

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

Vol. 7-5

April 2014

WESTERN

TRIBUNE



Sons of Union  
Veterans  
of the Civil  
War

Department of CO/WY  
5715 Eldora Drive  
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Department Council



## Commander's Comments:

Arrangements have been completed for our Department Encampment this coming June. It will be held 7 June from noon till 4 pm in Aurora, CO at the Martin Luther King, Jr Library. Brother Alan Russ, our National Secretary will be the Installing Officer. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We'll send out a map and directions as we get closer to the date.

Any Brother wishing to serve as a Department Officer (elected or appointed) should contact me at [barkler944@msn.com](mailto:barkler944@msn.com). Job descriptions for the various offices can be found on the National website at <http://suvcw.org/cd-jobs/jobs2.htm>.

Those with sharp eyes will notice that we are no longer dating the Western Tribune by season, rather we are using the month in which it is published.

Memorial Day will soon be upon us. Camps should be planning appropriate observances. Send me a report on what you did with any photos you have and we'll print it in the next issue.

*"If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us."* - Gen John A. Logan

## Jim Barker



## North Carolina's African-American Civil War Veterans Honored

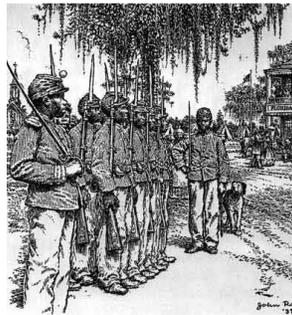
by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

The First North Carolina Colored Volunteer Regiment was honored with a highway historical marker in New Bern, North Carolina on 9 Nov 2013.

The sign reads, "First North Carolina Colored Volunteers: State's first regiment of black Union soldiers rallied here on July 23, 1863. In 1864, designated 35th U.S. Colored Troops."



The unit, made up of ex-slaves from coastal areas of Virginia and the Carolinas, was initially organized as the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Colored Volunteers in the summer of 1863. It was trained by members of the 54<sup>th</sup> MA Inf., its partner in Montgomery's Brigade. Colonel James Beecher, half-brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*), commanded the regiment. The Colored Ladies Relief Association of New Bern stitched a flag designed by Harriet Beecher Stowe for the regiment. That flag no longer exists, but an interpretation from a description of the flag was commissioned by the NC Museum of History for the dedication ceremony.



The unit had participated in siege operations against Charleston, primarily as laborers and garrison troops. On 8 February 1864, it was re-designated as the 35th U.S.C.T. but continued to be known as the 1 NC Colored Volunteers. On 20 Feb 1864, the regiment participated in its first major battle – the Battle of Olustee –under its second in command, Lt Col William Reed. At Olustee, the 35th U.S.C.T. lost 230 men while, along with the 54th Massachusetts, covering the retreat of the Federal army. Lieutenant Colonel Reed was wounded during the battle, and later died of his wounds while in hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina, on 27 February.

During the rest of 1864–1865 the unit garrisoned positions in South Carolina and Florida and fought in several smaller engagements, including those at Black Creek and St. John's River. The 35th participated in the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, on 30 November 1864. The 35th U.S.C.T. mustered out of service on 1 June 1866.

## Frederick J. Bancroft, M.D. First Commander of the GAR Department of Colorado

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

Frederick J. Bancroft was born May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1834, in Enfield, CT. His ancestors were among the early settlers of New England. He was educated at the Westfield (MA) Academy and the Charlotteville (NY) Seminary. He received his medical degree from the University of Buffalo (NY), graduating in February 1861.

He began his medical practice in the mining town of Blakely, PA in April 1861. He enlisted in the Army on 13 Nov 1861 and was commissioned an Assistant Surgeon. Shortly after beginning his military service, the Surgeon-General of Pennsylvania detailed him, as officer in command, to take charge of the Church Hospital in Harrisburg. In the spring of 1862, he was ordered to the 76 PA Inf at Hilton Head, SC. He was given medical charge of the troops at Pinckney Island, Seabrook and Elliot's plantations. He also saw action at the battle of Secessionville. On 30 Sep 1862 he was commissioned Surgeon of the 3 PA Hy Art (aka 152 PA Vol.). Ordered to New York City he was given charge of portions of the 4 & 7 NH Inf regiments who were infected with yellow fever. He was next assigned to Philadelphia as Examining Surgeon of Recruits until the spring of 1863 when he organized a hospital for Confederate prisoners at Fort Delaware. Rejoining the 3 PA Hy Art at Camp Hamilton, VA, he participated in the siege of Plymouth, the capture of Fort Fisher and the Appomattox Campaign. Before the end of the war, he was made Post Surgeon of Fortress Monroe, VA. When Jefferson Davis was interned in the fortress, he objected to Dr. Bancroft on account of his politics and Connecticut birth so another doctor had to be brought in to attend him. Dr. Bancroft was discharged from the Union Army on 10 Oct 1865.

Dr. Bancroft arrived in Denver on 1 June 1866, where he established a private practice and quickly became the town's default physician-in-

charge for more than a decade. On October 21, 1866, Dr. Frederick J. Bancroft accepted the first of many public service positions — he became Arapahoe County physician (1866-1869). As part of his private practice, Dr. Bancroft served as surgeon for the Wells, Fargo & Company Stage Lines and then for the Kansas Pacific and Denver Pacific Railroads (1870-1876) — and for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad as well beginning in 1870.

Dr. Bancroft's widely republished articles about Colorado's beneficial climate for invalids were said to have been responsible for more people moving to Colorado than any other single factor.



### Frederick J. Bancroft

#### GAR Department Commander 1868-1875

Dr. Bancroft helped organized the first GAR Post in Colorado in 1868 and was elected its first Post Commander. Later that year he was appointed Commander of the Provisional Department of Colorado by CinC John A. Logan. He was also a member of MOLLUS.

In 1872, Dr. Frederick J. Bancroft became Denver City physician, a position he would hold until 1879 except for a short break between 1876 and 1877. In collaboration with the Denver Medical Association he became notably aggressive in promoting public health in Denver during the 1870s. Dr. Bancroft is credited with creating Denver's public health system during the late 19th century

despite the apathy of city officials. In 1872, he recommended that Denver require that prostitutes be licensed based on regular physical exams and testing, estimating that "probably every third man who reaches the age of twenty-five has acquired . . . syphilis" in one of the city's numerous brothels. The City Fathers, in their wisdom, rejected his recommendation. In his 1873 report, he complained of the filth accumulating in the city's yards & alleys, calling it a "reproach to the board of health and a disgrace to the city government." On May 15, 1874, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that Denver city officials did nothing after receiving Dr. Bancroft's report. In his 1875 annual report, Dr. Bancroft said that didn't want saloons to stay open all night, and he didn't want them to serve minors, but he couldn't get that legislation either.

In February 1876, Governor John L. Routt signed into law legislation that created a Territorial Board of Health, and appointed Dr. Bancroft board president. A year later, Colorado's first General Assembly established a Colorado State Board of Health with Dr. Bancroft as its first president.

Frederick J. Bancroft, MD, founded, in 1879, the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado, which later became the Colorado Historical Society and then simply "History Colorado." Dr. Bancroft was its president for seventeen years. In 1880, he was elected President of the Colorado State Medical Society during its meeting in Denver. In 1881 he was one of the founders and original faculty members of Colorado's first medical school — the University of Denver and Colorado Seminary Medical Department.

### **Robert Ball Anderson: Ex-Slave, Nebraska Pioneer, and GAR Comrade**

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

Robert Ball Anderson was born 1 March 1843. He grew up as a slave with his four siblings on the plantation of Col Robert Ball, a Revolutionary War veteran, in Green County, Kentucky. His father was a slave on the neighboring plantation of Alfred Anderson, one of the largest slave holders in the Commonwealth.

On January 16, 1903, Frederick J. Bancroft, MD, 69 — who had served in Denver for 37 years, one of Colorado's most accomplished and respected physicians — died of heart disease in San Diego, California. Dr. Bancroft was buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Denver.



Dr. Bancroft was not the only prominent member of his family. His son, George J. Bancroft, was a friend and confidant of Herbert Hoover. His granddaughter, Caroline Bancroft, born September 11, 1900 in Denver, authored about two dozen booklets and books on the history of Colorado. When she wasn't writing, Caroline was actively involved in saving historic Colorado buildings. Her efforts included attempts to restore the Central City Opera House and the Matchless Mine property in Leadville. Described as a "vibrant, opinionated woman", she was embroiled in controversies and feuds and was one of the most photographed women of her day. She died October 8, 1985. Caroline's sister, Peggy Bancroft LeBaron was a Ziegfeld girl and an aspiring model and actress. She later became a public figure in Washington D.C. where she and her husband socialized with presidents & their wives and other notables.

Robert's mother, a house servant, lived with five children in a cabin measuring a base 12 square feet. At the age of 6, his mother after incurring the displeasure of her mistress, was sold and carried off to the cane fields of Louisiana. He never saw her again. In 1864, as Union forces came to dominate Kentucky, Robert ran away from the plantation. He enlisted in Co. G, 125 USCT as Robert Ball. His regiment saw no combat, the war having ended before their training was complete. The remainder of his enlistment was spent in the "West" patrolling the frontier and chasing Indians in New Mexico and Texas. In 1867, the regiment marched back across the plains to Louisville, KY where Robert was discharged.



**From Rags to Riches**

Robert Ball Anderson (1843–1930) was born into slavery and walked off his master's Kentucky plantation to join the Union Army. After the Civil War, Anderson claimed a homestead. For five years he battled locusts and droughts. His first farm failed and he left. Anderson then worked three years as a farm laborer. Anderson tried homesteading again and became a success. By 1918, he owned more than 2,080 acres, then the largest black landowner in Nebraska.

Anderson's homestead is honored by a Plaque at the Homestead National Monument

After his discharge, he wandered the Midwest and working on a farm in Iowa. In 1870, now calling himself Robert Anderson (he and his siblings had taken the name of their father), he filed a homestead claim in Butler Co., NE south of the Platte River. He worked his claim for ten years until drought and locusts forced him to give it up. The next three years were spent as a farmhand in Kansas, saving his money and taking the opportunity to get "some schooling". At the age of 41, he decided it was time to

try his luck at homesteading once more. Having exhausted his rights under the Homestead Act, he took up a tree claim near Hemingford in Box Butte County in Nebraska's panhandle, under the Tree Culture Act which proved land to those who would plant 10 acres in trees. Like many government programs, then as now, designed by bureaucrats with little practical knowledge, the plan to change the nature of the prairie did not live up to its promise. The trees he planted did not flourish. He found employment with the Burlington Railroad for the next three years. Although he saved all his money, he lost it by making a bad loan. Returning to his sod house, he determined to make a go of his farm. By living frugally and some shrewd negotiating he managed to double his acreage by 1889. By 1900, he had added an additional three quarters of land. Two years later, his property consisted of more than two full sections, 1440 acres. By 1918, he had added four more quarters, bringing his total to 2080 acres. He was the largest black landowner in the state. He was also very adept at organizing his holdings. Although located in various townships, all his land was connected.



*Robert Ball Anderson, about 1925.*

In 1920, Anderson "quit farming". He sold off his livestock and farm equipment and leased his ranch to George Jessen, a friend who had shared living quarters with him, for three years. He be-

gan travelling, visiting the Ball plantation for the last time at age 70.

Anderson was not the only black man living in Box Butte County. The black population of the county in 1910 was just 55. Still, he was not treated as a curiosity. Not many settlers pre-dated Anderson in the county. He, along with a select few had triumphed over adversity. He shared in the approbation accorded these pioneers. His association with the GAR was also significant. Many Union veterans had relocated to the Nebraska panhandle. He along with them were held in special regard accorded places of respect.



*Robert Ball Anderson (left) and members of the Hemingford GAR, December 4, 1930. Courtesy of Hemingford Ledger.*

"Though Anderson had not seen action during the war, his military record was solid. His military accomplishments were enhanced by his life in bondage and escape from slavery to join the Union cause. A fixture in the annual Memorial Day ceremonies, Anderson epitomized for many what the Civil War was about - slavery and equality."<sup>1</sup>

In February 1922, Anderson met his bride-to-be, Daisy Graham at his brother's home in Forrest City, AR. Daisy was the oldest of eight children of poor John Graham. Thirty days later, on March 19, they were married. She was 21, he 79. In April, they returned to the ranch in Hemingford, then valued at \$61,000. It was not long before Daisy's relatives came to live with the couple. Anderson once again entered the livestock business, running cattle and a few horses with Daisy taking a greater hand in the management. In 1928,

along with many other nearby farmers, she began preparing more land for crops. She ran tractors around the clock; hired help worked from morning to night, when they were replaced her brothers. That spring an entire section was prepared for planting. While not a bad decision, the purchase of farm equipment as well as other expenses combined to drain off much of Anderson's capital. All of his land was heavily mortgaged. Exacerbating the cash flow problem, Mrs. Anderson and her family had developed expensive tastes. As a bachelor, Anderson had never felt a need to buy a motor car, relying instead on his wagon and team. However, between 1923 and 1930 Anderson bought several Buicks. Although the income from the sale of the new crops helped cancel the existing mortgages, much of Anderson's land remained mortgaged for the rest of his life.

Daisy encouraged her husband to write his memoirs. In 1927, the *Hemingford Ledger* printed a small 57-page narrative dealing primarily with Anderson's life as a slave in Kentucky. Anderson closed his autobiography by expressing satisfaction with his life and current condition: "I am getting old now, and can't do much work. I have a good farm, well stocked with plenty of horses, cows, and farming machinery, with shade trees, fruit trees, grapes, berries, and have money in the bank to tide me over my old age when I am unable to earn more .... I am a rich man today, at least rich enough for my own needs."

By March, 1930, Anderson had deeded his property to his wife, who became the legal owner of the Anderson ranch. Eight months later, Anderson, his wife, her brother and a friend were traveling by car in eastern Nebraska. On Sunday, November 30, near Union, a small town 40 miles east of Lincoln, the car left the road and overturned in loose gravel. Daisy was bruised and Ernest Graham, who was driving, escaped unhurt. Robert Anderson died en route to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln. Anderson was 87 years old. The Hemingford newspaper reported that the community was "shocked" at news of Anderson's death. The accident and his obituary were given frontpage coverage, accompanied by a picture of Anderson and GAR members of homesteading years. Of the 13 men in the photograph, only A. M. Miller survived Anderson.

When his remains arrived in Hemingford on December 3, a vast number of friends gathered at the depot and his home to greet the war veteran. The church was packed for the services the next day. Anderson's body was buried with military honors at the cemetery. The Chaplain of the GAR Department of Nebraska from Omaha and the Chaplain of the Alliance Post conducted the ceremony.



Later the standard engraved granite marker provided by the US government for veterans was set in place. It reads, "Robert Ball [the name Anderson used while in the service], 125th Colored Infantry, Co. G."

**The following article appeared in the *Colorado Transcript* (Golden, CO) on 16 Nov 1905**

**BLUE AND GRAY ARE NOW UNITED  
FORMAL RETURN OF CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG  
Veterans of Both Armies Cheer as the Stars and Bars are Turned to Brave Defenders of  
Forty-one Years ago.**

The long talked of return of a confederate flag captured in Missouri by a troop of the Second Colorado cavalry was consummated at old Lincoln Hall, in Denver, last Saturday evening, in the

presence of a large number of those who wore the blue and the gray in the fearful struggle for supremacy from 1861 to 1865, together with many of their families, relatives and friends.

The capacious hall was beautifully decorated with banks of choice chrysanthemums, palms and flowering plants, through the generosity of John M. Kuykendall, of Denver, the son of one of the principle actors in the function. The wall in the rear of the platform was draped with "Old Glory" in various forms and the little confederate battle flag to be returned to its brave defenders. Prominent among the decorations was the flag of the Second Colorado cavalry, carried by our boys in so many hard fought battles. It had been riddled by shot and shell, but still shows up brightly in the eyes of those who marched and fought so long beneath its folds. It is now kept at the capitol, in the war relic room, and was kindly loaned for this occasion by Col. Ferguson\*, the custodian, as this affair was strictly a Second Colorado – Missouri Confederate affair.

The occasion was projected for the purpose of a mingling of the Blue and the Gray, and was a howling success from the start to finish; with the color scheme was even carried out in the printing of the programs for the evening's entertainment, as they were printed with blue ink upon gray paper, and with a picture of the two principal actors of the evening standing on either side of the flag to be returned, and these two veterans still further illustrated the scheme by wearing blue eyes and gray beards and hair.

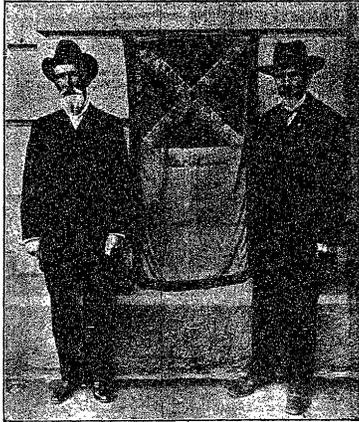
In describing the proceedings of the evening we cannot do better than to copy the fair and concise report of it given in Sunday morning's Denver Post, which it printed under the following displayed headlines:

"Blue and Gray are Comrades – Foes of '61 Fraternize at the Restoration of a Captured Battle Flag – But One Dissenter Heard – Evening Spent by Old Warriors Living Again the Days When Each was the Others Deadly Enemy"

"Amid soul-stirring ceremonies, where many a gray head was bowed to hide honest tears coursing down battle-scarred-red faces the Confederate flag captured by the Second Colorado Cavalry in the Civil War was returned by the victors to the vanquished at Lincoln Hall last night. There was only one dissenting voice, at that was when J. Lew Taylor of the G.A.R. spoke against the holding up of a rebel flag for the admiration of a future generation.

"A storm of cries and denunciations from heroes of both North and South cut short his speech and he was compelled to take his seat amid the greatest indignation.

"Advancing from both sides of the platform, Capt. George West\*\* of the second Colorado Cavalry and Maj W. L. Kuykendall of Col. J. C. Thornton's Battalion of Missouri Troops met in the center of the stage and with fervent handshake greeted each other. The two representatives of the once hostile armies told, in short addresses, incidents leading up to the capture of the flag and the heroic work of both divisions of troops.



L-R: W. L. Kuykendall, Late Adjutant, Thornton's MO Troops; George West, Late Capt, 2d Colo Cav

"Rent with bullets and torn with shells, the flag which had urged the Confederates on in hundreds of battles, was draped above the united leaders of the troops which practically fought out the great war in the west. When the actual presentation of the flag occurred, Capt. West delivered the battle-scarred emblem to Maj Kuykendall, the large hall was filled with clamorous voices. Men jumped to their feet and cheered and gray-haired and bearded men acted like school boys in their jubilation.

" Ex-Gov. Charles S. Thomas rendered the address in behalf of the Confederate veterans speaking of the love and good fellowship which prevails throughout the nation, of the honor and respect paid veterans both armies, and of the bravery displayed by the men who fought for their honest convictions.

"The response was delivered by Lieut. William Wise of the Second Cavalry of Colorado. When short addresses from prominent veterans were called for, J. Lew Taylor was one of the first upon the floor.

"I heartily agree with the returning of the flag to the men from whom we captured it,' he said, 'but I am not on favor of having the emblem of a rebel cause held up for adoration to the future generation.'

"Cries of 'Sit down,' and 'No, no' resounded from every corner of the hall, and

100 old men, once vigorous fighters in both armies, leaped to their feet and insisted that Mr. Taylor take his seat. The scene resembled a melodrama, and it seemed for a time that violence would be done the speaker, but the trouble cleared away as suddenly as it had arisen.

"During the evening Col. Wallace's G.A.R. Veteran Drum Corps played alternately Union and Confederate airs. The ceremonies closed with a social gathering in which the old veterans got together and talked over the old times."

During the evening the following program was carried out:

Introductory address, by Col. Robert S. Roe.  
History of the campaign and incidents leading up to the capture of the flag, by George West, late Captain of F Troop, Second Colorado Cavalry.

History of Col. Thornton's command and incidents lead up to the loss of the flag, by W. L. Kuykendall, late adjutant of Col. J. C. Thornton's battalion of Missouri troops.

Return of flag by Capt. West.

Receipt of flag by Maj. Kuykendall.

Address in behalf of confederate veterans by Ex-Governor Chas. S. Thomas.

Response on behalf of federal veterans by Lieut. Wm. Wise, Second Colorado Cavalry.

Short talks from guests present, of both armies.

\* Col. Ferguson was at the time Assistant Quartermaster General of the GAR Dept. of CO & WY. He was elected Department Commander in 1910. The Department maintained its headquarters in what was known as the "War Relic Room" in the CO State Capitol building.

\*\* Capt. George West was elected to the Department Council in 1881.

*Submitted by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)*



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

HOSTED BY Centennial Camp 100



## Where

Denver, CO  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Library  
9898 E. Colfax Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
1-303-739-1940  
Akron-Clinton Meeting Rooms

## When

7 Jun 2014  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Socializing  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meeting & Elections



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### New Members- Department

Legion of the West- Pending final fees and documentation Raymond Charles Houck sent in 9 Oct 2013

Centennial 100 - William Lee Caynor Sr. Initiated 15 May 2013

Capt. Lot Smith 1- Karl Lawrence Greenwood sent in 3 Sep. 2013

Centennial 100- Randall Steven Comstock sent in 21 Jul 2013

Centennial 100 Scott Roy Kronberg sent in 3 June 2013

Centennial 100 Richard Franklin Jeffords Jr. sent in 23 Sep 2013

Centennial 100 Arthur Dennis Goguen sent in 16 Dec 2013

Capt. Lot Smith 1- David Lawrence Rusch sent in 22 Sep 2013

Capt. Lot Smith - 1 William John Salmon sent in 16 Dec 2013



DC Jim Barker & CC Gene Cheney of Centennial Camp 100 were interviewed 22 Mar by Nate Burns about the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg. Nate is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Martinez Elementary School in Colorado Springs. Nate selected the subject as was part of an advanced school project. He'll present the results of his research at a school assembly. CC Cheney presented Nate a kepi to commemorate the occasion. L-R: CC Gene Cheney , Nate Burns, DC Jim Barker



Centennial Camp 100 and Allied Orders gather at Barnes & Noble in December to raise funds for the Riverside GAR Memorial. L-R: DC Jim Barker, Sr Sue Goguen, CC Gene Cheney, Sr Dawn Zink, Sr Tammy Manning, SVC Tom Zink, Sr Brenda Cheney. All of the ladies are at-large members of the WRC. Photo by Arthur Goguen who was recruited as an Associate at this event.



## WRITE AN ARTICLE!

We need your articles for publication in the Western Tribune.

Photographs, etc., accompanying articles are much appreciated.

Send your articles & photos to the Editor at: [wlg@nilenet.com](mailto:wlg@nilenet.com)

## Grand Army Headquarters in State Museum

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

In September, 1917, the office of the Grand Army of the Republic, located in the basement of the State Museum, was dismantled and the desk of the Commander of the G. A. R. removed to a hallway near the doors in the basement. This move was made to give their office to some scientific society. Much indignation was expressed by the G. A. R. and the W. R. C, and the Department President entered a formal protest to the Board of Capital Managers, through the only G. A. R. member of that hoard, calling attention to the fact it was in violation of the Session Laws of 1893. The Honorable Otto Mears replied to the protest stating the congestion was caused by space being required for so many War Boards that they found it necessary to double-up some departments. Mr. Mears assured the W. R. C. President that when conditions were again normal the Grand Army would be given quarters such as they had honored in the past. The G .A. R. was subsequently moved to a pleasant, though small, room on the second floor.

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