongly urged that I should undertake the work of writing a History of our organization, and kindly expressed his intention to recommend my appointment as Historian of the Grand Army of the Republic. The National Encampment gave its hearty acquiescence to the proposition, but upon my own suggestion I was left free to pursue the work without such official designation.

I fully realized that this was a serious undertaking; that it meant the sacrifice for many months, of hours that should be devoted to the rest and relaxation necessary, after a day fully devoted to other duties, and which could not be avoided or slighted. On the other hand, I considered the advantage of the experience gained in twenty-two years of active work in the ranks of the Grand Army and in the many honorable positions conferred upon me by the Order.

In compiling this History, I deemed it best to treat with as much detail as possible the steps leading to the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic. In some degree records of the National Encampment and of the Departments are available to comrades, but nowhere is there to be found any specific record of the labors of the founders of the Order. These details have been gathered from many sources, but largely from personal intercourse with the survivors of the early days and from valuable papers placed in my hands for this purpose. Of late years the Commander-in-Chief has presented in his address all the important matters affecting the organization, which are referred to in more detail in the reports of his staff officers. By condensing these it has been possible to here present all the important matters that have been acted upon by the National Encampment from 1866 to 1888 inclusive.

It was manifestly impossible to treat of Departments in the same manner. To concisely present such details of early organization as do not appear in the printed records, and to give the names and the Posts of which they are members, of all who

served as Department officers, seemed all that could be done in this direction. Anything more must be a work to be undertaken by or for each Department.

My acknowledgments are especially due, for papers relative to the initial work in Springfield, Illinois, to Comrades A. A. North, Geo. S. Dana and John M. Adair, and Miss Josephine P. Cleveland, who has published a large portrait of Dr. Stephenson. Also to Comrades George R. Steele, M. F. Kanan, J. T. Bishop and I. N. Coltron, for very valuable documents relative to the first Post, at Decatur, including letters of Dr. Stephenson and copies of the first ritual and constitution. The many other comrades who have so kindly aided me have my hearty thanks.

It is a special pleasure to say that the publishers have more than fulfilled their promise to make this book, in its mechanical execution, worthy of the Grand Army of the Republic. No expense has been spared by them in this respect, and I know that with this statement all readers will heartily agree.

In closing this work, I cannot better express my appreciation of this grand fraternity of ours, than by repeating the words used in my address as Commander-in-Chief:

"We are enjoying, in a land we helped to save, a companionship made sacred by common sufferings and sacrifices.

"No other organization on earth can lay claim to such glorious and precious memories. Let us keep this brotherhood together on the highest plane of citizenship and prove to the people, North and South, that the Grand Army of the Republic is worthy of their confidence, that it is doing a work demanded by the strongest claims of humanity, and that its objects are in accord with the purest principles of patriotism."

Ross B. Beach

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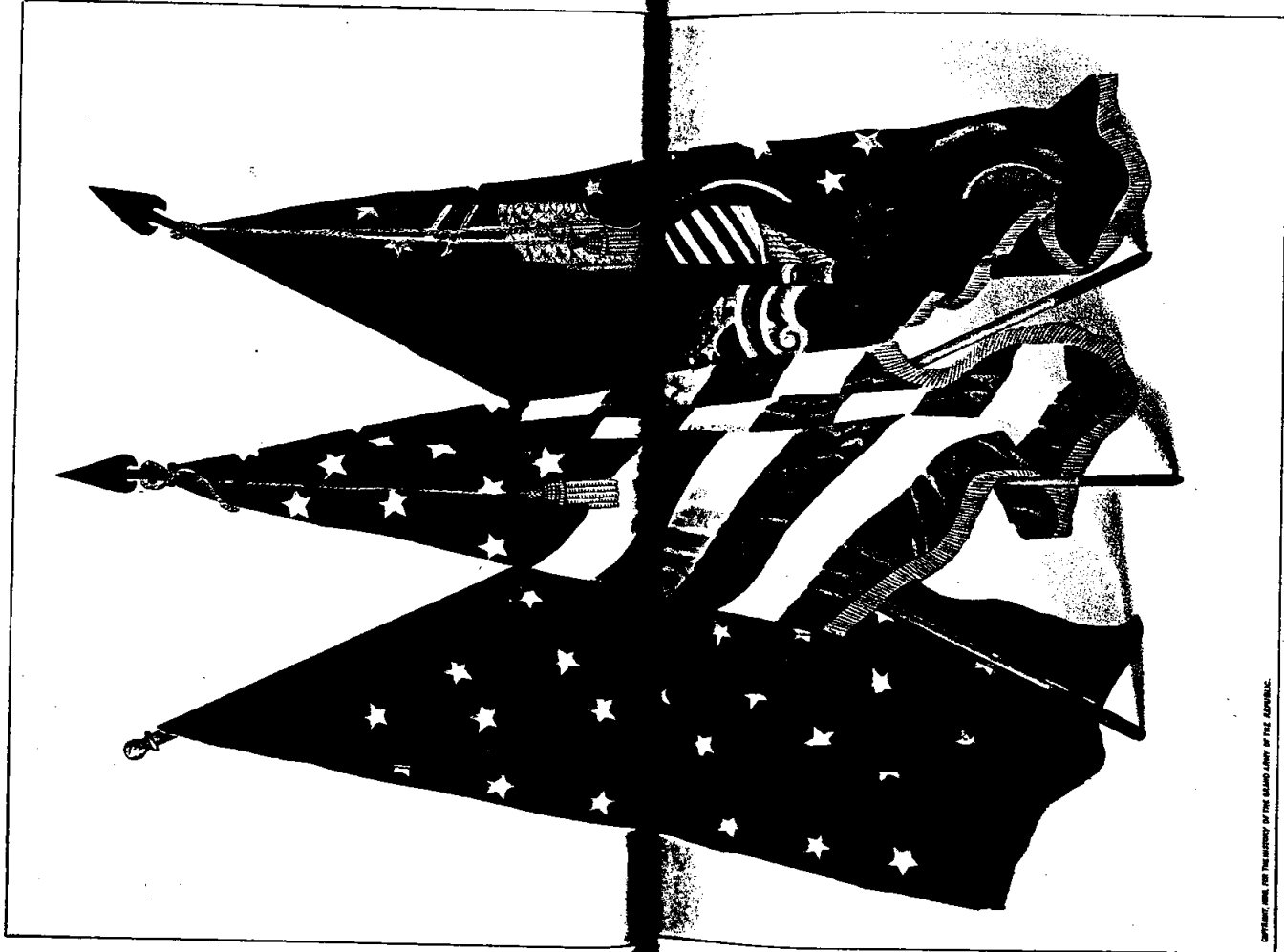
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COURTESY, U.S. AIR FORCE, OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

"FLAG OF THE SEAS! ON OCEAN WAVE
THY STARS SHALL GLITTER OER THE BRAVE!"

"FLAG OF THE BRAVE! THY FOLDS SHALL FLY
THE SIGN OF HOPE AND TRIUMPH HIGH!"

History of Grand Army of the Republic.

CHAPTER I.

PEACE AT LAST.

ON the fourteenth day of April, 1865, the United States flag, which just four years before had been lowered upon the formal surrender of Fort Sumter, was again raised over that fort by Major-General Robert Anderson, with appropriate ceremonies, national in their character and importance.

On the second of April, Jefferson Davis had made a hurried departure from Richmond, stopping at Danville to issue a proclamation to the effect that the events of the past ten days would leave the Confederate armies "free to move from point to point, to strike the enemy in detail far from his base." Notwithstanding this, on April 9, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant, and on the 14th General Joseph E. Johnston opened negotiations for the surrender of his troops to General Sherman, the details being formally consummated on the 26th of that month.

Mobile had been surrendered on the 12th to the military and naval forces under General Gordon Granger, commanding the 13th Army Corps, and Rear-Admiral Henry K. Thatcher, commanding the West Gulf Squadron.

Major-Generals George Stoneman and James H. Wilson were leading divisions of cavalry at will through different sections of the South which had not seriously felt the dire effects of war, and the last-named general, by a series of dashing movements, completely routed and scattered the cavalry forces of General N. B. Forrest. A portion of Wilson's command, on May 10, captured the fleeing leader of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis.

Practically but one large division of the rebel armies then remained in the field, that of the Trans-Mississippi Department, under General E. Kirby Smith, who surrendered, on May 25, to General E. R. S. Canby, commanding the Military Division of the Gulf. The rebellion was ended.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

SECOND DIVISION—Major-General George Crook.
 1st Brigade, Brigadier-General Henry E. Davies (2d New York Cavalry).
 2d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General John Irvin Gregg, 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry.
 3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General C. H. Smith, 1st Maine Cavalry.

FIRST DIVISION—Brigadier-General Thomas C. Devin (6th New York Cavalry).
 1st Brigade, Colonel Peter Stagg, 1st Michigan Cavalry.
 2d Brigade, Colonel Charles L. Fitzhugh, 6th New York Cavalry.
 Reserve Brigade, Brigadier-General Alfred Gibbs (1st New York Dragoons).

NINTH ARMY CORPS.

Major-General John G. Parke.

FIRST DIVISION—Brevet Major-General O. B. Wilcox.
 1st Brigade, Colonel Samuel Harriman, 37th Wisconsin.
 2d Brigade, Brevet Colonel Ralph Ely, 9th Michigan.
 3d Brigade, Colonel James Bintliff, 38th Wisconsin.

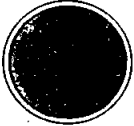
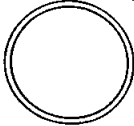
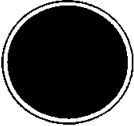




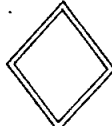


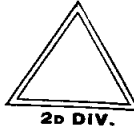


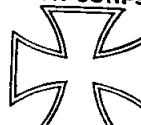


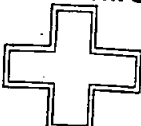

SECOND DIVISION—Brigadier-General S. G. Griffin.
 1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General John I. Curtin, 45th Pennsylvania.
 2d Brigade, Colonel H. B. Titus, 9th New Hampshire.












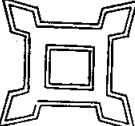







THIRD DIVISION—Brevet Major-General John F. Hartranft.
 1st Brigade, Colonel A. B. McCalmont, 208th Pennsylvania.
 2d Brigade, Colonel J. A. Matthews, 205th Pennsylvania.
 Artillery Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General J. C. Tidball, 4th New York Heavy Artillery.

FIFTH ARMY CORPS.

Brevet Major-General Charles Griffin.

FIRST DIVISION—Brevet Major-General J. J. Bartlett (27th New York).
 1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General A. L. Pearson, 155th Pennsylvania.

FIRST CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.
SECOND CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.
THIRD CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.
FOURTH CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.
FIFTH CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.
SIXTH CORPS.		
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.

SEVENTH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	
EIGHTH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	
NINTH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	 4th DIV.
TENTH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	
ELEVENTH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	
TWELFTH AND TWENTIETH CORPS.			
 1st DIV.	 2d DIV.	 3d DIV.	

2d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General E. M. Gregory, 91st Pennsylvania.

3d Brigade, Brigadier-General J. L. Chamberlain (20th Maine).

SECOND DIVISION—Major-General R. B. Ayres.

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General Joseph Hayes (18th Massachusetts).

2d Brigade, Colonel D. L. Stanton, 1st Maryland.

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General James Gwyn, 118th Pennsylvania.

THIRD DIVISION—Major-General S. Wylie Crawford.

1st Brigade, Colonel J. A. Kellogg, 6th Wisconsin.

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General Henry Baxter (2d Michigan).

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General Richard Coulter, 11th Pennsylvania.

SECOND ARMY CORPS

Major-General A. A. Humphreys.

FIRST DIVISION—Brevet Major-General Nelson A. Miles.

1st Brigade, Colonel John Fraser, 140th Pennsylvania.

2d Brigade, Colonel R. Nugent, 69th New York.

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General C. D. MacDougall, 111th New York.

4th Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General John Ramsey, 8th New Jersey.

SECOND DIVISION—Brevet Brigadier-General F. C. Barlow, 61st New York.

1st Brigade, Colonel W. L. Olmstead, 59th New York.

2d Brigade, Colonel J. P. McIvor, 170th New York.

3d Brigade, Colonel Daniel Woodall, 1st Delaware.

THIRD DIVISION—Brevet Major-General Gershom Mott, New Jersey.

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General R. De Trobriand (55th New York).

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General Byron R. Pierce (3d Michigan).

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General R. McAllister, 11th New Jersey.

Artillery Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Hazard, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The NINETEENTH ARMY CORPS was represented by a division under command of Brigadier-General William Dwight, formerly Colonel 70th New York.

The SIXTH ARMY CORPS had remained at Danville, Va., and was formally reviewed by the President in Washington on June 8. It was then commanded by Major-General H. G. Wright.

SHERMAN'S ARMY,

Comprising the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia, was reviewed on May 24.

At the head of the column rode Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman, accompanied by General O. O. Howard.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

Major-General John A. Logan.

FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Major-General William B. Hazen.

FIRST DIVISION—Brigadier-General Charles R. Woods (76th Ohio).

1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General W. B. Woods, 76th Ohio.

2d Brigade, Colonel R. F. Catterson, 97th Indiana.

3d Brigade, Colonel George A. Stone, 25th Iowa.

SECOND DIVISION—Brigadier-General J. M. Oliver (15th Michigan).

1st Brigade, Colonel Theodore Jones, 30th Ohio.

2d Brigade, Colonel William S. Jones, 53d Ohio.

3d Brigade, Colonel F. S. Hutchinson, 15th Mich.

FOURTH DIVISION—Brevet Major-General John M. Corse, 6th Iowa.

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General Elliott W. Rice (7th Iowa).

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General W. T. Clark, Iowa.

3d Brigade, Colonel Richard Rowett, 7th Illinois.

Artillery Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Ross.

SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Major-General Frank P. Blair, Jr.

FIRST DIVISION—Brigadier-General Manning F. Force (20th Ohio).

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General John W. Fuller (27th Ohio).

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General John W. Sprague (63d Ohio).

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General John Tillson, 10th Illinois.

THIRD DIVISION—Brevet Major-General M. D. Leggett (78th Ohio).

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General Charles Ewing (Ohio).

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General Robert K. Scott (68th Ohio).

FOURTH DIVISION—Brevet Major-General Giles A. Smith (8th Missouri).

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General B. F. Potts (32d Ohio).

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General Carlos J. Stolbrand (2d Illinois Artillery).

3d Brigade, Brigadier-General W. W. Belknap (15th Iowa).

Artillery, Major Fred. Welker, 1st Missouri Light Artillery.

ARMY OF GEORGIA.

Major-General Henry W. Slocum, New York.

TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS.

Major-General Joseph A. Mower.

FIRST DIVISION—Brevet Major-General A. S. Williams, Michigan.

1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General James L. Selfridge, 46th Pennsylvania.

2d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General William Hawley, 3d Wisconsin.

3d Brigade, Brigadier-General J. S. Robinson (82d Ohio).

SECOND DIVISION—Brevet Major-General John W. Geary (28th Pennsylvania).

1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General A. Pardee, Jr., 147th Pennsylvania.

2d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General George W. Mindel, 33d New Jersey.

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General Henry A. Barnum, 149th New York.

THIRD DIVISION—Brevet Major-General W. T. Ward, Kentucky.

1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General Benjamin Harrison, 70th Indiana.

2d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General Daniel Dustin, 105th Illinois.

3d Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General William Cogswell, 2d Massachusetts.

Artillery, Captain Charles E. Winegar, New York.

FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Major-General Jefferson C. Davis.

FIRST DIVISION—Brigadier-General Charles C. Walcutt (45th Ohio).

1st Brigade, Brevet Brigadier-General H. C. Hobart, 21st Wisconsin.

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General George P. Bnell (58th Indiana).

3d Brigade, Colonel H. A. Hambricht, 79th Pennsylvania.

SECOND DIVISION—Brevet Major-General James D. Morgan, 10th Illinois.

1st Brigade, Brigadier-General William Vandever (9th Iowa.)

2d Brigade, Brigadier-General John G. Mitchell (113th Ohio).

3d Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Langley, 125th Illinois.

THIRD DIVISION—Brevet Major-General Absalom Baird.

1st Brigade, Colonel M. C. Hunter, 82d Indiana.

2d Brigade, Colonel N. Gleason, 87th Indiana.

3d Brigade, Brigadier-General George S. Greene (60th New York).

The titles of officers given above are as designated in the General Orders issued for the Review. A number afterward received commissions of higher grades.

Many of the officers and large numbers of the soldiers were garlanded with flowers as they passed along the line of march.

"Sherman's bummers" helped to relieve whatever of monotony

THIRTEENTH CORPS.
UNOFFICIAL.



AS ADOPTED
BY THE
MEMBERS OF THE CORPS
AT
ST. LOUIS, SEPT. 29, '87.

FOURTEENTH CORPS.



1st DIV.



2d DIV.



3d DIV.

FIFTEENTH CORPS.



1st DIV.



2d DIV.



3d DIV.

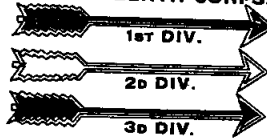


4th DIV.

SIXTEENTH CORPS.



SEVENTEENTH CORPS.



1st DIV.

2d DIV.

3d DIV.

EIGHTEENTH CORPS.



1st DIV.



2d DIV.



3d DIV.

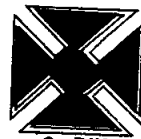
NINETEENTH CORPS.



1st DIV.



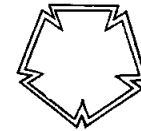
2d DIV.



3d DIV.

TWENTY-SECOND CORPS.

TWENTIETH CORPS.
SAME AS TWELFTH.



TWENTY-FIRST CORPS.
NO BADGE ADOPTED.

TWENTY-THIRD CORPS.



1st DIV.



2d DIV.



3d DIV.

TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS



1st DIV.



2d DIV.

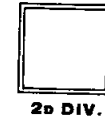


3d DIV.

TWENTY-FIFTH CORPS.



1st DIV.



2d DIV.



3d DIV.



SIGNAL CORPS.



ENGINEER AND PONTONIER CORPS.

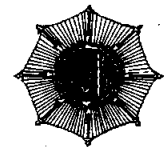


WILSON'S CAVALRY.



Sheridan's Cavalry.

The above Corps Marks, except the 13th Corps, are from the Official Chart furnished by the War Department.



Hancock's Veteran Corps.

there was in the continual tramp, tramp, tramp of the armies. A number were mounted on mules or on sorry-looking horses borrowed from some quartermaster's camp of condemned animals, and carrying chickens, pigs, and vegetables; others on foot swung along in the free-and-easy gait learned on their long march to the sea.

It was estimated that nearly 150,000 men participated in these ceremonies—the Army of the Potomac, 80,000; the Army of the Tennessee, 36,000; and the Army of Georgia, 33,000.

Never before had such a pageant been witnessed at the capital of any nation—the passage of an army of citizen soldiers who, having by their valor saved the nation, were now present only that those necessary details might be completed which would enable them to take their places in the ranks of peaceful citizens.

With worn uniforms and tattered ensigns telling eloquently of service in the field, these men were now only anxious to return to their homes and loved ones. Though joyfully returning, and, as representatives of all who had honorably served in the armies and navies of the Union, thus receiving the plaudits of the people whom they had so ably served, there were sad thoughts not inharmonious with the occasion.

As they passed the reviewing-stand where representative men were assembled in their honor, the marching soldiers missed above all others that rugged, homely face which now would have been lit with a halo of glory. The great patient heart, that for four years had borne such a fearful strain, was now stilled. In all the land no one was nearer the soldier's heart than Abraham Lincoln.

Other forms were missing from the group—leaders of corps and of armies, of whom John F. Reynolds, McPherson, and Sedgwick were types.

But the thoughts of the soldiers were not then so much with the absent leaders as with the more familiar forms of comrades, dear to their hearts, but now numbered with the dead. Perchance they had been playmates in school-boy days and bosom friends in maturer years. Together they had responded to the call of an imperiled country, together had faced the dangers of the service. In camp and bivouac they had slept under the same blankets and shared the contents of their haversacks and canteens.

These, their comrades, had not lived to hear the joyful shouts

of victory, and were not to receive the embraces of their loved ones. They had died that the Nation might live!

The fond affection cherished for the honored dead but stimulated the ties of sympathy and love for comrades living and sharing the thrilling memories of the years of national strife and warfare now happily over.

They were soon to part, each in his own way to fight the battle of life, to form new ties, new friendships, but never could they forget the sacred bond of comradeship welded in the fire of battle, that in after years, should be their stimulus to take upon themselves the work confided to the people by President Lincoln "to bind up the Nation's wounds," "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

CHAPTER II

VETERAN SOCIETIES.

The parting of the veterans at their places of final discharge from the service inspired the desire that the friendships formed should be maintained through life, and but few regiments failed to arrange for future meetings at times that should commemorate an important event of their past history.

It is impracticable to here make special reference to such regimental reunions, that even now, after nearly a quarter of a century has passed, are red-letter days in the lives of the participants. We can but note the corps and army and naval societies, representing important and particular parts or branches of service, whose members find a still broader field for the cultivation of the fraternity in the organization that embraces all who, on land or sea, honorably served their country—THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The THIRD ARMY CORPS UNION was the first army society organized during the rebellion. The Third Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, was formed March 16, 1862. General Daniel E. Sickles was assigned to its command on February 8, 1863, and so stayed until disabled by the loss of a leg at Gettysburg.

The First Division, after the death of General Kearny, at Quantilly, September 1, 1862, was commanded by General D. B. Birney, at whose headquarters a meeting of officers of the Corps was held September 2, 1863, to form an association, the main object at that time being to secure funds for embalming and sending home for burial the bodies of officers killed in battle or dying in hospitals at the front.

General Sickles was elected President; General D. B. Birney, Vice-President; Captain Jos. Briscoe, New York, Recording Secretary; Major H. E. Tremaine, New York, Corresponding Secretary; and General Gershom Mott, Treasurer. General Mott served as Treasurer until his death, November 29, 1884.

On September 30, 1863, another meeting was held, and General

Birney was elected President, as the disabled condition of General Sickles prevented his serving. On July 4, 1864, another meeting was held: General Sickles was elected President; General D. B. Birney, Vice-President. General Birney died October 18, 1864.

On February 5, 1864, Surgeon Edward Welling, New Jersey, was appointed Corresponding Secretary, and on October 24, 1864, Recording Secretary, and has served continuously since in this position.

The last meeting, held prior to their final muster-out, was on June 3, 1865. General Sickles, President; General Mott, Vice-President; Colonel E. L. Welling, Recording Secretary, and Colonel Chas. P. Mattocks, of Maine, Corresponding Secretary.

Meetings have been held annually since the war on May 5, the anniversary of the battle of Williamsburg. The following have served as Presidents of the society since their muster-out of service: General Gershom Mott, 1866-67; General D. E. Sickles, 1868-69-70; General C. K. Graham, 1871-72; Colonel Clayton McMichael, 1873-74; General Geo. H. Sharpe, 1875-76; General W. J. Sewell, 1877-78; General H. E. Tremaine, 1879-80; General E. R. Biles, 1881; Major W. P. Shreve, 1882; Major Willard Bullard, 1883; Major John Barclay Fassitt, 1884; Colonel Bankson T. Morgan, 1885; Colonel Thos. Rafferty, 1886; Colonel A. Judson Clark, Newark, New Jersey, 1887.

The twenty-fifth anniversary was held in New York city, May 5, 1888, and after the business meeting and banquet, adjourned to meet at Gettysburg, July 1-3, for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of a monument for the Third Corps.

The present officers are: President, Major-General Daniel E. Sickles, New York city; Vice-President, Brevet Major-General C. H. T. Collis, New York city; Recording Secretary, Colonel E. L. Welling, Pennington, New Jersey; Treasurer, Major Wm. P. Shreve, Boston.

All officers or enlisted men of the Third Corps, or who participated in the battles of the Corps, are eligible to membership.

SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

This was the second society organized during the rebellion. The preliminary meeting for the formation of the society was held in the Senate Chamber, at the State Capitol, Raleigh, North

Carolina, April 14, 1865. Brevet Brigadier-General W. B. Woods presided, and Major L. M. Dayton acted as Secretary.

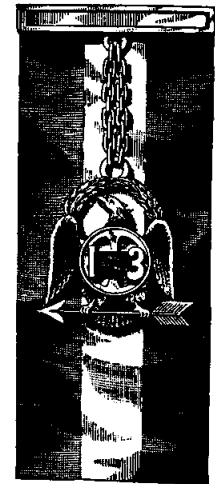
Major-Generals Frank P. Blair, Jr., John A. Logan, and A. J. Smith; Brevet Major-General Giles A. Smith and Brevet Brigadier-General W. B. Woods were appointed a committee to prepare a plan of organization.

Lieutenant Robt. M. Woods, a year later the first Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Captain George R. Steele, Adjutant of the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, participated in these meetings.

General Blair reported the plan of organization at an adjourned meeting, held in the same place, April 25. Membership in the society was restricted to officers who had served with the "Old Army of the Tennessee."

The objects were stated as follows: "To keep alive and preserve that kindly and cordial feeling which has been one of the characteristics of this army during its career in the service, and which has given it such harmony of action, and contributed in no small degree to its glorious achievements in our country's cause. The fame and glory of all officers belonging to this army, who have fallen, either on the field of battle or in the line of their daily duty, shall be a sacred trust to this society, which shall cause proper memorials of their services to be collected and preserved, and thus transmit their names with honor to posterity. The families of all such officers who shall be in indigent circumstances will have a claim upon the generosity of the society, and will be relieved by the voluntary contributions of its members whenever brought to their attention. In like manner the suffering families of those officers who may hereafter be stricken by death shall be a trust in the hands of the survivors."

Major-General JOHN A. RAWLINS was elected President of the society. He was then serving as Chief of Staff to Lieutenant-General Grant, and the committee, in recommending his elec-



BADGE,
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

tion, reported that they had agreed upon his name "in consideration of his eminent services in connection with the 'Army of the Tennessee,' and also because of his ability and fitness for the position."

At the next meeting, in Cincinnati, November 14, 1866, the following officers were elected: President, General JOHN A. RAWLINS; Vice-Presidents, Major-Generals JOHN A. LOGAN, F. P. BLAIR, JR., R. J. OGLESBY, GILES A. SMITH, W. W. BELKNAP, Brigadier-General CASSIUS FAIRCHILD; Recording Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. DAYTON; Corresponding Secretary, Brigadier-General A. HICKENLOOPER; Treasurer, Major-General M. F. FORCE.

General Rawlins remained President of the society until his death, September 6, 1869.

General Sherman was then elected President, and is so serving at this date. The Recording Secretary has held that office from the first meeting, and the Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer since 1866.

By an amendment to the constitution, any member may designate by will the relative to whom such membership shall descend, and in default of such declaration, the eldest son shall inherit his father's title to enrollment in the society.

The Society of the Army of the Tennessee erected in Washington, at a cost of \$50,000, a handsome equestrian statue of Major-General Rawlins, and has also placed an appropriate memorial, costing \$23,000, over the grave of Major-General JAMES B. MCPHERSON, at Clyde, Ohio, and an equestrian statue of General McPherson in Washington.

A monument in memory of General John A. Logan, will also be erected in Washington.

SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

This society was organized in Cincinnati, February 16, 1868. Membership is open to all officers and enlisted men who served in the Army of the Cumberland.

Major-General Geo. H. Thomas was President until his death in 1870, when General W. S. Rosecrans was elected, who served during 1870-71. In 1872 General Philip H. Sheridan was elected President, and is still (June, 1888) serving in that position.

The badge of the society was formally adopted at a meeting of officers and soldiers, held at Artillery Corps Headquarters, Nash-

ville, June 10, 1865. Brevet Brigadier-General J. L. Donaldson, Brevet Brigadier-General E. Opdycke, Brevet Colonel W. H. Greenwood, Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Foulke, and Captain R. N. Litsen, served as the Committee on Badge.

The fact of the adoption of this badge was published by General Geo. H. Thomas in General Orders No. 41, dated Headquarters Department of the Cumberland, Nashville, Tennessee, June 19, 1865, "to signalize and perpetuate the history of the Army of the Cumberland."

The Five-pointed Star was the badge of the 20th Army Corps, the Triangle of the 4th Army Corps, and the Acorn of the 14th Army Corps.

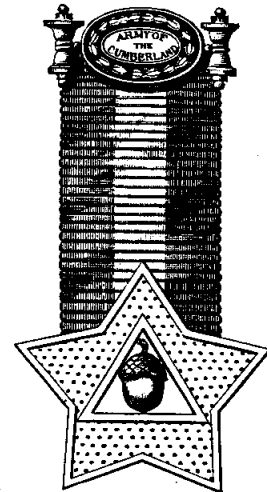
The equestrian statue of General Geo. H. Thomas in Washington, was erected by this society in 1879, as an enduring tribute to the memory of their great leader. The statue cost \$35,000. The pedestal was provided by Congress. In May, 1887, the society erected a monument in memory of General James A. Garfield.

The Society of the ARMY OF THE OHIO, Major-General JOHN M. Schofield, President, and the Society of the ARMY OF GEORGIA, Major-General HENRY W. Slocum, President, were organized at Chicago, December 15, 1868, when a reunion of these Western societies was held.

General Grant, then President-elect of the United States, so intimately associated by service with them, was present, the central figure of a notable group: GRANT, SHERMAN, and THOMAS.

General Thomas presided over the meeting, and General Sherman made the address of welcome. Orations were delivered by representatives of each society as follows:

Army of the Tennessee,	General <u>W. W. BELKNAP</u> .
Army of the Cumberland,	General <u>CHAS. CRUFT</u> .
Army of the Ohio,	General <u>J. D. COX</u> .
Army of Georgia,	General <u>WM. COGSWELL</u> .



BADGE,
ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND

SIGNAL CORPS.

BADGE,
SIGNAL CORPS.

The United States Veteran Signal Corps Association was organized at Boston, November 14, 1867, Lieutenant J. Willard Brown, President. Annual meetings have been held as follows: September 1, 1877; September 6, 1878, and August 29, 1879, at Revere Beach, Massachusetts, Captain F. R. Shattuck, President; August 26, 1880, Rocky Point, Rhode Island; August 25, 1881, Point of Pines, Massachusetts, Lieutenant J. Willard Brown, President; August 31, 1882, Fall River, Massachusetts, John F. Ridley, President; August 30, 1883, Hull, Massachusetts, F. W. Marston, President; August 28, 1884, Crescent Beach, Massachusetts, Major A. B. Capron, President; August 27, 1885, Silver Spring, Rhode Island, and August 26, 1886, Brighton Beach, New York, Colonel J. C. Paine, President; August 25, 1887, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, General B. F. Fisher, President. Secretary, Chas. D. W. Marcy, 155 Franklin street, Boston, Massachusetts; Historian, J. Willard Brown, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE JAMES

Was organized in Boston, September 2, 1868, General Chas. Devens, Jr., President. Meetings were held in 1871, 1874, and 1876, and the society then became incorporated with the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

THE SOCIETY OF THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION AND OF THE NINTH CORPS

Was organized in New York city, February 8, 1869. General A. E. Burnside was President until his death, in 1871. General A. B. R. Sprague, Vice-President, served as President until the next reunion, when General John F. Parke was elected. General John F. Hartranft was elected President in 1884.

The present officers are: President, General Gilbert H. McKibbin; Vice-President, Colonel R. H. I. Goddard; Secretary and Treasurer, General C. H. Barney, 32 Nassau street, New York city.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Society of the Army of the Potomac was organized in New York city, July 5, 1869, and has held annual reunions since that date. All officers and soldiers who served in the Army of the Potomac and in the 10th and 18th Army Corps, Army of the James, are eligible to membership.

The officers are a President, one Vice-President from each Army Corps, the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Artillery Corps, Cavalry Corps, and Signal Corps, and from the General Staff; a Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary.

Meetings have been held and Presidents of the society elected as follows:

- 1869, July 5, New York city, Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan.
 1870, April 9, Philadelphia, Major-General Geo. G. Meade.
 1871, May 12, Boston, Major-General Joseph Hooker.
 1872, May 7, Cleveland, Major-General A. E. Burnside.
 1873, May 14, New Haven, Major-General Irwin McDowell.
 1874, May 12, Harrisburg, Major-General W. S. Hancock.
 1875, no meeting.
 1876, June 6, Philadelphia, Major-General John F. Hartranft.
 1877, June 27, Providence, Rhode Island, Major-General H. W. Slocum.
 1878, June 5, Springfield, Massachusetts, Major-General W. B. Franklin.
 1879, June 18, Albany, Major-General Daniel E. Sickles.
 1880, June 16, Burlington, Vermont, Major-General H. G. Wright.
 1881, June 8, Hartford, Brevet Major-General Chas. Devens, Jr.
 1882, June 10, Detroit, Major-General A. A. Humphreys.
 1883, May 16, Washington, D. C., Brevet Major-General John Newton.
 1884, June 11, Brooklyn, New York, General Ulysses S. Grant.
 1885, May 7, Baltimore, General Ulysses S. Grant.
 1886, August 2, San Francisco, Brevet Major-General M. T. McMahon.

BADGE,
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

1887, June 22, Saratoga Springs, Major-General John C. Robinson. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Truesdall, New York city, is Treasurer; Brevet Colonel Horatio C. King, New York city, Recording Secretary; Brevet Major-General Geo. H. Sharpe, Rondout, New York, Corresponding Secretary.

THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE GULF

Was formed by officers who served in the Department of the Gulf, at a meeting held at Long Branch, New Jersey, July 8, 1869. Admiral D. G. Farragut was President until his death, when General Sheridan was elected.

THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Was organized at Moundsville, West Virginia, September 22, 1870. General R. B. Hayes was the first President of the society. Large and interesting reunions have been held each year.

Officers: President, General George Crook; Vice-Presidents, General R. B. Hayes, General W. H. Powell, General I. H. Duval, General B. F. Kelley, General W. S. Rosecrans, General H. F. Devol, General W. H. Enochs, General R. H. Milroy, General Van H. Bukey, Major B. M. Skinner, Colonel H. B. Hubbard, General N. Goff, Colonel John A. Turley, Colonel Robert Bruce, Colonel Thayer Melvin, Colonel J. F. Charlesworth, Colonel J. M. Schoonmaker, Colonel D. D. Johnson, Major J. M. Overturf, Captain J. P. Hart, Captain N. R. Warwick.

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

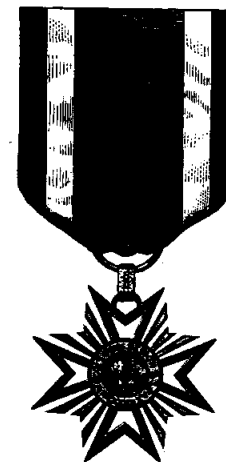
The "Loyal Legion" was the first society formed by officers honorably discharged from the service.

On the day after the assassination of President Lincoln, Colonel S. B. Wylie Mitchell, Captain Peter D. Keyser, M. D., and Lieutenant-Colonel T. Ellwood Zell, met at the office of the latter, in Philadelphia, to arrange for a meeting of ex-officers of the army and navy to adopt resolutions relative to the death of President Lincoln.

The subject of a permanent organization was discussed, and these gentlemen agreed to consult other army friends, and be pre-



OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

BADGE, LOYAL LEGION.

pared to take more definite action at a meeting to be held on April 20.

On the latter evening, after the adoption of the resolutions referred to, it was decided to effect a permanent organization, and an adjourned meeting was held for this purpose, in the hall of the Hibernia Fire Company, in Philadelphia, May 3, 1865.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry A. Cook presided, with Captain Chas. S. Greene, Secretary. The following were elected officers: President, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Ellwood Zell; 1st Vice-President, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cook; 2d Vice-President, Major Casper M. Berry; Secretary, Colonel S. B. Wylie Mitchell, M. D.; Treasurer, Captain Peter D. Keyser, M. D.

During the month of May, 1865, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, in part.

The officers provided for, were: Commander, Senior and Junior Vice-Commanders, Recorder, Correspondent, Treasurer, Chancellor, Chaplain, and Council.

The organization provided for District (or local) Commanderies, Grand (State) Commanderies, and a Commandery-in-Chief. A full corps of officers was elected November 1, 1865.

COMMANDERS OF THE LOYAL LEGION.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. Ellwood Zell, May to November 4th, 1865.

Major-General George Cadwalader, Acting Commander-in-Chief, November 4th, 1865, until the date of his death, February 3d, 1879.

Major-General Winfield S. Hancock, Acting Commander-in-Chief, June 5th, 1879–October 21st, 1885; Commander-in-Chief, October 21st, 1885, to February 9th, 1886, when he died.

Brevet Major-General Rutherford B. Hayes, Acting Commander-in-Chief, February 9th to October 20th, 1886.

General Philip H. Sheridan was elected Commander-in-Chief October 20th, 1886.

RECORDERS.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. Wylie Mitchell, Secretary, May 17th–July 20th, 1865; Acting Recorder-in-Chief, July 21st, 1865–August 16th, 1869, the date of his death.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John P. Nicholson, Acting Recorder-in-Chief, August 21st, 1879–October 21st, 1885; Recorder-in-Chief, October 21st, 1885.

State Commanderies are located as follows:

VETERAN SOCIETIES.

NO.	STATE OF	HEADQUARTERS.	INSTITUTED.	RECORDER.	ADDRESS.
1.	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	April 15, 1865	Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John P. Nicholson	189 S. 7th street, Philadelphia.
2.	New York	New York City	Jan. 17, 1866	Lieutenant Loyall Farragut	New York city, N. Y.
3.	Maine	Portland	April 25, 1866	First Lieutenant and Adjutant Edw'd M. Rand	98 Exchange street, Portland.
4.	Massachusetts	Boston	March 4, 1868	Colonel Arnold A. Rand	19 Milk street, Boston.
5.	California	San Francisco	April 12, 1871	Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Smechberg	316 California st., San Francisco.
6.	Wisconsin	Milwaukee	May 15, 1874	Captain Charles King	Milwaukee.
7.	Illinois	Chicago	May 8, 1879	Lieutenant-Colonel Charles W. Davis	P. O. Box 643, Chicago.
8.	District of Columbia	Washington	Feb. 1, 1883	Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Jas. A. Bates	Washington, D. C.
9.	Ohio	Cincinnati	May 3, 1882	Captain Robt Hunter	Cincinnati.
10.	Michigan	Detroit	Feb. 4, 1886	Brevet Major George W. Chandler	No. 3 Merrill Block, Detroit.
11.	Minnesota	St. Paul	May 6, 1886	Brevet Major George Q. Wylie	96 Western avenue, St. Paul.
12.	Oregon	Portland	May 6, 1888	Captain Gavin E. Caulkin	P. O. Box 778, Portland.
13.	Missouri	St. Louis	Oct. 21, 1885	Captain William R. Hodges	304 N. 8th street, St. Louis.
14.	Nebraska	Omaha	Oct. 21, 1885	Major J. Morris Brown	Fort Omaha.
15.	Kansas	Leavenworth	April 22, 1886	Colonel J. P. Martin	Fort Leavenworth.
16.	Iowa	Des Moines	Oct. 20, 1886	Major Hoyt Sherman	Des Moines.
17.	Colorado	Denver	June 1, 1887	Colonel D. E. Cross	Denver.

ROLL OF COMMANDERIES OF THE LOYAL LEGION.

The Grand Army of the Republic adopted in part the titles of officers and general plan of organization of the Loyal Legion. A part of the "Objects" of the G. A. R., Sec. 3d, Art. II, Chap. I, "Loyalty," was copied from the constitution of the Loyal Legion by the Encampment at Indianapolis, November, 1866.

The essential difference in the two societies is in their terms of eligibility to membership, the Loyal Legion restricting membership of the first class to officers.

THE CINCINNATI SOCIETY OF EX-ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS

Was organized in Cincinnati, October 2, 1874, "to preserve a feeling of friendship and cordiality among those who served in our National forces during the struggle for the preservation of the Republic, and also to keep a record of its members."

Colonel Stanley Matthews was the first President. Meetings are held quarterly with an annual meeting followed by a banquet, on the 3d Thursday in January.

PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

This Association was formed by representatives of the fifteen Pennsylvania regiments organized in 1861, by Governor Curtin, in anticipation of a call for troops to serve for three years, under the title "Pennsylvania Reserves Corps," and were in active service during the whole period of the war, from the date of their muster-in.

A preliminary meeting of representatives was held in Philadelphia, July 3d, 1866, when it was resolved to call a meeting at Lancaster, September 14, 1866, to effect a permanent organization, "to cherish the memories, perpetuate the friendships, and continue the associations formed in the field." Governor A. G. Curtin was elected President, and has so continued to serve by election annually since. General H. G. Sickel, Vice-President; Colonel J. P. Taylor, Treasurer; Jno. C. Harvey, Recording Secretary; Colonel Jno. H. Taggart, Corresponding Secretary.

The present officers are: President, Ex-Governor Curtin; one Vice-President from each regiment; Recording Secretary, Captain John Taylor, Philadelphia; Corresponding Secretary, Colonel Chill W. Hazzard, Monongahela City; Treasurer, Wallace W. Johnson, Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania Reserve Post No. 191, Philadelphia, is composed exclusively of members who served in the Reserve Corps.

VETERANS OF THE NAVY.

The following associations are composed exclusively of men who served in the Navy during the rebellion:

The Farragut Veteran Association, of Philadelphia—Commander, George L. Varnick, 215 North Tenth street; Secretary, William Simmons, 1432 Wharton street.

Connecticut Naval Veteran Association—President, Chas. A. Stillman, Hartford, Connecticut; Secretary, Sherman W. Adams, Hartford, Connecticut.

The Farragut Veteran Association of the Port of New York—Commander, S. L. B. McCallmout, 237 Willoughby avenue, Brooklyn; Secretary, J. P. Holland, 225 Eleventh street, Brooklyn.

Farragut Veteran Association of the West—Commander, J. W. Page, 14 Ashland Block, Chicago, Illinois; Secretary, T. H. Burke, 14 Ashland Block, Chicago, Illinois.

The Naval Veteran Legion of California—President, Martin Murray, 215 Sutter street, San Francisco; Secretary, E. G. King, 215 Sutter street, San Francisco.

The Essex Association of Naval Veterans, of Essex, Massachusetts—Commander, E. A. Winn, Salem, Massachusetts; Secretary, E. A. Brown, Salem, Massachusetts; Assistant Secretary, Paul Phalen, Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Naval Veteran Association of the Gulf, of New Orleans—President, T. J. Woodward, 40 and 42 Canal street, New Orleans; Secretary, Geo. J. Pinckard, 40 and 42 Canal street, New Orleans.

Commodore Foote Naval Veteran Association, St. Louis, Missouri—Commander, J. C. Parker, 507 N. Third street, St. Louis, Missouri; Secretary, Joseph Brown, Jr., 3611 Cass avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

The "Kearsarge" Association of Naval Veterans, of Boston, Massachusetts—Commodore, P. H. Kendrick, 46 Millmont street, Boston, Massachusetts; Secretary, Chas. R. Curtis, 46 Millmont street, Boston, Massachusetts.

The "Monitor" Association of Naval Veterans, of Camden, New Jersey—Commander, R. A. Pierson, 564 Berkley street, Camden, New Jersey; Secretary, D. A. Carter, 733 Federal street, Camden, New Jersey.

On January 13, 1887, representatives from a number of these associations met in New York city, and formed the "NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL VETERANS." Chas. W. Adams, Chicago, was elected Commodore, and William Simmons, Philadelphia, Secretary.

The second annual meeting was held in the quarters of Naval Post No. 400, Philadelphia, in January, 1888, and the following officers were chosen: Commodore, Joseph Hadfield, New York; Commander, George L. Yarnick, Philadelphia; Paymaster, F. H. Grove, New York; Surgeon, J. D. Murray, New Jersey; Secretary, William Simmons, 1432 Wharton street, Philadelphia.

Officers or enlisted men of the United States Naval, Revenue or Marine service, who served between April 12, 1861, and August 25, 1865, are eligible to membership.

Distinctively Naval Posts have been formed as follows:

No. 400, Philadelphia, William Simmons, Commander.

No. 516, New York city, F. H. Grove, Commander.

No. 104, Hoboken, Louis Richards, Commander.

Reference will be made in a closing chapter to other societies, and in the records of Departments to local or State societies forming the nucleus for the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic.

VETERANS POLITICAL CLUBS.

In referring to the political tendencies of the Grand Army of the Republic in the early years of its existence, it is necessary to recall, briefly, the political situation during that period.

The reconstruction of the States in rebellion, when peace should be established by the surrender of the Confederate forces, was one that necessarily occupied the earnest attention of President Lincoln.

His last public speech, when receiving the congratulations of the people after the surrender of Lee, was devoted mainly to this question, and he had previously stated to a delegation of Virginians in Richmond, who had there called upon him after the occupation of that city by Union troops, that his policy would be magnanimous, forgiving, and generous.

The act that deprived the nation of his priceless services was a terrible blow to the people of the South, for it checked and retarded for years the magnanimous feeling that had developed in the North the moment that victory was assured.

Andrew Johnson, who as Vice-President succeeded to the Pres-

idency on the death of Mr. Lincoln, was one of the notable men of the South. He had boldly and consistently opposed secession, and was the only Senator from the seceding States who remained true to his oath of fealty to the Union. Upon the earnest request of the President he had, in 1862, accepted the post of Military Governor of Tennessee, and in this trying position had loyally maintained his devotion to his country.

Assuming the Presidency under circumstances so appalling as the assassination of President Lincoln, it was but natural that he should strongly share the all-pervading horror of that crime. He lost no opportunity of expressing his conviction that traitors should be condignly punished. "To the conscious, intelligent, influential traitor who attempted to destroy the life of a nation I would say, on you be inflicted the severest penalties of your crime." Such sentiments created general apprehensions that a revengeful, retaliatory policy, more severe than was deemed necessary to secure the results settled by the war, would now be pursued.

It is unnecessary to follow in detail the events which soon produced a radical change in the sentiments of President Johnson, which widely separated him from his party, and involved the country in bitter, rancorous political discussions.

The Thirty-ninth Congress assembled in December, 1865, and entered vigorously upon the consideration of reconstruction measures. The debates and action of Congress culminated in the adoption, over the veto of the President, among other important measures, of the Civil Rights Bill. In public discussions and in the Republican papers Mr. Johnson was bitterly assailed for his alleged change of opinions. He answered in kind, and publicly denounced by name prominent Senators, Representatives, and citizens who differed from him on these questions.

The political campaign of 1866 was fought mainly upon the issues involved in the disputes between President Johnson and the majority in Congress. In such a contest the veteran soldiers and sailors could not but feel and evince a deep interest. Many thousands who at the outbreak of the rebellion had affiliated with the Democratic Party were, at its close, in accord with the party which had made the vigorous prosecution of the war against rebellion its dominant principle. There were others, and in large numbers, too young to have taken any part in politics before the war, who were naturally influenced by their associations in the

service. The great mass of the soldier vote was Republican in 1866, but it was not by any means a unit, for large numbers of gallant soldiers who had ably served their country in the field, were then, and have remained, Democrats in their political belief.

During this period quite a number of influential soldiers identified with the Republican Party espoused the cause of President Johnson, and these but added fuel to the flame, and inspired both parties to redoubled efforts to secure or retain the "soldier vote."

POLITICAL VETERANS SOCIETIES.

The events referred to excited alike all classes and parties, and induced among the veterans the formation of hundreds of political clubs, under such titles as "Boys in Blue," "Soldiers and Sailors Leagues," "White Boys in Blue," "Conservative Army and Navy Union," "Colored Soldiers Leagues," etc.

Both parties were represented in National Conventions of Soldiers and Sailors held in September, 1866.

THE CONVENTION AT CLEVELAND.

Representative soldiers, members of the Democratic Party, assembled in large numbers at Cleveland, Ohio, September 17, 1866. General John E. Wool was chosen president of the convention. Generals George A. Custer, Gordon Granger, J. B. Steadman, Lovell H. Rousseau, John A. McClermand, Thos. Ewing, Jr., Thomas L. Crittenden, Thomas E. Bramlette, E. S. Bragg, and Thos. A. Davies were among the influential members of the convention. Resolutions strongly indorsing the course of President Johnson were adopted.

THE CONVENTION AT PITTSBURG.

The Soldiers and Sailors Republican Convention held in Pittsburg, September 25, was also a large and notable assemblage. General John A. Logan had been agreed upon for president of the convention, but was prevented from attending, and General Jacob D. Cox was chosen. General B. F. Butler was chairman of the committee on resolutions.

General Grant had up to this time taken no part in politics, and his political views were not publicly known, but he took pains

to rebuke a fellow-officer who claimed to know that he was in sympathy with President Johnson's policy. On the other hand, in response to an invitation to attend the Pittsburg convention, General Badeau wrote, "General Grant instructs me to say that it is contrary to his habit and to his conviction of duty to attend political meetings of any character whatsoever, and he sees with regret the action of any officer of the army taking a conspicuous part in the political discussions of the day."

It is not our purpose to refer to the work of these conventions further than as they seemed to affect the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Department of Indiana was the only department represented distinctly as such in the Pittsburg Convention, having representatives from 138 Posts, in response to a circular from department headquarters, which said, "No convention of a similar character has ever been held, and it becomes us as loyal soldiers to cordially respond to the call. The American volunteer army, though disbanded, is yet a unit, and the same high emotions which knit its members together when hardship came and the conflict raged still actuate the mass of our soldiers."

Major O. M. Wilson, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department of Indiana, was exceedingly active during this convention in interviewing leading representatives relative to the Grand Army of the Republic, urging the organization of Posts, and for this purpose he "obligated" quite a number from the East, instructed them in the "work," and gave them copies of the rules and of the ritual.

Under a resolution of the convention a committee was appointed for the purpose of consolidating all veteran societies "in sympathy with the principles of the Union Republican Party."

General Henry A. Barnum, New York, was appointed president of the executive committee to act with the following representatives of the societies named: Grand Army of the Republic, General T. S. Allen, Wisconsin; United States Service Club, Connecticut, Colonel E. Blakeslee; Maryland Boys in Blue, General A. M. Denison; Michigan Boys in Blue, General R. A. Alger; Soldiers and Sailors Union, Washington, D. C., Major H. A. Hall.

This action resulted in the formation of a national organization of "Boys in Blue" for the presidential campaign of 1868. The Grand Army of the Republic was not further officially identified with that movement.

The formation of these clubs, while in a great measure the natural result of the exciting discussions of that period, was also largely controlled and directed by another motive. The general sentiment of the patriotic people was that the men who had given up chances for advancement at home, and of making provision for their families in the many avenues of trade and commerce stimulated by the war, who had returned with a good record of service, or wounded or disabled, should be entitled to consideration in the distribution of offices under the local, State, or national governments.

They had been led to believe during the war that the able-bodied men who had remained at home would cheerfully concede places of honor and profit to the veterans whose services and sacrifices had "preserved us a nation."

However prettily this theory sounded in a newspaper leader for encouraging enlistments, it did not work when applied to "practical politics." Politicians entrenched in positions were not willing to surrender them to gratify merely sentimental whims, and strongly objected to interference with plans which had always one leading object—the retention of place and power by themselves or by others selected to succeed them because of political service.

The returning veterans who desired to take an active part in politics in 1865-6, were looked upon by those most directly interested in pursuing a contrary course, as intruding upon a domain in which they had no right to enter. They were expected to be satisfied with the glories of their past martial life, and leave "politics" to those who better understood that science.

These veteran clubs were therefore, at this time, an absolute necessity for the protection and advancement of soldiers and sailors in and to positions of trust and emolument. They could thus concentrate their efforts and command the attention of manipulators of conventions. That mistakes were made, that oftentimes unworthy men were pushed forward in the over-zeal of comradeship, is true; nevertheless many a worthy soldier was benefited by the organization of the "Boys in Blue" and similar societies. The hearts of the loyal and patriotic people were with them and sustained their action.

In the East, after the fall elections of 1866, these clubs were ready to disband; their work was practically over for a time, but

the warm feelings of comradeship led to inquiries for a better and more permanent organization.

No Post had been established east of Ohio prior to October, 1866, but when a beginning was effected in any of the Eastern States, these clubs, which were composed only of those eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, naturally formed the nucleus for the Posts which were thereafter rapidly formed, in many instances, wholly from "Boys in Blue," or similar associations.

Secret political societies may have had a reason for their existence in time of actual war, but they were generally looked upon as unnecessary, if not a public menace, in times of peace. The strong underlying sentiment on this subject certainly militated against the Grand Army of the Republic, and it required years to remove the prejudice then created.

It could hardly be expected that the public should be able at first to distinguish between Posts of the Grand Army and clubs of Boys in Blue, when composed largely of the same individuals and sometimes officered by the same persons, and, in the excited condition of political affairs, members of the Grand Army of the Republic were not at all careful to maintain the distinction in the widely different objects of these societies. When, therefore, Posts of the Grand Army attended political meetings wearing the army caps or badges, or aided in sending delegates to a convention on behalf of some favored friend or comrade, the public was not far wrong in believing the Order had decided partisan proclivities.

But there were instances where Posts went further than this, and directly presented names for nomination for offices, with the threat, implied if not uttered, that failure to so nominate would drive them into the ranks of the opposition. Such action soon created internal dissensions in the struggle for control and advantage, and this was skillfully fomented from without by those whose personal interests were jeopardized by the adverse action of these Posts.

While such action was mainly local, and confined to a small area, the Order at large was held responsible, and the public distrust of political methods by a secret society, grew so strong, that it became almost impossible to establish Posts in new fields, while others surrendered their charters or became defunct without that formality.

Other causes, however, aided during this period in the almost total disruption of the Order. Many thousands of veterans were unsettled as to their future, their places had been filled by others, and even those physically capable of competing for work were compelled to seek new fields for employment. To these the political campaigns were only a diversion, and then they drifted somewhat mechanically into the Grand Army, and when their curiosity was satisfied, allowed their names to be dropped from its rolls. Large numbers of the younger men were devoting attention to other matters—were getting married and raising families. They were building for the future and did not desire to be hampered with other work than that affecting their own direct interests.

It would be unfair to hold officers of either the National Encampment or of Departments in any degree responsible for this condition of affairs in the Grand Army of the Republic. The whole people were equally excited and unsettled, and the causes so strongly affecting the Grand Army were beyond the control of any of its officers.

There were, however, many who recognized the power for good existing in such an organization of veterans, and who believed that it could be maintained if placed upon a purely non-partisan basis, and that it could not be maintained on any other.

In January, 1868, the National Encampment declared that while it was the purpose of the Grand Army "to secure the rights of these defenders of their country by all moral, social and political means in our control," "yet this association does not design to make nominations for office, or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes."

In 1869, the following Article was added to the Rules and Regulations:

"No officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use this organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its meetings, nor shall any nominations for political office be made."

This has continued to be the law of the Grand Army of the Republic, and under it the organization has grown to be a powerful influence for good, a grand conservator of peace.

The Grand Army has used this influence to secure legislation for the care and education of orphans of dead comrades, for in-

creased pensions for widows and orphans and dependent parents, and for homes for homeless veterans upon whom the hand of adversity has heavily fallen. It has urged an increase of pensions for the disabled to help them in their advancing years and increasing infirmities, and has sought to remove from the nation the shame of permitting men who saved its life to live, die, and be buried as paupers in the land they helped to save.

While asking State and Nation for needed aid for the unfortunate, they have not been unmindful of their own obligations to suffering comrades. As will be shown by the official reports, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been annually disbursed by the Grand Army for charity, in addition to the personal donations of members that must amount to fully as much more.

And what account shall be taken of fraternal visits to homes of afflicted comrades—a work shared in later years by the Woman's Relief Corps, and by Ladies' Aids under different names; of the comfort given the dying veteran in the assurance that wife and children should be cared for and not left to the cold charity of a heedless world?

The work of the Grand Army has been carried on without distinction of party or creed, rank or color, and very largely for those who have remained outside the organization and have contributed nothing for its support.

The Grand Army of the Republic has long outgrown the mistakes of its infancy. With a membership drawn only from the limited number who were privileged to wear the uniform of their country in the days of its great peril, the growth of the Order for some years past has been phenomenal.

In examining the statistics of membership elsewhere presented, it should be borne in mind that each year brings an ever-increasing death-rate among the survivors.

It is now over twenty-two years since Dr. Stephenson formulated the plans for this organization of veterans of the war against rebellion. His body has long lain in that beautiful cemetery on the banks of the Sangamon River, but his work goes grandly on.

The cultivation of fraternity in this, the grandest association of soldiers and sailors ever formed, the exemplification of charity to the distressed have been only portions of the work of the Grand Army of the Republic.

It has countenanced nothing of personal animosities against

those who, a quarter of a century ago, so wrongfully arrayed themselves against their country, but has sought to more deeply impress upon rising generations the lessons to be drawn from the history of the past, and which have been indelibly impressed upon the heart of the Nation at such great cost of life and treasure—that the highest duty of the citizen is **LOYALTY** to his country and its flag!



B. F. Stephenson

CHAPTER III.

ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

THE Reverend WILLIAM J. RUTLEDGE, now residing in Petersburg, Illinois, was born of a noted family in Virginia, June 24, 1820.

In 1835 he emigrated to Illinois, and at the age of twenty entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For over forty-seven years he has been laboring as preacher and chaplain, and is to-day the happy possessor of a strong body and a vigorous intellect.

Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion he enlisted as Chaplain of the 14th Illinois Infantry, and served the three-years term. One son, a boy of 16, enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry; another was a drummer-boy at the age of twelve.

Chaplain Rutledge was the tent-mate and bosom companion of Dr. Stephenson, after the latter joined this regiment in 1862. Their regiment formed part of Sherman's Expedition to Meridian, in February, 1864, and while upon this campaign, Chaplain Rutledge suggested to Major Stephenson, that the soldiers so closely allied in the fellowship of suffering, would, when mustered out of the service, naturally desire some form of association that would preserve the friendships and the memories of their common trials and dangers.

As they talked together, on the march or in bivouac, this thought expanded into the widest fields of conjecture as to the



CHAPLAIN W. J. RUTLEDGE.

capacity for good in such an organization of veterans, and they agreed that if spared they would together work out some such project.

After the close of their army service this subject formed the basis of their correspondence, until March, 1866, when Chaplain Rutledge met Dr. Stephenson, by appointment, in Springfield, Illinois, and spent some time with him in arranging a ritual for the proposed organization.



MAJOR A. A. NORTH.

Before this date, however, Dr. Stephenson had shown notes of a proposed ritual to persons in Springfield, and Major A. A. North, then a clerk in the drug store with which Dr. Stephenson was connected, was shown such drafts early in the Winter of 1865-'66, which frequently formed the subject of conversation.

Comrade Fred. I. Dean, now of Fort Smith, Arkansas, states that in February, 1866, Dr. Stephenson asked his co-operation in writing out the rough notes of the ritual, and that then he and the business associates

of Dr. Stephenson, Drs. Allen and Hamilton, were obligated in the Grand Army work.

There are naturally some differences in the statements of those now surviving, who participated in the preliminary work of the Grand Army of the Republic—differences occasioned largely by the necessity for relying upon memory, after this lapse of time, for details of matters that did not then seem so important, and of which there are but meagre records.

The following are known to have participated in the conferences in Springfield that finally resulted in the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic: Colonel John M. Snyder, Doctor James Hamilton, Major Robert M. Woods, Major Robert Allen, Chaplain William J. Rutledge, Colonel Martin Flood, Colonel Daniel Grass, Colonel Edward Prince, Captain John S. Phelps, Captain John A. Lightfoot, Captain (since Colonel) B. F. Smith,

Brevet Major A. A. North, Captain Henry E. Howe, and Lieutenant (since Colonel) B. F. Hawkes.

Meetings were first held in the offices of Drs. Allen, Hamilton, and Stephenson, and afterwards in the office of Colonel John M. Snyder, then Secretary to Governor Oglesby.

One of Dr. Stephenson's active associates at that time was Captain John S. Phelps, who had enlisted as a private in Company B, 32d Illinois Infantry, and, at the age of 18 years, had been promoted to be First Lieutenant "for meritorious conduct at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing." His interest in the matter was strong and practical, and he urged Dr. Stephenson to at once make a beginning by effecting an organization in Springfield.

Captain Phelps also corresponded with the Soldiers and Sailors League in St. Louis, and obtained a copy of their ritual, portions of which were used for the Grand Army of the Republic.

The name for the organization had not been decided upon in March, and it is probable that the "work" of an Order started in 1865 in Missouri, "THE ADVANCE GUARD OF AMERICA" or "The Grand Army of Progress," suggested the present title.

When the ritual was finally deemed ready for printing, in order that due secrecy might be secured, Governor Oglesby, who had been consulted, suggested that it should be printed in Decatur by the proprietors of the Decatur Tribune, I. W. Coltrin and Joseph Prior, who, with their employees, had been in the military service.

After some correspondence with them on this subject, Captain Phelps was sent to Decatur to supervise the printing of the Ritual, first obligating Messrs. Coltrin and Prior and their compositors to secrecy.

Captain Phelps, during his stay in Decatur, also called on a number of his soldier friends, principally members of the 41st Illinois Infantry, and sought their co-operation.

While this work was under way, Dr. J. W. Routh, of Decatur, who was intimately acquainted with Major Stephenson, went to Springfield to make personal inquiries about the proposed organization, and he interested Captain M. F. Kanan in his mission. Together they called upon Major Stephenson, and this visit resulted in their determination to at once organize a Post in Decatur.

On the return of Dr. Routh and Captain Kanan, but a short time was required to secure signatures to an application for a charter; and, anxious to be the first to organize, they again went

to Springfield to present the application in person and arrange for the muster.

Accordingly, on the sixth day of April, 1866, Major Stephenson, assisted by Captain Phelps, organized at Decatur the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Charter reads as follows:

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS.



To all whom it may concern, greeting:

Know ye, that the Commander of the Department of Illinois, reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism and fidelity of M. F. Kanan, G. R. Steele, Geo. H. Dunning, I. C. Pugh, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, C. Reibsame, J. W. Routh, B. F. Sibley, I. N. Coltrin, Joseph Prior, and A. Toland, does, by the authority in him vested, empower and constitute them Charter Members of an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be known as Post 1, of Decatur, District of Macon, Department of Illinois, and they are hereby constituted as said Post, and authorized to make By-Laws for the government of said Post, and to do and perform all acts necessary to conduct and carry on said organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Done at Springfield, Illinois, this 6th day of April, 1866.

B. F. STEPHENSON,

Commander of Department.

ROBERT M. WOODS, *Adjutant-General.*

The minutes of the first meeting read as follows:

"At an informal meeting held April 6, 1866, for the purpose of organizing an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the following-named persons were mustered by Major Stephenson, and constituted Charter Members: I. C. Pugh, Geo. R. Steele, J. W. Routh, Jos. Prior, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, G. H. Dunning, B. F. Sibley, M. F. Kanan, C. Reibsame, I. N. Coltrin, Aquilla Toland; when, upon motion, the Encampment entered into an election of officers with the following result:



GROUP OF CHARTER MEMBERS, POST 1.

"OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT—Brigadier-General I. C. Pugh, Commandant District; Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Nale, District Quarter-Master; Dr. J. W. Routh, Adjutant.

"OFFICERS FOR THE POST—M. F. Kanan, Post Commander; G. R. Steele, Post Adjutant; G. H. Dunning, Post Quarter-Master; C. Reibsame, Officer of the Day; J. T. Bishop, Officer of the Guard; J. W. Routh, Post Surgeon; all of whom were duly mustered by Major Stephenson, who then declared the Encampment duly organized and ready for the transaction of any and all business which might come before it, and assigned to it the POST OF HONOR as

"DECATUR ENCAMPMENT, No. 1.

"On motion, a committee of two was appointed to procure a suitable room for the Encampment and report at the next regular meeting. Captains Kanan and Dunning, Committee.

"On motion Tuesday was decided upon as the night for regular meetings.

"On motion adjourned to meet April 10, 1866.

"Signed, M. F. KANAN, P. C.

"G. R. STEELE, P. A."

At the meeting on April 10th, N. G. Burns, Henry Gorman, N. E. Winholtz, W. H. Andrews, and W. H. B. Rowe, were mustered in due form, and thus became the first recruits after the organization of the Post.

The following is the military record of the charter members of this Post:

RECORDS OF CHARTER MEMBERS POST NO. ONE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

M. F. KANAN was born in the State of New York. Enlisted at Decatur, Illinois, July 27, 1861, as First Lieutenant, Company A, 41st Illinois Infantry, and served with his regiment in all of Grant's campaigns in the West, among which were the capture of Forts Heiman, Henry, and Donelson, Corinth, and Vicksburg, being wounded at Donelson. He also participated in the battles of "Shiloh," "Hatchie," and the charge of Colonel I. C. Pugh's Brigade at Jackson, Mississippi, on July 12, 1862, when more than two-thirds of the entire Brigade were either killed or wounded. He was promoted to be Captain for meritorious services at the battle of Shiloh; afterwards served on the staff of Major-General M. M. Crocker, and was for a time assigned by Major-General Jas.

B. McPherson as Assistant Provost-Marshal of the 17th Army Corps at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

He returned to his regiment in the Spring of 1864, and commanded the 41st Illinois Veteran Battalion in the campaign against Atlanta. He resigned November 10, 1864, and was afterward employed in the Adjutant-General's Department at Springfield, Illinois, until the close of the war.

He is now (1888) serving his second term as Mayor of Decatur, and is a member of Post No. 141, Department of Illinois.

GEO. R. STEELE was born in Springfield, Ohio, September 12, 1836; moved to Illinois in December, 1856; enlisted as Second Lieutenant, Company A, 41st Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861, at Decatur, and served in the campaign which resulted in the capture of Forts Henry, Heiman, and Donelson.

He served as Adjutant of his regiment during the battles of Shiloh, the advance on Corinth, occupation of Memphis, Tennessee, and the battle of Hatchie. In November, 1862, was appointed Captain and Aide-de-camp, and assigned to duty on the staff of Major-General James B. McPherson, commanding 17th Army Corps, and took an active part in all of the campaigns of that Corps, including the marches, battles, and operations which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg.

In March, 1864, he accompanied Major-General McPherson to Huntsville, Alabama, when that General was assigned to the command of the "Army of the Tennessee," and served on his staff during the campaign against Atlanta, including the battle of July 22, 1864, where General McPherson was killed. By order of General W. T. Sherman he accompanied the remains of General McPherson to their last resting-place at Clyde, Ohio.

He was afterwards assigned to duty as Aide-de-camp to Major-General Frank P. Blair, who succeeded to the command of the 17th Army Corps.

He served with General Blair on Sherman's March to the Sea, the occupation of Savannah, Georgia, the campaign through the Carolinas, and the occupation of Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina. Brevetted Major, United States Volunteers, March 13, 1865; was present at the meeting of Generals Sherman and Johnston, April 17, 1865, near Raleigh, North Carolina, where negotiations were had for the surrender of Johnston's Army.

He was present and took part in the organization of the "Society of the Army of the Tennessee," in the State Capitol building at Raleigh, North Carolina, April 14, 1865. Participated in the "Grand Review" at Washington, D. C., and after the muster-out of the troops of the 17th Army Corps, at Louisville, Kentucky, was assigned to duty with General Blair at St. Louis, Missouri, and was mustered-out of the military service November 22, 1865.

Has since resided at Decatur, Illinois, and is now (1888) Treasurer of Macon County, Illinois, an active Grand Army man, and a charter member of Post No. 141, Department of Illinois.

GEO. H. DUNNING entered the Army from Decatur, as Captain Company A, 21st Illinois Infantry (Grant's Regiment), May 17, 1861, serving until October 24, 1862, when, on account of ill health, he resigned, and has since died.

ISAAC C. PUGH was a veteran of the Black Hawk and Mexican Wars.

He entered the three months service April 16, 1861, as Captain of Company A, 8th Illinois Infantry. At the expiration of this term he returned to Decatur, Illinois, and organized the 41st Illinois Infantry, which regiment served with the Army of the Tennessee, being actively engaged in all the campaigns of that army.

He was mustered-out August 20th, 1864, and was brevetted Brigadier-General of Volunteers, March 10, 1865. After his muster-out he served four years as Clerk of Macon County, Illinois, and was appointed Postmaster at Decatur during President Grant's administration. He died while holding that position.

JOHN H. NALE entered the service July 27, 1861, as Captain Company A, 41st Illinois Infantry, and was in active service with his regiment during all its marches and engagements.

Promoted to be Major, April 8, 1862, Lieutenant-Colonel, December 26, 1862; mustered-out August 20, 1864.

When the last call was made for troops he re-enlisted as Captain Company K, 152d Illinois Infantry, and was mustered-out as Major at the close of the war. He then located at Decatur, Illinois, and afterward moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he died of yellow fever.

J. T. BISHOP entered the service as First Lieutenant, Company I, 116th Illinois Infantry, September 6, 1862; was promoted

to Captain April 25, 1863; served in the 15th (Logan's) Corps; was in the campaign of Grant which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg; with Sherman to Chattanooga, Tennessee, participating in the battle of Missionary Ridge and the march to Knoxville to the relief of Burnside's command. Resigned March 30, 1864, and returned to Decatur; subsequently moved to the East, and is Secretary of the Oil Companies at Bradford, Pennsylvania, and a member of Post No. 141, Department of Pennsylvania.

CHRISTIAN RIEBSAME, a native of Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, enlisted as private in Company B, 116th Illinois Infantry, August 11, 1862; was promoted to Sergeant, then First Lieutenant, January, 1863, and Captain, January 28, 1864. His regiment was assigned to the 2d Division of the 15th (Logan's) Corps, and participated in all the battles and marches of that corps from Memphis, in 1862, to Bentonville, North Carolina, 1865, including Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, July 22 and 28, 1864, Sherman's March to the Sea, the Storming of Fort McAllister, the Campaign through the Carolinas, and the Capture of Columbia, South Carolina.

Was in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., and was mustered-out June 7, 1865.

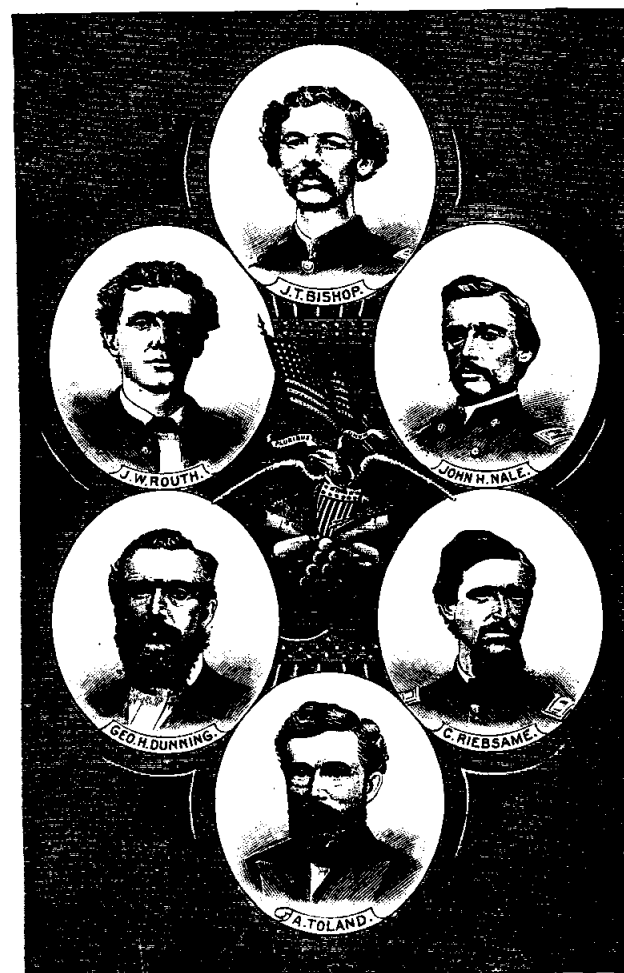
He returned to Decatur, and resided there until 1869, when he moved to Bloomington, Illinois. He is very active in all matters of interest to the comrades of the late war, is a life member of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, a pioneer of the North American Turners-bund of St. Louis, and a member of Post No. 146, Bloomington, Department of Illinois.

J. W. ROUTH enlisted as Corporal in Company A, 41st Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861, from Decatur, Illinois.

Served with his company at the capture of Forts Heiman, Henry, and Donelson; was then promoted to Hospital Steward, and served as such during his term of enlistment.

During the Vicksburg campaign, and after the capture of that city, Comrade Routh served as Hospital Steward of a General Field Hospital in charge of Dr. B. F. Stephenson; they became warm personal friends, and Dr. Routh was among the first to whom Dr. Stephenson confided his project for the organization of a society of the soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion.

Dr. Routh was mustered-out with his regiment, August 10, 1864. He practiced medicine in Decatur for several years, then removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he died in 1886.



GROUP OF CHARTER MEMBERS, POST 1.

B. F. SIBLEY was a practicing physician in Decatur at the time of the breaking out of the war; enlisted in the 21st Illinois Infantry, acting as Surgeon. Resigned in the fall of 1862 on account of ill health; returned to Decatur, where he now resides and continues the practice of his profession.

ISAAC N. COLTRIN entered the service June 23, 1862, from Clinton, Illinois, in Company E, 66th Illinois Infantry. During its term of service this regiment was with the Army of Virginia and of the Potomac. He was mustered-out in September, 1862, and then settled at Decatur. He, with Joseph M. Prior, commenced the publication of the Decatur *Tribune*. They printed the first ritual for the Grand Army of the Republic. He still lives in Decatur, and is a practical printer in the office of the Decatur *Republican*.

JOSEPH M. PRIOR entered the service as First Sergeant, Company E, 68th Illinois Infantry, May 30, 1862, from Clinton, Illinois; was mustered-out in September, 1862, settling in Decatur; joined I. N. Coltrin in the publication of the Decatur *Tribune*, and assisted in printing the first ritual. He subsequently moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, where he died.

AQUILLA TOLAND enlisted as private, Company E, 17th Ohio Infantry, in London, Ohio, at the first call for troops to serve three months. He and a friend were the first to enrol their names as volunteers in Madison County, Illinois. After the expiration of his term of enlistment he re-enlisted in Company A, 118th Regular Ohio Infantry; was promoted to be First Lieutenant, and was much of the time in command of his company on account of the physical disability of his captain.

After having been mustered-out of the service, he returned to London, Ohio; subsequently moved to Decatur; took an active part in the organization of Post One, and always contributed financially to the relief of soldiers in distress. Purchasing a farm some 12 or 15 miles northwest from Decatur, he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death in 1878.

THE RITUAL.

In preparing the ritual, Major Stephenson evidently thought that all his ideas in relation to the objects to be accomplished by the organization should be fully elaborated. He had added sug-

gestions of others until the ritual became exceedingly lengthy; the commander's charge alone contained nearly two thousand words, equal to four of these pages. Prior to the organization of the Decatur Post, on the request of Major Stephenson, a committee, consisting of Dr. Routh, M. F. Kanan, J. T. Bishop, George R. Steele and G. H. Dunning, read over the MSS. of the ritual, to suggest amendments, but on April 18, 1866, Major Stephenson again referred to the matter as follows:

*Office of Commander
Decatur Ill
Springfield April 18 1866*

Springfield April 18 1866

Memorandum

*Captains Kanan
& Geo Dunning*

*You are hereby
appointed & empowered to draft Constitution
& By-laws also to advise & perfect the ritual of
the Grand Army of the Republic
at your earliest convenience or as directed
this same within head quarters*

*B. F. Stephenson
Comdr Decatur Ill*

*Geo A. L. for Geo
Ally's Dept Ill*

This letter was read to the Post, and comrades Bishop, Dunning, Mory, Sibley and Glass were constituted a committee to comply with the request. Comrades Dunning, Nale and Steele were appointed a committee to draft regulations (by-laws) for the Post. Up to this date no constitution had been drafted, though the general plans had been discussed.

On April 29, Major Stephenson again wrote Captain Kanan, urging him either to send immediately, or personally take a copy of the constitution and ritual to Springfield "for comparison with the draft being made" there, that they might "cull and select the best of both."

The minutes of May 9 note a report from the committee that the regulations and ritual had been presented to Department Headquarters and accepted." The original ritual had been revised, as one of the committee has since stated, by the free use of paste and scissors—cutting out nearly one-half of the commander's charge.

CONSTITUTION.

The constitution thus agreed upon was printed in Springfield, and copies sent to the Decatur Post on May 15, followed shortly after by copies of the revised ritual.

The plan of organization provided for—

1st—PRECINCT ORGANIZATIONS, to be known as Post No. — (name of city, town, township, ward, or precinct). The officers to be Post Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster (presumably by election), and "an Officer of the Day and such other officers as may be necessary for the transaction of business, to be detailed by the commanding officer."

2d—COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS, to be known as District of (name of county), with a District Commander, an Assistant Adjutant-General and District Quartermaster.

3d—STATE ORGANIZATIONS, to be known as Department of (name of State). Officers—Department Commander, Adjutant-General, Assistant Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.

4th—THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, to be known as "THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC." The officers to be a Commanding Officer, Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.

In the constitution printed in May, the letters U. S. A. are not appended to the title, but were used in signatures to documents at

that time and later, making the title read "Grand Army of the Republic, U. S. A."

REPRESENTATION.

Posts were to have no direct representation in the Department Encampment. The County or District Organization was to be composed of one delegate for every ten members of the Grand Army of the District. The District Organization had general supervision of Posts, and the establishment of new Posts. Each District was entitled to one delegate in the Department Organization, which was to meet once in each year.

The NATIONAL ORGANIZATION was to be composed of two delegates from each Department. The constitution, as amended by the convention at Springfield, July 12, 1866, made no change in the mode or ratio of representation as above given, but provided for additional officers, as follows:

In the National Organization, an Assistant Commanding Officer, Surgeon-General and Chaplain. In Departments, an Assistant Department Commander, Surgeon-General and Chaplain. In Posts, an Assistant Post Commander, Post Surgeon, Post Chaplain, Officer of the Day and Officer of the Guard. Officers of Posts were to be elected annually at the last meeting in December.

The Declaration of Principles in the Constitution, written by Adjutant-General Robert M. Woods, read as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Section 1. The soldiers of the Volunteer Army of the United States, during the Rebellion of 1861-5, actuated by the impulses and convictions of patriotism and of eternal right, and combined in the strong bands of fellowship and unity by the toils, the dangers, and the victories of a long and vigorously waged war, feel themselves called upon to declare, in definite form of words and in determined co-operative action, those principles and rules which should guide the earnest patriot, the enlightened freeman, and the christian citizen in his course of action; and to agree upon those plans and laws which should govern them in a united and systematic working method with which, in some measure, shall be effected the preservation of the grand results of the war, the fruits of their labor and toil, so as to benefit the deserving and worthy.

Sec. 2. The results which are designed to be accomplished by this organization are as follows:

1st. The preservation of those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together, with the strong cords of love and affection, the comrades in arms of many battles, sieges and marches.

2d. To make these ties available in works and results of kindness, of favor and material aid to those in need of assistance.

3d. To make provision, where it is not already done, for the support, care and education of soldiers' orphans, and for the maintenance of the widows of deceased soldiers.

4th. For the protection and assistance of disabled soldiers, whether disabled by wounds, sickness, old age or misfortune.

5th. For the establishment and defense of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially and politically, with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of their services to the country, and to a recognition of such services and claims by the American people.

To this section the National Encampment, in Philadelphia, January, 1868, added: But this Association does not design to make nominations for office or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes.

The Indianapolis Convention added the word "sailors" where omitted in the Springfield Constitution, and also added a new section, from the Constitution of the "Loyal Legion," as follows:

6th. The maintenance of true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the national constitution and laws, manifested by the discountenancing of whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions, together with a defense of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

Changes were made in the titles of a number of officers as Grand Commander for Department Commander, and Senior and Junior Vice Post Commanders for Assistant Post Commanders.

In May, 1869, the present form of Rules and Regulations was adopted.

Although a number of veterans had been obligated at the secret conferences held in Springfield, Post 2 had not been formally organized, owing to fears expressed by Major Stephenson that other parties, who were not friendly to himself, would endeavor to secure control of the organization.

No records have been preserved of the preliminary meetings of Post No. 2, but the minutes of July 10, 1866, refer to action taken at previous meetings without specifying the dates when they were

held. General Webber recorded the date of organization in April. The charter members were, as appears by the minutes, General T. S. Mather, E. S. Johnson, General John Cook, Colonel George T. Allen, Major B. F. Stephenson, Colonel John M. Snyder, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Green, Major Robert Allen, Major J. W. Bice, Major William T. Prescott, Major Robert M. Woods, Captain J. S. Burke, Captain G. S. Dana, Captain P. W. Harts, Captain O. S. Webster, Major Alfred A. North, Captain John A. Lightfoot, Captain L. W. Shepherd, Lieutenant William E. Fitzhugh, Lieutenant L. W. Rosette, Surgeon M. T. Hutson, E. H. Errickson, ——— Hatch, L. M. Phillips, Captain George R. Webber, John C. Spriggs, Norman B. Ames.

General T. S. Mather was elected Post Commander; E. S. Johnson, Adjutant; W. E. Fitzhugh, Officer of the Day; William T. Prescott, Quartermaster.

Delegates to State Convention—John Cook, John M. King, Alfred A. North, H. Vanmeter, M. J. Green, W. T. Prescott, I. N. Haynie, E. S. Johnson, J. W. Bice, L. W. Shepherd, T. S. Mather, George T. Allen, S. M. Shoup, Robert Allen, John McConnell.

Alternates—J. V. Redenburg, H. M. Alden, G. S. Dana, L. W. Rosette, P. W. Harts, J. S. Burke, ——— Bennett, P. H. Able, James Irwin, O. S. Webster.

Dr. George T. Allen, of this Post, had taken a very active interest in the establishment of a Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and in 1865 issued a very strong appeal to the Ladies' Aid Organization of the State for the funds required for this object.

A very pleasant episode in the history of Post 2 occurred in November, 1866, when the members, accompanied by a number of friends, called upon Dr. Stephenson at his office and presented him with a beautiful gold-headed cane, inscribed:

"From the sons of the G. A. R. to the father, B. F. STEPHENSON, November, 1866."

Captain W. E. Fitzhugh made the presentation speech on behalf of the donors.

Dr. Stephenson responded as follows:

MY COMRADES, MY NEIGHBORS AND MY FELLOW-CITIZENS:—I need not say to you that I am exceedingly grateful for this beautiful present, valuable as it is of itself but ten thousand times more so on account of its donors. I do not receive it as a testimonial to my supposed merits, but as an acknowledgment of your respect for and

appreciation of the G. A. R., which I had the distinguished honor to originate and of which I am for the present the acknowledged head. As such I receive it, and as such I will ever treasure it. It is more esteemed and appreciated by me on account of its timely presentation, receiving it as a token of your esteem and regard for our benevolent Order, just as I have descended the hill of life, crossed its summit, and commenced the slippery and treacherous descent of the last declivity, that which leads us on the brink of the narrow tomb. In making this last descent of life there is nothing so faithful and constantly the support of an old man as his staff. Friends and relations may forsake him, but his staff is always by his side. This shall be my staff the remainder of my days, let them be many or few, let them be dark and dreary or light and joyous, and when I bid you a lasting farewell and commit my little ones to the kind consideration of you, my comrades of the G. A. R., this testimonial shall be my last will and testament bequeathed to my issue as a rich legacy; and in after years, my comrades, when I look back on this present moment this will remind me of your many deeds of valor, of the bloody fields won by your prowess. I shall hear the roar of your deadly artillery, the terrible crash and rattle of your muskets, the ringing and clashing of your sabres when you crossed them with those of the enemy, and I shall again see the many fields covered with the dead and wounded of our comrades, the ground made red with their hearts' blood, and hear the faint cry for water to sustain the fast ebbing life stream.

The many sacred messages whispered in my ear, fit only to be conveyed by angels, too sacred for my mortal ears, by my dying comrades, will be remembered.

It will also remind me of the groan of the gray-headed sire on learning the sad news, the indescribable look of despair of the widow on learning that her last prop was taken from her. In it the shriek of the newly made bride, and the suppressed anguish of the betrothed maiden, and also of the piteous wail of the bereaved mother as with quivering lips she imparted the sad news to the little ones that are fatherless and perhaps homeless.

But my comrades, it shall also remind me that we have not forgotten our dead comrades. That by our glorious Order, whose ranks are as firm as the wood of life that composes its stem, and whose principles are as pure as the gold that encircles its head, the pathway of the old gray-headed sire is smoothed to his grave.

The lone widow is comforted and sustained, the orphans are fed, clothed and educated; society is compelled to give them a home alike comfortable and respectable. Traitors are made to hide their deformed heads and no man dare to lift up hand and voice against this country. May this organization last as long as there is a Union in the United States and as long as the fibres of this wood hold together.

B. F. STEPHENSON.

Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, was born in Wayne county, Illinois, October 30, 1822.

In 1825 his parents removed to Sangamon county, where he grew to manhood, strong in body, but with meagre opportunities for obtaining an education. He was unable to follow the bent of his inclination, which was to study medicine, until after he had attained his majority.

His first course of study was with his brother, Dr. William Stephenson, at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He afterwards attended lectures at Columbus, Ohio, and graduated in the class of 1849-'50 from the Rush Medical College, Chicago. He commenced the practice of his profession at Petersburg, Illinois, and on March 30, 1855, was married in Springfield to Barbara B. Moore.

Upon the organization of the 14th Illinois Infantry, May 25, 1861, Dr. Stephenson was elected Surgeon by the officers and enlisted men of the regiment, voting under the laws of Illinois, but he was not commissioned, and Dr. G. T. Allen, of Alton, was mustered in that position.

Dr. Allen was afterward promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. Stephenson, who was mustered in at Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862.

Dr. Stephenson served with the regiment in its arduous campaigns until June 24, 1864, when the three years term of the regiment expired, and he was mustered out. The regiment was at that time re-organized by veteran re-enlistment under Colonel Cyrus Hall, who had succeeded Colonel Palmer upon the promotion of the latter to Brigadier-General.

Dr. Stephenson returned to Springfield, where a warm personal friend, the Hon. Jesse K. Dubois, secured him an interest in the firm of D. K. Gold & Co., druggists.

He remained one year with this firm, and then formed a partnership with Dr. Allen, above referred to, and Dr. James Hamilton. This connection was dissolved upon the appointment of Dr. Allen as United States Consul to Moscow by President Grant.

Dr. Stephenson became for a time a popular and successful practitioner. With his opportunities he should have soon secured a lucrative practice, but he lacked that tenacity of purpose and thorough devotion to his profession so necessary to success, and was inclined to put off duties and responsibilities that were in any way unpleasant. He was but a poor manager in financial affairs, always feeling rich with a few dollars in hand, and evidently caring little when he had none. He had formed many strong friendships, and friends tried often to impress upon him the necessity of his being more careful and methodical, but he preferred letting the morrow care for itself.

No matter what troubles assailed him his fund of good nature was unfailing, and to the last he was always sanguine of great results from some projected enterprise.

He was easily moved by tales of distress, and freely gave to the poor his own services and orders for medicines without thought of recompense.

When, after months of consideration, the Grand Army was actually organized, its work became uppermost in his thoughts and influenced all his actions. His professional practice became, more than ever, a secondary consideration, and this seriously affected his usefulness as a physician, without, in the end, bringing him any substantial returns for sacrifices made or the attendant discomforts of himself and his family.

And then, after trials which perhaps another man more cold-blooded or less sanguine than himself could have better borne, it was to him a grievous disappointment when the representatives of the Grand Army, assembled at Springfield to form a Department organization, selected another for the highest honors of the Order he had founded. A similar disappointment awaited him at Indianapolis, when the National Encampment was formed, and though Major Stephenson then accepted a subordinate position, as Adjutant-General, he felt until his death that he had been slighted by his comrades in these instances.

He was yet to meet another and more bitter disappointment, for in the closing years of his life, through troubles of mind and illness of body that unfitted him for the delicate duties of his profession, it seemed as though his labors and those of his colleagues were fruitless, as the "Grand Army" had practically disappeared from public view in the west. In his own State, though the Department maintained a nominal existence, there was hardly a Post in active operation; in neighboring States they were entirely dead; and, while Department organizations were maintained in the east, even there Posts had disbanded by the score.

He had dreamed of a grand organization of veterans, moving in a *masse*, a potent influence in moulding and fostering public sentiment in favor of those who had "borne the battle," that should secure recognition of their services in places of honor and profit; and, while preserving and strengthening the bonds of comradeship, should be a help to all who had followed the flag, and to the widows and orphans of the dead, who needed a helping hand and sympathizing friend.

Years were to pass before the Grand Army of the Republic should reach a position in any degree fulfilling the fondly cher-

ished belief of its founder—years that were to test the faith and constancy of the few, and show the weakness of the many who had failed to comprehend the principles of the Order, and measured these only by personal desires or as means for their own advancement.

After years of unrequited toil, disabled and discouraged, Dr. Stephenson removed his family from Springfield to the old home at Petersburg. He died at Rock Creek, Menard county, Illinois, August 30, 1871, in his 49th year.

He was buried in the cemetery at Rock Creek, and his remains there rested until August 29, 1882, when they were removed to Petersburg, and interred in the Soldiers Plot of Rose Hill Cemetery, on the banks of the Sangamon river, one mile east of Petersburg.

The solemn services of re-interment were conducted by Estill Post No. 71, G. A. R., of Petersburg; the widow, a son and two daughters being present.

The procession was under the charge of Colonel Cornelius Rourke, Marshal.

The pall-bearers were John J. Baker, Thomas Kearns, P. S. Scott, Joseph Deerwester, J. W. Biggs, and Richard Goodsell.

The services over the grave were in accordance with the Grand Army Ritual.

After the coffin had been lowered into the grave the Reverend Francis Springer, Chaplain, pronounced the following:

"To another of our companions in the journey of earthly existence is the work of life done; the march has been made, the journey is ended and the grave now holds the form of a comrade whom on earth we shall not see again.

"We cherish the memory and honor the name of our departed brother, B. F. Stephenson, because he was worthy as a countryman, neighbor and friend. But today we call to mind, also, the position and service of our departed brother as one of the great family of patriotic citizens who periled property and life in the cause of our glorious country.

"This service of re-burial is conducted in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic, one purpose of whose organization is to perpetuate the recollection, and widen the sphere of influence, which justly belong to that achievement whereby the United States of America has once more demonstrated the necessity of national unity, and the superiority of our democratic republic over every other form of government known to earth. America is the home of a new impulse to the world's civilization upon the basis of equality, christian fraternity and rational liberty, regulated by law emanating from the people. Our comrade bore a part in that grand movement."

Judge JAMES A. MATHENY, of Springfield, spoke as follows:

"I am here to-day with the single purpose of laying a sprig of 'Immortelle' upon the grave of our departed comrade. He was the companion of my youth, the friend of my manhood. Together we commenced to climb life's upward pathway, but ere we reached the summit, he, wearying of the burden, laid himself down to rest.

"As we buried our comrade, the grave covered more than his pulseless form—glad hopes that made bright the future—grand thoughts that would have left their impress on the minds of men—great purposes to be achieved—a lofty ambition to be realized; these, all these we buried with him.

"The world is full of over-estimated men. The graveyard is peopled with under-estimated men. It was the misfortune of our comrade to be numbered with the latter. Thousands infinitely his inferior have written their names in imperishable characters on the pages of our country's history. Struggle as he did, and labor as he might, no compensating reward ever came. When abundant success seemed assured, and he stretched forth his hand to seize the coveted fruit, he grasped only Dead Sea apples' of ashes and bitterness.

"Success in life is one of earth's strangest mysteries. To some it comes unheralded and unsought for, and in too many instances undeserved. Others labor for it and labor ever in vain, dying with every aspiration unsatisfied, and every reasonable hope unfulfilled. So died our comrade.

"It was an expressive saying of the ancients that 'Justice traveled with leaden wings,' meaning that though delayed, its coming was inevitable and sure. I have faith to believe that ample justice will yet be done to our departed comrade, that his memory will be rescued from the darkness fast-closing around it, and his name recorded, where it should be, on the scroll of fame.

"Some one has said that he would much rather that posterity should ask why they did not raise a monument to his memory than to ask why they did.

"I do not know that any marble shaft will ever tower aloft over the spot where sleeps our comrade and friend, but I do know that he built for himself a monument more glorious than marble or granite, and yet that unrelenting fate that ever pursued him, robbing him of well nigh all that was justly his due, is still at its relentless work. The thousands who annually meet at the reunions of the Grand Army of the Republic give no thought to the heart that nurtured and to the brain that conceived the grand idea of a Brotherhood of Soldiers.

"When this thought first came to our comrade his whole soul was filled with the grand conception. Without rest or weariness his every energy was devoted to the accomplishment of the grand design. With a patriotic inspiration he saw clearly the great good to be attained. He felt that he was erecting an altar upon which the fire of love for the whole union would burn and burn forever. He saw with prophetic vision the Star Spangled Banner of a nation—not a confederation of discordant States, but a nation's banner—unfurled to the breeze, and with fancy's ear he heard the tramp, tramp of the million soldiers of the Grand Army as they gathered beneath it to shield and defend it from every harm.

"My friends, how well he read the future! His glad anticipations are more than realized. The camp fires of the Grand Army are burning from ocean to ocean. Thousands and tens of thousands of his brotherhood of soldiers meet nightly in fraternal greetings. The banner that he so loved is floating stainless and pure in God's bright sunshine, never again to be soiled and torn by traitorous hands.

"Though not here to witness it, the grand dream of his life has assumed the pro-

portions of a bright reality. The note that he struck, single-handed and alone, has swelled into a glorious anthem. The light that he kindled is illuminating an entire land, and at the last is flinging its radiance over the consecrated spot where our comrade reposes all unconscious that his hour of triumph has come.

"The law of compensation pervades all nature. A new thought proclaimed, a good deed done, or a heroic act performed, will sooner or later meet its proper reward. It may tarry long. It may linger in its coming, but come it will, with unfailing certainty.

"In obedience to that law, we have come, even at this late day, to do honor to our departed comrade. And friends, let it not stop here. Let us by some fitting testimonial proclaim to all coming time our appreciation of the grand work accomplished by our departed friend and companion. Let us—

"Seek no further his merits to disclose,
Nor draw his frailties from their dread abode,
There they alike in trembling hope repose,
The bosom of his Father and his God."



FIRST GRAND ARMY STAFF OFFICERS.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SPRINGFIELD CONVENTION.

PRIOR to the formal institution of Post No. 2, at Springfield, Department staff had been agreed upon to prosecute the work of organizing Posts, and this was announced as follows:

GENERAL ORDERS } No. 1. }	HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC. ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, April 1st, 1866. }
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The following named officers are hereby announced on duty at these headquarters:

Colonel JULES C. WEBBER, *Aid-de-Camp and Chief of Staff.*
Major ROBERT M. WOODS, *Adjutant-General.*
Colonel JOHN M. SNYDER, *Quartermaster-General.*
Lieutenant JOHN S. PHELPS, *Aid-de-Camp.*
Captain JOHN A. LIGHTFOOT, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

By order of

B. F. STEPHENSON,
Commanding Department.

ROBERT M. WOODS,
Adjutant-General.

General JULES C. WEBBER, Chief of Staff, enlisted August 18, 1861, as Regimental Quartermaster, 18th Illinois Volunteers. Promoted to be Captain and Aid-de-camp, and served on the staff of Major-General Steele. Promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel and afterwards Colonel, 18th Illinois, on veteran re-organization. Mustered out December 18, 1865. Brevet Brigadier-General, March 27, 1865. Died in Vicksburgh, Mississippi, 1871.

Major ROBERT M. WOODS, Adjutant-General, served during the early part of the war in the Quartermaster-General's office, Springfield, Illinois, and also under Governor Richard Yates. On June 27, 1864, was commissioned Adjutant 64th Illinois (Yates' Sharpshooters). Participated in the Atlanta Campaign, the March to the Sea, and the Campaign in the Carolinas, and was

present at the organization of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, at Raleigh, North Carolina, April, 1865. Promoted Captain Company A, July 13, 1865. Brevetted Major, United States Volunteers, March 13, 1865. He is now publisher of the Joliet, Illinois, *Republic and Sun*.

JOHN M. SNYDER, Quartermaster-General, was Quartermaster 6th Illinois Cavalry, September 1, 1861, until July 1, 1862, serving part of the time as Brigade Quartermaster. On muster-out he returned to Jacksonville, and enlisted in the 101st Illinois Infantry, of which he was appointed Quartermaster. In March, 1863, he was directed to report to Governor Yates, at Springfield, and was appointed Aid-de-camp, with rank of Major, and in March, 1864, was promoted Colonel. He assisted in the work of organizing Illinois troops, and also visited United States hospitals to secure the transfer of all Illinois soldiers therein to hospitals in their own State or to their homes on furlough. In 1865 he was appointed Military Secretary to Governor Oglesby, and in this position aided largely in organizing the Grand Army of the Republic. He now resides at Canton, Illinois.

JOHN A. LIGHTFOOT, Assistant Adjutant-General, entered the service as Captain, Company A, 101st Illinois Infantry, January 1, 1862; was taken prisoner at Holly Springs, Mississippi, December 20, 1862; was compelled to resign by reason of ill health in April, 1864. He has since died.

JOHN S. PHELPS, Aid-de-Camp. (See page 35.)

With the possible exception of Captain Lightfoot, these officers had all received valuable experience in responsible staff positions in the army, and were thoroughly qualified for the duties devolving upon them.

Assignments were made for official visits to different localities in the State to secure the co-operation and assistance of influential veterans who could organize Posts.

The work proceeded very slowly at first, as soldiers generally were doubtful of the result of the project; but prior to July 12, the date fixed for the assembling of a State Convention to form the Department of Illinois, thirty-nine Posts had been chartered.

THE SPRINGFIELD CONVENTION.

The Constitution prescribed that State organizations should be composed of one Delegate from each District in the Department.

It was not deemed judicious to organize the Department of Illinois on this basis, and therefore a Call for a General Convention was issued over the names of prominent veterans, to better secure the presence of a large number, who could then be thoroughly informed as to the objects of the Order, and instructed in its work, and thus become more directly interested in the formation of Posts.

Posts then organized or under way were duly notified, and the newspapers of the State gave wide publicity to the proposed Convention, thus attracting the general attention desired.

The Call read as follows:

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, June 26, 1866.

A CONVENTION

of the members of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, and Illinois soldiers and sailors, will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives at Springfield, Illinois, on Thursday, July 12, 1866.

The business to be transacted at this meeting is of the highest importance to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors.

Delegates are expected from every Post in the State.

As many of our soldiers have not had an opportunity to join our Army, they will muster in on that occasion.

The soldiers of the State of Illinois who desire to assist in the care of the families of their fallen comrades, of the disabled and unfortunate, who would assist each other by acts of friendship and of charity, and who wish to establish and maintain the rights of the volunteer soldiery of the late war, morally, socially and politically, are requested to meet with us.

The names appended to this call have been here arranged in alphabetical order, with the military records, as far as it was possible to obtain them, added.

ALLEN, GEORGE T.—Surgeon 14th Illinois, April 28, 1861; promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and Medical Inspector, June 14, 1862; mustered-out October 31, 1865.

ARMSTRONG, WILLIAM J.

BEVERIDGE, JOHN L.—Major 8th Illinois Cavalry, September 18, 1861, to November 2, 1863; Colonel 17th Illinois Cavalry, Jan-

uary 28, 1864; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 7, 1865; mustered-out February 8th, 1866. Has since been Sheriff of Cook county, Illinois, State Senator, Member of Congress, Lieutenant-Governor, Governor, 1873-1877; Assistant Treasurer United States, at Chicago; now member of John A. Logan Post, Evanston, Illinois.

BIRNEY, WILLIAM—Colonel United States Colored Troops; Brigadier-General, May 22, 1863; Brevet Major-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out August 24, 1865.

BRUSH, DANIEL H.—Enlisted April 26, 1861; elected Captain 18th Illinois Infantry, May 6, 1861; promoted Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel; badly wounded at Shiloh; resigned on account of wounds, August 21, 1863; brevetted Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865.

BEARDSLEY, JAMES M.—Lieutenant, Company D, 13th Illinois Infantry, May 18, 1861; Captain, August, 1861; Major, November 27, 1863; mustered-out June 18, 1864.

BLADES, FRANKLIN—Surgeon 76th Illinois Infantry, August 22, 1862; mustered-out March 31, 1864.

BLOOMFIELD, IRA J.—First Sergeant, Company C, 33d Illinois Infantry, August 15, 1861; Captain 26th Illinois Infantry, January 13, 1862; promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel; Brevet Brigadier-General, May, 1865; mustered-out July 20, 1865.

CARNAHAN, ROBERT H.—Captain, Company K, 3d Illinois Cavalry, September 21, 1861; promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel; mustered-out October 10, 1865; brevetted Brigadier-General, October 28, 1865.

COOK, JOHN. (For Portrait and Biography, see pages 64-66.)

DORNBLASER, BENJAMIN—Adjutant 46th Illinois Infantry, October 11, 1861; Major, February 8, 1862; Colonel, October 11, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, February 20, 1865; Brevet Major-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out January 20, 1866.

DAY, HENRY M.—Colonel 91st Illinois Infantry, September 8, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out July 12, 1865.

DAVIS, HASBROUCK—Lieutenant-Colonel 12th Illinois Cavalry, February 1, 1862; Colonel, August 11, 1863; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865.

DAVIS, H. W.—Surgeon 18th Illinois Infantry, July 24, 1861; mustered-out June 11, 1864.

EDWARDS, A. W.—Private, Company I, 122d Illinois Infantry, August 4, 1862; Major 1st Loyal Alabama Cavalry, 1st Division,

th Corps, Army of the Tennessee; mustered-out November, 1865. In 1888, Mayor of Fargo, Dakota.

FABRIQUE, A. H.—Major 53d Indiana.

GRAY, E. H.—Enlisted in Company F, 33d Illinois Infantry, August 1st, 1861; successively promoted to Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain and Major; mustered-out November 24, 1865.

GOODWIN, JOHN W.—First Lieutenant, Company B, 20th Illinois Infantry; Major, May 14, 1861; promoted to 2d United States Artillery.

GARVIN, P.

HALL, CYRUS—Captain 14th Illinois Infantry, April 22, 1861; Major 7th Illinois Cavalry, September 21, 1861; Lieutenant-Colonel 14th Illinois Infantry, February 1, 1862; Colonel 14th Illinois Infantry, October 21, 1864; Colonel 14th Illinois, on reorganization, March 13, 1865; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out September 6, 1865. Died September 6, 1878.

HAYNIE, ISHAM N.—Colonel 48th Illinois Infantry, August 18, 1861; Brigadier-General Volunteers, November 29, 1862; Adjutant-General of Illinois, March 1, 1865.

HAUGHAWALT, F. S.

KENNARD, GEORGE W.—Second Lieutenant, Company A, 20th Illinois Infantry, April 2, 1861; First Lieutenant and Captain Company I; mustered-out January 9, 1865. Now Judge, Champaign county, Illinois.

LOGAN, JOHN—Colonel 32d Illinois Infantry, August 16, 1861; wounded at Shiloh, April 6, 1862; discharged for wounds, December 30, 1864.

LIPPINCOTT, CHARLES E.—Captain, Company K, 33d Illinois Infantry, September 18, 1861; Lieutenant-Colonel, March 1, 1862; Colonel, September 17, 1863; Brevet Brigadier-General, February 17, 1865; mustered-out September 10, 1865. Eight years Auditor of Public Accounts, Illinois. Died while serving as Superintendent at Soldiers Home, Quincy, Illinois.

MATHER, THOMAS S.—Adjutant-General, Illinois, 1858, until November 11, 1861; Colonel 2d Regiment, Light Artillery, February 2, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, September 28, 1865; mustered-out August 17, 1865.

MUNN, DANIEL W.—First Lieutenant and Adjutant, 126th Illinois Infantry, September 4, 1862, to June 19, 1863.

MITCHELL, GREENVILLE M.—Captain, Company C, 1st Illinois Cavalry, July 19, 1861; Lieutenant-Colonel 54th Illinois Infantry, October 10, 1861; Colonel, December 10, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, August 22, 1865; mustered-out October 15, 1865. Now Warden Southern Illinois Penitentiary, Chester, Illinois.

OSBORN, THOMAS O.—Lieutenant-Colonel 39th Illinois Infantry, July 22, 1861; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 10, 1865; Brigadier-General, May 1, 1865; Brevet Major-General, April 2, 1865; resigned September 28, 1865. Afterward Minister to Argentine Republic.

PALMER, JOHN M. (For Portrait and Biography, see page 65.)

PEARSON, ROBERT N.—Private, Commissary-Sergeant, Adjutant Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Colonel, 31st Illinois Infantry, serving from September 18, 1861, to July 19, 1865; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865.

PUGH, ISAAC C.—Colonel 41st Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861; mustered-out August 20, 1864; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 10, 1865.

PLUMMER, SAMUEL C.—Surgeon 13th Illinois Infantry, May 24, 1861; mustered-out June 18, 1864.

RUTLEDGE, REV. WILLIAM J. (For Portrait and Biography, see page 33.)

RINAKER, JOHN I.—Colonel 122d Illinois Infantry, September 4, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out July 15, 1865. Now Chairman Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners, State of Illinois.

REYNOLDS, JOSEPH S. (For Portrait and Biography, see Chapter XIV, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.)

ROE, EDWARD R.—Major 33d Illinois Infantry, August 15, 1861; Lieutenant-Colonel, September 5, 1862; resigned May 29, 1863, on account of wounds received at Vicksburg, May 22, 1863.

SCHMITT, WILLIAM A.—Captain 27th Illinois Infantry, August 21, 1861; Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel; three years service; mustered-out July 4, 1865; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 10, 1865. He was instrumental in organizing the Department of Maine. (See MAINE.)

SMITH, GILES A.—Captain and Colonel 8th Missouri Infantry; Brigadier-General, commanding 4th Division, 17th Army Corps, November 24, 1865; mustered-out February 1, 1866; Second Assistant Postmaster-General under President Grant. Since deceased.

STEPHENSON, BENJAMIN F. (For Biography, see page 47. Portrait opposite page 33.)

SNYDER, JOHN M. (For Biography, see page 54.)

STOKES, JAMES H.—Captain Chicago Board of Trade Battery, July 31, 1862; mustered out August 31, 1864.

SELLERS, H. VAN—Second Lieutenant, Company E, 12th Illinois Infantry, August 1, 1861; Captain, March 3, 1862; Lieutenant-Colonel, February 19, 1864; Colonel, July 10, 1865; mustered-out July 10th, 1865.

TRUE, JAMES M.—Colonel 62d Illinois Infantry, December 1, 1861; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 6, 1865; mustered-out May 1865.

THOMPSON, THOMAS M.—Captain, Company A, 14th Illinois Infantry, May 3, 1861—October 31, 1861.

VANDUZEN, D.

WEBBER, JULES C. (For Biography, see page 53.)

WILLSON, HALL—Major 27th Illinois Infantry, August 10, 1861; Colonel 5th Illinois Cavalry, December 12, 1861—January 19, 1863. Now deceased.

WHEATON, LLOYD—First Sergeant 8th Illinois Infantry, 3 months service; in three years service, First Lieutenant and Captain, Company E; Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Colonel; mustered-out May 4, 1866.

WOODS, ROBERT M. (For Biography, see page 53.)

The following, not named in the above, were reported present at the Convention:

ADAMS, CHARLES H.—Major and Lieutenant-Colonel 10th Illinois Infantry, 3 months service; Lieutenant-Colonel 1st Illinois Light Artillery, October 23, 1861, to November 2, 1864.

ALLEN, ROBERT—Captain, Company I, 30th Illinois Infantry, August 28, 1861; Major, November 20, 1862—August 12, 1864.

BEARDSLEY, EZRA M.—Adjutant 69th Illinois Infantry, 3 months service; Lieutenant-Colonel 126th Illinois Infantry, September 4, 1862—August 12, 1864.

BICE, JESSE W.—First Lieutenant, Company A, 3d Illinois Cavalry, August 11, 1862; Captain, May 14, 1863; Major, April 29, 1865; mustered-out October 10, 1865.

BRISCOE, ALEXANDER T.—Captain, Company A, 94th Illinois

Infantry, August 20, 1862; Major, November 29, 1862; mustered-out December 9, 1864.

CLEMENTS, ISAAC—Second Lieutenant 9th Illinois Infantry, July 27, 1861; First Lieutenant and Captain; mustered-out August 20, 1864. Has since served in a number of important public positions.

CUNNINGHAM, WILLIAM—Captain, Company I, 90th Illinois Infantry, from October 30, 1862, to July 11th, 1864.

DUNNING, GEORGE H. (See page 39; Decatur Post.)

FRODOCK, WILLIAM T.—First Lieutenant and Adjutant 45th Illinois Infantry, August 30, 1861; Captain, Company A, January 21, 1863; Colonel 66th United States Colored Troops, January 12, 1864; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865.

GREEN, M. J.

HALL, FRED. H.

HILL, —

HURLBUT, S. A. (Portrait opposite page 68. For Biography, see page 72.)

JONES, JOHN J.—Lieutenant-Colonel 46th Illinois Infantry, January 1, 1862; brevetted Colonel; mustered-out January 20, 1866.

JOHNSTON, E. S.—First Lieutenant 7th Illinois Infantry, July 22, 1861; Captain, February 15, 1862; Major, April 22, 1864; mustered-out August 9, 1865.

KING, JOHN T.—Lieutenant-Colonel 114th Regiment Illinois Infantry, September 18, 1862; Colonel, August 4, 1863; resigned on account of illness, December 4, 1864.

LIGHTFOOT, JOHN A. (For Biography, see page 54.)

LUKENS, EDWARD.

MCARTHUR, JOHN—Colonel 12th Regiment Illinois Infantry, May 3, 1861; Brigadier-General United States Volunteers, March 21, 1862; Brevet Major-General, December 15, 1862; mustered-out August 24, 1865.

MCCONNELL, JOHN—Major 3d Illinois Cavalry, September 11, 1861; Colonel 5th Illinois Cavalry, June 15, 1863; Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865; mustered-out October 25, 1865.

MCDULTA, JOHN—Captain, Company A, 1st Illinois Cavalry, May 3, 1861, to July 14, 1862; Lieutenant-Colonel 94th Illinois Infantry, August 20, 1862; Colonel, November 29, 1862; mustered-out July 17, 1865. Now Receiver "Wabash" Railway System, Chicago, Illinois.

MATTHEWS, A. C.—Captain, Company C, 99th Illinois Infantry, August 23, 1862; Major, October 9, 1863; Lieutenant-Colonel, May 25, 1864; Colonel, December 16, 1864; mustered-out July 11, 1865.

MARTIN, PARKHURST T.—Promoted to Captain, Company K, 14th Illinois Infantry, as re-organized March 18, 1865; mustered-out September 16, 1865.

MOORE, JESSE H.—Colonel 115th Illinois Infantry, September 13, 1862; Brevet Brigadier-General, May 15, 1865; mustered-out June 11, 1865. Appointed United States Consul to Callao, Peru, 1881, and died at his post of yellow fever.

MORY, W. J.

NORTH, ALFRED A.—(See Portrait, page 34.) Enlisted September 21, 1861, as First Lieutenant Company A, 10th Illinois Cavalry; resigned February 23, 1863, on account of ill health; commissioned Captain, Company M, 10th Illinois Cavalry, April 26, 1864; resigned October 15, 1864, on account of disease contracted in the service; brevetted Major, March 13, 1865.

PHELPS, JOHN S. (For Biography, see page 35.)

PRENTISS, B. M.—Colonel 10th Illinois Infantry, April 29, 1861; Brigadier-General United States Volunteers, May 17, 1861; Major-General, November 29, 1862–October 8, 1863.

PRESCOTT, WILLIAM T.

PUTERBAUGH, GEORGE—First Lieutenant, Company E, 47th Illinois Infantry, August 25, 1861; Captain, September 2, 1862; mustered-out October 11, 1864. Junior Vice-Commander, Department of Illinois, 1880.

RUSSELL, ROBERT.—Private, Company F, 64th Illinois Infantry, December 17, 1861; Sergeant-Major, December 30, 1863; Adjutant, July 13, 1865; mustered-out July 1, 1865.

SCATES, WALTER B.—Major and Assistant Adjutant-General, June 30, 1862, on the staff of General McClernand; mustered-out January 4, 1866. Since deceased.

SICKLES, H. F.—Major 9th Illinois Cavalry, September 18, 1861, to February, 1862; promoted Lieutenant-Colonel; resigned January 23, 1863, for disability; afterwards commissioned Colonel 147th Illinois Infantry, February 21, 1865; mustered-out January 28, 1866; Brevet Brigadier-General to date, March 13, 1865.

SHEPHERD, LEVIN W.—Captain and Assistant Quartermaster United States Army, October 3, 1862; mustered-out October 7, 1865; brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel for faithful services during

the war. Died while serving as Secretary of Illinois Soldiers Home, Quincy, Illinois.

SMITH, GEORGE P.—Colonel 129th Illinois Infantry, September 8, 1862—May 7, 1863.

SMITH, BENJAMIN F.—Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General on the staff of General John Cook, Commanding Military Department of Illinois.

VAN METER, H.—Assistant Surgeon 114th Illinois, September 1, 1862; Surgeon, August 14, 1863; mustered-out August 3, 1865.

WAIT, SHERIDAN—Major and Assistant Adjutant-General staff of General Oglesby. Adjutant-General State of Illinois.

WILSON, ROBERT—Sergeant 8th Illinois, 3 months service; Captain, Company I, 8th Illinois Infantry, 3 years service, July 25, 1861—October 20, 1862.

In its issue of July 13, 1866, the *Illinois Journal*, Springfield, said, editorially, in an article headed—

“GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.”

“The proceedings of the Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic, which met in this city yesterday, will be found on the fourth page, and will command general attention. The attendance was quite large, and all arms of the military service were fully and ably represented; indeed, among the delegates to the convention, we observe many of the most distinguished men who took part in the war for the Union from the State of Illinois. The sessions of the convention were private, but we understand that the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed.

“From the resolutions reported by Major-General Hurlbut, it will be observed that the object of the organization is not political in a mere party sense, but is to render all material aid and assistance in supplying the wants of the widow and the fatherless, and in furnishing employment to the poor, and to those wounded in the service of our common country.”

Major Stephenson called the meeting to order, and appointed a committee on organization, who reported the following as officers of the convention:

President, Colonel Walter B. Scates, of Chicago; Vice-Presidents, Major-General B. M. Prentiss and Brigadier-General James M. True; Secretary, Major Robert M. Woods, of Springfield; Assistant Secretaries, Captain Thomas M. Thompson, of Chicago, and Private Fred. H. Hall, of Chicago; Sentinel, Lieutenant B. F. Hawkes.

The following constituted the Committee on Resolutions:

Colonel John J. Jones, Major-General S. A. Hurlbut, General N. T. Frohock, Brigadier-General Hiram F. Sickles, Captain George Puterbaugh, Adjutant Daniel W. Munn, Colonel A. C. Matthews, Colonel George P. Smith, Captain Hill, General I. N. Haynie, Captain Isaac Clemens and Dr. George T. Allen.

Major-General Hurlbut reported the following resolutions from the committee, which were adopted:

“RESOLVED. That we, the Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, recognizing the power of the principles of association, do hereby pledge ourselves, each to the other, to render all material aid and assistance in supplying the wants of the widow and the fatherless, and in furnishing employment to the poor, and to those wounded and disabled in the service of our common country.

“RESOLVED. That as we have stood by the Government at the peril of our lives in war, so will we make it ever our care that no known enemy of our country shall wield power in the Republic, but the same arms which defended its sanctuary against open violence, will protect it unflinchingly against all secret machinations, and never lay down our weapons until peace based on the principles of universal liberty shall be assured.

“RESOLVED. That treason consummated in rebellion is a crime of the most malignant nature, and that every possible guarantee should be demanded by all branches of the Government against the rash admission to place and power of those who were active participants in rebellion, and thereby forfeited the rights of American citizens; and that we, the soldiers of the nation who fought for supremacy of the national authority, have a right to demand that the safety of the Republic should be held paramount to all other considerations by the Executive and Congress.”

Letters were read from Governor Fletcher, of Missouri, and Governor Oglesby, of Illinois.

Governor Fletcher said: “I most heartily approve of the objects of your organization, and can assure you that it is worthy of the highest regard and most enthusiastic support of American soldiers.”

Governor Oglesby said: “Every feeling of my heart and every purpose of my will is to promote the interests and happiness of the soldier. He is the friend of his country—he is my friend, and under all circumstances and at every hazard, I am his. You will always find me, as you have found me, energetically laboring for the success and promotion of the welfare of the soldiers of our country.”

Permanent officers of the Department of Illinois were elected as follows:

Major-General JOHN M. PALMER, Department Commander; Major-General JOHN COOK, Assistant Department Commander; General JULES C. WEBBER, Adjutant-General; Colonel JOHN M. SNYDER, Quartermaster-General; Captain JOHN A. LIGHTFOOT, Assistant Adjutant-General. Council of Administration—General JOHN MCARTHUR, General T. F. MATHER and General I. C. PUGH.

Major Stephenson was aggrieved at the failure of the Convention to elect him Department Commander, but the members felt that the interests of the organization would be much better advanced under the leadership of some popular soldier, who had been through the war in active field service.

The committee decided on General John M. Palmer, who was then in the service, but was soon expected home, and who, it was believed, would cheerfully accept the honor of an election.

It was arranged that Chaplain Rutledge, as Major Stephenson's most intimate friend and adviser, should second the nomination of General Palmer, and in so doing give full credit to Major Stephenson for his services as the organizer of the Order. This duty Chaplain Rutledge ably discharged, and Major Stephenson, deeply moved by the references to their associations in the past, and recognizing the personally kindly feelings of the members towards himself, stated that Chaplain Rutledge was the first to suggest the idea of this organization and had aided and encouraged its successful consummation.

The following preamble and resolution, offered by Surgeon H. W. Davis, of Paris, Illinois, was unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, we, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, recognize in Major Stephenson, of Springfield, Illinois, the head and front of the organization, be it therefore 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 brave men, and that we, the soldiers, hereby tender him our thanks, and pledge him our friendship at all times and under all circumstances."

General John Cook, Assistant Department Commander, in the absence of General Palmer, assumed command of the Department, and on July 13, 1866, announced in General Orders No. 1 the following Staff: General Jules C. Webber, Adjutant-General; Colonel John M. Snyder, Quartermaster-General; Captain John A. Lightfoot, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The work of establishing Posts was now entered into with more system and more success as to numbers of Posts organized,

but a General Order, issued by General Palmer, in April, 1867, referred to the fact that many Districts and Posts had made no returns since their organization.

General John M. Palmer, Department Commander, was born in Kentucky, September 13, 1817. His parents settled in Madison county, Illinois, in 1831. He studied law, and was duly admitted to practice. In 1854 he was elected to the State Senate as a Democrat, but in 1856, on the organization of the Republican Party, he affiliated with it, and in 1860 canvassed the State for the election of Mr. Lincoln.

In 1861 he organized the 14th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry; was promoted to Brigadier-General United States Volunteers, December 20, 1861, and Major-General, November 29th, 1862. He commanded a Division in the 4th Army Corps, and also of the 14th Corps, and afterwards commanded this and the 21st Corps. He rendered most valuable service during the whole period of the war. On June 27, 1865, he was assigned to the command of the Department of Kentucky, with headquarters at Louisville. At the time of his election as Department Commander he was on duty at Raleigh, North Carolina. He resigned from the army September 1, 1866. He was Governor of Illinois, 1869 to 1873.

General John Cook, Assistant Department Commander, had the honor of placing in the field the first regiment from Illinois—the 7th Infantry. At Fort Donelson, Colonel Cook commanded the 3d Brigade of General C. F. Smith's Division. He was promoted Brigadier-General March 21st, 1862, and at the time of the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic was in command of the Military District of Springfield, and, with members of his staff, took an active interest in the formation of the Order.

The early records of the Department are not now to be



GENERAL JOHN M. PALMER.



GENERAL JOHN COOK.

found, and it seems impossible to obtain a full and correct roster of Posts established in 1866-1867. No report was made to the National Encampment which met in Philadelphia in January, 1868. But in 1869, General Thomas O. Osborn, who had succeeded General Palmer as Department Commander, reported the existence of about 340 Posts.

In April, 1867, Adjutant-General Webber, Quartermaster-General Snyder, and Assistant Adjutant-General Lightfoot resigned their positions on the

Department Staff, and Colonel Daniel Grass, of Springfield, was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General. The later record of the Department will be found under the head of ILLINOIS.

The election of a Department Commander by the Springfield Convention relieved Major Stephenson of any further responsibility for the work of organization in Illinois, and he turned his attention to other States, acting as Commander-in-Chief, without other authority than that first assumed, as the organizer of the Grand Army of the Republic.

General Webber and Colonel Snyder gave their attention more particularly to the Department of Illinois, and the principal labor elsewhere devolved upon Adjutant-General Robert M. Woods, who visited Columbus, Ohio, St. Louis, Missouri, and other points, to arrange for the organization of Departments, having previously gone to Madison, Wisconsin, for the same purpose. Colonel Snyder organized the Department of Minnesota.

The limits of authority for forming Posts had not been especially defined, and Posts, and Department officers, and members, organized Posts wherever the opportunity was presented, in many cases without even reporting such action to Headquarters, which necessarily occasioned confusion in the assignment of Posts to their proper numerical positions, already complicated by the numbering in Districts. Comrades Fred. I. Dean, J. A. Kuyken-

and P. H. Conkling were detailed as clerks at Headquarters, and so served after Major Stephenson became Adjutant-General. Adjutant-General R. M. Woods advanced the funds necessary for expenses at Headquarters, and financial assistance was also given by other comrades. The Department of Indiana supplied Major Stephenson with blank charters, rituals and regulations.

In October, 1866, Departments had been formed in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota, and Posts in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

The Constitution, amended at Springfield, prescribed that each Department should have but two representatives in the National Organization, but it was manifestly impracticable to then organize upon that basis, and the General Orders (Chapter 7), convening a National Convention at Indianapolis, November 30, called for representation from Posts and by District and Department Officers.

CHAPTER V.
THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT
OF THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

FIRST SESSION,
INDIANAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 20, 1866.

The first National Convention was held in pursuance of the following:

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, October 31st, 1866.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 13.

A National Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic is hereby ordered to convene at Indianapolis, Indiana, at 10 o'clock, on Tuesday, the twentieth day of November next, for the purpose of perfecting the National organization, and the transaction of such other business as may come before the Convention.

The ratio of representation shall be as follows: Each Post shall be entitled to one representative, and when the membership exceeds one hundred, to one additional representative, and in the same ratio for every additional one hundred or fractional part thereof.

All Department and District Officers, *ex officio*, shall be members of said Convention.

All honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, and those now serving in the Army desirous of becoming members of the Grand Army of the Republic, are respectfully invited to attend the Convention.

All comrades are requested to wear the "blue," with corps badges, etc.

B. F. STEPHENSON,

Commander-in-chief,

OFFICIAL:

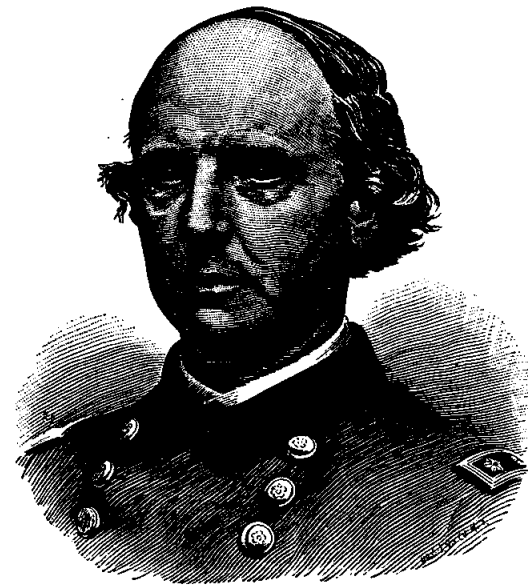
J. C. WEBBER,

Adj't-Gen'l, Dep't Illinois.

G. A. R., U. S.

The meeting was held in Morrison's Opera House, which has been tastefully decorated for the occasion. The battle-flags of Indiana regiments were displayed upon the stage, and portraits of distinguished military chieftains and civilians were arranged on the balconies and walls.

Commander-in-chief B. F. Stephenson called the convention



S. A. Hulburt

Order. Colonel John M. Snyder was appointed Secretary, and General Jules C. Webber, Illinois, and Major O. M. Wilson, Indiana, Assistant Secretaries.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

ON CREDENTIALS—A. L. Chetlain, Illinois; W. H. McCoy, Ohio; L. Edwin Dudley, District of Columbia; Clayton McMichael, Pennsylvania; John S. Cavender, Missouri; T. B. Fairleigh, Kentucky; J. B. McKean, New York; T. J. Anderson, Kansas; Robt. F. Catterson, Arkansas; J. F. Gwynne, Wisconsin; A. P. Alexander, Iowa; M. C. Garber, Indiana.

ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION—S. A. Hurlbut, Illinois; H. T. Burge, Kentucky; F. T. Ledergerber, Missouri; Clayton McMichael, Pennsylvania; Chas. G. Mayers, Wisconsin; William Vanlever, Iowa; L. Edwin Dudley, District of Columbia; August Willich, Ohio; M. C. Garber, Indiana.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS—H. K. Milward, Kentucky; R. G. Feltus, Pennsylvania; John G. Kelley, Pennsylvania; E. F. Schneider, Ohio; Chester Harding, Missouri; T. O. Osborn, Illinois; Lemuel D. Price, Iowa; Charles Cruft, Indiana; Richard Lester, Wisconsin.

The Committee on Credentials reported representatives present as follows: District of Columbia, 1; Illinois, 34; Indiana, 148; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 3; Missouri, 9; New York, 1; Ohio, 15; Pennsylvania, 3; Wisconsin, 7; total, 228. The names of representatives marked present will be found in the appendix.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following Officers for the Convention: President, John M. Palmer, Illinois. Vice-Presidents—Thos. C. Fletcher, Missouri; Robt. S. Foster, Indiana; William O. Ryan, Iowa; Robt. F. Catterson, Arkansas; J. B. McKean, New York; John G. Kelley, Pennsylvania; J. K. Proudft, Wisconsin; B. F. Stephenson, Illinois; T. B. Fairleigh, Kentucky; August Willich, Ohio. Secretary, L. Edwin Dudley, District of Columbia. Assistant Secretaries—Daniel Macauley, Indiana; Clayton McMichael, Pennsylvania; F. T. Ledergerber, Missouri; Chas. G. Mayers, Wisconsin; F. M. Thompson, Illinois. Chaplain, Rev. John H. Lozier, Indiana.

General Palmer was then escorted to the chair, and made an able address on the objects of the Grand Army of the Republic. Additional committees were appointed as follows:

WORK AND RITUAL—J. L. Wilson, Indiana; F. T. Ledergerber, Missouri; B. F. Stephenson, Illinois; Clayton McMichael, Pennsylvania; Wm. Vandever, Iowa; H. K. Milward, Kentucky; Chas. G. Mayers, Wisconsin; J. L. Greene, Ohio.

RESOLUTIONS—John McNeil, Missouri; Charles Case, Indiana; R. G. Feltus, Pennsylvania; A. P. Alexander, Iowa; J. K. Proud-
fit, Wisconsin; A. L. Chetlain, Illinois; T. B. Fairleigh, Ken-
tucky; T. T. Taylor, Ohio.

The committees on Constitution and on Work and Ritual afterwards presented reports recommending sundry amendments to the Constitution and the Ritual. The title of the Constitution was changed to "Rules and Regulations." Representation in National Encampments was fixed on the basis of one representative at large from each Department, and one representative for each one thousand members therein. The Grand (afterwards Department) Commander, Senior and Junior Vice-Grand Commanders were constituted *ex officio* members. District organizations were retained, but without representation in Department Encampments. Department Encampments were to be composed of one delegate for every 25 members of the several Posts therein.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

We, the representatives of the Soldiers and Sailors of the military and naval service of the United States, during the late war against traitors, re-affirming our devotion to these States, the Constitution and the laws of our country, and our abhorrence of treason and oppression; Resolve,

First, That the Grand Army of the Republic is organized to maintain in civil life those great principles for which it stood in arms under the national flag; that it stands pledged to crush out active treason, to advance and support loyalty, to secure sound constitutional liberty to all men, and to vindicate everywhere, and at all times, the full and complete rights of every loyal American citizen, against all combinations of force or fraud that may attempt to deny or deprive them of such rights.

Second, That we pledge all the power and influence which, as individuals or as an association, we can legitimately yield, in the most especial manner to those gallant men who stood fast by the country in the hour of its agony, in the Rebellious States, and who, through all manner of losses and injuries, persecutions by force and persecutions under color of law, maintained their integrity and vindicated their loyalty; and we solemnly declare that no power that we can use shall be neglected until they are thoroughly and completely protected in the active exercise of every right of American freemen, through the entire country over which our flag floats.

Third, That Congress, in justice and not in charity, should pass a law equalizing in a just manner, the bounties of all Union Soldiers and Sailors.

Fourth, That we now, as heretofore, pledge ourselves to use our best endeavors to procure appropriate State and national legislation for the education and maintenance of the orphans and widows of our deceased comrades, and maimed brethren, and to

force a speedy adjustment and payment of all lawful claims against the Government due soldiers and sailors and their friends.

Fifth, That in our opinion no man is worthy to be a free citizen of a free country who is not willing to bear arms in its defense, and we therefore suggest to Congress the passage of a law making it the inexorable duty of every citizen to defend his country in time of need, in person and not by substitute.

Sixth, That as a matter of justice and right, and because the sacrifices made and dangers encountered by the Union soldiers and sailors who served in the late war for the preservation of the country, cannot ever be fully repaid, we respectfully ask that those in authority bestow upon needy and worthy soldiers and sailors such positions of honor and profit as they may be competent to fill; and while we seek nothing for ourselves, or those of our comrades who are able to maintain themselves, we do earnestly recommend this request to the consideration of those in authority. And we especially ask the attention of President Johnson to "his policy" heretofore declared on this subject.

The "Veteran Brotherhood" of Kansas, and the "Soldiers and Sailors Union" of New York, were invited by resolution to join the Grand Army of the Republic.

The following were elected officers of the National Encampment:

Commander-in-Chief, S. A. HURLBUT, Illinois; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, J. B. MCKEAN, New York; Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, R. S. FOSTER, Indiana; Adjutant-General, B. F. STEPHENSON, Illinois; Quartermaster-General, AUGUST WIL-
LICH, Ohio; Surgeon-General, D. C. MCNEIL, Iowa; Chaplain,
WILLIAM A. PILE, Missouri; Council of Administration—J. K. PROUDFIT, Wisconsin; WILLIAM VANDEVER, Iowa; T. O. OSBORN, Illinois; T. C. FLETCHER, Missouri; T. T. TAYLOR, Ohio; H. K. MILWARD, Kentucky; F. J. BRAMHALL, New York; NATHAN KIM-
BALL, Indiana; CLAYTON MCMICHAEL, Pennsylvania.

A public meeting was held in the evening, presided over by General Palmer. The War Governor of Indiana, OLIVER P. MORTON, was enthusiastically received, the audience rising and greeting him with hearty cheers.

Governor Morton expressed the great pleasure he felt in extending, on behalf of the State of Indiana, a welcome to the members of the Grand Army of the Republic. He said the army had saved the nation, and the result of the struggle had shown it to be the grandest army of any nation in the world, a citizen army which understood well the cause for which they drew their swords. "The country is now in a transition period, more truly so than at any other time. We are in the midst of a

revolution, not outside of the constitution, but such as occur within constitutions." Referring again to the services of the soldiers, he said: "The gratitude of the Government is due to the men who saved it, and that gratitude, he believed, would grow stronger and stronger as years increase. The crippled and maimed soldiers will be nourished and protected, and the apothegm that 'republics are ungrateful' proven false in the case of America, which will take care of those to whom it owes its national existence."

General Palmer feelingly replied to the remarks of Governor Morton, and said that every soldier had learned to know and respect him as their friend, and a hopeful believer in the success of the Republic even in the darkest hours. He said that Governor Morton would be ever gratefully remembered by the people for his services during the war.

Addresses were made by General Hurlbut, General August Willich, and General H. D. Washburn.

The officers elected at Indianapolis were all representative soldiers, whose names and influence at a period free from the all-pervading political excitement, would certainly have secured the fullest confidence of the veterans of the country and assured success from the first.

General STEPHEN A. HURLBUT, Commander-in-Chief, was born in Charleston, South Carolina, November 29, 1815. He studied law in the office of Judge James L. Pettigru, in Charleston, and entered into practice in that city. He enlisted as a Sergeant with a volunteer company in the Florida War, and before the term expired was assigned to staff duty as Lieutenant. In 1847 he removed to Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, and immediately secured a lucrative law practice.

He was a leading member of the Illinois convention in 1847, and presidential elector on the Whig ticket in 1848. He served in the State Legislature in 1859-1861, and again in 1867. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he commanded a local militia company at Belvidere, and was at Springfield when the first call was made for troops. He telegraphed his company, asking them to enlist, and they responded almost to a man, becoming Company B, 15th Illinois Infantry. Early in 1861 he had visited Charleston upon a special mission at the request of President-elect Abraham Lincoln. His old preceptor, Judge Pettigru, strongly opposed the secession



GROUP OF NATIONAL OFFICERS, 1866.

his State, and during the whole period of the Rebellion was unflinching in his devotion to the Union.

On May 27, 1861, Captain Hurlbut was commissioned by the President Brigadier-General United States Volunteers, and was placed on duty in Missouri, where his vigorous measures in punishing the community responsible for wrecking railroad trains, and his order freeing the slaves within his command, gave offense to the earnest defenders of the Union. He was afterwards placed in command of the 4th Division, Army of the Tennessee, and was first to debark at Pittsburg landing. In the battle of Shiloh Hurlbut's Division held the key-point of the battle-field against great odds, repulsing the enemy's frequent attacks, until, when he was compelled to retire, doing so in good order and maintaining his division and brigade organizations intact.

For bravery and skill at Shiloh he was promoted Major-General. After the evacuation of Corinth he was placed in command of the 16th Army Corps, and had command at Memphis, Tennessee. He was in command of the Department of the Gulf in 1864-1865, succeeding General Banks, and was mustered-out of service on 20, 1865. He resumed practice at Belvidere until 1869, when he was appointed by President Grant Minister of the United States at Bogota, United States of Columbia. He returned home in 1872, was elected to Congress, and was re-elected in 1876. He was appointed by President Garfield Envoy Extraordinary to the Republic of Peru. He died of paralysis of the heart in Chili, March 27, 1882. His body was brought to his home at Belvidere, Illinois, for interment.

Colonel JAMES B. MCKEAN, Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, was born in Hoosic, Rensselaer county, New York, August 5, 1821. During his infancy his parents removed to and settled upon the battle-field of Saratoga. When he was twenty-three years of age he was elected Colonel of the 144th Regiment, New York State Militia, and so served for a number of years. He studied law, and was admitted to practice in 1849, and thereafter followed his profession at Saratoga Springs. In 1858 he was elected Representative in Congress for the 15th District, New York State, and was re-elected in 1860, and served until after the battle of Bull Run, when he returned to his home, and issued to his constituents a stirring and patriotic appeal, following that by offering his own services in any way he could be most useful. The 77th New York

Volunteer Regiment was at once formed, and he was tendered and accepted command, leaving with his regiment for the front in November, 1861. He remained in command until July 23, 1863, when he was compelled to resign by reason of long-continued suffering from malaria contracted in the service, and from which he never fully recovered. While in the field he participated with his command in several battles and skirmishes, notably that of Mechanicsville, when the regiment made a dashing and successful charge. In 1865, being still in ill health, he was sent by President Lincoln to Spanish America on a mission relating to the ratification of a treaty with the Government of Honduras, and afterwards Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, tendered him the position of Consul to San Domingo, which he declined. In 1870 President Grant appointed him Chief Justice of Utah, in which office he served five years, after which he practiced his profession in Salt Lake City until his decease, January 5, 1879. He was buried in Salt Lake City, and his wife, Kate Hay McKean, survived him but nineteen days. A leading newspaper in Salt Lake City said of him, in announcing his decease: "Friends and enemies alike remember him as the courtly and cultured gentleman, the pure patriot, the blameless citizen, the sincere and unaffected Christian. He was ever calm, heroic, and self-sustained, kindly in his nature, universal in his sympathies, and above the follies of common humanity. His connection with the Grand Army of the Republic is stated in the account of the Department of New York.

ROBERT S. FOSTER, Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, entered the service as Captain, Company A, 11th Indiana Zouaves. On July 3, 1861, he was commissioned Major of the 13th Indiana, and was engaged in the battle of Rich Mountain, West Virginia, and commanded his regiment as Lieutenant-Colonel in the battle of Winchester. He commanded a Division during the siege of Suffolk, was promoted Brigadier-General, June, 1863, and was then actively engaged in Virginia. He commanded a Brigade during the siege of Forts Wagner and Sumter, South Carolina. On being transferred to Virginia he was for a time Chief of Staff, 10th Army Corps, Army of the James, and again of the 24th Corps. He had also command of a Division in the 10th Corps, and during the pursuit of Lee's army commanded the 1st Division, 24th Army Corps, which, on the morning of April 9, was placed across the Lynchburg road and met and repulsed Gordon and Field's Divi-

of Longstreet's Corps, which had broken through the lines of the cavalry.

General Foster was on duty on the Military Commission for the trial of the Conspirators charged with the assassination of President Lincoln. Brevetted Major-General March 13, 1865; resigned from the service September, 1865. Has since been in business in Indianapolis. Was Provisional Commander, Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, 1866, and Department Commander, 1868.

General AUGUST WILICH, Quartermaster-General, was born in Eastern Prussia, and received a thorough military education. He came to the United States in 1853, and for a time worked as a carpenter in Eastern New York. He entered the service as a private in the 9th Ohio, but his military training brought him quick promotion, first as Adjutant and then Major. He was then transferred to Indiana, and commissioned Colonel 32d Indiana Volunteers. Was promoted to be Brigadier-General, July 17, 1862, for conspicuous gallantry in leading a brilliant charge at Pittsburgh Landing. It is claimed that he gave the orders for the storming of Mission Ridge on finding that his men could not remain in the positions assigned them. He was brevetted Major-General, October 21, 1865, and mustered-out January 15, 1866. He commanded a brigade in 2d Division, 14th Army Corps, the 3d Division, 4th Army Corps, and 2d Division, 20th Army Corps. At Resaca he was badly wounded in the shoulder, which prevented further service in the field. His record was remarkably brilliant. He is now deceased.

Major D. C. MCNEIL, Surgeon-General, was born in Springfield, Illinois, January 16, 1825. He served in the Mexican War. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he was Captain of an independent company at De Witt, Iowa, and was afterwards appointed Captain 1st United States Lancers. Was appointed Assistant Surgeon, 15th Iowa, August 19, 1862, and resigned in May, 1863. In February, 1865, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon, 2d United States Volunteer Infantry, and afterward Surgeon; mustered-out November 6, 1865. Is now at Osceola, Missouri.

General WILLIAM A. PILE, elected Chaplain, entered the service in 1861 as Chaplain 1st Missouri Infantry. Was afterwards ap-

pointed Colonel 53d Missouri Volunteers. Brigadier-General from December 26, 1863, and Brevet Major-General, April 9, 1865. Mustered-out August 24, 1865. After the war he was elected Member of Congress from the First District, Missouri. Was appointed by President Grant Minister to Venezuela, and after a few years of service resigned to engage in business. He is now living in California.

CHAPTER VI.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF S. A. HURLBUT.
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION, PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 15, 1868.

HEADQUARTERS were retained at Springfield, under the charge of Adjutant-General Stephenson.

General Hurlbut, engrossed in his own affairs, was unable to devote the time required for personal supervision or direction of the work at Headquarters during this, probably the most critical period in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic, and though Adjutant-General Stephenson was thoroughly devoted to the Order, it was evident that he greatly lacked in the requisites for the methodical conduct of office business.

Applications for advice, instructions, and requisitions for supplies, were not promptly attended to, and the work of organization was thus greatly retarded. The larger Departments found it necessary to print Rituals, Rules and other supplies for their Posts.

The failure to convene the National Encampment during the year gave occasion for considerable criticism, and a number of leading comrades felt it necessary to strongly advise the Commander-in-chief of the evil consequences of such delay.

A conference of influential members was held in Philadelphia to consider this matter, and the consent of Senior Vice-Commander-in-chief McKean was obtained to a proposition that he should himself convene the Encampment if another appeal to Headquarters should pass unheeded. The necessity for such action was, however, averted by the issue of the following:

GENERAL ORDERS } No. 46.	HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, } ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, December 2, 1867. }
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It is hereby ordered that the annual meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic be held in the city of Philadelphia on the 15th day of January, 1868.

The attention of Department Commanders is very respectfully called to Section One, Article Sixteen, Rules and Regulations of the Order, and they are hereby required to call a meeting of their respective Departments, if not already done, prior

to said meeting, in order that they may elect their delegates in accordance with Article, and be fully represented, as business of importance will be presented to the meeting.

By order of STEPHEN A. HURLBUT,
Commander-in-Chief.
B. F. STEPHENSON,
Adjutant-General.

The meeting was held in the Assembly Buildings, southwest corner Tenth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia. Commander-in-chief Hurlbut presided.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

Joshua T. Owen, Pennsylvania; James G. Blunt, Kansas; Henry B. Banning, Ohio; Geo. W. Palmer, New York; and Robert W. Smith, Illinois.

DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED.

Connecticut, 6; Delaware, 4; Illinois, 36; Indiana, 22; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 2; Maine, 6; Massachusetts, 4; Maryland, 5; Michigan, 2; Minnesota, 5; Missouri, 7; New Hampshire, 3; New York, 14; New Jersey, 5; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvania, 8; Potomac, 5; Rhode Island, 5; Tennessee, 3; Wisconsin, 4. Total, 21 Departments and 186 Representatives.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was referred back with instructions—1st, on motion of Comrade Moorehouse, of Kansas, to omit the military titles of comrades; and, 2d, on motion of Comrade D. E. Sickles, New York, to receive the names of "ex officio members." It is not shown what names, if any were added to the amended report.

Adjutant-General Stephenson presented the following:

REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL, G. A. R., U. S.*

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
SPRINGFIELD, ILLS., Jan. 10, 1868.

To the Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, through their representatives in National Convention assembled, greeting:

The Adjutant-General, in presenting this the first official report of the rise and progress of the glorious Order now represented in National Convention, approaches

* The MSS of this report was not among the papers turned over. The above extract was copied from the files of the "Ohio Republic" by Adjutant-General Chipman.—AUTHOR.

subject with extreme diffidence, feeling himself, as he does, unable to do the justice it deserves.

In the spring of 1866 a few patriots, deeply feeling the importance of organizing a grand association of the gallant Union soldiers and sailors of the late terrible war, for the purpose of fostering fraternal relations, and keeping alive the zeal and devotion to our country, and above all for the purpose of mutual aid and assistance in clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and furnishing relief to destitute, sick and wounded comrades, and caring for the widows and orphans of our gallant dead, formed their plans, and publicly calling on all interested, on the 13th day of July, 1866, met in Convention in the Representatives in the State capitol at Springfield, Ills., and then, and there, formed the nucleus of the grand organization here represented in Convention, and which, from that time its origin now extends an influence of great power throughout nearly every State and Territory in our country.

Your present Adjutant-General was honored by the appointment as Provisional Commander-in-Chief. With but crude materials at his command (mere local influence and but little pecuniary means) aided by a few noble workers, he succeeded in a few months in establishing Provisional Departments in several States and Territories, and placing them in good working order. The Boys in Blue saw the importance of the Organization, and as they flew to arms when Sumter fell, so did they soon flock to our ranks. But the material was crude, our ranks but as raw recruits, and the importance of a more thorough organization was keenly felt. So the first National Convention was called to convene in the city of Indianapolis, Ind., on the 20th day of November, 1866, and then and there the Grand Army of the Republic received its official recognition. The officers for the current year were elected, a Council of Administration appointed, a Constitution and Regulations adopted, and the noble ship, with its precious freight of charity and fraternal love, with the stars and stripes hoisted to the mast, was launched upon the great sea of human events, and right away has the gallant bark done duty since that time; though she has passed through many bitter engagements with her ancient enemies, the traitor ship and crew, and is still assailed by those who should have been her friends, *her flag is still there!*

From information derived from numerous letters received daily at my office from every part of our land, I am highly gratified in stating my belief that our Organization is rapidly gaining in strength and importance, and through its instrumentality thousands of starving widows and orphans have been fed and clothed, while other thousands of our poor, helpless, crippled comrades have been placed in positions where they could earn their own bread, who, but for our instrumentality, would have been left to seek their support from the cold hand of charity, and the Union soldier would have had to beg. I would also state that all the documents, files of correspondence, books, &c., remaining in my office, will be held subject to the requisition of my successor.

In conclusion, I would offer my hearty congratulations for the unprecedented success of our Organization, so dear to the heart of every patriot soldier, and earnestly trust that the deliberations of this body may prove harmonious, and such action measured as will better develop the power and influence of our Order for good throughout our land.

Fraternally,

B. F. STEPHENSON,
Adj't-Gen'l G. A. R., U. S.

FINANCES.

The financial statement showed receipts, \$352; disbursements, \$1,637.56; deficiency, \$1,285.56. The receipts were from the following Departments: Louisiana, \$130; Pennsylvania, \$70; Kansas, \$50; Ohio, \$20; Missouri, \$17; New Jersey, \$13; Michigan, \$10; Minnesota, \$10; Nebraska, \$10; West Virginia, \$10; Massachusetts, \$8; Wisconsin, \$4.

Expenditures were: For printing, \$539.65; clerk-hire, \$638.66; office rent and expenses, \$459.25.

The report of such meagre receipts was a surprise to the members of the Encampment. It proved that something was radically wrong in the system of taxation, or else in the method, or lack of method, of collecting. It was evident that the work of organization had been hampered by poverty of means, and that a remedy must be promptly applied.

The delinquent Departments represented over 1,400 Posts. The Committee on Finance, Comrade Nathan Kimball, Indiana, Chairman, recommended the immediate assessment of one dollar upon each Post to liquidate the indebtedness.

The result of this assessment, as shown in the report for the following year was the collection of but \$302, the following Departments only, paying their assessments: California, \$6; Connecticut, \$18; Maine, \$12; Maryland, \$11; Massachusetts, \$43; Michigan, \$29; New Hampshire, \$1; New York, \$55; Pennsylvania, \$99; Potomac, \$3; Rhode Island, \$10; Tennessee, \$5; Wisconsin, \$10.

Comrade J. T. Owen, of Philadelphia, then personally advanced to Major Stephenson \$500 in cash, and paid bills for printing Rituals, etc., amounting to nearly \$1,400. Three years time was required to repay the money so advanced.

During the session of the Encampment a communication was received from the National Council, Union League of America, a secret political association, inviting a conference "for the purpose of securing co-operative action between the Grand Army and the Union League of America."

The invitation was referred to a committee consisting of C. B. Lippincott, Illinois; J. B. McKean, New York; Nathan Kimball, Indiana; Jno. F. Hartrauft, Pennsylvania, and Jas. Shaw, Rhode Island. The committee, after consideration, decided that no action should be taken on the proposition.

RULES AND REGULATIONS AND RITUAL.

The names of members appointed on these committees are not recorded, but the reports were made by General Theo. B. Gates, New York, as Chairman of the Committee on Rules, and by Major S. Cushman, Massachusetts, Chairman of Committee on Ritual. District organizations were abolished. A proposition to change the terms of the Declaration of Principles which would show the Order to be non-partisan, gave rise to a heated discussion which threatened to lead to a disruption; one side claiming that the organization should be avowedly political in its objects, the other, while as desirous of upholding "the rights of the defenders of their country by all moral, social and political means in our control," took the ground that partisanship had practically destroyed the Order in the West, and would have the same effect elsewhere, and that the organization could not be maintained while there was any ground for the popular belief that it was a secret political society. The amendment "that this association does not design to make nominations for office or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes," was finally carried. The Article prohibiting the introduction of any partisan questions was incorporated in the Rules at the next session.

Comrades A. S. Cushman, Massachusetts, and T. Wentworth Higginson, Rhode Island, as a sub-committee, presented a revised Ritual, which was adopted by the Encampment without change.

RESOLUTIONS.

Comrade N. P. Chipman, Chairman, presented the following from the Committee on Resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas, we believe the loyal people of this country bear the citizen soldiery in grateful remembrance, and heartily accord to them all honor for their heroic sacrifices to save the nation, and wherever the question of merit is equally balanced would prefer to see honorably discharged soldiers and sailors promoted to places of trust and profit; and,

Whereas, by the experience of the past two years we are painfully admonished that public officials, and those possessing the power to appoint to and remove from office, almost wholly ignore service in the late army and navy against rebellion as a qualification for office, and sometimes treat such service as a positive disqualification: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we most earnestly recommend this subject to Congress as deserving speedy action.

Resolved, That we regard it the duty of Congress to provide, by some regulation of the civil offices, so that honorable service as a soldier or sailor of the country may constitute a qualification for appointment, and that in the several Departments of the

Government a definite and equitable number from this class of citizens be chosen from the list of applicants, if shown to possess the requisite skill and fitness.

Resolved, That Congress be requested to so frame the law as to protect our comrades now in civil employment of the Government from being discriminated against by those having the authority to remove them in any future reduction of the number in such civil employment.

Resolved, That this resolution be engrossed, and a copy thereof certified and sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the request that they be laid before that honorable body as the sense of the citizen soldiery of the country, and with the urgent petition that Senators and Representatives give this matter their early and earnest attention.

Comrade E. Y. Goldsborough, of Maryland, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted :

Whereas, arrangements are being perfected by State legislation and otherwise to inter in the Antietam National Cemetery the remains of those rebels who were killed in the vicinity of said cemetery; and,

Whereas, we feel that respect to our fallen comrades requires us to oppose any such movement, and to protect their ashes from insult: Therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Grand Army of the Republic, in convention assembled, That we demand from Congress such legislation as will forever prevent the burial, in any of the national cemeteries, of any person other than the deceased soldiers and sailors of the Republic, for whom they were intended, by placing said cemeteries under the control of the general Government, or by such other mode as to them shall seem best to accomplish the object herein sought.

Resolved, That copies of this preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the President of the Senate of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the immediate action of said bodies.

Resolutions were adopted thanking General J. P. C. Shanks, Indiana, for the introduction of a bill in Congress to furnish disabled soldiers and sailors requiring them, artificial limbs at the expense of the United States; to the Common Council of Philadelphia for the use of their chamber in Independence Hall for the closing meetings of the Encampment; and heartily commending the proposition to erect a National Monument at Springfield to the memory of the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln.

The UNION LEAGUE of Philadelphia extended a courteous invitation to the Encampment to visit the League House. The secretary, George H. Boker, in forwarding the invitation, said: "The freedom of our house is offered to your members individually, at all times, during the sessions of your useful and patriotic convention in this city."

The thanks of the Encampment were tendered the Union League for their hospitality.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following were elected officers: Commander-in-Chief, John W. Hurlbut, Illinois; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Joshua T. W. Hurlbut, Pennsylvania; Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Jos. R. W. Hurlbut, Connecticut; Adjutant-General, N. P. Chipman, Potomac; Director-General, Edward Jardine, New Jersey; Quartermaster-General, Edward Jardine, New Jersey; Quartermaster-General, T. C. Campbell, Ohio; Surgeon-General, Dr. John Bell, Ohio; Chaplain-General, Rev. A. H. Quint, Massachusetts.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION.

Connecticut, E. W. Whitaker; Illinois, Julius C. White; Indiana, Chas. Cruft; Iowa, Thos. I. Sanders; Kansas, Jno. A. Marshall; Louisiana, H. C. Warmouth; Maryland, A. W. Denison; Massachusetts, M. T. Wentworth; Massachusetts, A. S. Cushman; Michigan, William Phelps; Minnesota, J. A. Ege; Missouri, T. C. W. Hurlbut; New Hampshire, D. J. Vaughn; New Jersey, G. Cummins; New York, Theo. B. Gates; Ohio, H. B. Banning; Pennsylvania, Jno. E. Hartranft; Potomac, N. P. Chipman; Rhode Island, James Shaw, Jr.; Tennessee, H. D. Grant; Wisconsin, J. Proudfit.