



CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"The 4th Battalion"

Volume TWO Number FIVE

March, 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

On to the Ashland, Ohio show!! Our thoughts will be with those unable to attend this years gathering. The annual dinner meeting will be on Saturday April 29, 1989 7 P.M. at the Surry Inn Motel. We will elect officers for the next year during the meeting. Incorporation will also be discussed. For those who can not attend but wish to have something discussed please contact the secretary.

This will be my last President's message, therefore I wish to thank all those who have helped in organizing the CWWHA and contributed in it's growth. Especially, a large thank you to Howard Siglag our treasurer and Marshall Brighenti our secretary for their time and devotion.

David J. Klinepeter

April 28, Doors open to exhibitors only-Friday evening 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Show: Saturday, April 29, 9: A.M. to 5:00 P.M.- Sunday, April, 30 9: A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Guests of members are welcome to attend the annual dinner meeting. It is requested that members bring a rare or unusual item to the meeting for discussion. Everitt Bowles will present a program on badges at the annual meeting.

Editorial credits for the enclosed articles:

No. 03-David J. Klinepeter--Department of Kansas & Society Of The Army Of Arkansas
No. 05 Marshall J. Brighenti--William D. Welch & Alexander T. Anderson

New Members:

No.56 John Holland Jr.
No.57 Thomas L. Mac Donald
No.58 Henry Deeks

Members areas of interest published on a rotating basis:

No.55 Joseph Long Jr.
1814 Nay Aug Ave.
Scranton, Pa. 18509
GAR, UCV, UVL, UVU, EX-POW, NAVAL VETS, ARMY NURSES, WRC, LADIES OF THE GAR,
SONS OF VETS, LOYAL LEGION, 132 PA. VOL. REGIMENT

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No. 56 John Holland Jr.
20 Salem St.
Buffalo, NY 14220
GAR, items relating to the 44th NYVI and the 9th NY Cavalry

No. 57 Thomas L. Mac Donald
Coburn Gore
Eustis, Me 04936
GAR, LOYAL LEGION and any Maine GAR or MOLLUS material

No. 58 Henry Deeks
Post Office Box 1500
East Arlington, Mass 02174
Real photo post cards of civil war veterans and their activities

Their were no questions or answers submitted to the news letter for this issue.

A suggestion has been made that since a number of our members attend the Gettysburg civil war show an informal meeting can be arranged at the show site. There will be more information on this subject in the next news letter.

For Sale: Book-War Medals Of The Confederacy-Michael Albanese, P.O. Box 347, Kendall, NY 14476

Wanted: Southern Cross Of Honor with recipents name engraved on medal also UCV reunion and encampment medals, badges and ribbons-No. 54 Charles Otte 716 Santa Maria, Quincy, Ill 62301

COMING EVENTS:

April 15 Fairfax, Va Civil War Show
April 29, 30 Ashland, Ohio Civil War Show
May 19, 20, 21 Civil War and Antique Arms Show Travelodge, Winchester, Va
The above are the correct dates for the Winchester show.
June 30-July 1 & 2-15th annual Gettysburg, Pa Civil War Collector's Show
Sheraton Inn

CWVHA Secretary.

Marshall J. Brighenti
Marshall J. Brighenti

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

On December 7, 1865, the Veteran Brotherhood of Kansas was organized, antedating by several months, the organization of many of the Departments which now claim to outrank Kansas. That organization was a secret society, and held a state camp at Topeka in June, 1866, at which there were over fifty camps represented. The organization was the work of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Henry S. Greeno, of the Fourth Arkansas cavalry, then residing in Topeka.

Comrade Greeno called the state meeting, and Col. J. C. Hayes, of Olathe, was chosen state commander. A meeting had been called at Indianapolis, for November, to organize a National order, to be called the Grand Army. Major T. J. Anderson, of Topeka, was sent as a representative of the Kansas organization, and was duly admitted to the Indianapolis convention. After the full discussion of all the features of the new association, a resolution was introduced by Major Anderson, and passed, which was as follows:

Resolved. That the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic be authorized to receive in the order the members of the organization known as the Veteran Brotherhood, State of Kansas, without additional expense to them, upon the Grand Encampment of that Order accepting the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic and agreeing to be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the same.

About a month later, December 7, 1866, the second annual meeting of the Kansas Veteran Brotherhood was held in Topeka, that being the anniversary of the original founding of the order. At this meeting the following resolution was offered by Major Anderson and unanimously adopted:

Resolved. That the Veteran Brotherhood, State of Kansas, be and is hereby transferred to the Grand Army of the Republic, and that we hereby adopt the ritual and agree to be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Veteran Brotherhood of Kansas was typical of other veterans which were organized before the Grand Army of the Republic. Most later on merged with the GAR. Many of the Unit organizations maintained their groups and held reunions on a regular basis. Most of those members did join the GAR, and became active in both.

SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF ARKANSAS.

This Society was organized in the United States Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C., in February, 1888. It has a total membership of about one thousand, derived from service with the troops constituting the Seventh Army Corps, west of the Mississippi, and the Army of the Frontier. Its object is much the same as Army Societies generally.

Very little is know about the Society Of The Army of Arkansas. Why was it organized at this late date? Any additional information will be greatly appreciated.



We recognize no flag but
Stars and Stripes.



William D. Welch
by Marshall J. Brighenti

William D. Welch enlisted in Company I, 140th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was mustered in on August 25, 1862.

Billy Welch and the 140th participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Bristol Station, Wilderness, Corbin's Bridge, Po-River, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Totopotomoy, Ream's Station, Hatcher's Run, Sayler's Creek, Farmville, Strawberry Plains and Appomattox.

With 17.4% of its officers and men killed in action, this unit ranks fourth on the list of regiments having the highest percentage of killed (on basis of total enrollment) of the war.

Billy Welch was in the charge of the 140th across the wheat field at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. The regiment suffered extremely heavy casualties in this charge.

An unusual character, Captain Billy Welch attracted considerable attention. He claimed to have spent 90 years along the Monongahela, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers and boasted that he knew "every lock, dam, shoal and snag between Pittsburgh and New Orleans." He claimed to have owned many boats of numerous sizes, descriptions and vintages. The title of Captain was from his position on the riverboats.



Two Confederate veterans meet a Union man at Gettysburg, at the final reunion of the Blue and the Gray, on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. At left is William D. Welch, 100, of Dunlevy, Pa., Union man. Others are Durant Hatch, 93, and John W. Harris, 90, Confederates, arriving from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Captain Billy his third wife, and daughter were living in a houseboat at Dunlevy, Pennsylvania, when the 1936 flood swept their home away leaving them destitute. The people of Charleroi, a nearby community, raised a fund and built a cottage for the family on the banks of the Monongahela River at Dunlevy.

At the time of the Annual Encampment of the Department of Pennsylvania, G.A.R. which was held in Washington, Pennsylvania, in June 1938, the members of Mary Emma McNulty Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans, brought Billy his third wife and youngest daughter who was just 14 years old to the encampment. Of the 1845 veterans that attended the 1938 75th anniversary of The Battle of Gettysburg, only 90 had been in the actual battle. Billy Welch was one of this elite group.

There is no question that he was a tough old cuss. After the death of his third wife in the 1940's, Billy moved from Dunlevy, Pennsylvania to Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Cincinnati, he lived with his daughter.

While living there, he was found by the police in the gutter having sustained a very bad blow to the head from a mugger. It was thought at the time that he would not recover from the injury. Instead of dying as predicted, he recovered from the blow. After this experience, an article was written about him in the October 13, 1945 issue of the Saturday Evening Post. He is described in the article as an interesting and cantankerous old fellow who now claims 113 years of life, and who has a long list of highly exciting experiences to relate of his adventurous life.

Captain William D. (Billy) Welch, who claimed to be 113 years old, died in Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 15, 1945.

Welch is especially fascinating to the writer of this article, because his home in Dunlevy, Pennsylvania, was approximately one quarter of a mile from my great-grandfather's home.

P.S. What every happened to William D. Welch's 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg badge???

Alexander T. Anderson, In 99th Year, Civil War Veteran, Is Dead



Alexander T. Anderson, in his 99th year, Washington County's last Civil War veteran, died yesterday in the Washington Hospital. He had been in failing health in recent weeks.

Alexander T. Anderson, Washington County's last Civil War veteran and past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, died Friday, Sept. 15, at 10 a. m., in the Washington Hospital, in his 99th year.

Death was due to the infirmities of old age.

This was the second time within the past few months that he had been confined to the hospital, the first being last May when he was unable to attend the Memorial Day exercises for the first time in many years. It was feared at that time that he would not recover, but he rallied and was able to go to his office in the Washington Trust Building occasionally.

September 2 he was again confined to the Hospital, and his decline was gradual until his death today.

In addition to being the last Civil War veteran in this County, Mr. Anderson was one of the last in Western Pennsylvania and one

of the few remaining in the State at the time of his death.

At the 1939 national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic he was elected Vice Commander-in-Chief, and on the death of the Commander-in-Chief, John E. An-

drew, Quincy, Ill., June 30, 1940, Mr. Anderson became the Commander-in-Chief.

At that time there was only one other Civil War veteran in Washington, George Harshman.

Under the by-laws of the G.A.R. any other member of the organization could act as installing officer for the Commander-in-Chief; and on July 9, 1940, on the front porch of the Harshman home at 52 Shannon avenue, Mr. Anderson took the oath of office and was installed by Mr. Harshman as Commander-in-Chief.

Probably never before in all the three-quarters of a century of the existence of the G.A.R. was a Commander-in-Chief installed under such circumstances.

Mr. Harshman was assisted by the members of Mary Emma McNulty Tent No. 36, Daughters of Union Veterans, of Washington. Present on that occasion were his son, Dr. Walter T. Anderson, Detroit, Mich.; A. L. Phillips, Spanish American War veteran; Mrs. Anna Barber, daughter of Mr. Harshman, and Mrs. Dora Oller, widow of William Oller, a Civil War veteran, and a sister-in-law of Mr. Harshman.

This was the first time that a Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R. came from Washington. Twice Mr. Anderson had served as Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, the last term ending in June, 1938, when the State encampment was held in Washington. He had also served as Commander several years of William F. Templeton Post No. 120, G.A.R., and he was commander when the post surrendered its charter on July 9, 1935, when only four members were in the rolls.

While Mr. Anderson was the only resident of Washington County to hold office of National Commander-in-Chief, General David J. Palmer, Washington, Iowa, who was a native of South Strabane Township, served as Commander-in-Chief in 1915 when the G.A.R. held its annual encampment in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Anderson presided at the 74th annual encampment of the G.A.R., held at Springfield, Illinois, from September 8 to 13, 1940, at which time he was 94 years of age.

Mr. Anderson was born May 1, 1846, near West Union, or Haneytown, as it was then called, Marshall County, W. Va., a son of James and Rhoda Anderson. The house in which he was born and spent his boyhood is still standing, just over the Pennsylvania line, his father's farm being on the State line near West Alexander.

When the Civil War broke out he was too young to be considered, but in January, 1864, when only 17, he quietly went to Wheeling, W. Va., and enlisted in Company B, First West Virginia Cavalry. He was sent immediately to Harper's Ferry, at the mouth of the Shenandoah Valley, and then in the midst of the fighting in that section.

His regiment was in the division commanded by General George W. Armstrong Custer, which was attached to General Sheridan's cavalry then operating throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

He then took part in the fighting about Winchester and in the Shenandoah until he was sent with the guard for a wagon train to Washington, D. C. From there he was ordered to City Point, General Grant's headquarters, where he contracted typhoid fever and was in a hospital until the close of the war.

After his discharge he returned to his home in West Virginia. His father died the next year and for two years he conducted the farm for his mother and two sisters. Then he located at Taylorstown, where he built up and conducted a general store for nine years.

He sold his business at Taylorstown in 1877 and moved to Washington, where he had lived ever since, being engaged in the real estate business. Almost to the last he remained active, going to his office in the Washington Trust Building as often as weather and his condition would permit.

During the Winter of 1938 he slipped on the ice in front of his home and fractured his leg. However, he recovered from this injury and was able to preside at the State Encampment of the G. A. R. held in Washington that year, although he was compelled to use crutches. Later he recovered sufficiently to walk with a cane.

On July 13, last, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson had been married for 62 years. It was on July 13, 1882, that Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Miss Emily Katherine Wilson, Taylorstown, a daughter of James and Rebecca Wilson. When Mr. and Mrs. Anderson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at their home, 47 North avenue, he wore the high plug hat he wore at the wedding.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Anderson erected the house at 47 North avenue, which had been his home ever since.

He joined William F. Templeton Post No. 120, G. A. R., when he first came to Washington, and was the last member of that post.

He was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church.

Besides his wife he is survived by one son, Dr. Walter T. Anderson, Detroit, and two granddaughters, Emily and Lou, Detroit.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

OBSERVER
SEPT. 19, 1944

Full Tribute For Last G.A.R. Man

A. T. Anderson Interred In Washington Mausoleum

Alexander T. Anderson, 99, Washington County's last veteran of the Civil War, was interred with full military honors in the mausoleum of the Washington Cemetery yesterday.

There are perhaps others who served in the struggle between the North and South, but the records of the Grand Army of the Republic show only four living Civil War veterans in all of Pennsylvania. Miss Katharine R. Flood, National Secretary of the G.A.R. who came here to attend Mr. Anderson's funeral, stated last night, Miss Flood, also, served as Mr. Anderson's secretary during his term as Commander-in-Chief.

Floral tributes were received by the Anderson family from the Grand Army of the Republic and affiliated organizations, including the National Women's Relief Corps, National Daughters of Union Veterans and National Ladies of the G.A.R. Veterans of the Spanish War, the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Auxiliary and Pennsylvania Department of the Daughters of Union Veterans.

Messages of condolence included one from Governor Edward Martin, of Pennsylvania.

Flags on numerous buildings, including those of Washington and Jefferson College, near the Ritchie & Platt Funeral Home, where the

services were held were flown at halfmast.

The religious service was conducted by the Rev. H. A. Bruder, of the First U. P. Church.

Members of the American Legion and the Daughters of Union Veterans, with whom Mr. Anderson was associated closely, formed a guard of honor. Legionnaires were pallbearers and formed the firing squad at the cemetery.

The G.A.R. burial ritual was used by the Legionnaires at the grave. It was read by County Commissioner John N. O'Neill, who remarked that it was probably the last time it would be used for a service here.

OBSERVER
SEPT. 19, 1944