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The Veteran

July - September, 2005

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The Confederate Veterans' Camp of New York
by George G. Kane

One of the largest veterans' camps of ex-Confederates was not found in the deep rural South, but in the giant urban sprawl of New York City. The camp was organized April 11, 1890. The organizers of the camp included Stephen W. Jones, Rev. W. W. Page, J. R. McNutty, John F. Black, W. S. Kelley, Joe H. Steward and Edward Owen. A total of twenty-one ex-confederates would be counted as charter members. Within two years, the camp had grown to over two hundred members. The object of this camp was "to perpetuate the memories of our fallen comrades, to minister to the wants of needy and worthy confederate soldiers and sailors and their widows and orphans, and to maintain and preserve the sentiment of fraternity that was born amid the pleasures, hardships, and dangers of the bivouac and battlefield."

What is unusual about this camp of Confederates is not that they are formed and survived amongst their enemies, but that they never joined a formal society such as the United Confederate Veterans. The UCV made several overtures to the group, but they were rebuffed. In 1911, the camp was incorporated.

The membership badge is shown at right. It was manufactured by Braxmar of New York. The badge is a maltese cross with the military insignias of the confederate forces displayed on the arms.

(continued on page 3)



Membership Badge
Confederate Veterans' Camp
of New York

*CVC badge photo courtesy of
Jeffrey Floyd*

The President's Message

Fellow Members:

I hope that our annual show and meeting met with your approval. I had the opportunity this year, to talk and visit with several of our members who I hadn't known very well and it was a rewarding experience.

Gary Dunaenko did a tremendous job putting on a very interesting program. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the organization and myself to thank Gary for such an excellent job.

Once again, we are indebted to Dr. George Finlayson for arranging the meeting room and banquet in Mansfield. I hope that all of you are having a good summer and are finding some great items for your collection. If you are, send some of this information to George Kane for our newsletter.

Dan M. Mitchell

**The Editors Message
by George Kane**

Once again, the CWVHA National Encampment banquet was well attended and a rousing success. Gary Dunaenko put on a tremendous presentation of civil war POW memorabilia at the banquet. Gary's presentation at the Mansfield show on the same subject, garnered him the top prize for veteran material. Congratulations, Gary.

In order to stimulate interest in the administration of the association, the business meeting at the banquet voted to grant free membership to Association Officers. All officers from last year were once again voted back into office. The full list of officers is on the front page.

Special guest, David Klinepeter attended the banquet and gave a short speech on the origins of the CWVHA. David was the first President of the Association.

The Mansfield civil war show was also well attended. You should think about attending next year's show. No other show has as much veteran material as the Mansfield, Ohio civil war show.

Roger Heiple's Museum Exhibition

A large selection of Roger Heiple's G.A.R. collection is presently on display at the Emmet Gallery of the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, Michigan. The display is on exhibit from June 19, 2005 to January 7, 2006. The exhibit is entitled "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, Treasures of the Grand Army of the Republic." The display centers on the five local G.A.R. posts from the Jackson, MI area, but also includes memorabilia from throughout the country. Flags, certificates, badges, ribbons and other memorabilia are professionally displayed. For more information, contact the museum at (517) 787-2320. Their web site is: <http://www.ellasharp.org/> Their address is 3225 4th St., Jackson, Michigan 49203. The Museum is about 80 miles due west of Detroit just off US Highway 94.

The Veteran

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Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or electronically (e-mail or disk) MSWord, or Excel is the preferred software choices. All materials will be returned. If you have questions, please call George Kane at 413-592-2166. Postal and e-mail addresses are listed on the front page.

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Confederate Veterans Camp of New York (continued from front page)

A confederate battle flag is in the center of the cross.

For a number of years, Major Edward Owen was the Commander of the Confederate Veterans' Camp of NY. When he suddenly resigned his post in 1911, the camp presented him with a commander's badge of gold and diamonds. The diamonds are the stars in the confederate battle flag.



(from the *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. X, March 1902, p.10)

Major Owen was the commander of the camp in 1906 when the widow of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Varina Anne Banks Howell Davis died in New York City. Mrs. Davis had moved to the Big Apple soon after the death of her husband in 1889. She had also outlived her celebrated daughter, Winnie Davis, who had died in 1898.

Mrs. Davis had come from a famous family. Her grandfather had been Governor of New Jersey. Her father, William Burr Howell, had been the hero of the Battle of the Lakes in the War of 1812. Her father moved to Natchez, Mississippi where she was born in 1826. She had been educated in Philadelphia before returning to the South to marry Jefferson Davis, 18 years her senior.

Upon hearing of the death of Mrs. Davis, Major Owen took charge of the body. Varina's only surviving relatives, her daughter and grandson, acquiesced to Major Owen's leadership.



MAJ. EDWARD OWEN

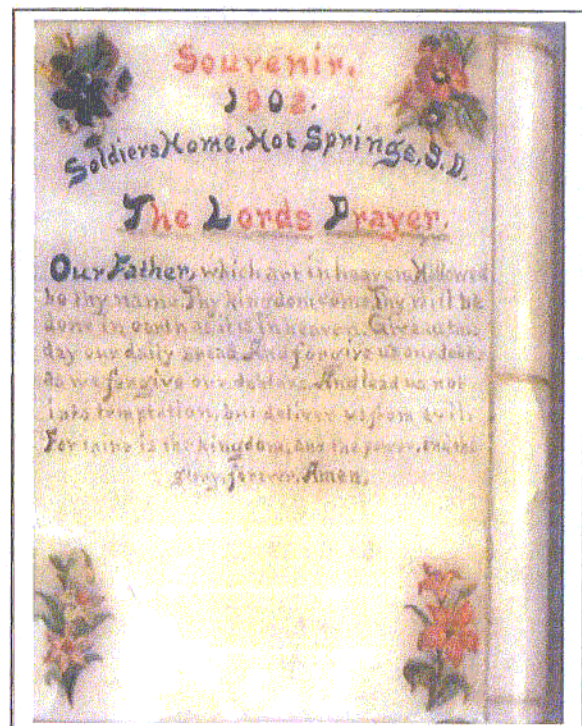
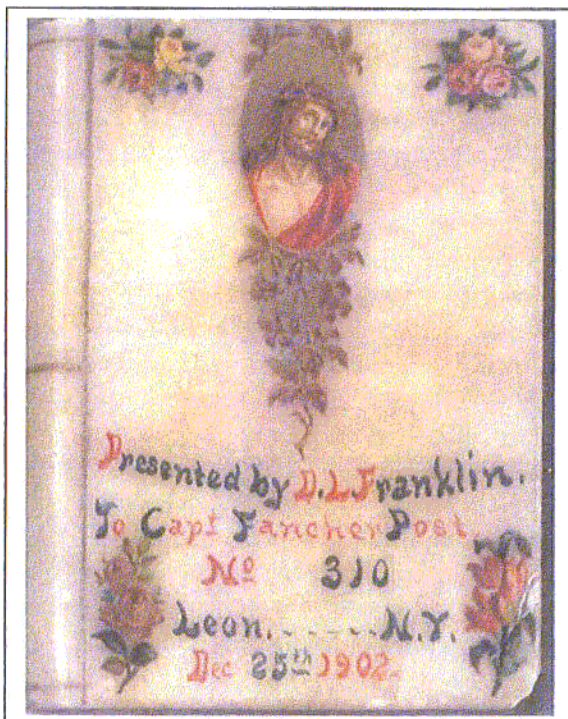
Major Owen formed an honor guard from members of the camp. The Major and the honor guard accompanied the casket by rail to Richmond, Virginia, where tearful former citizens of the Confederate States of America attended a state funeral. Major Owen and his honor guard remained in Richmond until the end of the funeral, where the Major was a pallbearer.

After 1911, the "*Confederate Veteran*", probably due to the refusal of the camp to enter the UCV fold, mentions nothing further of this camp. The *New York Times* did not give much copy space to the camp. It is listed as a contributor to a Confederate memorial statue in 1913, but nothing else until a small article in 1940 when it is mentioned as a participating organization at a memorial service at Mount Hope Cemetery, just outside New York City. It is listed as the "Combined Confederate Veterans Camp and Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp". Evidently age had forced the Sons to take over the administration of the camp.

A G.A.R. Bible?

By Jerry & Lorraine Orton

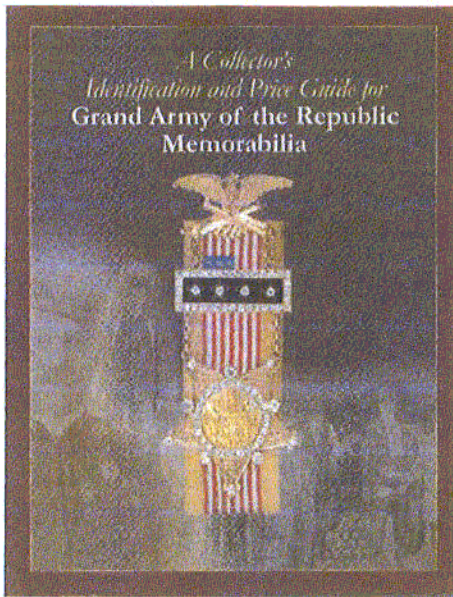
What appears to be a bible is in fact, a solid piece of marble carved to look like a book. The graphics and the Lord's Prayer inscription give it a religious feel. It measures 4 1/8 high, 3 1/4 wide and 3/4 deep. This piece was presented to the Capt. Francher GAR Post No. 310 of Leon, NY by D. L. Franklin on December 25th, 1902. It was a souvenir purchased at the Soldiers Home in Hot Springs, SD in the same year. It is ornately illustrated on the front and back. The post was named for Capt. William Francher (shown at right) who had been a Mexican War veteran (2nd US Infantry) and a Naval Officer for the four years after that war. In 1861 he was commissioned a Captain in Co. K, 64th New York Vol. Inf. The following year he was stricken with typhoid fever and died soon after. He is buried in the Leon Center Cemetery.



New Book Review

George G. Kane

One of our newest members is also the author of the newest book on the Grand Army of the Republic. Dennis M. Gregg has recently released "A Collector's Identification and Price Guide for Grand Army of the Republic Memorabilia."



Dennis has attempted to create an all-inclusive guide to GAR memorabilia. He has put together a rather diverse cornucopia of GAR artifacts. To each piece of memorabilia he has assigned an estimated range of value. Because of the volatility of the market, placing dollars to various GAR badges, medals, ribbons, etc. is folly. A rarity scale (R-1 to R-10) would probably have been more appropriate.

After viewing the very colorful covers on this book, it is a little disappointing to find that the pictures within are all in black and white. Most of the first three chapters are reprinted from Robert Beath's "History of the GAR" of 1891. At the end of chapter 3 is a group of photos with descriptions of various GAR membership and officer badges. The badges have been "cut-out" from their original photos. Unfortunately, the type IV badge "cut-out" has been butchered, the eagle's wings seem unrealistic and the shape of the star's trefolds appears smaller than reality. "Cut-outs" in the remainder of the book are neater and more professionally presented.

The other chapters are a nice range of varieties for each subsection of GAR memorabilia. These chapters include canteens, fabric, ephemera, pins, badges, ribbons, and other miscellaneous categories.

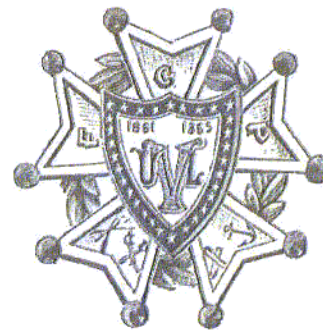
Of all the chapters presented in this book, the photos of the canteens, banners and flags are the most impressive. Each of these chapters has a nice variety of each category. I especially enjoyed the chapter on GAR fabric. Only the photo of a Masonic (Odd Fellows) kepi detracts from this section.

Dennis' descriptions of the various pieces tend to be a little Spartan. The famous GAR Dept. of Ohio "Tire Badge" of that department's 1918 encampment is described as a "celluloid badge, Akron, OH, 51st state reunion, June 11-15, 1918." A National Encampment Staff badge is described as "Medal Badge, Atlantic City, NJ state reunion commemorating the Post Commander." The author has a tendency to describe department encampments as "state reunions". He also seems to be confused about the difference between a "medal" and a "badge". In some cases, such as the staff badge mentioned, he titles the badge as a "medal badge."

The book with all its problems is still worth the price (\$19.95). The author has reduced the price of postage to \$3.85 for CWVHA members. Send check or money order for \$23.80 to Dennis Gregg, PO Box 67, Funkstown, MD 21734-0067.

Those that collect memorabilia from the Union Veteran Legion will be happy to hear that I have taken all the recent UVL articles from "The Veteran" and incorporated them into a new booklet on UVL memorabilia. Besides the articles, I have included a section on UVL National Encampment badges, with photos in color. A section on LUVL National Encampment badges is also included and in color. Close to 90 color pictures are included in this edition.

UNION VETERAN LEGION
1884 - 1939



George G. Kane

Send \$9.95 and \$2.00 S&H to: George Kane,
123 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013-2327.

Paper Envelopes for G. A. R. Membership Badges

It is not known when the practice of placing a new badge in a small tan envelope began, but a number of envelopes have surfaced issued by different Adjutant Generals. The envelope below with Wm. M. Olin as Adjutant General is from 1881. It is the earliest known envelope. A list of National Adjutant Generals follows.



Envelopes courtesy of Bedford Hayes

Year Appointed	Adjutant Generals Name
1866	Benjamin F. Stephenson (IL)
1868	Norton P. Chipman (DC)
1869	William T. Collins (MN)
1870	William T. Collins (MN)
1871	William Cutting (NY)
1872	Roswell Miller (NY)
1873	Cornelius G. Attwood (MA)
1874	Henry R. Sibley (MA)
1875	Robert B. Beath (PA)
1876	Robert B. Beath (PA)
1877	James L. Farley (NY)
1878	James L. Farley (NY)
1879	Isaac B. Stevens (OH)
1880	Robert B. Beath (PA)
1881	William M. Olin (MA) *
1882	F. E. Brown (NE)
1883	John M. Vanderslice (PA) *
1884	W. W. Alcorn (OH)
1885	John Cameron (DC)
1886	Edmund B. Gray (WI) *
1887	Daniel Fish (MN)
1888	Eugene F. Weigel (MO)
1889	George H. Hopkins (MI) *
1890	Joseph B. Goulding (VT)
1891	Fred Phister (NY)
1892	Edmund B. Gray (WI)
1893	James F. Meech (MA)
1894	C. C. Jones (IL)
1895	Irvin Ronnins (IN)

Year Appointed	Adjutant Generals Name
1896	Charles E. Burmeister (NE)
1897	Thomas J. Steward (PA)
1898	Thomas J. Steward (PA)
1899	Thomas J. Steward (PA)
1900	Frank M. Sterrett (MO)
1901	Silas H. Towler (MN)
1902	John W. Schall (PA)
1903	Charles A. Partridge (IL)
1904	John E. Gilman (MA)
1905	John Tweedale (DC)
1906	Joseph W. O'Neall (OH)
1907	Jeremiah T. Dew (MO)
1908	Frank O. Cole (NJ)
1909	George O. Eddy (MN)
1910	Ephraim B. Stillings (MA)
1911	Charles R. E. Koch (IL)
1912	Henry J. Seeley (CT)
1913	Oscan A. Janes (MI)
1914	George A. Newman (IA)
1915	Dr. John M. Adams (OH)
1916	H. H. Bengough (PA)
1917	Robert W. McBride (IN)
1918	Albert M. Trimble (NE)
1919	Isidore Isaacs (NY)
	Joseph W. O'Neall (OH)
1920	Mahlon D. Butler (IN)
1921	William C. Peckham (NY)
1922	John P. Risley (IA)
1923	Andrew S. Burt (OH)

Year Appointed	Adjutant Generals Name
1924	Samuel P. Towne (PA)
1925	Henry B. Davidson (IL)
1926	Charles H. Henry (WI)
1926	Charles Kayser (WI)
1926	George W. Morton (WI)
1927	Dr. Henry A. Johnson (DC)
1928	Thomas J. Smith (NE)
1928	Melvin K. Hagadorn (NE)
1929	Wilfred Weatherbee (MA)
1930	David N. Heizer (CO)
1930	Abraham L. Emigh (CO)
1931	Washington F. Hambright (PA)
1932	Calvin A. Brainard (IL)
1933	Darwin B. Wolcott (CA)
1934	Calvin A. Brainard (MI)
1935	John P. Risley (IA)
1936	John Little (PA)
1936	George Sands (PA)
1937	Russell C. Martin (CA)
1938	Josiah C. Read (NY)
1938	George Sands (PA)
1939	Thomas Ambrose (IL)
1940-5	Russell C. Martin (CA)
1945	Isaac W. Sharp (IN)
1946	John S. Dumser (CA)
1947	John C. Adams (IN)
1948	John C. Adams (IN)
1949	John S. Dumser (CA)

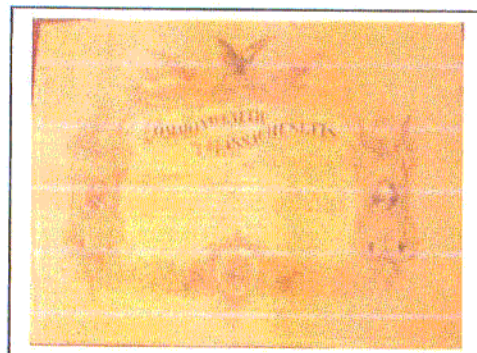
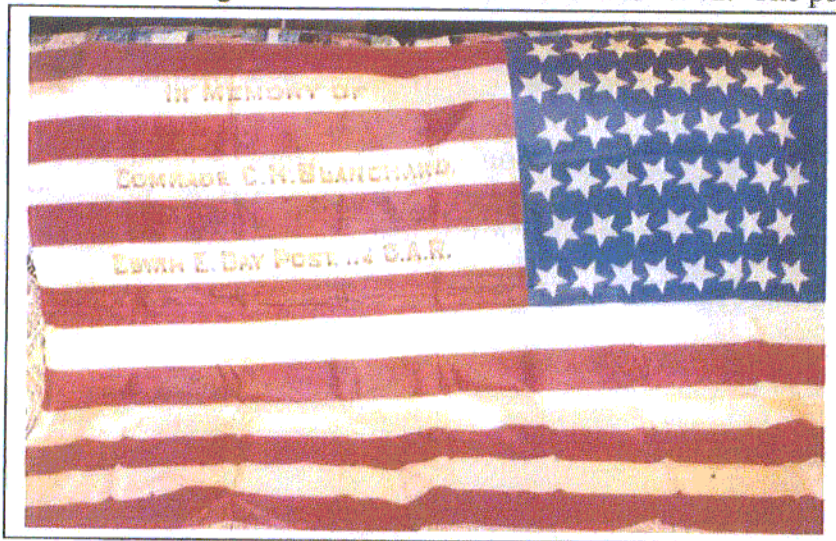
*Envelopes Exist (bolded)

Keeping It In the Family by George Kane

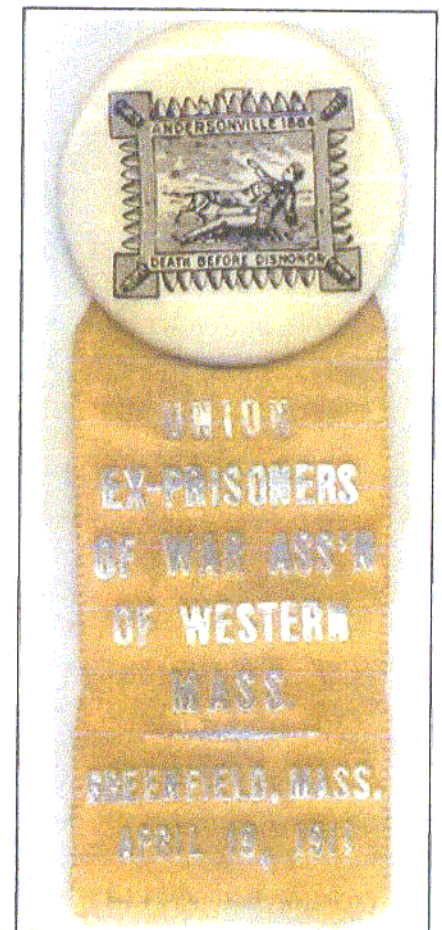
Some years ago, while tracing my family tree, I discovered that my Great-Great-Grandfather, Michael Meagher (sometimes listed as Maher or Mahar) (1821-1886) was a participant in the American Civil War. He had escaped the potato famine in Ireland immigrating to America in 1850. After landing in Boston, he eventually settled in the Webster-Dudley area of central Massachusetts. In 1862 at the age of 41 and the father of 14 children he enlisted in the 34th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. In 1864 he was discharged for disability after breaking his kneecap while felling trees for the regiment's campfires. What a proud military tradition we have in our family.

A couple of months ago I traced the genealogy of Linda, my significant other. As it turns out, she also had an ancestor in the civil war. Even more amazing is the fact that her Great-Great-Grandfather, Chandler Henry Blanchard (1841-1902) enlisted in the same regiment as my ancestor, the 34th Mass. Volunteer Infantry. Michael was in Company H and Chandler in Company F. Makes you wonder if they ever spoke to each other.

A few weeks ago, one of Linda's aunts passed away. We traveled up Route 91 to Greenfield for the funeral. At the home of the deceased's 93-year old sister, the topic of civil war ancestors came up. Linda's Aunt Marjorie still has the G.A.R. 4'x 6' American Flag used at her grandfather's funeral. In all the years of collecting G.A.R., I had never seen a flag with the member's name printed on the flag. The flag (shown below) has the canton of stars in the wrong position. The canton should be in the upper left corner, not the upper right. The printing is in gold thread and reads "In Memory of / Comrade C. H. Blanchard / Edwin E. Day Post 174 G.A.R." The flag has the correct 45-star canton for 1902. The post was located in Greenfield, MA.



Also included with the flag was an 1870 certificate of appreciation to Pvt. Blanchard from the State of Massachusetts, shown at left. Chandler was wounded and captured at Cedar Creek. After his left leg was amputated, he was returned to Union lines. He, no doubt, would have belonged to the Ex-POW Association of Western Mass. A badge from this group is shown at right.



A Chest Full of Badges

George G. Kane

The military man pictured below is J. Edwin Browne. Borne in London, England, on Christmas Eve, 1845, Edwin immigrated to the United States in 1850 with his parents. On August 28, 1861 he enlisted in the 7th Wisconsin Infantry, Iron Brigade.



At the battle of South Mountain in September of 1862, he was severely wounded and was discharged for wounds four months later. On July 21, 1863 he enlisted in Battery C, First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. He was commissioned a Lieutenant in the 48th Wisconsin Infantry and was mustered out of the service in February of 1866.

As you can see by the badges on his chest, Edwin belonged to a number of fraternal organizations. The first badge in the first row is a Past National Commander of the Union Veteran Legion (1901). The second badge is a membership badge of the Army & Navy Union. The last badge in the first row is the GAR membership badge. The next row has his MOLLUS membership badge and the National Commander of the Army and Navy Union badge (1908).

Browne was a past Colonel of UVL Encampment 69, Washington, DC, a member of the District of Columbia Commandery (MOLLUS), a member of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Garrison, No. 74 of the Army and Navy Union and a member of the Governor Harvey Post No. 17, Racine, Wisconsin, GAR Dept. of Wisconsin.

The uniform he wears in the picture appears to be from the Army and Navy Union. The hat badge has the number 74 above a set of wings with a horizontal axe under the wings.



The Army and Navy Union was an early proponent of "Air Power" and frequently used winged symbols in their regalia.

The uniform resembles a plebes uniform at a military academy. The large stars on his collar separate an Army and Navy Union monogram (ANU).



Veterans of the Indian Wars established the Army & Navy Union in 1879. Eventually the organization opened their doors to all US veterans of all wars. Many civil war veterans were also Indian Wars veterans. The ANU still exists and is popular in the Midwest.

Commodore Vanderbilt's Gold Medal

by George G. Kane

The Congressional Gold Medal predates the birth of the United States. The first such medal was presented to George Washington on March 25, 1776. In the last 229 years approximately 200 Congressional Gold Medals have been issued. After the Mexican War, the Congress broadened the scope of the medal to include non-military citizens who enriched the nation with their work. One of the first non-military presentations of this award was to Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1864.

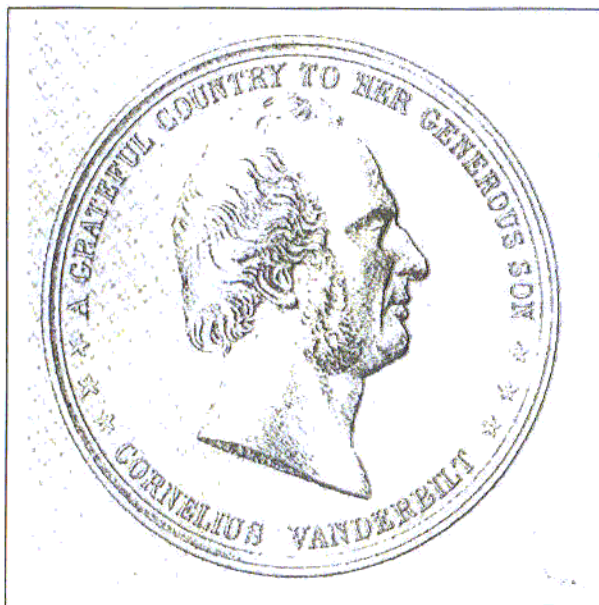
Vanderbilt, the well-known entrepreneur and ship owner, was invited to the White House in March of 1862 where he received an unusual request from President Lincoln. The *CSS Virginia (Merrimac)*, the Confederate "iron-clad" ship had recently been completed and was readying to take to sea and cause havoc among the wooden federal ships blockading Southern ports. President Lincoln asked the "Commodore" to use some of his commercial fleet to help keep the *Merrimac* bottled up in Norfolk harbor.

Vanderbilt not only agreed to help, but also made a gift of his flagship, the "*Vanderbilt*" to the US government. The steamship was built in 1856 for a reported one million dollars. A few days after the bestowal, the "*Vanderbilt*" arrived at Fort Monroe, where it was properly equipped and officered. Ownership of the ship was transferred to the War Department at that time.

In 1864, the United States Congress voted to award Cornelius Vanderbilt a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his wartime gift of the steamship "Vanderbilt" to the US government. The 335-foot, 4,500 ton ship was the largest ship of its time. It was also the fastest, holding the world speed record for an Atlantic crossing at 9 days.

The medal, struck in 1866 at the US mint was forwarded to Vanderbilt by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

The obverse of the medal has a bust of Vanderbilt, facing right. The bust is encircled by the phrase "A Grateful Country to her Generous Son, Cornelius Vanderbilt." The reverse has Minerva, representing America, with the "Vanderbilt", under full sail, in the background. The exergue below reads "Bis Dat Qui Tempori Dat" Latin for "He gives twice who gives in time." The date 1865 is under the Latin inscription. The original dies for the medal reside in the US Mint. The original medal is still in the Vanderbilt family collection. The Library of Congress holds a copy of this medal in its collection.



Giuseppe Garibaldi and the American Civil War

by George G. Kane

In early 1942, an Italian radio broadcast from Rome highlighted Italian contributions to American History. One of the allegations was that in early 1861, President Lincoln had offered Italian General Giuseppe Garibaldi the position of commanding general of the American armies. The New York Times investigated the report and discovered that Garibaldi had, indeed, been contacted by the American Government, but not for the position that the broadcast had suggested.

In early 1861, European newspapers reported that General Garibaldi was considering a trip to America. These papers insinuated that the general was considering entering the American civil war on the Union side. James W. Quiggle, American Consul at Antwerp, Belgium, who knew Garibaldi, posted a letter to the general. Quiggle asked the general if the reports in the newspapers were accurate. Quiggle added, "If you do, the name of Lafayette will not surpass yours. There are thousands of Italians and Hungarians who will rush to your ranks."

On June 27, Garibaldi replied that the newspaper reports were not "exact." He would have liked to travel to America, but military matters in Italy prevented him from doing so.



Garibaldi (1866)

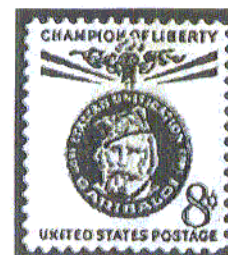
Garibaldi, who was known as the "Hero of the Two Worlds" for his military exploits in South America and Europe, had recently completed the conquest of Sicily.

Quiggle forward a translated copy of Garibaldi's letter to the Department of State and Secretary Seward. Seward was interested in the thought of adding Garibaldi's military experience to the Union cause. In July, Seward ordered Henry S. Sanford, who was American Minister at Brussels, to team with Quiggle in an attempt at "gaining the aid of General Garibaldi." While Quiggle wrote to Garibaldi, Sanford left for Italy to recruit the general. Sanford went to Turin where he sent a message to the General. While Sanford waited for a reply, Garibaldi sought the confidence of the King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel. The King, who was in the process of unifying Italy, declined to give his blessings to this enterprise. After meeting with the General, Sanford reported to the State Department that Garibaldi would only come to America as "the chief commander of our army and full power to abolish slavery". Sanford realized that this was more than he could offer, and replied to the general that if he went to America, he would be given a "responsible command". The General refused. Asked if he would come as a visitor, the General replied that he would only travel to America "to enter into the contest."

Sanford would later blame Quiggle for his failure to entice the General to join the Union forces. He claimed that Quiggle had misled the General into believing that he would be offered the job of Commander-in-Chief.

In September, Garibaldi wrote a letter to Quiggle indicating that he would "not be able to go to the United States at present." He went on to say that if the war dragged on that he would "overcome all obstacles which detain me to hasten to the defense of a people who are so dear to me."

Garibaldi was no stranger to America. Besides his revolutionary days in Brazil and Uruguay, he also spent a number of years in New York. In 1849 after the defeat of the Roman Republic by the Austrians, Garibaldi fled to America where he lived and worked on Staten Island. He even became a naturalized citizen of the United States. In 1960 the United States Postal System issued a stamp honoring Garibaldi in its "Champion of Liberty" series.



See the New York Times Magazine issue of January 11, 1942, Invitation to Garibaldi, by Carey Shaw, Jr., Page 8.

**GAR Postcard & Postal Cover
From Members**

Joseph Long, Jr.

In Scranton, Pennsylvania, at the corner of Pennsylvania St. and Linden St. stands an imposing building, the G.A.R. Memorial Hall. The building had been constructed by the Lt. Ezra S. Griffin G.A.R. Post No. 139. The Post, a mostly brick structure, has an overabundance of windows. The postcard at right shows 21 second-floor windows on the two sides visible. The windows on the third floor are numerically less, but larger in area. The five large windows shown are three panes across and three panes high with an arched top frame. A slender turret occupies the corner with a minaret style top. SUVCW Camp #8 still holds its meetings here every second Thursday of the month.

Noel B. Preston


The 1991 philatelic cover, shown below, celebrates the last headquarters of the G.A.R. The building shown is a mansion built by New York Governor Reuben E. Fenton in 1864 at Jamestown, NY. In 1919 the City of Jamestown acquired the property as a Soldiers' Memorial Park. In 1948 the building became the headquarters of the G.A.R. The building was occupied by Cora E. Gillis, the last GAR National Secretary, until 1957 when the last entries were made and the records were shipped to the Library of Congress. All memorabilia was sent to the Smithsonian.




G. A. R. Memorial Hall
Scranton, Pa.



FENTOPEX XXV
Saluting our namesake
Gov. Reuben E. Fenton
on our Silver Anniversary
Stamp Exhibition



29
USA
Atlantic Charter sets war aims of allies

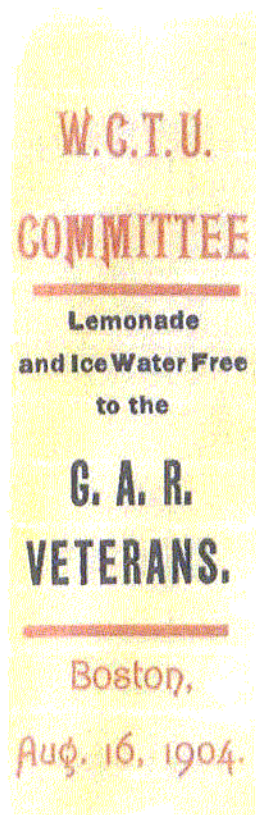


The Reuben E. Fenton mansion was the last national headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic.
Reuben E. Fenton Philatelic Society, Jamestown, N.Y.
October 26-27, 1991

The G.A.R. and the W.C.T.U., 1904

by George Kane

The G.A.R. and the W.C.T.U. wouldn't appear to be compatible organizations for a national encampment. G.A.R. partying and drinking were legendary. The 1895 Louisville national encampment was a good example. A deadly explosion during the parade and numerous cases of salmonella at the main picnic didn't deter the veterans of that encampment. Even the bordellos issued a circular advertising their wares.



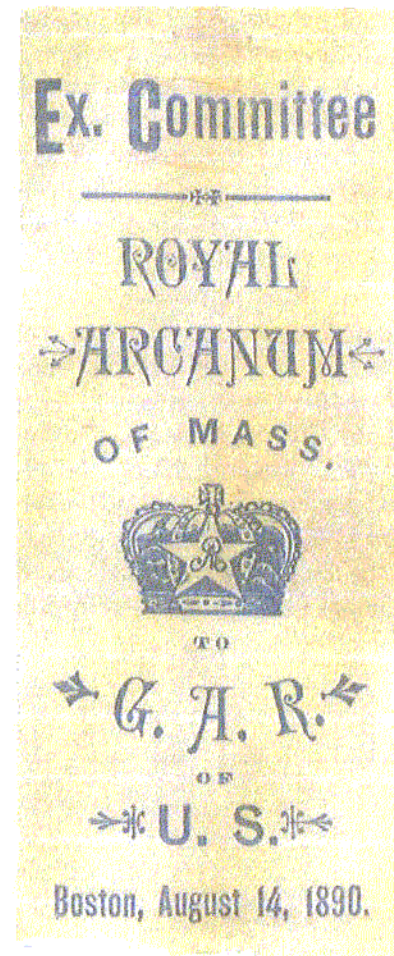
The memory of the 1895 and other encampments brought out a large contingent of ladies from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to offer the veterans "Lemonade and Ice Water" to the thirsty veterans of the G.A.R. in 1904.

The two-color ribbon shown above was worn by W.C.T.U. Committee members who handed out non-alcoholic beverages to the G.A.R. veterans marching in the annual parade. The parade was held on August 16th 1904 during the 38th G.A.R. National Encampment in Boston, Massachusetts.

The G.A.R. and the Royal Arcanum, 1890

by John Mullan

Many fraternal organizations usually welcomed the G.A.R. to their city for the national encampment. In 1890, one of those organizations was the "Royal Arcanum" of Massachusetts.



The Royal Arcanum was founded in 1877 in Boston and is one of the oldest fraternal benefit societies in the United States and Canada. The Royal Arcanum is founded on the principles of good citizenship. It promotes love of country, home and friends; the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man; faithfulness in performance of obligations of the home; honor in your dealings with mankind; generosity with those less fortunate than yourself; sympathy, kindness and consideration for the bereaved and distressed. The society still exists.