

THE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL AND THE VETERANS
WHO CALLED IT THEIR HOME

TAKEN FROM THE AURORA BEACON,
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PART FOUR

compiled and transcribed by
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1892

The Illinois Department of the G. A. R. held their 26th annual encampment at Springfield, Illinois on April 7th. Edwin Harlan, of Marshall, was elected Commander. The National encampment was held in Washington D.C. on September 21st where A. G. Weissert, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was elected Commander-in-Chief. Here at the national level the "color line" became a part of the conversation, as did the "growing disrespect" of Memorial Day. The Kane county G. A. R. association held one of their picnics, this time at Riverview park, believed to be in Aurora. Comrades from Post 20 were in attendance. The 36th Survivors deviated from their usual practice and held their reunion on October 27th in Sandwich. This may have been to avoid a conflict with the national encampment. J. M. Turnbull was elected president and J. F. Harral, vice-president. J. M. Kennedy continued as secretary/treasurer. The attendance numbers were down which may have been caused by the new reunion date. On the national level President Harrison was half way through his term, as Grover Cleveland, the Democrat, was preparing to make a return run. Soldiers pension problems were again at the fore front. Leadership of Post 20 fell to Willis H. Watson, commander; John H. Hubbard, senior vice commander and F. H. Hotz, junior vice commander.

Thursday, April 7, 1892
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY MEETS

Record Of The Membership And Work Of The Past Year

Springfield, Ills., April 7. -- The twenty-sixth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Illinois, and the ninth annual convention of the Women's Relief Corps, of the same jurisdiction, met here today, and the city is full of ex-soldiers. The encampment assembled at 10 o'clock this morning, and proceeded to business. The report of the Assistant Adjutant General McKinnie showed the membership of the order in this department to be 32,921, which is a greater number than it ever before had at one time. During the year seventy-two new posts were organized, and but seven were disbanded.

Deaths and Relief Expenses

The number of deaths was 477. There was expended for the relief of distressed comrades, their wives, widows and children, \$4,444. Thomas Post #5 of Chicago, shows up as the banner post in charity, having expended \$531 during the year. On the 1st of April, 1891, there was in the treasury \$24.60, and an indebtedness against the department of nearly \$1,000. This has all been paid, and there has been carried to the credit of the department \$1,300. Captain and Mrs. O. H. Oldroyd, who occupy the old Lincoln homestead, gave visiting comrades and members of the Woman's Relief Corps a reception last evening. A reception was also held by the Women's Relief Corps at the St. Nicholas hotel. P. L. McKinnie and Captain Ed. Harlan are candidates for department commander.

Saturday, April 9, 1892
The Elgin Daily News

THE ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY

Captain Ed Harlan Elected Department Commander

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 9. -- The Grand Army encampment adjourned late yesterday afternoon after electing the following officers: Department commander, Captain Ed Harlan, of Marshall; senior vice-commander, W. F. Kenaga, of Kankakee; junior vice-commander; A. L. Schimpff, of Peoria; medical director, J. R. Corbus, of Chicago; chaplain, W. G. Cochran, of Lovington; Council of administration -- Lewis Klughoff, Nashville; A. D. Cadwallader, Lincoln; W. H. Venable, Macomb; T. W. Cole, Rockford, and O. F. Avery, Pontiac.

Said A Good Word For Alger

The resolution affirmed faith in Commander R. A. Alger and oppose the bill pending in congress appropriating \$100,000 for the entertainment of the veterans at Washington during the next grand encampment. The next state encampment will be held at Springfield.

Wednesday, September 21, 1892
The Elgin Daily News

IN ENDLESS RANKS

VETERANS TURN OUT ON THEIR ANNUAL PARADE AN ARMY OF CITIZEN SOLDIERS

Seventy Thousand In Line -- In Double Column of Platoons

They Retrace The Triumphant March of 1865

Some notable features and incidents of the procession.

Over seven hours passing the reviewing stand
notwithstanding that many posts fell out of line.

Brilliant fireworks and electrical displays at night.

General Palmer's address to the encampment --Notes of the day and night.

Washington, Sept. 21. -- Seventy thousand veterans started yesterday to march over the same route taken by the troops in the great review just after the close of the war in 1865. Only five states had passed the reviewing stand at the end of three hours, and thousands of veterans after marching over part of the route dropped out of the ranks, and even then, before the end of the column reached the reviewing stand it was 6 p.m. The start was made at 10:30 a.m. and was in double platoons -- one platoon on each side of the street.

Two Points of Great Interest

There were two reviewing stands -- one for the President and one for the Commander-in-Chief. Upon each of these stands was gathered a group of men whose names are of national familiarity -- they were Hawley, Manderson, Vilas, Senator Palmer, Bingham of Pennsylvania, Henderson of Iowa, Belknap of Michigan and Mitchell of Wisconsin, with a long list of others too numerous to mention. Many of the old leaders of the boys in blue were in the ranks, among them, ex-president Hayes, who walked at the head of his post. General Butler, General Sickles, Secretary Rusk and Secretary Noble.

The Reviewing Stands

The reviewing stands were works of art. The one occupied by vice president Morton yesterday stood directly in front of the treasury building. The vice president's stand occupied the central portion with wings on each side. A graceful domelike roof or canopy covered the central portion, appropriately draped in gilt and colors, the national colors, of course prevailing. Flags of the United States and the emblems of the Grand Army represented an important portion of the decorations. The stand accommodated about 500 people. Equally pleasing but of an entirely different design was the stand for

which Commander in Chief Palmer and his staff and invited guests reviewed the marching veterans. This stand showed more especially the distinctive character of the occasion. It was a Grand Army stand. Pediments at the entrances supported stands of colors and there were other emblems of a character familiar to the old soldiers.

Got Over A Difficulty

By having the march in double column a difficulty of procedure was avoided between the Old Guard of Washington and the Grand Army battalion of Albany for they were both in the front, side by side. Next to the first division, and leading the veterans was the Illinois contingency numbering about 1,500 men. Wisconsin had "Old Abe," the famous war eagle leading, Iowa's 500 posts were all well represented as were those of Michigan and Indiana. Pennsylvania, the largest numbering 15,000 men and Ohio was second. The department of the Empire State was accorded an ovation throughout the long line. In their ranks were Sherman, Reynolds, Sickles, Howard and many distinguished men.

The Scene at the Start

At the hour for the start the Capitol was the central point of a friendly army massed for a half mile or more, on most streets radiating from it. On all sides the eye gazed on nothing but aged men, plainly attired in blue clothes with gilt buttons and slouch hats, save an occasional post with white helmets, and except where showed the bright uniforms of bands, of which there seemed enough to stand a trumpet call that would shake the nation down Pennsylvania avenue, they marched, those old soldiers, and many of them in memory went.

FEATURES OF THE PARADE

Prominent Men Who Marched, Tattered Battle Flags, Banners

There were many features of the parade that were worth noting. Arkansas sent a few men that found a place with Illinois. The file closers bore a rude transparency with the legend: "One Union Evermore And Inseparable." Secretary Rusk's striking figure at the head of Wisconsin department was a signal for continual applause. Secretary Noble marched with his post, the Ransom post, of St. Louis. Ex-president, Rutherford B. Hayes marched on foot with his Ohio men, and Senator Paddock with the department of Nebraska. The Pennsylvania department presented a number of notable features. It carried the greatest number of tattered battle flags. The reception given to these mutely eloquent testimonials of the dangers braved by the "Boys in Blue" demonstrated the regard in which "Old Glory" is held by the people.

Drum Majors' Legerdemain

"The First Sons of Thunder from Somerset" was the humorous banner used to identify R. P. Cummings Post 210. The members each carried a cane made of gnarled and twisted oak, the most odd shapes being preferred. John F. Hartranft Post 58, Harrisburg, was headed by two drum majors in zouave uniforms, who used muskets with

fixed bayonets for batons. These they flung high in the air and threw at each other twenty feet distant, and yet so far as known, succeeded in escaping without a single jab. Griffin Post 139, Scranton, composed of railroad engineers and firemen, carried an oil can at their head, which was the subject of much unsuccessful guessing.

New York Was "On Her Shape"

Of the larger states Pennsylvania department occupied the longest time in passing the Commander-In-Chief -- 50 minutes. Ohio was close second requiring 45 minutes, and New York third with 30 minutes. The New York department, as it passed General Palmer's stand created the best impression as to personnel and organization. There was better marching by the posts, they were dressed in effective uniforms and they had the most and best music. Post 327, U. S. Grant, of Brooklyn, which brought up the rear of the New York department, had the best outfit in all particulars. The New Yorkers seem to have let their tastes and purses, the one artistic and the other heavy, run away from the G. A. R. regulation, as to uniform, consisting of dark blue coats and trousers with white helmets, were the favorite combination.

Pretty Incident of The March

As Post 48, Devin, of Brooklyn, approached the stand a little boy and girl, bearing bouquets, left the line and presented them to General Palmer, who kissed the little maid and held the flowers for some time after receiving them. The Kansas department carried towering stalks of sorghum cane, the gift of Senator Perkins. General B. F. Butler occupied a carriage with Lynn Post, in the Massachusetts department. His progress was marked by continuous applause. It was three hours after the head of the procession passed him and the ears of the Commander-In-Chief were greeted with the strains of either "Marching Through Georgia" or "The Girl I Left behind Me."

Eight Hours on the Tramp

When the end of the procession reached the viewing stand it was after ten o'clock. It took about seven hours and forty minutes to pass Vice President Morton and the others of the reviewing party. The veterans stood in order well, and continued even to the last post to show marching veterans the usual courtesy. Many posts without attempting to pass the reviewing stand, finding the hour so late, marched over a part of the route with colors flying and bands playing and then disbanded. Then there was "hustle" to get something to eat and catch an open seat.

FIREWORKS AND ILLUMINATION

A Brilliant Display of the First Hand Something Unique of the Last.

Night was even more glorious than the day. Shortly after dark, which was of a most favorable density, owing to the lowering clouds which had allowed the veterans to hear without undue fatigue, and except for a short time in the early morning with a danger from the heat during the parade. Here the elaborate display of fireworks provided by the committee was made. It was magnificent how in some respects was unanticipated, and was worthy of a place in the program of the days events.

Names of Battles in Fire

Each of these was outlined in incandescent light in the same color as the badge. There was also placed at short intervals, portraits in oil of the leading generals of the war. Just above each of these and along the edges were the names of all the great battles of the war in which the respective corps took part.

Radiance at The White House

Over one of the entrances of the White House, spanning the top of the gateway, had been placed a great platform of lights arranged so that they could be turned on and off, giving the feeling of shooting.

Treasury Building Ablaze

The illumination of the treasury building with colored electric lights was especially fine and notable, as also were a large number of large set pieces at intervals along the avenue, the most conspicuous being a great anchor of blazing light placed at the corner of Tenth street, powerful search lights, thrown from the tops of high buildings, produced a dazzling effect. The display continued until midnight and was witnessed by countless thousands, who regretfully disappeared in the cimmerian darkness that succeeded the turning off of the dynamos.

Notes of The Encampment

There were at least 300,000 strangers in the city yesterday.

Mrs. Logan gave a reception last night at her residence to John A. Logan posts of the United States, the G. A. R. departments and the W. R. C.

The Potomac department, W. R. C., last evening gave a reception to the G. A. R., W. R. C. and patriotic ladies organizations visiting the city.

BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS

The Encampment Attends to Preliminaries

Palmer's Address

The official body of the encampment met today and preceded to get into working order. After the usual appointment of committees, Commander-In-Chief Palmer proceeded to deliver his annual address. He said that there was scarcely a battlefield in the great civil war that was not represented at this gathering. "The differences in rank, which the army reflected are lost in the equalities of a free and common citizenship. The dominating thought is patriotism. Its principles appeal to patriots of every name and party. It is particularly befitting that we should meet once more in the beautiful capitol city of the Union where the representatives of sixty five millions of freemen gather to enact the laws, and to look backward over the perils surmounted, and forward to the growing greatness of a redeemed land."

Citizen, The Greater Title

Continuing, he paid a tribute to the Grand Army, and to its annual meetings, and then said, "We meet with no desire to boast of our services in the past. We cherish no feelings of animosity or revenge against the men of the south. I know I speak the

sentiments of every true soldier when I say whatever pride we have in the past, whatever pride we brought back from the battlefield, we joyfully laid it aside upon one altar and gladly merged the title of soldier into a greater one -- that of American citizen.”

A Peculiarly Appropriate Gathering

It is peculiarly appropriate that the survivors of the Union army should gather again at the capitol of the nation, which through four long years of bloody strife they defended at the peril of their lives; and it brings to our minds vividly, the name of that great man who, under the province of God, successfully guided the armies of the nation through the crisis of its life.

Silent Heroes Near at Hand

“Almost within the sound of my voice there reposes in that beautiful spot on Arlington Heights, where the green soil lies gently upon the breasts of the silent sleeping patriotic dead.

The Lessons of the Dead

The G. A. R. emblem was a silent protest against sneers at the old veterans and should be worn at all times to announce the fact that men still live who deserved to be remembered. Death had been busy in the ranks, and the example that those who died should be an incentive to the living.

Visits To The Departments

The speaker referred to his work during his official term, saying that he had visited twenty-five departments. He particularly mentioned his visit to Augusta, Ga., and the warm greeting given him by ex-confederates. He referred to the invitation to the Columbian Exposition and called attention to the fact that the Union soldier made it possible for such an exposition of the achievements of a united country to be held.

Compliments The Women

The work of the loyal women of the country in behalf of the needy veterans and their families was warmly approved. The trouble over the color line was referred to by a declaration that in his action he had only the welfare of the order at heart. For statistics the members were referred to staff officers reports.

Close of the Address

The address closed with a reference to Memorial Day: “The American people honor the dead Union soldier, not because he slew so many of the foe, but because he gave up even life itself in the performance of a duty. So long as the observance of the day is kept in all its genuineness and purity, and given up to frivolity and amusement, it will impart to all a true sense of the obligations resting upon us, reaping what the living and the dead have sown, we now enjoy the priceless blessings of peace and prosperity to life and property.”

Saturday, September 24, 1892
The Elgin Daily News

RETREAT SOUNDED

THE G. A. R. INVASION OF THE CAPITAL IS OVER VETS BREAK RANKS AND GO HOME

Weissert's First General Order.

A Wedding at the Woman's Relief Corps gathering.

Closing diversions of the Boys in Blue.

An old lady and a dozen veterans waylay the President
and have an Informal Reception in the rain.

Visits to the Virginia battlefields.

Washington, Sept. 24. -- Yesterday was "Break-away day" in the official programme for the entertainment of the Grand Army, but its members released themselves twenty-seven years ago from the fetters of "orders from the commanding officer," and have been "breaking away" as fast as long lines of railway cars could carry them out of town ever since the close of the second grand review on Tuesday last. The wet southwester which set in Wednesday morning accelerated their departure, and as it continued with brief intermissions every day the attractions in and about the capital have lost some of their power to detain the visitors. As a result the population of Washington last night had diminished to nearly its normal size.

What the Late Stayers Did

But there was entertainment for those who stayed until the retreat was sounded, up to the very last. The reunions were all over, except that of the Sons of Veterans, and in the Grant tent a goodly number gathered with their wives in some instances a few of their sires also. Representatives of the women's organizations were on hand, too, and the entertainment was orations and music. Surgeon General Wilson presided and made the opening address. He was followed by Secretary Noble, E. Potter Dustin, Col. P. H. Murphy, of New York, Col. Lang, of Baltimore, and several other comrades, Miss. Daisy Little, of Cincinnati, known as the Daughter of the Regiment, Department of Ohio, added greatly to the success of the meeting by her several recitations.

Weissert's First General Order

The following general order was issued yesterday afternoon from the headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic, Washington, D.C., and signed by Commander Weissert: "Having been elected Commander-In-Chief of the G. A. R. by unanimous suffrages of my comrades I undertake the duties of the position, fully realizing the grave responsibility assumed. Whatever degree of success may attend this incoming administration will depend largely upon the cordial co-operation of the comrades

throughout the nation, which is earnestly invoked. Headquarters will be established for the present at Milwaukee, Wis. All official business should be addressed to E. B. Gray, adjutant general, G. A. R., Milwaukee.”

A Trip Down the River

There was a meeting of the council of administration for the transaction of necessary routine business. But the day being a fine one, most of the veterans in the city spent it on excursions, of which there was any number. The very last of these was a trip down the river given under the auspices of the citizens committee, and under the direction of Captain James G. Bell, and included a stop at the United States proving grounds at Indian Head to give an opportunity to those who desired to inspect the grounds. The steamer returned to the city about 7 o'clock.

Woman's Relief Corps Business

The Woman's Relief Corps held a business meeting yesterday and the question of the representation of the organization at the World's fair was discussed, but no conclusion was reached. The new G. A. R. Commander-In-Chief Weissert, Adjutant Gray and Past Senior Commander Dietrick, of the department of Illinois, visited the convention and each made short and eloquent addresses and were decorated with the souvenir badges of the W. R. C. The convention then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mrs. Margaret B. Wickens, of Kansas, was elected president. The retiring president, Mrs. Sue Pike Sanders, was extended a vote of thanks for her able and just administration of her arduous duties during the past year.

An Interesting Diversion

The members of the Woman's Relief Corps, who assembled for a campfire in the Typographical Union building Thursday night, were made the unexpected participants in a little Grand Army romance. Jared C. Smith, the janitor of the building, and Mrs. Addie Moore, a bewitching widow of the Woman's Relief Corps auxiliary to Lynn Post No. 5, Massachusetts division G. A. R., for some time past have been engaged, and it had been their intention to have their marriage solemnized in Mrs. Moore's home in Lynn. But Thursday night when their friends assembled in the building they concluded that it was too good an opportunity to lose, and calling in the Rev. L. B. Wilson, of Wesley chapel, the campfire of Mars was turned into a hymnal torch, in the light of which Mrs. Moore became Mrs. Smith, with all the members of the relief corps as witnesses to the transformation.

Reception on the Kearsarge

A reception was given on the Kearsarge last night in honor of the citizens committee and visiting comrades. Miss. Clara Barton, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Commissioner Douglas, Mrs. W. H. Michael and other ladies received the guests. The affair was quite a success and lasted until nearly midnight.

AN ENCAMPMENT INCIDENT
How a Dozen Veterans Shook Hands With
The President

One thing that many veterans regret missing is a hand shake with the President of the United States, and he who has secured that coveted honor has something to hand down to his children from this encampment. The President went out for a short walk Thursday afternoon while Mrs. Harrison was sleeping. He had not been out since his arrival the day before, and though it was raining he felt that he needed the exercise. He waited until the sightseers had nearly gone, and then, buttoning his coat and pulling his hat down, he went out of the front door, accompanied by Baby McKee. He got as far as the steps leading down from the broad piazza when an old soldier who was sitting there raised his head and caught a glimpse of him.

“That’s Him” for a fact

“That’s him,” he hoarsely whispered, turning to a group of friends behind him, and then he ran after the president and cried: “General Harrison, won’t you shake hands with an old soldier?”

“Why, certainly,” the President replied, and he did so.

An old gray haired woman seeing the success of the veteran’s enterprise dropped her “umbrell” and, grabbing her skirts and “histin” them out of the wet, reached the president in the shake of a cat’s tail. The president saw her coming and smilingly extended his hand, which she grasped in both of hers, shook it vigorously and said she hoped Mrs. Harrison would get well and that he would be reelected, and then she made way to give the rest a chance.

An Informal Reception

There were about a dozen in all. The president shook every one by the hand and then, lifting his hat, he pulled Baby McKee under the shelter of his umbrella and walked briskly away, leaving the happy dozen looking after him.

There has been a steady stream of excursionists all this week to the battle fields of Virginia. Many of the veterans have never had an opportunity since the war to visit the scenes where they fought and suffered in the neighborhood of the national capital, and during the week there have been more men on the fields of Petersburg, Seven Pines and other battle fields than ever since the fights took place.

Campfire at Mrs. Briggs’

Camp Edson, the home of Mrs. E. E. Briggs, was the scene last night of a campfire numerously attended by the veterans of the G. A. R. The large and capacious grounds were brilliantly lighted by Chinese lanterns which showed the handsome decorations to good effect. There was an abundance of good music by visiting G. A. R. bands, which was interspersed between entertaining addresses made by Hon. A. C. Matthews, of Illinois, General S. S. Yoder, J. J. Edson and William Smith, of Pennsylvania.

Friday, October 28, 1892
The Aurora Beacon News

GALLANT THIRTY - SIXTH

The Survivors of This Splendid
Regiment Indulge in an
Old - Fashioned
Re - Union

Only Sixty of the Original 1,296 Members Were Present
The Boys are Responding to the Last Bugle Call One by One
A Fine Banquet and Splendid Speeches

This is the year of re-unions. Re-unions are on every hand; family re-unions, society re-unions, and, most plentiful of all, soldiers' re-unions. Many regiments have held their annual meetings this year, and have had a very enjoyable, not to say profitable, time: but the re-union of the old Thirty-Sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Sandwich yesterday, eclipsed all previous records in that line.

In point of attendance it was far below the former standard of that organization's yearly gathering, as there were only sixty of the original 1,296 members of the regiment present. The old boys are becoming scattered. Many have responded to the last bugle call, and now harken to the tramp of their victorious hosts upon the other shore; and many are moving to distant parts of the country, and are growing feeble in their declining years, and are unable to reach the point of meeting.

SKETCH OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH

The first camp of the 36th Illinois Volunteers was made at Camp Hammond, upon the rising ground which overlooked the C. B. & Q. tracks between this city and Montgomery. Here the regiment assembled. The regiment was composed of companies from Aurora, Bristol, Little Rock, Lisbon, Wayne, Oswego and Elgin. Upon the twenty-second of August '61 Captain Webb, a United States mustering officer administered the oath that bound the regiment to the south for three long years of bloody strife.

The regiment was commanded by Col. Nicholas Greusel. Col. Greusel was born in Bavaria, Germany, July 4th, 1817 and was forty four years of age at the time that he assumed command of the regiment. He emigrated to this country in 1834 and after years of toil and study obtained a common school education. He recruited the company D of 1st Regiment Michigan Volunteers for the Mexican War and gave gallant service to his country as captain of that command. Edward S. Joslyn was Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment with Alonzo H. Barry as Major.

On Tuesday Sept. 24th the regiment departed from Camp Hammond for the scene of hostilities in Missouri. Of the experiences of camp life much has been written. Of the hardships and privations which were endured with indomitable fortitude by the gallant Thirty-sixth much has been said. The regiment passed through some of the hardest campaigns of the war and participated in some of the fiercest battles. Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw, Atlanta, Spring Hill, Franklin and the incidents of the pursuit of the fleeing Hood will never be forgotten by the men who bore the brunt of the battles as did the "Fox River Regiment" in nearly every case.

At Chickamauga the regiment bore the fierce attack of the enemy for hours and so won the praise of the great Sheridan that at Chattanooga, a few days later when an officer approached the General and suggested the propriety of stationing a battery of artillery to protect a point of vantage he replied. "No, the Thirty-sixth Illinois is there, no battery is needed."

The regiment was mustered out of service at New Orleans, October 6th, 1865 and was a few days later transported to Springfield, Illinois where it disbanded to meet each year in its annual re-unions.

THE BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of the re-union was called at eleven o'clock, and lasted until afternoon. The reports of outgoing officers were heard, and new officers elected as follows:

President, J. M. Turnbull, of Monmouth; Vice President, J. F. Harral, of Aurora; Secretary, J. M. Kennedy, of Aurora.

The following resolutions were drawn up by the committee, and unanimously adopted:

ANSWERED THE FIRST ROLL CALL

We, the surviving comrades of the 36th Ills. Vols., met here on the 26th annual re-union, desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving to the Father who has so bountifully cared for us and permitted so many of us to gather here. But we are again brought to realize that the years are running swiftly by, and changes rapidly shift the scenes of life about; and among us the following, who were with us or of our number one year ago, are gone from us to answer the "final roll call:" F. O. White, Maj. S. B. Sherer, Ab. Field, Dave F---, Jebe Symonds and N. Weir.

Resolved, -- That we desire to express our heartfelt sympathy with the families of these who "have gone to that*illegible*....."

The city of Morris was then decided upon as the place of meeting for the twenty-seventh annual re-union in 1893, after which the meeting adjourned to the banquet hall, where an elegant collection was served by the Sandwich W. R. C.

When the old veterans had worked havoc among the good things the literary part began, but owing to the non-appearance of certain members of the association was very short.

The opening number was a song, "We Are the Boys of '61" by a male quartet of which the city of Sandwich may well be proud. The gentlemen are as fine singers as can be found in many a large city.

Mayor Mosher then made the address of welcome in a short speech that showed that he was fully alive to the demands of the occasion. He called attention to the regiment's gallant conduct on the numerous battlefields of the southwest and said that he welcomed them to his city, not only for their heroic achievements during the "dark days of '61-65, but for the manner in which they had laid down their arms and returned to avocations of life.

M. E. Cornell, of Yorkville, made the reply to the ringing greeting of Mayor Mosher in a very few words in which he expressed the hearty appreciation of the regiment and in which he paid a tribute to the Ladies of the W. R. C.

After another song by the quartet, Major J. M. Turnbull made a brief but eloquent address upon the subject of "Our Fallen Comrades." He was followed by Miss. Grace Abbott, of Sandwich, who recited "The Day that McPherson Died." Miss. Abbott is a most prepossessing young lady and has marked elocutionary ability. She was obliged to respond to an encore.

R. H. Nye was the next speaker. He told of the tie that binds the veterans of the late war together so closely that their annual re-unions are such great successes.

Colonel Nicholas Greusel was then called upon. The old Colonel is dear to the hearts of the men who followed him all through the war and although his voice is growing feeble with his advancing age, his remarks were listened to with rapt attention and were vigorously applauded when he finished.

The old boys then enjoyed the time intervening before the departure of their trains by social conversation and expressed themselves as having enjoyed the occasion more than any of the previous twenty-five re-unions.

BOYS WHO WERE THERE

Among those in attendance were the following:

George D. Sherman, M. Hibbard, W. F. Sylla, Ed. Pierce, J. C. Arthur, G. W. Thompson, W. P. Criswell, I. K. Young, C. H. Odekirk, S. F. Town, A. D. Curran, F. Henning, Jas. B. Campbell, John A. Porter, Wm. Plitch, M. M. Pierce, W. A. Mitchell, J. W. Orr, F. W. Moore, J. M. Kennedy, W. M. Gifford, J. C. Hall, Jas. A. B. Becker, F. W. Arthur, S. W. Arthur, Col. N. Greusel, W. C. Asdell, W. H. Hall, Maj. J. M. Turnbull, Jas. Halkyard, J. F. Harral, Sam Hitchcock, B. Loveless, Thomas Clark.

Many of the old comrades were accompanied by their wives.

1893

The Department of Illinois held their encampment once again in Springfield on March 16th, electing Edward A. Blodgett, of Chicago, to Department Commander. The National Encampment was held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 6th. John G. B. Adams, of Massachusetts became the new Commander-in-Chief. With peak membership the prior year, a gradual, but accelerating decline in membership came to be more and more the topic of internal discussion. The leaders kept a positive spin, but, sooner or later the public and politicians would note fewer soldiers and less lobbying power. Grover Cleveland, once again President, was not a favorite of the G. A. R., and they continued to rally to the side of ex-president Harrison. Pension matters began to deteriorate and, faced with the national depression of 1893, the purse strings of government would tighten. The boys of the 36th held their reunion at Morris on September 21st, back to their old routine. W. A. Johnson was selected, president for the next reunion with C. N. Doan, vice and the ever present J. M. Kennedy, secretary/treasurer. In Aurora, Post 20 had a new governing body with John H. Hubbard, commander. F. H. Hotz, senior vice and F. H. Moore, junior vice. Membership now stood at 290. The Memorial hall was also home to the W. R. C., No. 10, Mrs. Mary P. Gale, president; the Ladies of the G. A. R., Lincoln Circle No. 2, Mrs. A. Page, president; and the Sons of Union Veterans, Camp No. 21, C. S. Harkinson, captain.

Aurora City Register For the Year 1893

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Aurora Post No. 20 was organized and mustered into the ranks of the G. A. R. department of Illinois, June 10th, 1875, with 23 charter members. The natural tendency of the old soldier, was to "Touch Elbows" and retain and foster the fellowship engendered on the field of battle, and as their number augmented they desired some personal place of Rendesvous. In 1885, Memorial Hall being enlarged for the better accommodation of the City Library, in consideration of a Donation of \$2,000 from Post 20, the second story was made into a hall, and a lease given, Rent Free during the life of the Post, which was a most fitting addition to that which had been dedicated to the

patriotism of the Union Soldier. These rooms were beautifully decorated and furnished. The Post has buried thirty-five of their members since their organization, but still have on their Roster 290 names.

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. The present officers are: Jno. H. Hubbard, Commander; F. H. Hotz, senior vice commander; F. H. Moore, junior vice commander; J. M. Scott, surgeon; C. B. Colwell, chaplain; M. D. Yagar, quartermaster; E. H. Hall, adjutant; E. Sheppard, officer of the day; N. J. Thomas, officer of the guard; T. A. Elder, sergeant major; Edward Pierce, quartermaster sergeant.

AURORA WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, NO 10

Auxiliary to Post 20, G. A. R., organized July 15, 1884, with twenty-five charter members. Their Roster for 1893 contains one hundred and twelve names, and the object of the corps is best stated in their report of disbursements for relief of \$1,054.89, and \$465.13 turned over to Post 20. Meetings are held first and third Tuesday afternoon in G. A. R. Hall. Past presidents, Mrs. Clara W. Harral, Mrs. Ella Scragg, Mrs. Rebecca Lewis, Mrs. Lizzie A. Hubbard, Mrs. Myra Stolp. Officers for 1893 are: Mrs. Mary P. Gale, president; Mrs. Louisa H. Bigger, senior vice president; Mrs. Addie Case, junior vice president; Mrs. Mary M. Welch, secretary; Mrs. Florence V. Poole, treasurer; Mrs. Eliza Merrdith, chaplain; Mrs. Emma J. Hurd, conductor; Mrs. Emma Goldsmith, assistant conductor; Mrs. Eva R. Windette, assistant conductor; Mrs. Lizzie Covalt, guard. Relief Committee: Mrs. Hattie A. Vaughan, Mrs. Emeline Hotz, Mrs. Clara W. Hurd. Finance Committee: Mrs. Ella Scragg, Mrs. Addie Welch and Mrs. Anna Milam. Executive Committee: Mrs. A. Lizzie Hubbard, Mrs. J. Mary Ricker and Mrs. Emma J. Hurd.

LADIES OF THE G. A. R., LINCOLN CIRCLE NO. 2

Ladies of the G. A. R. is not auxiliary post 20 G. A. R. yet is chartered by the state, and its objects are similar to the Relief Corps, but only wives and daughters of soldiers are admitted to membership. They were organized in 1886, and meetings are held in G. A. R. Hall, second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p. m. Past presidents are: Mrs. J. Kinley, Mrs. A. Quinton, Mrs. A. B. Culver, Mrs. Jessie Wallace, Mrs. Anna Stickle. The present officers are: Mrs. A. Page, president; Mrs. C. L. Hanchet, senior vice president; Mrs. W. H. Hathorn, junior vice president; Mrs. A. Quinton, secretary; Mrs. A. Bates, treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Seward, chaplain; Mrs. W. S. Miller, conductor; Mrs. Black, guard. Executive Committee: Mrs. Hanchet, Mrs. Hathorn, Mrs. Scott. Relief Committee: Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Snedecker and Mrs. Streeter.

SONS OF VETERANS, CAMP NO. 21

Meets second and fourth Fridays in G. A. R. Hall. Officers: C. S. Harkinson, captain; Bert Todd, 1st lieutenant; Archie Sylvester, 2nd lieutenant; F. C. Bent, 1st sergeant; C. H. Richards, quartermaster sergeant.

Friday, March 17, 1893
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY MEETS

A Large Gathering of The Boys In Blue Nominations for Office

Springfield, March 17. -- The state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was called to order yesterday at 10:30 a.m. by Commander Harlan, who delivered his report. Grand Commander Weissert, of Wisconsin, was present and made a speech. Balloting for officers consumed the afternoon session. The official announcement of the results will be made known today, but it is known that the totals showed that E. A. Blodgett, of Chicago, was elected department commander, and E. B. Hamilton, of Quincy, senior vice commander. The encampment is the largest ever assembled in the history of the order in this state. At least two thirds of the delegates are in attendance and nearly all of them are accompanied by their wives or some member of their family.

Points from Harlan's Address

In Harlan's address he deprecated more than one woman's organization connected with the order and praised the Sons of Veterans. He commended the management of the Quincy Soldiers' home. After he had concluded he was presented with a diamond badge by the encampment and his staff and a basket of beautiful flowers by the women of the pension office at Chicago. The nominees for junior vice commander were Dan R. Frazer, of Mount Carroll; R. W. McCartney, of Metropolis; P. G. Gardner, of La Grange.

Exchanged Compliments With Harrison

A telegram was received from ex-President Harrison to reply to an invitation to attend. He wired: "Thanks to my comrades for their kind invitation, but I am here in hunting outfit only and could not make a visit of ceremony. Some other time." The following reply was sent: "The encampment has unanimously voted that you come as you are. They want to see you now; no other time will satisfy them."

The Women's Relief Corps

The Woman's Relief Corps met in senate chamber with 320 delegates present. National President Margaret Ray Wickens, National Counsellor Sue Pike Sanders, National Inspector Flo J. Miles, and Sarah M. Bradford, member of the national executive board, were among the prominent leaders of the organization present. Nominations were made as follows: President, Mrs. M. R. M. Wallace and Mrs. L. J. Pitkin, both of Chicago, senior vice, Mrs. Salome Wilson, of Lincoln; Mrs. Esther Woods, of Springfield, and Mrs. E. Findley, of Quincy; junior vice, Mrs. Charity Nichols, of Galva, and Miss. Maggie, of Decatur; treasurer, Mary E. M. Cooly, of Olney; chaplain, Mrs. Linnscoth, of Chicago, and Mrs. Mary Eldred, of Gardner.

Campfire in the Evening

There was a large gathering in Representatives hall at the campfire in the evening. Governor Altgeld made a brief speech to say that he did not come to talk, but gracefully welcomed the encampment to the capital. Commander Harlan made an appropriate reply. Mayor Lawrence welcomed the boys to the city and remarks were made by Mrs. Wickens, of Kansas, and Charles W. Pavey. General Stibbs recited a poem by James Whitcomb Riley.

Saturday, March 18, 1893
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS ELECT OFFICERS

Results of the G. A. R. Meeting at Springfield
The W. R. C.

Springfield, March 18. -- The G. A. R. department of Illinois closed its twenty-seventh annual encampment yesterday and the most of the delegates and visiting comrades have gone to their homes. The encampment was a notably pleasant and successful one, but no business of especial importance was transacted. The election of officers resulted as follows: Commander, Major E. A. Blodgett, by a vote of 371 to 272 for J. L. Jennett; senior vice, Colonel E. B. Hamilton, of Quincy, who was chosen Thursday; junior vice, W. C. Ridgeway, of Mount Carmel; chaplain, Rev. L. B. Wolfe, of Carlinsville; medical director, Dr. I. S. Hughes, of Springfield.

Was a Gallant Union Soldier

Major Blodgett was notified of his election by a committee appointed for that purpose and made a pleasant speech of acceptance. Edward A. Blodgett enlisted in the Union army as a member of Company K, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, in the spring of 1861, and went into camp at Dixon, where he was rejected on account of his then sickly stature. He then returned to Chicago and enlisted in Company D, Thirty-Seventh Illinois. He served with conspicuous gallantry until June 10, 1865.

Council of Administration

The following are those chosen as members of the council of administration: W. W. Bean, Streator; O. R. McKinney, Chicago; Thomas S. Cole, Rockford; A. D. Cadwallader, Lincoln; Louis Krughoff, Nashville; H. P. Thompson, Chicago; O. F. Avery, Pontiac. Delegates-at-large to national encampment: Thomas W. Scott, Fairfield; William Clendennin, Moline; C. H. Castle, Quincy; H. H. McDowell, Pontiac; H. P. Barnham, Waukegan; A. T. Barnes, Bloomington; J. S. Varley, Chicago; W. H. King, Chicago; B. F. Sheets, Oregon; W. H. Bridges, Elgin; S. McKnight, Girard, and John C. Bonnell, Chicago.

The Woman's Relief Corps

The Woman's Relief Corps had a hard time electing officers and charges that Mrs. Pitkin, of New York, was not legally named were made. She telegraphed and obtained a refutation of this, but Mrs. M. R. M. Wallace, of Chicago, was elected president. The others elected were: Mrs. Esther Woods, Springfield, senior vice; Mrs. Maggie Sutton, Decatur, junior vice; Mrs. Mary E. McCauley, Olney, treasurer; Sophia C. Linnscoff, Chicago, chaplain; Miss. Jennie Bross, Morris, secretary.

Reception by the Governor

After the encampment adjourned it attended in a body a reception tendered the comrades by Governor and Mrs. Altgeld at the mansion, which was soon filled with the delegates to the encampment and others, who were graciously received by the host and hostess. Major Connolly put the question and the governor was tendered a hearty vote of thanks for his hospitality to the visiting comrades. He responded in a short speech.

Wednesday, September 6, 1893
The Aurora Beacon News

A BIG TURN-OUT

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND VETERANS PARADE AT INDIANAPOLIS REVIEWED BY GENERAL HARRISON

The Heroes greeted with applause by the thousands of Spectators
Formation of the Procession
Many States Represented

Tramp Tramp Tramp

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 6. -- The old soldier had a brisk time of it Monday night, with public receptions, camp fires, and other entertainments, formal and informal. The sun had scarcely risen when the people began to gather along the thoroughfares of the line of march to see the parade -- the biggest one Indianapolis has ever witnessed.

Line of March

The great column began forming early in the day at the corner of Meridian and Seventh streets, and the line of march was down Meridian street to New York, west to Pennsylvania, south to Market, east to New Jersey, south to Washington, west on Washington past the reviewing stand fronting the courthouse to Tennessee street, where it was dismissed.

Moved Promptly

Promptly at 10:30, the designated hour, the booming of the fifty-pounder gave the signal that all was in readiness for the head of the column to move. The posts were formed in columns of platoon, single rank and with intervals of four paces between platoons.

Illinois in the Post of Honor

The boys from Illinois by virtue of seniority, had the honor of the right of line, following immediately after the chief marshal and his staff. The comrades from the world's fair state turned out in goodly numbers and presented an admirable appearance, the Chicago posts especially winning enthusiastic plaudits.

Following the Illinois division came the detachment from the Keystone state and behind them a large and creditable representation of the veterans of Ohio. One once familiar face was missed in this division, that of the late ex-president Hayes, who for many years had never missed the opportunity of marching on foot with the comrades of his post. New York followed Ohio.

Wisconsin Headed by "Old Abe"

The department of Wisconsin, which was headed by the celebrated eagle, "Old Abe," which has led the Badgers at every encampment since that of Columbus, held five years ago, made a good showing, both in point of numbers and appearance, and the Massachusetts delegation came in for many loud cheers. Connecticut was sandwiched in between New York and Massachusetts, and after the latter the departments followed each other in this order:

New Jersey, Maine, California, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Potomac, Virginia and North Carolina is one department, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan, Iowa, Colorado and Wyoming combined, Kansas, Delaware, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Kentucky, West Virginia, South Dakota, Washington and Alaska combined, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi in one department, Florida, Montana, Texas, Idaho, Arizona, Alabama, North Dakota, Indian territory, Georgia and Oklahoma.

The rear of the column was brought up by the department of Indiana, which comprised nearly one half of the entire number of veterans in the line. Every post in the state was represented by a goodly proportion of its membership and in many instances every comrade of the post roll was in line. There were bands of music by the score, flags and banners too numerous to count. Indiana had promised at Washington to do itself proud if it was given the national encampment, and it more than redeemed the pledge.

Throngs of Spectators

Along the entire route the spectators were massed solid from the ropes to the building line, spreading over lawns, filling windows and porticos of residence and business blocks alike, and in many cases preempting the roofs. There was no lack of enthusiasm and the special features of the parade were cheered to the echo from square to square.

Cheered Gen. Harrison

Numerous stands were erected at points along the route, the official reviewing stand being placed on the grounds of the courthouse on east Washington street. From here the veterans were reviewed by Commander-In-Chief Weissert. Ex-President Harrison stood on his right, and Gens. Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin, and Lew Wallace, both of whom marched in line until the stand was reached, on his left. Each veteran saluted the Commander-In-Chief and the ex-president as they passed and some of the more enthusiastic doffed their hats and gave a cheer on going by the stand.

A cursory estimate places the number of men who participated in the parade at 25,000.

Wednesday, September 6, 1893
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY ENCAMPMENT
Some Features of the Parade
Harrison Keeps Open House

Indianapolis, Sept. 6. -- The great parade came to an end late in the afternoon, and the veterans were so tired with their long march that many reunions which were to have been held were dropped. No estimate has been made of the number in line, but the procession did not equal by any means the one last year. Four crippled veterans, who were among the earliest founders of the G. A. R., led the Illinois division. They were W. F. Kenagal, of Kankakee; W. J. Rutledge, of Jacksonville, who was prominent with Dr. Stephenson in forming the Grand Army; General A. C. Sweiser, of Bloomington and W. H. Jenkins, of Springfield.

A mimic monitor was a feature of the parade. It was drawn by six horses and escorted by a body of sailor veterans. Wisconsin showed up well, as did Ohio, while there was but one veteran each from Washington and Alaska. The Mattoon (Ills.) post chanted the refrain, "Hang Hoke Smith to a Sour Apple Tree," during the whole march. During the day ex-President Harrison's house was the objective point toward which hundreds of comrades bent their steps. The doors were thrown wide open, and all who came were welcomed. At Tomlinson hall at night the Woman's Relief Corps was tendered a reception, ex-Secretary Noble delivering the address of welcome.

The encampment proper assembled in Tomlinson hall this morning at 10 o'clock. The morning session was devoted to preliminary business. There were about 1,000 delegates present. Last night there was a brilliant display of fireworks witnessed by many thousands.

Thursday, September 7, 1893
The Aurora Beacon News

THEIR CHOICE

GRAND ARMY VETERANS HONOR CAPT. "JACK" ADAMS
HE IS ELECTED COMMANDER IN CHIEF

The next Encampment to be held in Pittsburgh

Weissert denounces the pension laws

Gen. Harrison and Gov. McKinley speak

Named a New Chief

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 7. -- With a rousing chorus of cheers Captain John B. Adams, of Massachusetts, one of the heroes of Gettysburg, who took part in seventeen battles and was twice wounded, was led to the platform in Tomlinson's Hall late Wednesday afternoon to acknowledge his unanimous election as the twenty-second commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, to succeed A. G. Weissert, of Milwaukee.

The convention made quick work of the first day's business, and reached the order of election at 5:00 o'clock. "Capt. Jack," as the new commander is called, had been growing in strength all day, his supporters having induced all opponents save Gen. Hurst, of Ohio, to withdraw, leaving the field to those two, both highly popular in their respective sections.

Wanted to Bar McKinley

Governor McKinley of Ohio had arrived for the express purpose and pleasure of placing his old comrade from Chillicothe in nomination, and the latter's friend banked strongly on the result of Maj. McKinley's eloquence in bringing to their side many of the wavering delegates. Governor McKinley had failed to provide himself with delegate credentials, and as the convention business is conducted behind closed doors Captain Adam's friends raised objections against Maj. McKinley being permitted to enter the hall.

"Capt. Jack" named by Acclamation

The situation promised to bring forth an interesting clash until Gen. Hurst himself came manfully forward and announced himself out of the race. This brought down the house and the formality of declaring Adams elected by acclamation was the matter of only a few moments.

Other Officers Chosen

The convention then proceeded with other elections and before adjournment Col. Ivan N. Walker, of Indianapolis, was chosen senior vice commander, and J. C. Bigger, of Texas, was elected junior vice commander.

To Meet in Pittsburgh

The convention also selected the place of holding the next encampment. When it came to a vote, Pittsburgh was the only claimant left in the field, Lincoln, Neb., and Philadelphia being the last to withdraw. The city at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela seemed the unanimous choice of the delegates and they voted to a man for Pittsburgh.

The New Commander

The new commander in chief, John J. B. Adams or "Jack" Adams as he is called at home, is one of the most popular veterans in New England. For years he has been identified with the Grand Army as one of the most active and influential members of the department of Massachusetts. In 1861, before he was twenty years of age, he enlisted as a private in the battalion which became the nucleus of the Nineteenth Massachusetts. He served through the war, raising to the rank of Captain. When not disabled by wounds he participated in every march and in every battle of the Army of the Potomac in which his regiment took part. At Fredericksburg he saved the regimental colors from capture after eight color bearers had been shot down. He was severely wounded in the second day's fight at Gettysburg and a second time before Petersburg where he was captured and suffered the horrors of a southern prison. He is a member of Lander Post in Lynn, Mass., the second in membership in the country. Nothing has been too good for "Jack" Adams, and he in turn has met the expectations of his supporters as Postmaster at Lynn, and as deputy superintendent of the Concord reformatory. He now holds the responsible position of sergeant at arms of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Last year his ardent friends presented his name to the republican convention for candidacy for lieutenant governor, and without canvas or organization his name called out a large vote.

Down To Business

The encampment takes up routine work
Address of Commander in Chief Weissert

The business session of the encampment began at Tomlinson hall at 11 a.m., but the morning session was taken up in seating delegates and in organization. Admission was denied to all who failed to give the national countersign given out Tuesday night by Commander In Chief Weissert. Gov. Matthews welcomed the delegates on behalf of the state and Mayor Sullivan on behalf of the city. Col. Eli Lilly, chairman of the Indianapolis reception committee, also spoke, after which they withdrew and the session got down to business.

Report of Legislative Committee

The report of the Committee on Legislation, John Ranies, Amos J. Cummings, William E. W. Ross, Charles P. Lincoln and Joseph W. Kay formed a decidedly lively document and was repeatedly applauded. It laid stress on the fact that the law that provides that those discharged from military service by reason of wounds or sickness

incurred in the line of duty shall have a preference in appointment to public offices, and the one recommending those honorably discharged by reason of expiration of their terms of service at the close of the war to the business men and firms of the country for lucrative employment, had been more honored.

Many Reunions

Ex-President Harrison addressed his old Comrades

Gen. Lew Wallace in Tears

An Address by McKinley

There were many regimental reunions during the day and evening. Ex-President Harrison's old regiment, the Seventieth, with brigade associates, held forth at Masonic hall in the morning. The hall was crowded to its utmost. The associates elected Harrison president, and in returning thanks he made a brief speech, in the course of which he said:

"There is a great reserve of patriotism. We differ and fall apart, and things fall into evil ways in public affairs. Some say free government is a failure and the people going wrong, but my countrymen, it is not so. Mr. Lincoln expressed it truly when he said: "the people may get off the line, but they will wobble right after a while." We now have a flag over the school houses, I remember at the observance of the centennial of Washington's inauguration in New York how greatly I was impressed, as I have been here, by the acres of flags that were spread on the faces of the great buildings of the metropolis. As I rode up through Wall street and Broadway street, that mean to us only the sharp greedy competition of trade -- and saw every sign of the broker and merchant hidden by the flags the thought came to me, "What will they do with all those flags when the celebration is over?" That night at the banquet I ventured to suggest that they should be sent to the schoolhouses and raised over them, and now that has been pretty generally done. (applause). One thing more remains. Let us bring the flag in to every American house. (applause). Let no man's sitting room, however humble, lack the decoration."

Gen. Wallace Breaks Down

Other reunions were held during the day and evoked marked enthusiasm, but none more so than at the gathering of the Eleventh Indiana, Gen. Lew Wallace's old regiment. The author of "Ben Hur" tried to make a speech, but his feelings got the better of him and he broke down in tears. There were about a hundred of the "boys" there and half of them were soon crying also. When the lachrymose scene had become painful somebody proposed three cheers for Wallace and they were given in a way that raised the roof.

McKinley Speaks

A picnic was given in the afternoon at Armstrong park attended by about 3,500 Grand Army men and their families. Gov. McKinley, of Ohio, was the chief speaker. In the course of his remarks he said:

"To keep the United States forever free is the business of the Grand Army of the Republic now and of everybody. No matter what else they take away from us they cannot deprive us of our patriotism and love for the old flag. And we will fight for it just

the same if they take away every pension from us. There is no commandership in the world like that founded on the privations endured in the field and fighting for a common cause.”

Friday, September 8, 1893
The Elgin Daily News

CLOSE OF THE ENCAMPMENT

Action of the Veterans on the Pension Question Other Matters

Indianapolis, Sept. 8. -- With a three times three and a tiger for the old flag and the restoration of the suspended veterans to the pension roll, the twenty-seventh national encampment of the Grand Army has adjourned sine die. The incoming Commander-In-Chief announced the appointment of James M. Meech, of Boston, as adjutant general, and Louis Wagner, of Philadelphia, as quartermaster general. Some of the members of the council of administration for the ensuing year are as follows: Wisconsin, George L. Thomas; Michigan, George H. Hopkins; Iowa, John Lindt; Illinois, H. S. Dietrich; Indiana, C. J. Murphy.

The pension committee's report arraigns the present administration for "pernicious activity" in the line of cutting off pensions, the action of Secretary of the interior Smith on the act of 1890 is condemned as unjust, and Commissioner Raum's ruling on the law declared to be fair and proper, and Secretary Smith is asked to reinstate that ruling. There was considerable discussion of technical and verbal points, but on the final vote the encampment was unanimous in adopting the report.

While the dissension was going on a telegram from Washington was read which stated that the pension bureau had refused to renew the suspended pensions, but promised to settle all suspended claims in two weeks. The telegram made no impression on the meeting. A resolution asking that the discount on greenbacks during the war be made up to the soldier was laid on the table and one demanding preference to veterans in appointments to office was adopted. A lot of miscellaneous business was attended to and then the new officers were installed, the new Commander-In-Chief being received with tremendous enthusiasm.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Sarah C. Mink, of New York, president, and Armilla A. Chaney, of Detroit, treasurer. The Ladies of the Grand Army elected Mrs. Amanda J. Withern, of Minnesota, president, and Mrs. Gordon, of Kansas, treasurer.

Wednesday, September 20, 1893
The Morris Daily Herald

O. N. Olson, company D of the old 36th, arrived here today to attend the reunion. He is accompanied by John Allaker, both being located in Renville, Minn. They will be the guests of Auctioneer Thorson.

Free Dinner

All members of the 36th regiment and their wives will be given dinner free, Thursday, the day of the reunion. Only members of the old regiment and their wives.

Friday, September 22, 1893
The Morris Daily Herald

After the Ball and Banquet

The contribution given by the old soldiers yesterday to the W. R. C. "for their dinner" amounted to \$23.50. The tickets sold yesterday amounted to \$12.85. As it was a bad night the ladies did not serve many suppers (for they had no such food left over from the banquet that they were enabled to serve supper for the ball); hence the total receipts perhaps aggregated \$50 or thereabouts. There were many pies and cakes left over this morning which were sold.

Friday, September 22, 1893
The Elgin Daily Courier

The 36th

Major George D. Sherman, Captain L. M. Kelley and city clerk Sylla comprised the Elgin delegation to the reunion of the 36th Illinois veterans at Morris Thursday. The attendance from other cities was large and a very pleasant time was had by all present. The programme as published was carried out and several impromptu numbers interspersed. Major George D. Sherman made a speech in his most happy vein. Captain L. M. Kelley also addressed the old boys and in response to a pressing invitation from all, sang an army song.

1894

Illinois Department of the Grand Army of the Republic met at Rockford on May 15th. H. H. McDowell, of Pontiac was elected Department Commander. On September 12th the National Encampment was held at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Thomas G. Lawler, of Rockford, Illinois was elected to Commander-In-Chief. The Illinois boys at their department encampment had done their work well, squeaking out a very close victory over Walker. Diminishing ranks would continue to be a critical topic as destitute veterans who had been suspended from the ranks, for non payment of dues, were reinstated. There were calls for investigations of the Pension Bureau and it's Director. A gradual decline in the quality and quantity of newspaper coverage began to be noticeable on the national level. Column space was reduced as the veterans presented a less formidable block of votes. Local affairs still held sway in the papers, however. On September 27th the 36th reunion returned to Aurora, where it had been mustered into service thirty three years earlier. James F. Herral was selected for president, with L. M. Kelley, vice. Once again J. M. Kennedy served as secretary/treasurer.

Tuesday, May 15, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY OF ILLINOIS
The Encampment at Rockford a Success
Leading Candidates

Rockford, May 15. -- Four thousand visitors are in the city attending the G. A. R. encampment, making it by far the largest encampment ever held in the state. Commander-In-Chief Adams, Department Commander Blodgett and staff, ex-Governor Fifer, General H. H. McDowell, and Major R. E. Woods, the latter two candidates for commander, are among the prominent veterans present. The leading candidates for the offices are: Department commander, Robert M. Woods, of Joliet; H. H. McDowell, of Pontiac, and W. H. Powell, of Bellville. Senior vice commander, A. F. Wolcott, of Chicago, and R. A. Keeler, of Irving Park. Junior vice commander, J. B. Inman, of Springfield, and H. P. Barnum, of Waukegan. General John I. Rinaker, of Carlinville, may be sprung as a dark horse for commander. The boom of Colonel T. W. Lawler for commander-in-chief is receiving a big send off.

Wednesday, May 16, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

GREATEST PARADE EVER SEEN

Grand Army Turn Out at Rockford
Reviewed By Children

Rockford, Ills., May 16. -- The greatest parade ever seen in northern Illinois inaugurated the twenty-eighth annual encampment of the Illinois G. A. R., in this city, over 2,000 veterans being in line, while double that number of visitors witnessed it from crowded walks and windows along the line of march. Five thousand school children saw it from Haskell Park, waved flags and sang patriotic songs as it passed. Commander-In-Chief Adams and staff, Department Commander Blodgett and staff, and others reviewed the imposing spectacle from the court house steps.

Last night two big campfires were held. Charles A. Works gave the address of welcome and Commander Blodgett responded. Other addresses were made by Commander-In-Chief Adams, ex-commanders Fairchild and Weissert, ex-Governor Fifer, General John McNulta, Judge Tuthill, of Chicago, and others.

Today the business sessions of the G. A. R., W. R. C., and Ladies of the G. A. R. commenced, the elections following tomorrow. Major R. M. Woods and General H. H. McDowell are in the lead for department commander, and each is sanguine of success. Mrs. S. R. Spaulding, of Rockford seems to have the strongest following for president of the W. R. C. The encampment is a complete success, and pronounced by all the largest ever held in Illinois.

Thursday, May 17, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY

Blodgett Presented with a Diamond Badge
Some Nominations Made

Rockford, May 17. -- At the business session of the state encampment, G. A. R., after a short address by Commander-In-Chief Adams, who left immediately thereafter for the Ohio encampment, Commander Blodgett was presented with a diamond G. A. R. badge and a cane from the battlefield of Wilson's Creek. His response was an eloquent

one. In his annual address he referred to the large number of suspensions for non-payment of dues, and urged the appointment of a committee to see that veterans who were utterly unable to pay were not among the suspended.

Reports were presented showing a gain of 2,989 members and a loss of 4,430, of which 545 were by death and 2,390 by suspension. The total number in good standing was 29,521. Total expended for charity \$10,489.25. Major G. S. Roper, of Rockford was made a delegate-at-large to the Pittsburgh encampment and forty others nominated as delegates. Bloomington was chosen as the next place of meeting. Rev. W. H. Jordan, of Wyoming, and Rev. F. C. Bruner, of Carrollton, were nominated for chaplain, and the rest of the nominations went over.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. organized by electing Mrs. Z. R. Winslow, of Chicago, president; Mrs. Quinton, of Aurora, senior vice; Mrs. Mary E. Polk, of La Grange, junior vice; Mrs. Howe, of Chicago, treasurer. Over four hundred delegates are in attendance at the annual meeting of the W. R. C. Mrs. S. R. Spaulding, of Rockford, and Mrs. M. R. M. Wallace, of Chicago, were placed in nomination for president.

Friday, May 18, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

List of Officers Elected
Lawler For Commander-In-Chief
The Ladies

Rockford, May 18. -- With the election of officers the twenty-eighth annual encampment of Illinois G. A. R. came to a close last evening. H. H. McDowell, of Pontiac was elected Department Commander on the second ballot; E. A. Keeler, of Irving Park, senior vice; J. J. Inman, of Springfield, junior vice; Dr. W. P. Pierce, of Hoopston, medical director, and Frank C. Bruner, of Urbana, chaplain. The delegates to the national encampment at Pittsburgh were unanimously instructed to vote and work for Colonel T. G. Lawler, of Rockford, for commander-in-chief.

The W. R. C. had a big row in their convention, the friends of Mrs. M. R. M. Wallace, of Chicago, stealing a march on Mrs. Sophia R. Spaulding, of Rockford. While the latter's friends were at lunch at noon they took a vote on president and elected Mrs. Wallace president by a 44 majority. The Spaulding delegates were very much exasperated. The other W. R. C. officers are: Senior vice president, Mrs. Carrie Briggs,

Delevan; junior vice, Mrs. Jennie G. Harrison, Sterling; treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. McCauley, Olney; chaplain, Mrs. Morris, Marengo.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. elected these officers: President, Mrs. Z. R. Winslow, Chicago; senior vice president, Mrs. Quinton, Aurora; junior vice president, Mrs. Mary E. Polk, La Grange; treasurer, Mrs. Hume, Chicago.

Wednesday, September 12, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

IN LINES OF BLUE

VETERAN SOLDIERS AGAIN KEEP STEP TO NATIONAL MUSIC

Old Vets Shoulder to Shoulder

Forty thousand of them take part in what may be their last parade.
More than half a million people watch and cheer the gray
haired defenders as they pass through Pittsburgh streets.
Judge Long Withdraws.

Pittsburgh, September 12. -- It seemed as though the entire population of western Pennsylvania had poured itself into the city to witness the great annual national parade of the Grand Army veterans. From an early hour the streets in the business district were well nigh impassable, and as the time for the formation of the parade approached windows, balconies and roofs became a sea of faces. The veterans themselves were up bright and early and after breakfast hastened to the places designated for forming the line. Military rules were strictly enforced and all was in readiness when the booming of cannon gave the signal for the head of the column to move. At least forty thousand men marched in blue.

More Than Half a Million Spectators

The parade started at 10:30 a.m. and the old vets marched with wonderful precision to the music of the union and the waiting thousands cheered them without stint -- cheers that ran along the whole line of march and set the flags on the houses to fluttering. It is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the spectators. Every available inch along the route was packed, every side street was jammed full of people for a hundred yards and the housetops for blocks away were hidden by masses of enthusiastic applauders. A rough estimate is that from 500,000 to 600,000 people saw the

parade. Of this number 300,000 to 330,000 came over the railroads, 100,000 arriving in the morning.

Had A Sad Reason For Turning Out

The old soldiers turned out in force, but, few being seen out of line while the parade was moving. But the vets had a good reason for determining to make the parade one to be long remembered. This was probably the last time the vets will turn out in such force as it is seriously contemplated by the G. A. R. officials, in view of the advancing age and infirmities of the members, to abandon this most attractive feature of the national encampment. Therefore they proposed to make the last parade a success and tramped over the two miles of the route with the same determination that characterized them when they marched against the southern armies.

Prairie State Boys In The Van

Illinois was on the "Right of the Line" and Pennsylvania was rear guard, and it was 1:30 p.m. before the Keystone department swung into line and closed up the rear. At 3:00 o'clock the end of the column reached the Associated Press office, the parade having been just four hours and fifteen minutes in passing down Fifth avenue. Then the division broke into posts and marched to their quarters in different parts of the two cities.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORED DEAD

Marchers Uncover as They Pass the Statues of Washington, Lincoln and Grant

A neat tribute by the veterans paid to the memory of the famous dead, was the reverent raising of hats by each division as it approached the triumphal arch on Fifth avenue in front of the Associated Press office. The life-like statues of Washington, Lincoln and Grant surmounting the arch were given this recognition by almost every division passing through. At Allegheny park Governor Pattison and staff and a throng of notables occupied a stand and reviewed the cheering line as it passed. The weather continued cool and bright, throughout the entire day and was perfect for the occasion.

The day passed with fewer accidents than were expected, and none was serious. Several women fainted in the crowds along the sidewalks, and a few prostrations among the veterans was reported, but such thorough preparations had been made for this class by the hospital corps of the National Guard that immediate attention was given and speedy relief afforded. The police arrangements for handling the immense crowd were as nearly perfect as possible, and the streets along the route were kept absolutely clear for the use of the marchers.

There were a number of meetings held during the day. The National Association of Army and Navy Chaplains met in the Y.M.C.A. rooms and elected Rev. T. H. Haggarty, chaplain of the Ninety-third Illinois, president, and Chaplain C. C. McCabe, of the One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio, secretary. The naval veterans elected the following officers: Commodore, Will. E. Atkins, of Cincinnati (the election reported

yesterday was a mistake); captain and shipmate, George C. Ireland, Brooklyn; commander, S. W. Shaw, Zanesville, Ohio; lieutenant commander, J. J. Gillman, Boston.

Several notable campfires were held last evening at which addresses were made by Governor Pattison, Henri Watterson, Senator Manderson, General Butterfield, Governor McKinley, Governor Rich, Congressman Stone, General Alger, Church Howe, of Nebraska, William A. Ketchum, of Indiana, Judge Dicks, of Minnesota, L. D. Woodworth, of Ohio, Admiral Osborn, Joseph H. Cheadle, of Indiana, General Trowbridge, of Michigan, and others.

The National Convention of Union Ex-Prisoners of War met last evening and re-elected the old officers for another year. No other business of general interest was transacted. The president is Charles D. Davis, of Boston; vice president, George W. Grant, of Minneapolis, and secretary-treasurer, J. L. Kilgore.

JUDGE LONG OUT OF THE CONTEST
He Says His Candidacy is Wrongly Construed
Walker the Favorite.

Judge Charles D. Long, of Michigan, has withdrawn from the contest for commander-in-chief of the Grand Army. A letter will be submitted to the meeting of the delegates today explaining his reasons for withdrawing. In the letter Judge Long refers to the successful outcome of his pension contest in Washington, one result of which the receipt of hundreds of letters urging him to become a candidate for commander-in-chief. He finds however the candidacy has been construed as bringing partisan politics into the national encampment and its support as a blow directed against the present administration.

Indications now point to the election of I. N. Walker, of Indiana, as commander-in-chief, and to Louisville as the place of meeting for the next encampment. The present commander-in-chief Adams, favors Walker, and so expresses himself privately, but Lawler's friends are hopeful of success, and will not admit that there is any such thing as defeat. "As Pennsylvania goes, so goes the encampment," has come to have considerable significance, and as Pennsylvania favors Walker and Louisville her votes are being eagerly sought.

The Kentucky delegation, in recognition of his courtesies to them, have had made a handsomely designed gold mounted gavel, which will be presented to General Adams in behalf of the delegation. The gavel is one piece, and was cut from a large tree on the Lincoln homestead farm in Larue County, Ky. Engraved upon a plate of gold affixed upon the face is a portrait of Lincoln, upon the other is a facsimile of the G. A. R. badge. The handle is also covered with beautiful designs in gold.

Thursday, September 13, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

G. A. R. IN COUNCIL

Col. Ainsworth at Washington Not Well Liked.
Two Resolutions Aimed at Him.

Capt. Adams report calls attention to a sad fact.
The Grand Army is slowly passing away.
Legislative Committee's reports.
Louisville selected for the next encampment.
The struggle for the Commander-In-Chief's gavel.

Pittsburgh, September 13. --Among the resolutions prepared for general action of the encampment which is now in session are two that are exciting considerable interest. The first of these has been drawn by Capt. Thomas McKee, secretary of the national Republican congressional committee of Washington, who is not himself present, but entrusts the resolution to Comrade I. E. Burke, of Washington. This resolution is about twenty lines in length and demands an investigation in the system reporting upon applications of pensions as pursued in the record and pension bureau under the management of Colonel Ainsworth, its official head. Another paragraph in the resolution demands that Colonel Ainsworth be himself investigated on allegations that he caused the dismissal of ex-Union workers for cause other than provided for in the statutes defining the rights of veterans to employment under the government.

Gives Names of the Soldiers

The other resolution covers the whole system of reporting upon and granting pensions, and charges that "graves inai" practices exist in connection with the conduct of the record and pension bureau of Colonel F. C. Ainsworth who is the official head. The resolution has attached to it the names of three members of the Washington post. Appended to it is a list of thirty-two ex-Union soldiers, all of whom, the resolution charges, were dismissed from the service of the bureau, some of them to make way for ex-rebel soldiers and others; all of these men being at the same time perfectly able to do the duty they were relieved from.

Roll Of Veterans Decreasing

One thing marked the commander-in-chief's address -- which was the first thing in order when the delegates to the national encampment met -- after the usual welcomes and responses and a diversion in the way of a gavel presentation to Commander-In-Chief Adams. It is a historical gift, being made of wood from Fort Sumpter, Appomattox, Gettysburg and Libby prison and bound with metal from historic cannons. That one thing

was the fact that the Grand Army was diminishing. That from this time the death rate will be larger than the new admission roll. The reports of all the other officers found the order in good shape and no trouble in the ranks.

Losses, Gains and Aggregate

A year ago the commander-in-chief told the delegates there were 397,223 in the order; now there were but 369,083. The bulk of the missing are suspended, and that is due to the hard times, but the great total of 7,283 deaths tells of the inevitable, and the commander-in-chief recognized it, saying that the figures showed that the beginning of the end had been reached. He said of the pension question: "By a vote of the last encampment a test case was ordered to be made in the United States courts, and as that one already begun by Judge Long covered all the points it was settled that no other should be instituted. In reply to the message of the president, which stated that thousands of neighborhoods had their pension frauds, the pension department of the order has hunted down all reported cases. Very few frauds were discovered, and where found were not cases where soldiers had defrauded the government, but where some dishonest agent had worked a poor ignorant widow and put the money thus obtained in his pocket."

Permanent Headquarters

Commander Adams recommends the establishment of permanent headquarters, and concluded as follows, "As our members grow less may our love increase. Be true to the principles of the order. Keep sacred the memory of our dead, stand loyally for the interests of the living, and above and beyond all see to it that the flag we love so well and followed so long is not trailed in the dust. Place it higher and higher, until its stars mingle with those in the heavens, and its strips can be seen by all the world, telling that it is the emblem of equal rights and national unity, saved and made purer and brighter by the loyalty and devotion of its defenders."

THE REPORT ON LEGISLATION

Complains That Those Who Fought are Getting Scant Attention.

The report of the committee on legislation, after reciting that the G. A. R. endeavored to urge upon the Fifty-third congress at its long session the duty incumbent on this great nation to give preference in every public employment to the survivors of the war for the Union, by the enactment of a law which would, though tardily, carry out the promises made these men, in sections 1,754 and 1,755, revised statutes of the United States, passed March 9, 1865, says: "But, alas, as the war days recede further from the remembrance of the people of the generation of which we form a part, and the sacrifices and sufferings of those days are unknown, except by tradition, to those who have since been born, the greatest indifference seems to be shown on the part of our national lawmakers toward those who fought the battles of the Union and still survive.

"In consequence, but scant attention is paid to any appeals made for justice to these men. And this will continue to be so -- and until too late for our comrades to profit

thereby -- unless we as members of the Grand Army of the Republic, become more closely united in a fraternity which 'means something' as a cardinal principle and the motto of our order is regarded as more than a figure of speech among ourselves. Besides this, there is great need that those charged with the law making power in the national congress shall attain a higher and broader patriotism than they now seem to possess.

After the reading of reports, appointment of committees, etc., the next business was the fixing of the next encampment place, and Louisville was selected by a unanimous and rising vote. The nominations for commander-in-chief were then taken up, and the names of Messrs. I. N. Walker, of Indiana, and Colonel Lawler, of Illinois were presented. Nominations were then closed and the convention adjourned for the day.

The Woman's Relief Corps met, as did the Ladies of the Grand Army and both transacted only routine business, as was that transacted of the Daughters of Veterans who met during the day. At the conclusion of the business meeting of the W. R. C., the doors were thrown open to visitors. The crowd was large because Governor Pattison and staff were present. When the Governor appeared on the rostrum he received an enthusiastic greeting. He complimented the members of the corps on the way they had stimulated the patriotism of the nation, and on the grand progress they had made since their organization.

There was one more parade -- that of the ex-prisoners of war. They turned out about 1,000 strong and represented every state in the Union and every military prison south of Mason and Dixon's line during the war. General Daniel E. Sickles was tendered a reception in the First M. E. church by the members of his old corps, the Third. General Charles B. T. Collis, of New York, created a sensation in the brief speech he made. He said it was the duty of the old soldiers and sailors to conserve the safety of the nation, and that they should train their sons to carry on the work. He then referred to the alleged armor plate frauds, and insisted that the investigation should not be allowed to drop.

EACH HAS ENOUGH VOTES

Both Candidates Can Be Elected According To Their Claims

The political situation of the G. A. R. is very much mixed. The friends of each of the candidates for commander-in-chief claim to have enough votes pledged to their man, and have regularly organized campaign committees working hard for the votes. No point is left uncovered. As there are but two candidates the canvas is all the more vigorous. The Walker men revised returns and claim that they had a majority of 128. They say they have Maine, Montana, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Delaware, all solid; Ohio, all but three; half of Michigan; all of Nebraska, Kentucky, Washington, Alaska, California, Department of Potomac, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Texas, and the majority of Wisconsin. If these claims are true, Walker's election is certain.

But the Lawler people claim to be able to beat him out with New York solid; New Jersey, all but two or three; Maryland practically solid; Maine solid, also New Hampshire, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Washington, Oregon and Montana. Wisconsin voted 18 to 12 in favor of Lawler, but its unit vote may be forced and given to him solid. Lawler claims the majority of Michigan, all of Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, District of Columbia, a little less than half of Ohio, all of Kansas, Nebraska, Florida, Louisiana and probably half of California.

In Pennsylvania's caucus Walker received 42 to 21 for Lawler. The Walkerites think that they can force the unit rule. On account of these conflicting claims, a final vote will be required to settle the matter. By custom, the state in which the encampment is held is given the national senior vice commander-in-chief. A. P. Burchfield, of Allegheny City, will have no opposition for the position. The ladies campaign is going on with unabated energy, but no figures can be given.

Mrs. General John A. Logan arrived in the city last evening and was escorted to the Monongahela House by Columbia post 706, of Chicago. Her arrival was announced by the firing of a number of detonating rockets in front of the hotel. Mrs. Logan held a reception for post 706 and later was taken to the reception in the East end.

Mrs. General Custer sent to the national encampment, for use during the present session, the table upon which General Lee signed the articles of capitulation. The table was originally the property of General Sheridan, but he gave it to General Custer.

Friday, September 14, 1894
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS IS IN LUCK

She Wins The Honor of G. A. R. Commander.
Closest Vote That Was Ever Cast.
Colonel Lawler having but eleven majority over Walker, of Indiana.
The narrow margin a surprise to both parties.
Other officers elected.
The Council of Administration.
Sketch of the new chief's career.
Encampment closed.

Pittsburgh, September, 14. -- The homeward rush of Pittsburgh's soldier visitors has begun in earnest. Together with their relatives and friends who accompanied them to this city, they are leaving town in almost as large numbers as they came down upon the

city. For the purpose of the gathering is practically accomplished; the great annual parade has been held; the encampment has heard the yearly reports, and the place for the next meeting has been selected. Last of all -- and a matter that attracts as much interest and attention as the great parade -- the commander-in-chief has been elected, and his name is Lawler, from the Prairie State. There has never been so closely contested an election nor one in which the winner had so short a margin.

Both Parties Much Surprised

And it was this short margin that surprised both the candidates and their supporters. Each had, previous to the ballot, felt sure that he had enough votes to "get there" with a hundred or so over. And the way each figured, as stated yesterday in these dispatches, gave the outsider the impression that both would be elected. But the tug of war showed where they stood, and when the ballots were counted Lawler had just 11 votes more than Walker. The total vote was Lawler, 330; Walker, 319. The list of officer was completed as follows: Senior vice commander, Major C. P. Burchard, of Pittsburgh; junior vice, Charles Shute, of Louisiana; surgeon general, O. W. Weeks, of Ohio; chaplain-in-chief, T. H. Haggerty, of St. Louis.

The Council of Administration

The Council of Administration includes the following: Utah, C. O. Farnsworth; California, Colonel E. T. Blackmore; Vermont, Ebenezer J. Ormsbee; Virginia and North Carolina, A. Hager; South Dakota, Governor Charles H. Shelton; Delaware, Charles Zerbey; Ohio, R. H. Cochrane; Mississippi, F. M. Sterrett; Nebraska, J. F. De Cher; New Jersey, Emanuel Sanols; Rhode Island, Charles A. Barbour; New York, David S. Brown; Michigan, George H. Hopkins; Minnesota, Albert Schaffer; Washington, C. H. Holmes; Tennessee, W. H. Veazey; Iowa, Albert W. Swalin; Potomac, G. M. Pusted; West Virginia, I. H. Duval; Georgia, Jos. H. Thibadeau; Kansas, O. H. Coulter; Kentucky, Charles W. Herdman; Alabama, G. H. Patrick; Wisconsin, O. W. Carlson; Illinois, H. S. Dietrick; Indiana, W. H. Armstrong.

Lawler's Fine Army Record.

Colonel Thomas G. Lawler was born in Liverpool about fifty years ago. He came to this country when he was 10 years old and was 17 when the war began. His army service began in April 1861, when he made a three months contract to fight for the stars and stripes in the Nineteenth Illinois infantry, Sept. 17th of the same year he reenlisted for three years as a private in Company E of the Nineteenth, with which brave regiment he participated in all the fire and fuss which the Army of the Cumberland was fated to pass through. He was honorably discharged September 17, 1864, his rank at that time being sergeant. On receiving his discharge he returned to Rockford, where he has ever since made his home, and where his record as a citizen has ever remained as free from blemish as was his record as a soldier in the field. He gets his title of Colonel from the national guard.

Looks Much Like Gen. Logan

Colonel Lawler was among the early members of post 124 of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was formed in 1866, and helped to escort General John A. Logan when the general delivered an address about that time. Just here it may be mentioned the marked resemblance in personal appearance between General Logan and Colonel Lawler has often been referred to by those who have seen and known both of the men. In sterling mental and social traits the two men were also remarkably alike. Colonel Lawler, previous to election to the commandership, served as past and senior vice commander of Nevius post, and he now enjoys the unique record of not only being the commander of the oldest Grand Army of the Republic post in existence, but of having filled that position uninterruptedly for more than a quarter of a century.

DISCUSSED COL. AINSWORTH

Work of the auxiliary organizations.

Display of fireworks.

As soon as the election was announced peals of applause rang through the opera house. When some semblance of quiet was restored Colonel Walker withdrew his name and the election of Colonel Lawler was made unanimous. In a brief the new commander-in-chief thanked his supporters, and said he would work to the utmost for the advancement of that grand organization -- the Grand Army of the Republic. Nevius post, of Rockford, Illinois, in honor of the election of Colonel Lawler, fired a salute of twenty-one guns on the river bank. Dinner was next in order, and upon reassembling the encampment took up the resolutions censuring Colonel Ainsworth, of the pension department at Washington, for discharging veterans from government employ.

After a long debate the resolutions censuring Colonel Ainsworth were not adopted. A series of resolutions was carried, however, declaring that distress has fallen on many comrades through the withdrawal from them of "that preference in the public service to which they are justly entitled, and which it should be the grateful duty of the authorities of the national government to accord," that the Grand Army protests against the conduct of those public servants, "more particularly at the national capital, who without necessity, justifications or valid excuse, and contrary to the repeated declarations and assurances of the legislative and executive authorities of the government, have deprived many hundreds of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Union army and navy, and the widows, son and daughters of those deceased, of their employment in the public offices.

The resolutions go on to say that "veterans holding employment under the government should have and they have the right to demand from the executive authorities that protection awarded them by the national legislature, and any failure on the part of those authorities to so protect them is a violation of the law and of patriotic principle which excites our strongest reprobation." That in as much as the efforts of the Grand Army have proved unavailing, an appeal is made to the people for an expression through

the press, and in other ways on fit occasions, of the national sense of gratitude to the survivors of the Union armies.

Commander-In-Chief Adams then returned thanks for all the honors bestowed upon him, and Past Commander-In-Chief R. B. Beath installed, with all the ceremony of the ritual, the elected officers and all the G. A. R. flags, records and effects were turned over to the new officials. Commander-In-Chief Lawler here grasped the gavel, and soon the new chaplain-in-chief Haggerty came to the footlights to pronounce the benediction and the twenty-eighth encampment was finished. This is the first time an encampment has concluded its business and elected and installed its officers in a sitting of two days.

All the auxiliary organizations were busy electing officers during the day. The Veteran Signal Service Corps Association elected W. H. Homes, of Iowa, president, and Charles D. W. Marcy, of Boston, secretary. The Daughters of Veterans made Mrs. E. M. Walker, of Massachusetts, president, and Miss. Ida J. Allen, of Newtonville, Mass., treasurer. The Woman's Relief Corps elected the following officers without much friction; President, Mrs. Emma R. A. Wallace, of Chicago; senior vice president, Mrs. Helen R. Morrison, of Smithport, Pa.; junior vice president, Mrs. Lizzie R. Herrick, of Seattle, Wash.; treasurer, Mrs. Armila A. Cheney, of Detroit; chaplain, Mrs. S. Agnes Parker, of Massachusetts.

At the session of the Ladies of the G. A. R., the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Nettie E. Gunlock, of Chicago; treasurer, Mrs. J. C. George, of Washington; chaplain, Mrs. Mary E. Reynolds, of Wisconsin.

A fitting close to the day was the display of fireworks on the Monongahela River at the foot of Smithfield street. The citizens committee out did itself and furnished a display that has seldom been surpassed. At least 20,000 people lined the wharf, Mount Washington, the bridges and house tops in the vicinity. A few trifling accidents occurred during the evening, but nothing of a serious character resulted.

The new Commander-In-Chief issued his first orders last night, appointing C. C. Jones, of Rockford, Ills., adjutant general, and comrade J. N. Burst, of Syracuse, Ills., quartermaster general, and establishing headquarters at Rockford, Ills.

Friday, September 27, 1894
The Aurora Beacon News

THEY RALLY IN FORCE

The Veterans of the Gallant Old Thirty-Sixth
Descended on Aurora Yesterday

Nearly One Hundred were Present,
Many with their Families
They gave inspiration and
Their Appetites were Good

The greatest gathering for many years of veterans of the 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry occurred yesterday, the occasion of the 28th annual re-union. It always seems most fitting for the survivors of this splendid regiment to meet in Aurora, as it was here it was organized and from this city it marched forth on that September day, 1861, to make an illustrious record.

Early yesterday morning visiting members began to be seen upon the streets, and when the business meeting was called at 11 o'clock there were nearly one hundred present. Prominent among them was Col. Nicholas Greusel, the first commander, now with the weight of 77 years upon him, but erect and strong as a man of 50. The usual business session was called to order by President P. A. Johnson. Reports from the different companies showed four deaths to have occurred since the re-union of a year ago, viz.

Richard Watson of Company F
Eric Johnson of Company A
Daniel Kennedy of Company G
L. M. Perry of Company B, Cavalry

Officers were elected for the coming year as follows: J. F. Harral, of Aurora, president; L. M. Kelley, of Elgin, vice president; J. M. Kennedy, of Aurora, secretary.

As usual there was more or less good natured joking between the old vets, and when J. M. Kennedy was nominated for secretary, J. F. Harral seconded the nomination with the remark that he believed in giving that office to the meanest man that could be found in the organization. Comrade Sherman of Elgin, at once flashed back, "Can't do it, he's already elected president." and Harral blushed and sat down. Elgin made a bid for the re-union next year, and her offer was accepted. Letters were read from a number of absent comrades who could not be present, and the secretary reported that a less number of invitations had been returned to him this year than in any previous year while he had

held the office, showing that nearly all the survivors were reached. About 470 invitations were sent out. The committee on resolutions read resolutions on the death of the comrades named, and these were adopted by a ringing vote.

An elegant souvenir, the work of the Elliott Engraving Co., of this city, was distributed among the visitors, dedicated to the 36th and containing Gen. Wm. H. Lytle's famous poem, "Antony and Cleopatra." A vote of thanks was tendered for this favor. The souvenir in its mention of the poet says its author was a member of the 36th, which is not quite true. He was commander of the brigade to which the regiment belonged, his home being in Ohio, and at the battle of Chickamauga was killed close to the colors of the 36th, his body being recovered under a flag of truce.

Comrade Harral reported the failure of the committee on transportation to secure reduced railroad rates owing to the insufficient number attending, and apparently touched the popular key when he said he believed that a law ought to be passed giving old soldiers half fare rates to all their re-unions as long as enough were left to come together. The sixth, 127th and 4th cavalry experienced the same difficulty and discrimination of the kind against the veterans appeared entirely wrong. A motion was carried looking to the perfection of arrangements for attending a grand re-union at Chattanooga next September, and the old committee was continued to set in that capacity as well as that for which it was originally appointed.

The meeting was then adjourned and the line of march was taken up for the banquet hall in the Pierce building on South Broadway, headed by a G. A. R. Post martial band and Col. Greusel. The Woman's Relief Corps had made earnest efforts to provide a suitable dinner for their guests, and were entirely successful. About 200 persons partaking and going away filled. After the banquet, music and toasts were in order. Geo. D. Sherman, of Elgin, made an admirable toastmaster. After a song by the Ladies' quartet, finely rendered, Mr. Murphy was called on to deliver a welcoming address.

Mr. Murphy said in substance that he had protested that it would be almost impertinent for him, who knew nothing of hardships and battles, to talk to the scarred veterans of the 36th. The history of the war and of the regiment, that had been published, he was familiar with, but its unwritten history could not be obtained in a library. He had taken pride and interest in its record. He compared the rebellion with the campaigns of Caesar, Alexander and Napoleon, and of other conquerors, pointing to the fact that in our war the victors instead of being in a rabble of slaves, had brought no trophies of their victory, the shackles of four million bonded men made free. In the old wars and in all foreign wars it was a strife between nations in which the weaker was ground under the foot of the stronger. The American civil war reunited in the creation of a mighty nation and the good accomplished was greater than in any conflict of history. The members of the 36th belonged to one of the proudest regiments which fought during the rebellion. The tribute to the private soldier proving that among all generals and commanding officers, that these young men were braver and more valiant than the men commanded

who did the actual fighting. The story of the old guard of Napoleon of Waterloo will be told while time lasts, but those men were no braver than the blue clad boys of the 36th at Mission Ridge and Chickamauga. In the French army the losses in battle were about eleven percent of the numbers engaged, while in the rebellion a loss reaching as high as forty percent was often realized. Mr. Murphy was proud to address such a body of men, they were greater than he, and he thought more of the veteran soldiers of the republic than of any other body on earth. He could join any society or church if he received votes enough, but had not the qualifications to become a member of The Grand Army. A welcome was extended to the visitors not only on behalf of the people of Aurora, but of the United States and of humanity in general.

Comrade J. C. Denison responded on behalf of the regiment. He felt that a great honor had been thrust upon him in making him the mouthpiece for his comrades on this occasion. The people of Aurora had always given the boys of his regiment a hearty greeting, and the memories of the old city were wonderfully tender. He recalled vividly the old days, thirty-three years ago in Camp Hammond, and said he helped cook the first meal in camp for Company A, over a fire of green wood, with the smoke blowing in his direction wherever he happened to turn. It used to be easy to elude the guard, slide down into the gravel pit, steal over through the corn field and go up to Aurora for a good time; but after the guard was doubled and their guns were loaded there was greater caution. The regiment always made a grand appearance on dress parade, and camp life was exceedingly pleasant. But at length the day for departure came and the fun was over. He was reminded of a lady who saw his company when it first left Elgin, and who had some doubt whether the boys in it would ever make soldiers. As an answer to this query he read the following letter from one who has since gone to his reward, written in response to an invitation to attend the regimental re-union in 1874:

Chicago, Sept. 24, 1874

My Dear J. C. Denison, Secretary;

I am sorry to be obliged, on account of official duties, to decline your kind invitation to be present with the 36th Illinois at the coming re-union on the 24th instant.

My connection with the 36th Illinois commenced with the Pea Ridge campaign, and my attachment and love for the regiment will continue forever. I know of no regiment with which I was associated during the war, whose record was better, and I feel proud to have served with and commanded it as a part of my division during the trying days of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the campaign for East Tennessee.

With the kindest regards for all my old friends, I am yours truly.

P. H. Sheridan

Mr. Denison paid warm compliments to Hoke Smith and his crew, saying the appearance was that now Georgia was marching through us. He read an extract from a letter written home by a Texas Congressman, who remarked that "we have taken \$11,000,000 already and will take \$10,000,000 more in December from those fellows who came down here during the war and murdered us!" But there will be a change soon, and the old soldiers must stand together for their rights. He wanted to see the day when every honorably discharged Union soldier should have a pension. He feelingly mentioned Colonel Silas Miller, Major S. B. Sherer, Dr. D. W. Young and F. O. White -- the soldiers' friend -- a former citizen of Aurora and comrades of the 36th who had completed their work, and in conclusion expressed belief that all would meet hereafter at the final roll call on the last great day, where there will be no war and no night.

The quartet gave another fine selection, and Miss. Merrill feelingly recited "The Raw Recruit," after which the veteran Colonel Greusel was called upon. "It's like a dream to me to look around after thirty-three years. We started out with 1,290 of the greenest fellows you ever saw. I thought it might be hard work to get them into line and make them stand up to the fight." He had hard work, but no man ever stood up better. The regiment by actual record was the healthiest in the Army of the West and the Colonel was proud to think his efforts were well applied. The boys thought at first that they would be home in three months, but his knowledge of the fighting qualities of the southern troops, gained in the Mexican War, led him into a belief of a much longer fight. He also had a personal letter from General Sheridan regarding the 36th for which he would not take credit. The Colonel was always at the front responding to all events with a will.

Mrs. Woodward, President of the Woman's Relief Corps, remembered being at the train to see the regiment depart for the war and had many friends in it. "On behalf of Corps No. 10, she welcomed the survivors.

Deloss W. Hawkins, who was in one of the cavalry companies, detailed several incidents on the jovial side of army experiences, and remembered distinctly one time when the bullets were flying so thick that he wanted to go home and see his mother.

Comrade Corbell spoke of the unwritten history of the soldier, his feelings on the eve of battle, the later roll calls, and the general building of character by the men. If folks do think old soldiers live only to eat, and thus judge their characters, it is a wrong impression.

Rev. D. M. Tompkins said he was always glad to be in the presence of old soldiers, because he liked heroic characters and men who will express their opinions and are patriotic. Their presence always gave him inspiration. Soldiers are an example for young men who read and are familiar with history, but are better aided by the presence of men who made that history. Regarding the appetites of soldiers there seemed always to be plenty when the men arrived and nothing when they departed.

J. F. Herral responded to the toast:

“The youth will stand the greatest chance
For the saving of his soul,
Who lets his wife bring up the kids
While he brings up the coal.”

He said if Sherman hadn't come here on crutches he would let his wife lick him. He would rather be president of this association than the United States, and told several happy army anecdotes, among them how his bunkmate and himself could never adjust their blankets to their respective lengths and how he made his first biscuits in camp. He got his saleratus by burning corn cobs to ashes and straining the ashes through one end of his shirt.

Mrs. Dr. Ricker, the daughter of the old regimental surgeon, Dr. D. W. Young spoke tenderly of her father, whose death was her first great sorrow, and who in his fatal sickness called on Dr. Robbins to “have everything all right so he would look natural to the boys.”

“Auld Lang Syne” was sung, three cheers were given with a will for the ladies of Aurora, and the assemblage dispersed. The following members of the regiment were present at this re-union:

Chas. Pratt, J. F. Harral, J. H. Johnson, Wm. Smalles, W. W. Gifford, Jos. McCroskey, J. W. Orr, A. D. Scott, John Murley, C. W. Rhodes, John Hier, F. A. Mossborn, M. M. Robbins, D. B. Clark, E. Edwards, Charles Daggett, Wm. Howell, A. Lipsky, Joel Wagner, U. Foster, C. Kendall, S. Gillett, H. D. Wagner, F. Henker, H. W. Watkins, Geo. D. Sherman, L. M. Kelley, C. M. Baker, L. P. Boyd, C. M. Ralph, Joseph Way, A. D. Curran, W. F. Sylla, R. J. Eaton, Clark Tucker, L. T. Lathrop, W. J. Christie, Wm. Wollenweber, N. Hettenger, John A. McQueen, James Aucutt, C. N. Doan, H. B. Douglas, Dan Davis, John Carl, L. W. Gates, Thos. Hill, Fred Endor, N. Greusel, B. Adams, John Halderman, John A. Hewitt, John Burt, J. C. Hall, J. S. Hatch, F. W. Moore, S. Hitchcock, W. H. Chamberlin, E. H. Straight, M. E. Cornell, G. Gunson, J. A. Page, Jos. Ingham, Wm. Coulter, C. F. Sweetland, Chris, Zimmer, Wm. Van Holm, J. P. Lenhart, Jno. Thompson, W. A. Toby, W. W. Kern, George Ritz, P. A. Johnson, Elish. Lloyd, Thos. Welch, J. W. Ellis, Joe Anderson, M. J. Hammond, John Judd, John Alston, Jos. Jenkins, E. Todd, D. W. Hawkins, Henry Hennis, John C. Taylor, F. W. Sly, George Dorr, J. M. Kennedy, Wm. Browning, John Ott, S. M. Joy, Ed. Pierce, A. A. Lee, E. H. Griggs, E. E. Batch, Wm. Donavan.

1895

On May 14th the Department of Illinois, G. A. R. held its twenty-ninth annual encampment at Bloomington, electing W. H. Powell, of Belleville as it's Department Commander. Concern that Memorial Day had become a "Day of dissipation and noisy pleasure" brought a resolution which was sent to the national leadership. In Louisville, Kentucky on September 11th the national encampment was held, for the first time outside staunch northern territory. A first visible step toward reconciliation, it was visited by many ex-confederate veterans and included high ranking ex-confederate officers in the proceedings. The length of the parade route was fast becoming too long for the failing veterans to navigate and numerous cases of heat stroke moved the leadership to reconsider future parades. Auxiliary organizations were becoming numerous and at cross purposes. There was a need to focus them in anticipation of their taking a greater role as the veterans faded from sight. To that end some considered combining them, some did not. The Thirty-Sixth Survivors held their reunion in Elgin on September 26th, where James F. Harral, L. M. Kelley and J. M. Kennedy retained their positions for the coming year. When held in Aurora, headquarters of the organization was always located in the Memorial Building, guests of Post 20. The new officers for Post 20 G. A. R., were John L. Walker, commander, Gustavas Aucutt, s.v.c., and N. J. Thomas, j.v.c. The W. R. C. was headed by president J. May Ricker. L. G. A. R., president Carrie Scott, and S. O. V, captain Frank C. Hewitt.

Tuesday, May 14, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY MEETING

Bloomington puts on Gala Attire for the Occasion.
Big Crowd Present.

Bloomington, May 14. -- Bloomington is glowing with decorations and electric lights, the occasion being the encampment of the Illinois department of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the state gatherings of the Sons of Veterans, Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army and Ladies Aid Society. The only drawback is the inclement weather, rendering the camp of the Sons of Veterans at Miller Park uncomfortable. Council of Administration, G. A. R. was in session all day hearing reports and preparing the programme for business meetings. The finances of the department were reported in fine condition and the department generally prosperous.

The bulk of the members arrived last night and today, including the Chicago posts. Commander McDowell and staff held a reception at the Windsor Hotel last night, attended by the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans, and Ladies associations. At the same time a campfire was held at Schraeder's Opera House. General Powell, of Belleville, and General McNulta, of Chicago, candidates for commander, are both established in headquarters and their campaigns are booming. The Sons of Veterans have organized as follows: Colonel, S. D. Hall; Lieutenant Colonel, John A. Walters; Major, J. B. Muchmore; adjutant general, G. E. Powers.

Wednesday, May 15, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

PRAIRIE STATE BOYS IN BLUE

Parade In Which 5,000 Veterans Take Part.
That "Confed" Monument.

Bloomington, Ills., May 15. -- The city is full of men wearing the G. A. R. and S. of V. badges, and the weather all that could be desired, while lodging and board are in demand as never before in the town. Both the candidates for commander are at work and both confident of "getting there." The Sons of Veterans commenced their business session and passed resolutions against dedicating the Chicago Confederate monument by a vote of 51 to 41, which was afterwards made unanimous. Frank L. Shepherd, of Camp 6, Chicago, was elected commander of the Illinois division.

The Woman's Relief Corps held a meeting and arranged the preliminaries. The various committees conferred and made ready their reports and recommendations. There is nothing unusual looked for in the way of resolutions, and anything beyond routine business will be unexpected. The big event in the day was the parade in the afternoon. The Chicago posts arrived at 1 o'clock and the parade moved at 2:30. Over 5,000 veterans and ten bands and drum corps were in line.

The parade was headed by General George F. Dick, of Bloomington, marshal, and a platoon of police, the band of the Third regiment, Bloomington; Troop B, cavalry, and company F, Third regiment, both of this city, and several companies of cadets. Then came the commands of Sons of Veterans from Chicago, Peoria, Springfield, Lincoln, Clinton, Decatur, Champaign and a score of other cities. All these were escorts to the grizzled veterans from Chicago, Pontiac, Dwight, Joliet, Gibson, Paxton, Saybrook, Peoria, Decatur, Atlanta, Lincoln, Rockford, Champaign, Danville and many others.

In the line were 250 children of the soldiers' Orphans' Home at Normal. As they marched the Grand Army men, Sons of Veterans, and children joined in singing camp songs. At the Franklin Park city school the children gathered, singing war songs and waving flags. Last night there was a grand campfire. Thousands were turned away from the Opera House. Major Connolly, Mayor Heafer, ex-Governor Fifer, Commander McDowell and others made addresses.

Thursday, May 16, 1895

The Elgin Daily News

POWELL ELECTED COMMANDER

He Defeats McNulta in the Illinois G. A. R. Encampment.

Bloomington, Ills., May 16. -- Nearly all the Sons of Veterans, and many members of the Grand Army have left Bloomington. Rain fell all day and the weather was chilly and disagreeable. Owing to the desire of the delegates to get away the election of officers was brought up and General W. H. Powell, of Belleville, elected Commander. The vote was Powell, 453; McNulta, 319, and it was made unanimous. C. T. Coleman, of Canton, was elected senior vice commander, and D. B. Hubbard, of Neoga, junior vice commander.

The matter of selecting the location of the encampment next year comes up to day. It will probably be left to the commander and a committee, and located wherever the best railway rates can be secured. Cairo still seems to be in the lead for the honor. It is conceded that Commander Powell will retain Fred W. Spink, of Chicago, as adjutant. This fact figured in the election. Schroeder's Opera House was crowded last night on the occasion of the campfire by the Prisoners of War Association. There was a reception at the Windsor Hotel in honor of the President and staff of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Thursday, May 16, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

CAIRO

Is Where the Next G. A. R. Encampment will be Held.

Special By Associated Press.

Bloomington, Ills., May 16. -- Cairo was unanimously selected as the place for the next encampment. The whole pension matter was referred to the national encampment at Louisville. The state encampment ended this afternoon.

Friday, May 17, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY

Resolutions Adopted in Relation to the Annual Memorial Day.

Bloomington, May 17. -- Following is the text of resolutions adopted by the G. A. R. encampment: "Resolved, that we appreciate the growing tendency of many persons to appropriate our Memorial Day and turn it into a day of dissipation and noisy pleasure, for the purpose of baseball games, bicycle and horse races, and other kindred demonstrations, and earnestly request all comrades of the G. A. R. and all posts to use their influence against the desecration of said day by such practices and to keep it sacred to the object for which it was originally set apart, and request the grand commander in his memorial orders to do what he can to carry out these suggestions.

Commander Powell announced the appointment of Fred W. Spink, of Chicago, as assistant adjutant general, which was received with cheers. A ringing speech was made by national commander Lawler, who just arrived from the New York department encampment. Committees were appointed to report at the Cairo encampment on a distinctive badge for the Illinois department. S. T. Ferguson, of Joliet, was elected medical director; chaplain, Rev. Dr. C. W. Ayling, of Dwight. The following were elected as a council of administration -- T. W. Cole, Rockford, A. D. Cadwallader, Lincoln, Jesse G. King, Chicago, John S. Cook, Lake View, O. F. Avery, Pontiac. Delegates at large -- J. N. Reece, James O'Donnell, T. S. Rogers, A. Adair, Smith D. Atkins, W. F. Crawford and J. L. Bennett.

Thursday, September 12, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

IN LINE ONCE MORE

Again The Boys in Blue March to Union Music.
Parade Cheered By a Multitude.

Ovation given Commander-In-Chief Lawler.
Some notable people who were on the reviewing stand.
Grand campfire at night at which 4,000 old soldiers are present.
Henry Watterson lets the eagle loose in his welcome

Louisville, Sept. 12. -- Yesterday at the G. A. R. encampment was "the day we celebrate." There is no doubt about that. It has been the same at every encampment -- the day of the parade was The Day. The old soldiers, many of them grizzled and gray travel hundreds, and sometimes thousands of miles for the privilege of marching for an hour or so to the "music of the Union." The fact that there was going to be -- and was -- a new feature in yesterday's parade, brought thousands to Louisville who would not otherwise have come. That new feature was that ex-confederates would do a big portion of the cheering of the line as it marched.

Procession Moved on Time

A feature that was not looked for but was a feature nevertheless, was that the procession started on time to the minute. The procession was headed by members of Louisville Legion and the civilian committees which have had charge of the arrangements, and immediately after these was Columbia Post, of Chicago, escorting Commander-In-Chief Lawler. When the white caps of the escorting Columbia Post loomed up the multitudes on the platforms and along the streets opened the chorus of cheers for Commander Lawler and kept up the cheering as the posts of the different departments passed the stands and street intersections.

Viewed by Half a Million People

The parade was witnessed by 500,000 people, who lined the sidewalks, windows and roofs along the line of march. In accordance of the resolution adopted last year by the council of administration the route of march was limited to twenty-six squares, or a distance of two miles and a quarter, complaints having been made that the routes heretofore chosen were too long for the veterans who are yearly growing more feeble and less able to stand a long march in the heat of the day. The early morning trains from interior points of the state, as well as from Indiana, Illinois and Ohio brought tens of thousands of spectators, and these added to the hundreds of thousands already in the city, made the central streets well nigh impassable. Ample police arrangements, however had

been made, the roadway over which the parade was to pass had been roped off and altogether the arrangements for the proper movement of the parade were admirable.

On The Reviewing Stand

When the Commander-In-Chief reached the front of the reviewing stand, he and his staff dropped out of line and took their positions on the stand. With the Commander on the stand were: Senior Vice-Commander Burchfield, Governor Brown, and Commander Fairchild, of the Loyal Legion. Among the prominent people on the stand were J. Warren Keifer, ex-speaker of the house of representatives and past senior commander; General George O. Steel, ex-governor of Oklahoma and superintendent of the national soldiers' home at Marion, Ind.; D. B. Henderson, of Iowa; Corporal Tanner, ex-commissioner of pensions; General J. B. Henderson, past department commander of Indiana; Colonel W. W. Dudley, ex-commissioner of pensions and past commander of Indiana; W. R. Holloway, Indianapolis; Captain Frank Palmer, ex-public printer, Chicago, and Justice John M. Harlan, of Washington.

Besides there were numerous ladies and ex-commanders, while in the parade were: Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio; ex-Postmaster Sexton, of Chicago; General H. S. Clare, D. P. C., of Mattoon; Major E. A. Blodgett, of Chicago; Major H. H. McDowell, of Pontiac, and Colonel L. E. McPherson, all of Illinois.

WATTERSON AT A CAMPFIRE

The Friend of the Star-Eyed Goddess Does Himself Proud

The veterans closed the day's doings with campfires last night, the most important of which was the one at the music hall, which was attended by 4,000 old soldiers. The campfire opened with "Marching Through Georgia," played by a military band. Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal, then made the welcome address in behalf of the citizens committee. He spoke in part as follows:

"Comrades, for under the star-flowered flag of the Union all who truly love it are comrades, in the name of the city and state I bid you the heartiest welcome. I have been in every state and territory of the Union and I can truly say that I never came away from any one of them where I had not found something to make me proud of my country.

"Let the dead past bury its dead. You at least have no reason to complain. You got away with many of us as we got away with you. The brave men who have gone to heaven have long ago settled the account before that court where all is made right that so puzzles us here. God reigns, and the government at Washington lives. That should satisfy us all. If there is any more fighting to be done, lets go and lick England and take Canada. Lets go and lick Spain and take Cuba. Lets go and lick creation, and make the unspeakable Turk vote the American ticket. We can do it. Shoulder to shoulder, with the world before us and Old Glory above, who shall stop us?

"The monstrosity of slavery out of the way; the foolishness of secession out of the way; the nation actually had its new birth of freedom; what but ignorance and prejudice

is to hinder the stalwart American in Minnesota from taking the hand of the stalwart American in Georgia and calling him brother? Both came from a common origin -- good old Anglo-Saxon and Scotch-Irish stock -- and are welded together by common interests and common destiny.

“This is an occasion for rejoicing, for merry-making, not for reflection. If anybody thinks “He’s thinking, wake him -- he’s only dreaming.” If anybody thinks “He’s not welcome, tie him.” If there’s a dog that fails to wag his tail for joy, shoot him. We are glad to see you. We are glad you came. Now that you have found the way, come again and come often. The latch string will always be outside the door, and the only password shall be, “I am an American citizen.” Watterson was frequently interrupted during his speech by applause, and, when he finished the building fairly shook with cheers that were given for him.

Commander-In-Chief T. G. Lawler responded. He said, “I want to say to you that I accept your welcome. Not for myself alone, but in the name of 200,000 Grand Army men. You have given us a royal and loyal welcome. I have been all over the country during the last year and every where I went I met comrades who, without exception, were looking forward to coming to this great gateway to the south with pleasure. They wanted to let the boys of the south know that there was no longer any north or south, but that all are one and for old glory.”

At the campfire at Phoenix Hill park, Congressman Walter Evans presided. The music and recitations were excellent. The main address of the evening was by General Simon Boliver Buckner, the commander of the confederates at Fort Donnelson and elsewhere. General Buckner’s speech was repeatedly and enthusiastically cheered by the federal veterans. General Buckner had been in the parade during the day.

At the national park campfire the crowd was equally large, the programme of recitations and music being elaborate. John H. Leathers presided. Campfires were held also at Camps Caldwell and Welsing, New Albany and Jeffersonville. Receptions were given the lady officers and Mrs. Hirst, also General Lawler and others. Most of the state encampments of the W. R. C. held receptions last evening.

Prostration From The Heat Cavalry Officer Has a Leg Broken by His Horse Falling

The thermometer stood at 96 in the shade and there were a number of prostrations from the heat, and a few accidents. The horse on which Captain C. E. Nordstrom, of the Tenth United States Cavalry, was mounted, slipped and fell, pinning Captain Nordstrom’s left leg under him. The ambulance corps was called and Captain Nordstrom was taken to his home. Upon examination it was found that the leg was broken. Lieutenant Colonel Belknap, in trying to mount his horse was kicked by the animal which suddenly turned upon him. He was knocked to the ground but his injuries are slight.

One of the most serious cases of prostration at the hospital is, that of William Janecke, commander of the department of Missouri; William Turner, of the Soldier's Home at Dayton, was also seriously prostrated. Other prostrations were: John Thomas, member of a Michigan post, fell and cut a deep gash in his head; J. H. Perchell, vice adjutant of the department of Missouri, fell from exhaustion. William R. Gill, vice commander of the department of the Potomac, from exhaustion; also Henry B. Owen, of the Philadelphia old guard, Colonel Gerhart, of Pittsburg; A. J. Dixon, of Dayton, E. S. Herbert, of Springfield, Mass.

Many who were viewing the parade fell from heat prostration and the hospitals are well filled. The parade was over four hours in passing a given point and the boys were marching over five hours. Baring the awful explosion of the caisson of the cannon that was to fire the sunrise salute, the parade was a great success.

Friday, September 13, 1895
The Elgin Daily News

WALKER ELECTED

Indiana Man Wins the Chief Grand Army Honor
His only Opponent Withdraws
And the encampment puts him at the head unanimously and enthusiastically
St. Paul gets the next meeting of the boys in blue
Watterson's eloquent welcome literally sets the veterans wild
Mrs. Logan's emotion
Barbeque day

Louisville, Sept. 13. -- The Thirtieth national encampment of the G. A. R. will be held in St. Paul in 1896, with Colonel I. N. Walker, of Indianapolis as Commander-In-Chief. The encampment proper, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies Circle all began their proceedings at 10 a.m., and kept in session all day. The gentlemen of the encampment almost completed their work, while the ladies of the two auxiliaries did not get much done. There has been considerable agitation about uniting them in this year of reunited brotherhood, and citizenship, but the ladies of the auxiliaries are as far apart as ever, and in spirit -- if not in purpose -- they will remain divided.

Trouble Among the Women

The Woman's Relief Corps had the trouble between the factions of Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Sherwood at Canton, O. exemplified by the sheriff who entered without the password to serve the injunction of the court's on the national officers, restraining them from ousting Mrs. Clark. When the sheriff entered the ladies would not tell him who

were the officers, but a friend of Mrs. Clark soon pointed out the officers, and the order of the court was served. Mrs. Tyler, the wife of the mayor of Louisville, delivered a fine address of welcome to the city, as did Mrs. General S. B. Buckner to the state and to the south.

Confederates in Great Demand

The Confederate veterans, notably General Gordon, General Buckner and Henry Watterson took part again in the reception and campfires, praising the good will that has brought peace in reality as well as in name. After delivering welcoming addresses during the day, Watterson last night delivered his lecture on Abraham Lincoln, and tonight General Gordon delivers his lecture on "The Last Days of the Confederacy," in both of which the ex-soldiers have great interest. General Buckner is kept busy addressing campfires. Today the blue and the gray will meet at a grand barbeque tendered by the latter to their guests, and tonight's programmes for the different campfires are very elaborate.

Go Wild Over Watterson

The encampment was called to order on time and the first number on the programme was a speech by Henry Watterson welcoming the veterans to Louisville. The welcome was in the eminent editor's best vein and the veterans fairly went wild with enthusiasm. The speaker himself was overcome by emotion and the old soldiers rose in their seats and not only cheered but hugged each other and threw hats, fans and handkerchiefs into the air.

Mrs. John A. Logan was seated a short distance back of the commander-in-chief's stand, and as Waterson walked away with tears coursing down his cheeks, General Lawler presented him to Mrs. Logan. Neither could speak and the white haired motherly-looking lady took his hand in both of hers, and when she found her voice said: "I am glad I have been permitted to live to hear your speech."

ROUTINE OF THE ENCAMPMENT

Walker elected Commander-In-Chief and St. Paul gets the 1896 Meeting.

Post commander-in-chief, Warner, of Kansas City, eloquently responded to Watterson and the routine of the encampment went on. Commander-In-Chief Lawler delivered his annual address which was an epitome of the official reports. It showed that there are 357,639 members in good standing against 371,555, June 30, 1894, the loss by death having been 7,368, while 49,600 are suspended. He referred to the pension question and criticized the policy at present in vogue, regarding which he urged that a test case be brought in the courts. His address covered every department of the organization. Committees were then appointed after which St. Paul was chosen for the next encampment on the first ballot, defeating Denver, Buffalo and Nashville.

The next business was the election of a Commander-In-Chief, Colonel Ivan A. Walker was named and T. S. Clarkson, of Nebraska, who had been put forward by a

strong party, got up and refused to run, moving that Colonel Walker be unanimously elected, which was carried amid thunderous applause. Colonel Walker briefly and eloquently thanked his comrades and the encampment, then chose General Hudson, of Kentucky, senior vice commander, and C. E. Cosgrove, junior vice. Adjournment was then taken for the day.

Last night there were numerous campfires all largely attended, and all full of enthusiasm, but today was the unique feature of the week -- the barbeque and "burgoo." Burgoo is a soup containing innumerable ingredients, that can only be made in its perfection in Kentucky. The barbeque was on a scale that was never before attempted. The barbeque committee secured Wilder park, a beautiful grove at the edge of the city, and prepared to feed 200,000 persons. Trenches were dug around the entire park and 6,000 feet of iron pipe was secured to be used in barbequing the meat. Eight carloads of cottonwood were contracted for. One hundred hives, 300 fat southdown sheep, 200 calves and 300 hogs were slaughtered and roasted in the trenches by 300 cooks.

Tables to accommodate 35,000 persons at each sitting were built in the park, and there were 500 waiters. Ten Burgoo kettles, each capable of holding 500 gallons of the soup had been made to order and were swung from ponderous iron poles over immense fires. A famous bluegrass cook whose name is at Lexington and who has presided over more barbeques than any man living was in charge. It was a tremendous spread. How many persons sat down to this Kentucky hospitality is not known, but it is up in the hundred thousands.

In connection with the biggest barbeque ever given there was an old time entertainment by southern plantation negroes. This was placed in charge of Colonel Wil S. Hayes. Colonel Hayes is the author of more popular songs than any man in the south. He had trained a chorus of 400 negro voices and had written a special Grand Army of the Republic song for them entitled "Hanna, Ain't You Glad You Come."

The southern negro entertainment took place while the barbeque was in progress and was on a stage 150 feet long in plain view of the seated and feasting multitude. There were clog, wing and buck dances, and some of the ante-bellum negro melodies. There was also upon this immense stage an "international cake walk and buck and wing dancing contest."

The entries for the cake walk totaled 270. Prizes to the amount of \$1,000 are to be awarded to the successful contestants. The cake that goes to the couple winning the walk is four feet in diameter and two feet high.

Today is undoubtedly a great day of the encampment.

Friday, September 27, 1895
The Aurora Beacon News

THE GALLANT OLD 36TH

About Ninety of the Survivors Attended the Reunion at Elgin Yesterday

They Enjoyed a Grand Time, were Handsomely Treated
and Voted to Meet in Aurora Next Year.

Ninety of the veterans of the splendid 36th Illinois Infantry, met at Elgin Thursday at the 29th annual reunion of that organization. Among those present from Aurora were Joseph Ingham, Sam Hitchcock, H. B. Douglas, G. L. Dorr and J. M. Kennedy. They report that the Elgin people certainly overdid themselves in the way of entertainment, and gave them the warmest kind of welcome. Elgin knows how to make the old soldiers happy.

The program as printed was carried out to the letter, with some extras. The business meeting of the regiment was held at 11 a. m. The death of eleven of the comrades was reported during the past year, and the following officers were chosen to serve for the coming year:

President, J. F. Harral, Aurora; vice president, L. M. Kelley, Elgin; secretary, J. M. Kennedy, Aurora.

Aurora was chosen as the place for holding the reunion in 1896.

The veteran General Greusel, of this city, was unable to be present owing to illness, and a telegram of regret and esteem was sent him.

Dr. J. A. Hatch, of Kentland, Indiana, Republican congressman elect from a district which usually gives 4,000 Democratic majority, was on hand to meet his old comrades, and Congressman Hopkins and wife, from Aurora, were also present by invitation, the two gentlemen both making eloquent speeches.

The Woman's Relief Corps furnished a glorious banquet, and were highly complimented for so doing.

Major George D. Sherman served as toastmaster in his own inimitable manner, and the program which followed the banquet was greatly enjoyed. Col. John S. Wilcox, of the 52nd Illinois, made a pleasant talk, and Mayor Wayne, in his address of welcome, made friends of all the boys.

The veterans of the 36th are always heartily welcome in whatever place they may choose to hold their reunions, and at Elgin there was no exception to the rule.

1896

It was spring and the term of Democrat President Cleveland was coming to an end. Illinois Department of the G. A. R. held it's annual encampment in Cairo on May 12th. W. G. Cochran, from Sullivan, was elected Department Commander. Far from being the non political organization they claimed to be, resolutions were passed favoring the freeing of Cuba and the denouncing of "unpatriotics" in high places. The national encampment took place in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 3rd with Thad S. Clarkson, of Nebraska, being elected Commander-In-Chief. Soon to be past Commander-In-Chief Walker spoke of his refusal to entertain a grand reunion of the blue and gray in New York City and Clarkson endorsed the Sons of Veterans as the natural successor to the G. A. R. Now the G. A. R. was beginning to increase their pressure for military instruction in the public schools. Knowing their numbers were on the wane, there was an increased sense of urgency to get the orders' goals accomplished on many fronts. After losing a good friend, much of the 36th's reunion harkened back to Colonel Nicholas Greusel's leadership and devotion to the regiment. They once again returned to Aurora and held their reunion on September 24th. James F. Harral was once again reelected to president of the organization for the coming year with C. N. Doan serving as vice-president. J. M. Kennedy was reelected to secretary/treasurer, this the ninth consecutive year. Col. Greusel's widow gave his old 36th regimental flag to the organization, which in turn presented it to the Memorial building and Post 20 for safe keeping and display. As the reunion continued the reporter for the Beacon had to leave early to make his deadline.....too bad.

Saturday, April 25, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

COL. GREUSEL IS DEAD

VETERAN OF THE MEXICAN AND CIVIL WARS

Career Ended by a Cancer, which had Caused Great Suffering

Colonel Nicholas Greusel died this morning at an early hour at his home in Aurora, after a long and painful illness of cancer of the stomach. His death had for many weeks been expected at any time, but the end causes much sorrow to old comrades and those who have known him intimately in later years. Born in Germany, July 4, 1817. He served as Captain of the 1st Michigan Volunteers in the Mexican war; was elected

alderman in Detroit in 1844 on the Whig ticket. He was superintendent of the Detroit water works in 1847, and in 1848-9 was inspector general of lumber for the state of Michigan.

At the breaking out of the civil war he was Lieutenant Colonel of the 7th Illinois Infantry in the three month's service, and was then commissioned Colonel, to raise the 36th Illinois infantry, the soldiers being from this part of the state. He was a brave soldier and a strict disciplinarian. Some time after the war he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He leaves a widow and children.

The funeral will be held at Aurora at 4 p.m. Sunday. Quite a number of his old comrades will likely attend from Elgin. They can leave here at 8:51, Northwestern, west side, and arrive home at 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

Gen. Greusel Leaves All To His Widow

The will of the late Gen. Nicholas Greusel leaves everything to his wife. The bond is for a large amount.

Thursday, May 13, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

PRAIRIE STATE GRAND ARMY

Greatest Parade Held Since the War, at The Cairo Encampment

Cairo, May 13. -- The Grand Army parade yesterday was the greatest ever held since the war, and was witnessed by thousands of people. Business houses and residences were elaborately decorated with flags and pictures of Grant, Logan and Lincoln. The children of the public schools were massed at three points dressed in colors so that each company represented the American flag, and as the veterans passed they sang patriotic songs and strewed the path with flowers. Last night campfires were held at which National Commander Walker and Department Commander Powell were the principal speakers.

Friday, May 14, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS G. A. R. ELECTS COCHRAN

Sullivan Man to Head the Department
Other Officers Chosen

Cairo, May 14. -- The meetings of the G. A. R. encampment of Illinois yesterday were harmonious and much business was disposed of. In the afternoon, W. G. Cochran, of Sullivan, was elected on second ballot, commander. A. A. Adair, of Oak Park, senior vice; L. B. Church, of Cairo, junior vice. Commander C. C. Hays, of Joliet, and A. L. Schimpff, of Peoria were the opposing candidates for commander. Galesburg, Belleville, Danville, Streater and Springfield were contestants for the next encampment, and Galesburg was chosen. Other officers nominated were Dr. John Little, of Bloomington, for medical director, and A. P. Stover, of Pana and W. H. Jordan, of Brimfield, for chaplain. These and the delegates will be elected today.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. McCauley, of Olney, president; Mrs. Ella Spraug, of Aurora, senior and Mrs. Carrie Alexander, of Belleville, junior vice president. The Society of Ladies of the Grand Army elected Mrs. A. E. Howell, of Chicago, president; Mrs. Charity Nicholson, of Galva, senior vice; Mrs. G. W. Estover, of Chicago, junior vice, and Mrs. M. O. Pool, chaplain.

Saturday, May 15, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY WIND-UP Pith of the Resolutions Adopted by the Cairo Encampment

Cairo, May 15. -- The state Grand Army encampment closed at noon yesterday after electing John Little, of Bloomington, medical director; A. P. Stover, of Pana, Chaplain, and George W. Smith, of Irving Park; T. W. Cole, of Rockford; O. F. Avery, of Pontiac; A. D. Cadwallader, of Lincoln; William Parker, of Rock Falls, members of the council of administration. The report of the assistant adjutant general Smock to the encampment shows that while there were 21,918 members in good standing Dec. 1, 1894, and 2,514 gained by muster, etc., there was a loss of 3,480 from the total of 24,432 in the year 1895, making a net membership of 20,952, a loss of 966.

Resolutions were adopted endorsing the bill in congress to establish a military park at Vicksburg; to recommend congress to give soldiers of the late war the same service pension as given to soldiers of the Indian and Mexican wars; that Cuba should be free and independent, and that congress should recognize the belligerency of the rebels; that none but veterans of the late war should be appointed medical pension examiners; that President Elliot, of Harvard University, should be denounced and deposed because of his unpatriotic and un-American sentiments, as expressed in his late speeches and publications.

Thursday, September 3, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

FORTY THOUSAND

That Many Boys in Blue in the St. Paul Parade.

Three Hours on their march with hardly a break in the line.
The principle feature, to the old Veterans, to the encampment
an unqualified success.

The patriots well taken care of on their tramp and loudly cheered all along the line.
The living flag.

St. Paul, Sept. 3. -- Nearly 40,000 veterans tramped the streets of St. Paul for several hours yesterday, renewing the associations of their youth and feeling in their veins the martial spirit that animated them in the old days, when they marched through the south as victors, over those whom they now honor as comrades in the new country that has grown up since the days when brother was arrayed against brother in bitter sectional strife. The day was an ideal one for marching, the warm rays of the sun being behind the clouds nearly all day, and a slight breeze making the tramp much easier for those in line. The crowds had no fears of possible showers, for they were here to see the Grand Army parade, and proposed to see it even though it did rain.

Boys were Three Hours on the March

But the showers held off and everything went on according to programme. Seldom has so large a parade come so near moving on time as did this. The first departments were directed to form at 9:30 a.m. to be prepared to move one hour later. Not to exceed fifteen minutes after the time set the commander-in-chief and staff moved south on Western avenue and the various divisions fell into line rapidly. It was just half

past eleven o'clock when the head of the parade reached the grand reviewing stand at Smith park, and General Walker took his place on the platform and the first division headed by the veteran signal corps, passed in review. It was 2:35 in the afternoon when the last post in the big eighth division, containing Minnesota's veterans, had passed, and there was scarcely a noticeable break in the line, post following post and department coming after department in almost endless succession.

Ice Water served to the Boys

As they were lined up on the side streets waiting the signal to start the residents served ice water and otherwise looked after their comfort. Taken all together the parade was an unqualified success and the leading features of it have touched the soldier heart as it has seldom been touched before.

THE LIVING FLAG OF CHILDREN

It was the feature of the day that appealed strongest to the Vets.

The scene at the living flag of children was an interesting episode of the day. This flag was constructed on a stand in the vacant end of the square on which is being built the new government building and was composed of 2,000 little ones arrayed red, white and blue as to form a picture of "Old Glory." This flag appealed stronger to the vets than anything along the line of march, and many touching scenes were witnessed in front of the mammoth chorus. The children had been thoroughly trained by Professor C. H. Congdon, of the city schools, and were quick to respond to his every signal.

As the heads of each department arrived the strains of their mingled voices could be heard above the music of the bands in patriotic greeting as they sang some of the many songs they had prepared for such greeting. And the old soldiers as they came past the corner and saw the great chorus so beautifully representing "Old Glory," quickly doffed their hats and waved them in the air as they shouted their appreciation paying little heed to the tears that streamed down their war worn cheeks. Then the old veterans would take up the song that the children had started, and the heavy voices from the men mingled with the fresh young voices of the children and thrilled as never before.

This was repeated time and again, the children never tiring of the singing, and as they waved their handkerchiefs and moved back and forth the effect of the waving flag was perfect, and again the hats came off and the old veterans shouted again and again over the patriotism shown by their children's children. Down through the white columns that lined lower Sixth street the marching thousands kept on till they reached Smith park at the lower end of the street, where the grand reviewing stand had been erected. Here General Walker and staff mounted the stand and the various departments passed in formal review, with dipped colors and rolling drums saluting, the Commander-In-Chief responding with a deep bow.

POLITICS OF THE ENCAMPMENT

Rear Admiral Mead a Leader in the Race for Commander.

Altogether the parade was a grand success and the old soldiers last night talked over it proudly, especially recounting how they saw that living flag and what they thought of it. The parade has been in their thoughts to such an extent that the politics of the encampment must take a back seat and wait for the business session today. The candidates are still being urged by their friends, the leaders being Rear Admiral Mead, Major T. S. Clarkson and New Hampshire's candidate, Comrade Lineham. The race seems to be between the east and the west.

The fact that Buffalo will surely be the next encampment may effect the result, as the sections are somewhat jealous of the honors. There are other candidates, and they will have strong support, but these are the leaders. The other offices will depend to a considerable extent on the results for commander-in-chief, so that while the electioneering is going on at a fairly lively rate it is a minor affair to most of the delegates.

Last night campfires were held at the auditorium and at the market hall, and receptions for the various associated Ladies' organizations in different parts of the city. At 10 o'clock the Loyal Legion which has been keeping open house at the Ryan, held a reception in honor of the Commander-In-Chief at their headquarters. Last night's campfire speakers included Governor Upham, of Wisconsin; Commander-In-Chief Walker; Department Commander William Shakespeare, of Michigan; Captain M. J. O'Connor, Mrs. Myra C. Grinnell, Hon. William Ketcham, Hon. Robert D. Hill and others.

Friday, September 4, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

WALKER'S REPORT

The Grand Army Commander's Review of the Year.

HIS TUSSLE WITH CHAS. A. DANA

Over the question of holding a Union-Confederate reunion
Objections to the plan that caused its abandonment
The gray uniform a feature that Walker did not approve
His course universally endorsed
Military training in the schools

St. Paul, Sept. 4. -- The features of yesterday morning in the Grand Army encampment was the annual address of the Commander-In-Chief, General Walker. After passing over the reports of staff officers, General Walker gave the correspondence he has had with Charles A. Dana relative to a proposed grand reunion of Union and Confederate soldiers in New York city. The first letter was from Mr. Dana proposing the plan. General Walker states that "during my visit to New York, in November, I learned that this scheme was being agitated by a few ex-confederate residents of that city, who hoped to advance their personal interests, and that they were seeking to secure the support of the prominent professional and businessmen of that metropolis to aid them in their plans."

Commander-In-Chief Objects

Colonel Walker replied stating his objections, the pith of which is the following: "if, however, it means that they are to march, the one in blue and the other in gray, as the representatives of the two great hosts that then contended for the victory, another and much graver question would be presented for determination. If they are so to march as to be distinctly representative of the lines that then divided them logically they should march under different banners, and I for one, would be unalterably opposed to seeing a column in gray marching under the stars and stripes. These two columns would not represent the same idea, nor did they ever heretofore. While we fully appreciate the valor of the men who bore arms against us and gladly receive and welcome them as citizens to all the privileges and honors of a common country we both love, it is the unalterable conviction of the Grand Army of the Republic that those who wore one uniform and fought under one flag, fought for their country and were in the right, while those who wore the other uniform and fought under the other banner, fought against their country and were wrong.

States His Position More Fully

The Grand Army of the Republic has for the cardinal principles of its creed fraternity, charity and loyalty, and its members everywhere and at all times heartily extend in their broadest and friendliest the sentiments these tenants embody to those who fought so valiantly against them in the armies of the rebellion. At the same time they do not forget the great danger into which our Union was brought and the sacrifices and patriotic services of those who so bravely offered and freely gave their lives for its salvation, and believing that this memory is of momentous value and should live through all generations they would not encourage anything that would tend to efface it from the minds of the people.

One Flag, Then One Uniform

"You say that it is intended that there shall be but one flag, that of the United States, and that it shall float over the whole parade? Why not require the same as to uniform? The gray uniform is just as objectionable as the flag that it fought under. The distinctive color of the union flag is blue. The sooner those who wore gray cease trying to symbolize the "lost cause" by flag and uniform, and represent themselves as a distinct

part of the people of our common country, the sooner will a fuller realization of the festival of patriotism and fraternal cooperation which you suggest, be brought about.”

Pensions and Sons of Veterans

After stating that his position on this matter was universally endorsed by the veterans Colonel Walker proceeds to discuss other matters. On the subject of pensions General Walker suggests that all be paid by checks from Washington. He speaks of the Sons of Veterans as our natural successors. “They sing the songs we sang, and carry the same flag under whose starry folds we fought. As we come off guard and take up our line of march to the eternal camping grounds we shall be more content if the picket line is still manned and the uniform is still blue.”

Adjutant General’s Report

Shows a Decrease in the Number on the Rolls of 27,029

The report of the Adjutant General Irvin Robbins contains the following: “The report of my predecessor showed that on June 30, 1895, our membership in good standing was 357,889, distributed among 7,303 posts, with 49,600 members on the suspended lists, making a total of 407,239 on the rolls. June 30, 1896 there were 7,302 posts, containing 340,640 comrades in good standing, with 42,661 carried on the rolls suspended. The total loss is 27,029, of which 7,293 was by death.

“The amount expended in charity for the year was \$211,949, an increase of \$12,000 over the preceding year.” The report of A. J. Burbank, quartermaster general, showed receipts of \$30,351 and expenditures of \$19,779, leaving a balance on hand of \$10,575. The assets are \$12,131 and the investments \$16,000.

The report of Henry H. Adams, special aid in charge of military instructions in the public schools contained the following: “A misapprehension in regard to the practical features of military instruction on the part of the public in general has interfered seriously with the development of the system. In point of fact there is no military drill, within the public schools. Ten minutes each day is usually given to physical development exercises, using the setting up form, which is that laid down in infantry drill regulations, by the United States army.

“In connection with this is the teaching of civics, i.e., forms of municipal, state and national government in all the details connected therewith. The scholarship is the responsibility of citizenship, the necessity of a pure ballot, reverence for the flag, respect for authority, prompt obedience, to do right because it is right. This system does not in any way interfere with or take the place of any school work established under the ordinary curriculum. It is optional with the scholars to organize companies and to choose their own officers from their own number. These companies drill once each week and entirely out of school hours and in no way connected with the school except under council and advice of the principal, who usually acts as commandant.

“After several years experience and trial the results are most satisfactory. The pupils acquire improved school discipline, self control, dignified bearing and appreciation

of wise leadership. Hundreds of letters have been received testifying to the good effects of the discipline on the incorrigibles and the record also shows the pupils engaged in patriotic training and military instruction have better and higher records than those who are not of the organization.

Buffalo gets the Encampment

She has no opposition and wins with ease.

Other Business done.

The matter of next encampment was next in order and the claims of Buffalo were presented in a brief speech by Mayor Comrade Smith of that city. Past Commander-In-Chief, John M. Palmer made a motion that the choice of next location be contingent on the securing of one cent rate from the railroads, but no vote was taken on the motion. After the presentation of Buffalo a recess was taken until 2 o'clock, at which hour no other names were formally presented. On the roll call Buffalo was decided on for the encampment of 1897, Denver receiving however a small vote.

The recommendation of the committee in favor of the Pickler bill to revise pension legislature was adopted unanimously. A recommendation was adopted favoring the union of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies of the G. A. R. as one organization under the Relief Corps. The proposition to allow the Sons of Veterans to attend the Grand Army meeting brought out three reports, the majority favoring it under certain conditions, one minority report opposing the whole proposition and the other favoring certain modifications in the plan.

The election of officers comes up today, being made a special order for 9:30 o'clock. The action of New York in voting by a large majority for John C. Linehan, of New Hampshire, is considered significant, and has made much effect, being about the chief development of the day in that contest. Major T. S. Clarkson is the other candidate. The New York vote against Admiral Meade put him farther back in the race.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. and Woman's Relief Corps were in session all day, but devoted their time to the hearing of reports. The Daughters of Veterans held business sessions and elected officers as follows: President, Miss. Alace Ingram, of Chicago; treasurer, Miss. Ida J. Allen, of Worcester, Mass.; inspector, Miss. Cora Pike, of Massachusetts.

Saturday, September 5, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

ADIEU TO ST. PAUL

Grand Army Encampment Finishes Its Week's Work
The New Commander-In-Chief is Major T. S. Clarkson, of Omaha,
and he goes in by Acclamation
All other candidates withdrawing
Ladies auxiliary societies wind up and adjourn
Some of the resolutions adopted.
The gathering a first class success.

St. Paul, Sept. 5. -- The thirtieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic came to an end yesterday after one of the most successful meetings since the organization was established in Illinois a few months after the close of the war. The weather was the best that could have been desired, the rain -- that early in the week threatened at times just enough to make marching and sightseeing more endurable -- holding off till yesterday afternoon after adjournment. The treatment received by the visitors, both veterans and others, was all that could have been asked or desired, and all left full of good feeling for their host -- the "Saintly" city. The railroads, of course, were crowded, for on the largest day the number of out of town people reached almost, if not fully, 200,000, nearly 50,000 of whom, however, came over from Minneapolis to see the Grand Army parade.

Street Railways Not Up To Date

Still, the railroads did very well with such a mammoth crowd, and got off with only one or two minor accidents that could not very well have been avoided under any circumstances. The street car service, however, in contrast with that of the railroads, was very poor, the company, seeming unable to do much with the crowd, and at times being completely blocked for hours, and the considerably inconvenienced visitors and residents in getting to the various campfires and receptions and reunions with which the week has been full. The street railways also had a number of accidents, the worst being that at mainline Thursday. The crowds have greatly diminished, thousands starting for home or for other parts of the northwest immediately after the parade. The parade, while smaller than many that preceded it, was one of the best handled ones ever known and the veterans are all proud of the fine marching appearance they made in line.

Election of Commander-In-Chief

The most important business of the last session of the Grand Army was the election of commander-in-chief which resulted in favor of Major T. S. Clarkson, of Omaha, all the other candidates having withdrawn. Admiral Meade withdrawing his own

name Clarkson was then elected by acclamation. General J. H. Mullen, of Minnesota, was elected senior vice commander-in-chief, having been designated for that honor by the department of Minnesota, the custom being to give that position to the state holding the encampment. For junior vice commander-in-chief the names of Albert E. Sholes, of Georgia and Charles W. Buckley, of Alabama were presented and the ballot resulted: Buckley, 336; Sholes, 241. For surgeon general A. E. Johnson, of the department of the Potomac, was elected over Charles E. Boynton, of Indiana. Illinois had a candidate for chaplain-in-chief in Rev. C. F. Bunner, of Chicago, but Rev. Mark D. Taylor, of Massachusetts, got more votes and was declared elected.

Council of Administration

Members of the council of administration for the west are in part as follows: Illinois, Thomas W. Scott, Fairfield; Indiana, William H. Armstrong, Muskogee; Iowa, Leeman L. Caldwell, Decorah; Kansas, W. H. Smith, Marysville; Michigan, E. D. Dix, Berrien Springs; Minnesota, Albert Sterrit, St. Louis; Nebraska, A. Traynor, Omaha; Wisconsin, O. W. Carlson, Milwaukee.

Disinclined To Beautify Andersonville

The encampment adopted resolutions approving the Woman's Relief Corps' attempt to preserve the Andersonville prison pen, but refused to commend the efforts to beautify it. Ex-volunteers and present members of the regular army were placed on an equality in the matter of dues, but the proposition to excuse posts paying dues to departments under certain conditions was rejected. After adopting a memorial on the death of Past commander-in-chief Lucius Fairchild and resolutions thanking St. Paul for its great hospitality, the state encampment adjourned.

SOME RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Preference for Veterans in Government service asked.

The Ladies

Among the resolutions adopted were the following: Asking preference for capable ex-soldiers in government appointments; urging on congress the justice and propriety of conferring on General Nelson A. Miles the full title of lieutenant general; endorsing the proposed national parks at Vicksburg and Fredericksburg; recommending the reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as part of the exercises on Memorial Day; favoring the prohibition of the use of the national flag for advertising purposes; asking Congress to repair and preserve the frigate Constitution and the sloop-of-war Hartford; and asking Congress to provide for a soldiers' home south of the Ohio river.

A motion was adopted formally authorizing the council of administration to change the location of the next encampment in case satisfactory rail rates cannot be secured. After the council of administration had been elected the officers were duly sworn in, the new chaplain-in-chief invoked divine blessings on the coming year and on the next encampment and the encampment adjourned. The first official act of the

Commander-In-Chief, Major Clarkson, was to appoint C. E. Burmester, of Omaha, as adjutant general.

The associated organizations held business meetings during the day. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic elected the following officers: Mrs. Catherine E. Hirst, of Louisville, (re-elected) national president; Mrs. Flora George, of Washington, treasurer; Mrs. Thankful, of Massachusetts, chaplain.

The Woman's Relief Corps took longer to transact its business and it was late in the day before all the officers had been elected and installed as follows: Mrs. Agnes Hill, of Indianapolis, national president; Mrs. Marie Hazenwinkle, of St. Paul, senior vice president.

No action was taken by either of these organizations looking towards union, each preferring its present name and membership, the qualifications slightly varying. The Daughters of Veterans also refused to unite with the Loyal Home Workers, saying that they preferred their present name and organization.

At a meeting of the Association of Survivors of the Mississippi Marine Brigade and Ram Fleet, the following members were elected officers for the ensuing year: Commander, Major George O. White, St. Paul; Historian and Treasurer, Captain W. D. Crankal, St. Louis, Mo.; chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, Port Huron, Mich.

Thursday, September 24, 1896
The Aurora Beacon News

THE GALLANT OLD 36TH

The 30th Annual Reunion of the Survivors
is being held in Aurora today

The Veterans of Pea Ridge, of Stones River,
of Chickamauga, of Franklin and
many other Fields, meet here today.

Today marks the end of another year in the lives of the associated veterans of the gallant old 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and they are celebrating it in annual reunion spirit. As it has always been held the day when the regiment gathered just below Aurora, preparatory to entering active service for Uncle Sam, it is most cordially welcomed.

There is an exceedingly warm spot in the hearts of the people of this city for the boys who followed the lamented Greusel and Miller and Olson and won a deathless

renown on the gory fields of the rebellion. As the years go by and their ranks become thinner and thinner, the tie that binds them to us becomes stronger and the affection more tender.

The old boys are marching steadily and rapidly down the farther incline of life, and the day is not far distant when their roll will be completed on the farther shore. Too great honor can not be paid the men who interposed their bodies between the Union and the bullets of the would be destroyers. We enjoy the fruits of their victories, and should never forget to place the credit where it belongs.

The following comrades are present, many with their wives or other members of their families:

- * Major George D. Sherman, Elgin
- * J. F. Harral, Aurora
- * E. H. Strait, Ottawa
- * Sam Hitchcock, Aurora
- * C. F. Sweetland, Sandwich
- * Healy Ford, Crystal Lake
- * Thomas Welch, Joliet
- * W. A. Mitchell, Monmouth
- * C. N. Doan, Kellogg, Iowa, member of the Iowa Legislature
- * W. F. Sylla, Elgin
- * W. N. Kerns, Morris
- * Chas. Pratt, Rochelle
- * Jas. Salkyard, Aurora
- * T. F. White, Aurora
- * J. S. Barber, Sandwich
- * Frank F. Henning, Chicago
- * E. Todd, Aurora
- * J. C. Denison, Chicago
- * W. H. Chamberlain, Pittsfield, Mass.
- * George Neff, Millington
- * J. M. Kennedy, Aurora
- * J. F. Ferris, Mesawatsk, Mich.
- * S. M. Jay, Little Rock
- * W. W. Gifford, Elwood
- * H. B. Douglas, Aurora
- * Joseph Ingham, Aurora
- * M. S. Townsend, Elgin
- * J. C. Hall, Elgin
- * F. B. Perkins, Elgin
- * W. M. Smalles, Elgin

- * John McQueen, McQueen
- * Lloyt T. Lathrop, Udina
- * John W. Allaton, Plano
- * B. H. Griggs, Lily Lake
- * A. S. Harpending, Udina
- * S. Baily, Plano
- * J. A. Hewitt, Elgin
- * F. M. Hanby, Yorkville
- * John Ott, Hinkley
- * F. M. Brown, Chicago
- * P. A. Johnson, Morris
- * Clark Tucker, Elgin
- * E. J. Aikens, Elgin
- * J. F. McCrosky, Morris
- * Wm. Baily, Morris
- * H. Watkins, Montgomery
- * Chris. Zimmer, Aurora
- * G. L. Dorr, Aurora
- * W. F. Donovan, Newark
- * F. A. Mossman, Nettle Creek, Ill.
- * Charles E. Daggett, Algonquin
- * Wm. Coultrip, Samonauk
- * John Bier, Morris
- * D. W. Hawkins, Aurora
- * Terrie Pennington, Newark
- * Wm. Wallesweber, Jericho
- * Edward Pierce, Aurora
- * S. M. Brimhall, State Center, Iowa
- * V. W. Race, Aurora
- * John Carl, Aurora
- * J. E. Wag, Big Rock
- * Hugh Foster, Big Rock
- * E. E. Dyer, Aurora

The business meeting, at G. A. R. hall, was called to order by the president, J. F. Harral, at 11:25. He expressed his pleasure at meeting his old comrades again; he saw the marks of age each year upon them, and it made him feel sad to think that only a few could be present. He assured them the town was theirs, and if not given to them they would take it and it could be charged to Frank Harral.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Comrade J. L. Beckwith, of Post 20, after which America was sung with a will, led by D. W. Hawkins at the organ.

The minutes of last year's meeting were read by the secretary, J. M. Kennedy, and duly approved.

Letters were read from the following absent comrades:

- * H. D. Carp, Riverside, Iowa
- * Geo. W. -----, Philadelphia, Pa.
- * Col. Cyrus Brown, former commander of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry, Washington, D. C.
- * Fletcher J. -----, Jackson, Tenn.
- * O. C. Switser, Wales, Mass. who was wounded at Iuka, Miss.
- * T. C. Pennington, Chicago

The following comrades were reported as deceased.

- * John Gilbert, company B cavalry, died August, 1896 at St. Joseph, Missouri
- * Lt. John S. Durand, company B, cavalry, Plato, Ill., August 23, 1896
- * Joseph Jenkins, company E, died last winter at Yorkville
- * Nola Erickson, company D, died in February, 1896
- * General Nicholas Greusel, died at Aurora in May last

On motion the chair appointed a committee on resolutions, consisting of comrades Sylla, Johnson and Chamberlain.

A vote of thanks was unanimously extended to Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., for their care of General Greusel during his long sickness.

The widow of Captain Elisha Lloyd asked if there were any comrades present who were present in Andersonville prison at the same time with him. One arose, who was in the prison at the time, but was not personally acquainted with the Captain.

Comrade H. B. Douglas stated that he had received from Comrade Eb. Denny an old 36th flag given him by the widow of Colonel Greusel. Mr. Douglas' motion to place it in the Memorial Building if Aurora, was carried and he was appointed to look after it.

Comrade Ed. Pierce stated that he had discovered the old Camp Hammond garrison flag, which he borrowed at Montgomery this morning. It was presented to the ladies of that village by the 36th, when the regiment broke camp in 1861. It was brought up and had a place at the banquet hall. A motion to have Comrade Pierce try and secure the flag for the Memorial Hall was carried.

Major Sherman rose to make an apology and motion. He apologized for two years ago calling Frank Harral the meanest man in the organization, and moved that he be made president for the coming year. It was carried with a whoop.

The recipient of the honor thanked the comrades for their action, but thought the office should be passed around. He hoped the comrades would not regret their choice.

Major Sherman also nominated Comrade C. N. Doan for re-election as vice president. Carried. The comrade expressed his thanks.

The secretary, J. M. Kennedy, who had served in that capacity since the death of Comrade Fred O. White, nominated Joseph Ingham for the place. The latter moved to substitute Mr. Kennedy, and the substitute was carried.

Major Sherman moved that a vote of thanks be extended to Comrade Harral and wife for the compliment extended by them in furnishing the dinner to the comrades. There was no trouble in carrying it.

Comrade Ingham moved the tender of a vote of thanks to the Secretary, J. M. Kennedy, for his efficient work. It was carried by a rising vote.

The place for next year's reunion was agreed at Aurora, although Monmouth extended an invitation and was well spoken of.

A vote of thanks was also extended to Aurora Post for the use of their beautiful hall.

The committee on resolutions reported appropriately upon the death of comrades whose names are given above. The resolution was adopted, and the regimental flag was ordered draped in morning for a period of 30 days.

Comrade Harral spoke of the elegant floral piece which the survivors of the 36th provided at the funeral of General Greusel.

Comrade Pierce stated the memorial monument of the regiment, on the Chickamauga battlefield, was not quite correctly placed, but was about 20 rods out of position.

Major Sherman spoke of the same thing, sad of the inferiority of the Illinois monuments as compared with those set up by other states, and moved that a committee of three be appointed to have the location changed, if possible, the chair to be one. Carried and Comrades Sherman and Denison were named as the other members.

The business meeting completed the comrades and their wives proceeded to the White & Todd block for dinner.

The Banquet

Who could adequately describe the magnificent spread provided by the Woman's Relief Corps. The banquet hall was splendidly decorated with flags and bunting, and in the center of each table was a handsome bouquet of flowers. The table at which the members of the press were seated was specially favored, both in the beauty of its flowers, and its waiters, but all the others had nothing to complain of. The bill of fare included chicken pie and all the good things imaginable. The Relief Corps may always be depended on to do the right thing and the money it earns is expended in relief for old soldiers and their families.

After the banquet, Major Sherman, after a most complimentary introduction by J. F. Harral, said:

“We will -----

He spoke of the president as "Comrade O'Harral," and after a little witty talk made a eloquent talk concerning the valiant old 36th Regiment. No one ever had cause to complain of the regiment in the performance of the duty assigned it. He also spoke tenderly of Col. Greusel, and of the letter of a lonely widow.

"Loyalty and bullets," he said, "preserved the integrity of the Union in 61, and Loyalty and ballots will maintain it '96."

After a prayer by Rev. J. L. Backus, and a song by Miss. Lula Ketchum, -- the latter heartily applauded, -- Mayor Scott spoke eloquent words of greeting. He was glad to welcome the veterans, and also glad to partake of another Relief Corps dinner -- the latter helped him out on his speech. It was news to him that the 36th was organized in Aurora, but by the familiar faces he saw roused him to know Aurora did her duty.

Comrade William H. Chamberlain, who had come all the way from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, made a feeling response in place of Comrade J. C. Taylor, who could not be present. The speaker was wounded in the right elbow at Stones River. He had been to a meeting where Comrades Sickles, Alger and Tanner spoke, and he just sat and cried the whole evening. His feelings overcame him when he looked at the old Camp Hammond garrison flag and he begged to be excused from further remarks.

Comrade Delose W. Hawkins -- "the biggest liar and thief in the regiment, who hadn't changed one iota --" sang Old Shady in his own inimitable style. He had to sing a second song before he was allowed to sit down.

Here Major Sherman read a telegram from Captain L. M. Kelley, who is at Washington, expressing regrets at his inability to be present.

Miss. Merrill gave a pleasing recitation, and the oration by Dr. Colledge followed.

He could think of no gathering politics, social or religious, that should interest men so much as this one. The former association of these men must always be most prominent in their lives. He touched a little upon the history of the Post, saying that the nation which had achieved prominence among the nations of the world had stood for some grand idea. In our own the two great ideas were civil and religious liberty. But slavery existed, and finally had to be stamped out. No wonder the voice of the veteran trembles as he speaks of war time scenes. Soon the reunions of the brave 36th will be held on the other side of the great river, but the memory of their deeds will remain. The Doctor's talk was warmly applauded.

Comrade A. D. Curran, a veteran of the 89th Illinois, was called upon and spoke shortly. He mentioned that his regiment had decided to hold its next reunion in Aurora, and invited the comrades of the 36th to be present.

Comrade McQueen, of Company B. Cavalry, recalled the siege of Chattanooga and its time of starvation, and contrasted it with today's big dinner. He thought Comrade Harral should have been Uncle Sam's commissary general.

The meanest man or the biggest thief and liar in the regiment were worthy a place on a throne. He wanted to correct the impression that the soldiers were out stealing chickens and all that sort of thing. They were performing the duties of soldiers in the service of the government, and were entitled to their keeping. It requires as much to meet the responsibilities today as it did in the days of the war.

Mrs. Mary A. Hawley, widow of Dr. Hawley, was called on, but asked to be excused -- her heart was too full.

The wife of Dr. D. W. Young was also present. She said: "God bless the brave Aurora boys of the 36th."

Comrade J. C. Denison spoke by request upon the old Colonel, Nicholas Greusel. No regiment ever went into the service with a better colonel than he. He always had his men busy, either at work or play. To him, and to Dr. Young, Dr. Hawley and others, the comrades are indebted for the good things they had in the service.

Comrade D. W. Hawkins was speaking when the Beacon scribe left.

Friday, September 25, 1896
The Elgin Daily News

THE 36TH

Gallant Regiment at Aurora on Thursday. The Officers

The Thirty-sixth Illinois Regiment will meet again at Aurora next year. The Regiment was Col. Greusel's and the reunion Thursday was a very pleasant one. The dead of the year were Col. Greusel, J. B. Gilbert, J. S. Durant, Joseph Jenkins, and Nels Erickson. The Relief Corps served a sumptuous dinner as usual. J. F. Harral was elected president, C. N. Doan, of Iowa, vice president, and J. M. Kennedy, secretary and treasurer.

Major Sherman was named by Commander Harral for toastmaster and gracefully accepted the office with a verse that, according to the news, brought blushes to the face of Harral and smiles to the faces of the others. He paid his respects to the regiment and then started the post prandial program to rolling. Elginites who attended the reunion were W. F. Sylla, Maj. Geo. D. Sherman, M. S. Townsend, J. C. Hall, F. B. Perkins, William Smailes, J. A. Hewitt, Clark Tucker, R. J. Eakin. Among others were "Jep" Denison, Englewood; F. M. Brown, Chicago; John McQueen, McQueen; L. T. Lathrop, Missouri; A. S. Harpending, Udina.

1897

William McKinley, the Republican, won election to President in the fall of 1896 and could not have been a more welcome guest and supporter of the G. A. R. The Illinois Department held it's annual encampment in Galesburg on May 5th. A. L. Schimpff, of Peoria, was elected Department Commander. The national encampment was held in Buffalo, New York on August 25th. John P. S. Gobin, of Pennsylvania became the new Commander-In-Chief. Outgoing Commander-In-Chief Clarkson reported that the "Machinery of the Pension system had finally been oiled with the oil of human kindness." President McKinley's active participation at the encampment and parade served to reassure the vets of a long awaited "fair" Pension System. The survivors of the 36th held their reunion at Aurora on September 23rd. It was their thirty-first annual meeting. C. N. Doan became president with Burgo Thompson assuming the responsibilities of vice president. After long and faithful service J. M. Kennedy was replaced by W. F. Sylla as secretary, having refused reelection. Numbers were shrinking and motions were entertained to investigate a joint reunion with another Fox Valley regiment.

Wednesday, May 5, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT
Hundreds of Veterans and their Wives and Daughters at Galesburg

Galesburg, May 5. -- The first public meeting of the G. A. R. state encampment was held last night in the auditorium in the presence of a large crowd. The meeting was presided over by E. A. Blodgett, of Chicago. The address of welcome was delivered by F. F. Cooke, mayor of Galesburg. He extended a hearty welcome to the veterans. The response was made by W. G. Cochran, Department Commander of Illinois. Addresses were also made by Colonel James A. Sexton, of Chicago, and Thomas G. Lawler, of Rockford, O. B. Knight, of Chicago, led in the singing. The set programme was followed by a series of short speeches, or "minute guns," under the leadership of Captain John A. Gray, of Canton.

The evening trains brought in hundreds of veterans and their wives and daughters. One thousand or more came in from Chicago. In the afternoon the Sons of Veterans had their first meeting. Commander F. C. Dustin, of Dwight, presided. The reports of the officers indicate a prosperous condition. The Ladies Aid society also met and transacted

routine business. Today the actual work of conventions begins at the afternoon session. A parade and sham battle will occupy the day with campfires at night.

Thursday, May 6, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY VETS

Proceedings of the second day of the encampment
Many reunions

Galesburg, Ills., May 6. -- Many thousand G. A. R. veterans have flocked into Galesburg to take part in state encampment proceedings. Last evening was full of meetings. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. the national and state officers of the G. A. R., W. R. C. and other organizations held a public reception at the Union hotel parlors. Three big campfires followed. At the Auditorium National Commander Clarkson presided, and addresses were made by a number of veterans. At the Baptist church E. W. Welsh, of Galesburg, conducted the meeting. The first business session of the G. A. R. was held yesterday, officers reported and committees were selected. A steady decrease in membership was noted in the commander's report.

A beautiful diamond badge was presented to Commander Cochran by his comrades. In the afternoon H. P. Barnum was elected senior vice commander. Streator was selected for the next place of meeting providing suitable rates can be made at hotels and railroads. The fight for department commander is now between A. L. Shimpff, Peoria, and James O'Donnell, of Chicago.

Friday, May 7, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS ENCAMPMENT CLOSES
Schimpff, of Peoria, Elected Department Commander
Other Transactions

Galesburg, Ills., May 7. -- The final event of the state G. A. R. encampment was a rousing campfire held last night at the Auditorium. Stirring addresses were made by Gen. John C. Black, of Chicago; B. F. Marsh, of Warsaw; J. W. Burst, of Sycamore; A. A.

Adair, of Oak Park; and A. P. Stover, of Pana. The minute guns were led by General Smith, D. Atkins, of Freeport and W. F. Calhoun, of Danville, was chairman. Action was taken by the G. A. R. toward reducing the expenses of officers. Resolutions were adopted recommending uniform pensions for soldiers' widows of \$12 a month.

Further elections of officers resulted in the choice of the following: Department Commander, A. L. Schimpff, of Peoria; department chaplain, Rev. A. K. Tullis, of Lewiston; department medical director, Dr. J. C. Corbus, of Chicago. The following council of administration was elected: A. D. Cadwallader, of Lincoln; E. B. Hamilton, of Quincy; O. F. Avery, of Pontiac; T. W. Cole, of Rockford; C. H. Tebbets, of Chicago. The W. R. C. closed its session last evening. It elected for department president Miss Jennie Bross, of Morris.

Wednesday, August 25, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS MARCHING

Again the Men who saved the Union fall in line
Under the Flag that They Love

PRESIDENT LEADS THE PAGEANT

Heading the column of heroes until he reaches the reviewing stand.
Naval veterans and ex-prisoners of war have their parade and make a fine appearance.
Buffalo dotted all over with reunions.
Big figures on the visitors in town.

Buffalo, Aug., 25. -- The annual parade of the Grand Army of the Republic with tens of thousands of grizzled veterans in line, started at the appointed time today. The streets are packed with people all along the line of march and the boys in blue meet and leave behind them the roll of cheers as they proceed. At the request of the citizens of Buffalo, President McKinley consented to ride at the head of the line as far as the reviewing stand, where he will take the seat previously assigned to him and review the veterans as they pass by.

Buffalo, Aug. 25. -- The different railroads entering here have given estimates of the number of passengers landed in Buffalo during the twenty-four hours ended at midnight Monday. The total foots up 145,000. As all railroads report expected arrivals for yesterday at least equalling those of Monday, and quite a few more special trains early

this morning. It is estimated that there will be at least 150,000 more arrivals before the big parade today, which will bring the grand total of all encampment visitors up to that number that has been expected right along -- 350,000. Yesterday from dawn to darkness and from twilight to midnight, the great gathering of the Grand Army of the Republic waxed greater and grander. The weather has been all that could be wished for. The Grand Army has turned out more men than ever before attended a national encampment, and this is true also of the Ex-Prisoners of War association, and the naval veterans and the woman's auxiliary bodies. Just as the songs of victory floated up from the triumphant hosts of Sherman, as they marched to the sea, so from the old soldiers gathered in Buffalo, wells up a nice mingling of thankfulness, of happiness and of joy.

Features of the Day Summarized

From early morning until late at night Main street held a continuous procession of posts. Scores of them brought bands and few, indeed had no music. The features of the day were the arrival of President McKinley, accompanied by Secretary Alger and Governor Black of New York; the banquet to the President last evening and the parade of the naval veterans and ex-prisoners of war in the morning. During the day there were more than thirty corps, brigade, regimental and company reunions. The naval veterans, ex-prisoners of war, Ladies of the G. A. R. and the association of nurses held their conventions and there were many receptions given by and to the Ladies of the auxiliary associations. A trip on the lake participated in by about 2,000 ladies was one of the pleasantest of the many entertainments. Last evening there was a number of campfires for the men and receptions and musical entertainments for the ladies.

Parade of the Veteran Bodies

The feature of yesterday was the second parade of the celebration and first in which Grand Army men took part. The Naval Veterans Association and the Ex-Prisoners of War association, together with the Survivors of Erie County regiments and other organizations, composed the Grand Army contingent of the parade. The naval veterans wore the uniform of the United States Naval Service and made a splendid appearance. As they rolled through the streets in the rolling gait of men-of-wars-men the crowds cheered them to the echo. The Ex-Prisoners of War, from the rank and file of the G. A. R., wore the uniforms of their respective posts, and on each coat was fastened a badge bearing the name of the prison in which the wearer had been confined. As the names of Andersonville, Libbey, Salisbury, Belle Isle, Florence, Castle Thunder and other places of historic horror were read, the cheers became deafening.

OVATION TO THE PRESIDENT

Has to be carried through the crowd at one time

The banquet

Buffalo, Aug. 25. -- From the moment that the special train that bore the president and his retinue to the city arrived until he retired last night there was one generous and spontaneous demonstration. From the station to the Niagara hotel, a distance of two

miles, the streets were lined with people, and at the hotel -- in front of which there is a great square -- the police and soldiers from the nearby barracks had difficult work to keep the multitude in position. Even when with Mrs. McKinley and Governor Black, the president had entered the hotel and vanished from sight, there followed after him the cheers of the people, until he was obliged to come to the balcony, where after order had been restored, he made a brief and appropriate speech.

Shortly after 5 o'clock Columbia post, dressed in fatigue coats and white duck trousers, arrived at the hotel and acted as escort to the president to the Elliot building, where the post entertained at a banquet. As the president passed from the hotel to the banquet hall the police had to literally drive a way through for the carriages, and at the Elliot club the corridors were so densely packed that the president had to be lifted through by stalwart policemen. In the reception room of the club he met prominent citizens of Buffalo, and then a little later he entered the great banquet hall as the guest of honor of Columbia post, of Chicago, with 500 other distinguished guests and soldiers.

When the elaborate menu had been discussed to the satisfaction of the guests the toastmaster called for Governor Frank S. Black, who extended a welcome for Columbia post to President McKinley. At 8:45 o'clock Senator Mark Hanna, who had just arrived in the city, came into the banquet hall. His entry was noted by applause at the further end of the hall, and as the proceedings passed President McKinley rose from his seat and moved along the hall to meet him. There were shouts of applause as the two men clasped hands and the the president's left hand went up to Hanna's shoulder. Both took their seats amid applause. Hanna had to hold a levee. Closely following Hanna's entrance it was announced that the president had decided to make a brief visit to some of the campfires and then return. He left, accompanied by Commander-In-Chief Clarkson. While he was gone the banqueters listened to responses to a number of patriotic toasts.

Later the president returned and made a brief address. When he was introduced, for fully five minutes it seemed as though the roof would have to fall, as the side walls bulged with the roars of applause and greeting. The president's allusion to the south and its unity with the north was received with vociferous applause, the audience standing upon their seats to cheer and at the conclusion of the toast Governor Black led the applause. During his absence from the banquet the president visited the campfires at two of the local churches, and the crowds that greeted him were tremendous. He spoke briefly at one.

Thursday, August 26, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY PARADES

Forty-Five Thousand of the Boys in Blue fill miles of streets at Buffalo

SCENES AT THE REVIEWING STAND

President McKinley shows the liveliest interest in the display.
How a whole line shook hands with him.
The War Secretary in the ranks.
Column requires five hours and forty minutes to pass the point of review.

Buffalo, Aug. 26. -- Forty-five thousand men marched through streets glorious in flags and bunting yesterday, receiving the ovations of 500,000 people. The president of the Union they fought to save, himself their comrade, was at their head. When the Grand Army procession moved at 10:30 yesterday morning, the sky had not a cloud. The rain storm of the night left a clear, bracing air that was like a tonic to the marching men. The procession moved for five hours and forty-two minutes. Along the line of march 100 girls, dressed in the colors of the flag, scattered flowers in the path of the soldiers. President McKinley rode in a carriage at the head of the procession and waved his hat at the cheering crowd. At the reviewing stand he took his position with Commander-In-Chief Clarkson and Governor Black and the headquarters staff passed in review. Of all the throng viewing the procession no one person was more enthusiastic or more affected by the sight that President McKinley, with his hand on his hat, continually uncovering to the stands of colors or the salutes of the veterans as they passed by. It was certainly a column to inspire admiration. Such men as Secretary of War Alger, General Lew Wallace and General John Palmer walked side by side with the negro or the decrepit pensioner whom they had to assist.

New Style of General Handshake

"Hurrah, hurrah, we'll sing the jubilee," a voice in the crowd would shout and high would rise the chorus for a few minutes, dying away as the next band in line destroyed the harmony. The president paid a pretty tribute to some colored veterans as they passed by waving his hand to them. The Pennsylvania division was a very large one and took some time to pass. Some men from the Post at Bradford, Pa., hit upon a novel method of obtaining recognition from the President. The man nearest the president was instructed to get near the president and shake his hand. The others formed a chain by grasping hands. The president laughed very heartily at the scheme. It was 1 o'clock before Pennsylvania had gotten by the reviewing stand.

State of Ohio comes next.

Ohio came next, and as her banner came in view there was a roar of applause and the president smiled his acknowledgments of the tribute. This was repeated, but with more emphasis, when the Canton, O. post came along, and the president, stepping to the front of the platform, clapped his hands vigorously, while the members of the post waved their hats and shouted. At 1:30 the president and Governor Black left the reviewing stand just as the department of Connecticut arrived at the place of review. Lunch was served at a private residence near-by. The department of Massachusetts was also disappointed at not seeing the president. The stay at lunch was brief, however, and by the time the Rhode Island delegation had come in sight the president and Governor Black were back in their places and the president was again bowing and smiling and lifting his hat to the veterans.

Michigan men win applause

Alger walks with his post.

Lew Wallace with his indianians.

After 2:55 the Washington division passed and was accorded a special welcome by the president, the colored veterans especially being recognized. The Michigan division aroused great applause on its appearance, Detroit post specially, and the president said to Commander-In-Chief Clarkson: "That is a fine display." When Fairbank post, of Detroit, came along, Secretary of War Alger was seen upon the right flank of the first company, marching in the post uniform. When the president saw him he pointed him out and the stand occupants gave him a round of applause. With LaFayette post, of Indiana, walked General Lew Wallace, and he received a welcome. At the head of the Minnesota division a drum corps of the oldest veterans attracted the attention of the President and he gave them a special recognition.

When the Illinois division passed the veterans uncovered and waved hats and hands and the president again rising returned the salute by kissing his hand to them. The orders were very strict that in passing the reviewing stand the men should keep eyes to the front, but enthusiasm was greater than duty and nearly every post broke the rule.

Not one of the interesting features of the parade escaped the president's attention, and he laughed heartily at the corn and wheat displays of the west and the complimentary references to prosperity. It was 3:10 when the New York state department, Commander Shaw and his staff, saluted the president, and the New York State veterans began to file by. They comprised two division and formed the largest department in the line. The battered flag of New York incited great applause, and Gettysburg post, of New York city, was heartily cheered. On and on went the column, and for over an hour it was nothing but New Yorkers. General Alger joined the reviewing party while New York's delegation was passing.

It was nearly 5 o'clock when the last of New York state division, comprising a brigade of Buffalo posts, passed the stand and after nearly six hours of constant attention the president and Governor Black were driven to their hotel amid the huzzahs of the old

soldiers, and the applause of the vast crowd. Throughout the entire day the great crowd was orderly and there was no intrusion upon the president. The president admitted that he was tired with the day's work but pleased.

The closing event of the evening was a reception to the president at Music hall. Other events last night were a reception by Mrs. Catherine F. Hurst, president of the Ladies of the G. A. R., at the Iroquois hotel; a reception by Mrs. F. C. Woodley, national president of the Army Nurses, at the "Woman's Union," and numerous receptions by minor organizations.

Despite the fact that president McKinley was exceedingly weary he met the local committee last night just after dinner and accompanied by Governor Black went to Music hall to meet the general public. The strain of the day, however, was too much for flesh and blood, and after he had greeted about 3,000 persons individually he was compelled to leave the hall. Fully 20,000 persons blocked the streets in the vicinity of the hall and expressed disappointment at not being permitted to shake the president's hand. Leaving Music hall the president was driven to the Buffalo club, where he received the Loyal Legion.

Friday, August 27, 1897
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY'S CHIEF

For the Coming Year He will Be J. P. S. Gobin
The Choice of the Keystone State

CINCINNATI WINS THE NEXT MEET

Beating her only competitor, San Francisco, out of sight.
Election of commander-in-chief settled on the second ballot.
Interesting extracts from Clarkson's address.
Pensions and war histories.
President McKinley stopped by a guard at Camp Jewett.

Buffalo, Aug. 27. -- Cincinnati's triumph in securing the national encampment for 1898 and Pennsylvania's victory in winning the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army were the features of the G. A. R. encampment yesterday. Both battles were hard fought. The struggle was precipitated immediately after the executive session was called to order.

The selection of the next place of meeting was first taken up, and the rival cities were given a hearing. On the first ballot Cincinnati received 526 votes, and San Francisco 214. The vote had not been announced when Woodruff withdrew San Francisco and asked that the selection of Cincinnati be made unanimous. This was agreed to by acclamation. Following the election of Cincinnati, Archbishop Ireland was called to the stage and made a patriotic speech. He was followed by General Lew Wallace who made a short address.

Nominations for Commander-In-Chief

The report of the committee on instruction followed this address. It criticized the books on history read in the schools in the south as inaccurate, and suggested some changes. Nominations for commander-in-chief were then declared in order and Isaac F. Mack, of Sandusky, O., was nominated by delegate Brown, of Ohio; J. P. S. Gobin, of Lebanon, was nominated by delegate Stewart, of Pennsylvania; George H. Innis, of Boston, by Delegate Wetherbee, of Massachusetts, and John G. Linehan, of New Hampshire, by Delegate Cogswell, of New Hampshire. Wetherbee later withdrew the name of Innis. The first ballot resulted: Mack, 253; Linehan, 181; Gobin, 296 -- no choice. The vote on the second ballot was never announced officially but as cast it stood: Gobin, 368; Mack, 249; Linehan, 123.

Everybody slides for Gobin

Before the result could be announced by the tellers, the ten Missouri votes that had been cast for Mack were withdrawn and ordered changed to Gobin, who had received the other twelve of the twenty-two votes belonging to the state. This gave Gobin 368 votes and enough to elect. Illinois and other states began to order their votes changed, but while this was in progress R. B. Brown, of Ohio, who nominated Mack, asked unanimous consent that the adjutant general be instructed to cast the vote of the encampment for Gobin, making his election unanimous. The encampment then adjourned until this morning.

New Chief given a Reception

Post No. 128, at Philadelphia, gave commander-in-chief elect Gobin a rousing reception at the hotel Iroquois last night. There was a big assemblage of Pennsylvania veterans and much enthusiasm. Colonel Gobin spoke briefly thanking the members of his old post for their good wishes. The department of New York, G. A. R., gave a reception last night to Governor Black at their headquarters in the Ellicot Square building, at which 1,000 people were present.

RETIRING COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

Pension machinery has been oiled, he says.

Question of a school history.

The other matter that excited interest in the encampment was the retiring commander-in-chief's address, and the reports of the other officials, all of which were read.

Touching upon pensions, the commander-in-chief said: "The committee on pensions have given much attention to this branch of the work, until quite lately with but little effect. Within the last few months the latchstrings have been loosened and many justly entitled pensioners have had their cases acted upon; others stopped without cause, have been restored to the rolls, and the machinery of that great department of the government seems to have been oiled with the oil of human kindness and honest obligation and to be running much more smoothly and with much less friction than before. I believe it will not be long until every case properly made up will be reached and receive attention."

In relation to the story of the war as taught to children in the books of the public schools, and which has recently come in for a large share of public attention, the commander-in-chief said: "No subject in which the Grand Army is interested is more important than that the truth of history should be taught to our children. The committee of eminent comrades appointed by me to consider and report upon this subject has given much time and thoughtful consideration to it, and I do not hesitate to say you will be surprised at their findings, and I feel sure you will approve their report and recommendations. It is certainly not the object of the Grand Army of the Republic to keep open the wounds of the war, but of this we are determined, that one side of that great struggle was right and the other side wrong -- and we were not the wrong side and we don't intend that our children shall be taught that we were. I hope the report of this committee will receive the careful consideration of this encampment, and this or a similar committee be kept at work until school histories in use in our public schools tell the truth.

"The beginning of the end is in sight; the day of smaller things is upon us. We are far past the meridian individually, and as an order the stream is running rapidly down the hill. Age and poverty are making great inroads into the ranks. Suspensions are numerous, charters are being surrendered. The hearts are in the right place, but the inevitable is before us. What shall we do? Stand shoulder to shoulder until the last file is closed. Recruit the ranks until every honorable discharge is recorded in the descriptive book, and every suspended comrade is again touching elbow with his fellows. Establish picket posts along the whole line, cheer up the weakening, encourage the thoughtless. Stand by your comrades though all the world assail."

Would Not Pass President McKinley

Buffalo, Aug. 27. -- The President of the United States was refused admission to the Grand Army camp yesterday morning, although he had come at the special invitation of the veterans and everything was in readiness to receive him. The incident proved one of great mortification to the Grand Army leaders and excited indignation among the members of the local committee. To the president at first it was a trifle annoying, but a few minutes after the episode he was having a hearty laugh over it and excusing the official who refused him entry by saying that the man was perfectly right to obey orders, no matter who demanded admittance. The reason for this refusal was that the sentry had been ordered to admit no carriage to the camp. Later the president visited Cayuga island, the site of the Pan-American exposition, and with a mallet on which his name was inscribed drove a stake in a grass plot in the center of the island.

Thursday, September 23, 1897
The Aurora Beacon News

VETERANS OF THE 36TH

Once more they meet to renew old memories of the dark days of strife.
They touch elbows as of old this anniversary of their Muster in 1861

Another day of welcome to old soldiers is here. Another proud regiment, torn by war and decimated through years of peace, send its remanent to the old rallying ground to meet in glad reunion. Elbows touching, eyes to the front, ranks closed up though desperately thinned, looking ahead to the inevitable but calm and brave as of old, the veterans of the gallant 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry are with us today, and their presence is another inspiration to loyalty, to love for the nation's banner, and to gratitude for the accomplishments of the men in blue in years of peril.

There is magic in the figures 36th. It was a noble regiment. On the 23rd of September, 1861, just 36 years ago today, it was mustered into the service of Uncle Sam, and in the dread days of war made a record too bright to be ever dimmed. Its history is written among the echoing hills of Pea Ridge. Perryville catches up the thread and Stone River's awful story is woven in. And then Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta campaign, Franklin and Nashville swung swiftly along on the tide of war and added their glories to its escutcheon. And the survivors knew at what fearful cost their noble regiment won fame and eternal glory.

The following veterans were registered at the secretary's desk, and many of them were accompanied by their wives and other members of their families:

Company A Cavalry

Joseph Ingham, George Dorr, James Baher, E. Todd, John Carl, J. M. Kennedy, William Fox, James Gillett, Sim Balley, Frank W. Moore, Thomas White.

Company B Cavalry

John McQueen, A. A. Lee, E. Mann, W. F. Donovan, M. J. Eakin, W. E. Saterfield, F. M. Brown, T. C. Pennington, E. M. Griggs, L. L. Lathrop.

Company A

George D. Sherman, Wm. F. Sylla, J. C. Hall, Tobias Miller, E. L. Dyer, A. Manahan, A. S. Harpending, J. C. Dennison, William Smalles, John B. Burr, John A. Hewitt, C. B. Stiles, F. B. Perkins, James Downey, James M. Vining.

Company B

Chris Zimmer, Van W. Race, William Dugan, John Ott, J. H. Campbell, Clark Tucker, Fred Embe, Samuel Hitchcock, Sidney Kendall.

Company C

W. A. Mitchell, J. M. Turnbull.

Company D

J. C. Taylor, James W. Orr, O. H. Johnson, Louis P. Boyd, W. W. Gifford, Thomas Welch, P. A. Johnson, F. F. Henning, John Hier, James A. Baker, H. F. Burch.

Company E

J. F. Harral, James Hatch, M. M. Robbins, Thomas Hill, S. M. Jay, C. M. Baker, C. N. Doan, J. W. Alston, Milton Cornell, Wm. Wollenweber, Uriah Foster.

Company F

C. F. Sweetland,, S. L. Smith, Bergo Thompson, E. H. Strait, F. A. Mossman, Elk Lipky, M. Wilson, C. N. Rolph, John Thompson, William Browning, George Neff, J. R. Biddulph.

Company G

W. W. Kerns, H. H. Streeter, William Rolley, James Halkyard, Charles Landon, Evan Edwards.

Company H

C. F. Henkee, Samuel Carver, C. E. Dygert.

Company I

No representatives registered.

Company K

J. F. Elliott, Hiram Watkins.

Commander N. J. Thomas, of post no. 20, and the veterans of the 23rd Illinois was also present, in keeping with his firm resolution to attend all the soldiers' reunions he can reach.

A. D. Curran, who on Wednesday was present at the reunion of his own regiment, the 89th Illinois, and George Petingil of St. Charles were also down.

The business meeting was called to order by the president of the association, J. F. Harral, of Aurora, who called attention to the fact that on this day the comrades and their wives were to be the guests of Mrs. F. O. White, wife of the old comrade, at dinner, that lady having kindly remembered them in behalf of her deceased husband, whose love for those old boys was always marked in many ways.

The minutes of the last reunion were read by secretary J. M. Kennedy, and approved.

Letters were read from the following:

Justin G. Chapman, governor of the National Military Home of Indiana stating that Thomas Hamby, of the 36th, is not dead, but an inmate of the home. As he had been previously reported dead, his name was ordered removed from the death roll. W. H. Cottrell, Co. F, Peabody, Kansas. H. D. Carr, Riverside, Iowa. G. W. Thompson, Cadiz, Indiana. B. Worden, Co. B, Chicago. John P. Lloyd, Co. H, Milletone, Ill. James F. Hollenback, Co. A, Cavalry, Skandia, Kansas. T. C. Pennington, Co. B, Cavalry, Chicago, Ill. H. E. King, Warsaw, Indiana. George W. Dissolette, Philadelphia. F. W. Raymond, Co. A, Aberdeen, S.D. W. H. Chamberlain, Cleveland, Ohio. H. B. Douglas, Livingston, Mont. who wrote also for Edward Pierce. T. R. Robinson, Desmoines, Iowa. E. H. Keek, Tongawonie, Kansas.

The deaths reported were Carlisle Thompson, of Company D, at Beloit, Kansas.

Myron D. Canton, Co. H., reported to have died several years ago.

Henry F. Baldwin, Co. H., killed at Morris, October 2, 1894, by a fall from a pole he was erecting.

By motion a committee of three on resolutions was appointed, consisting of Messrs Turnbull, Johnson and Hatch.

A communication was read from Montgomery, asking the comrades to meet at that place tomorrow evening, to attend a reception given by the survivors of Company C., on the anniversary of the presentation of the flag. A nice program has been prepared.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President, C. N. Doane, who thus retires as vice president. He lives in Iowa and was formerly a member of the legislature. He said he was willing to obey the boys.

Vice president Burgo Thompson. He was also patriotic, like this president, and thanked the boys as did his superior officer.

Secretary, W. F. Sylla, of Elgin, J. M. Kennedy positively declining a reelection.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Kennedy for his faithful and official services during the past eight (9) years.

Major Sherman moved similar action in the case of the president, J. W. Harral, and it was carried.

Aurora, Chicago and Monmouth were mentioned for the next place for holding the reunion. On a vote being taken, Monmouth had 7: Chicago stock yards Transit House -- 47. The boys will be the guests of J. C. Dennison at the reunion next year.

The committee on resolutions reported and their report was adopted.

Dinner was next in order and the veterans and their ladies marched to the White & Todd block, where the Woman's Relief Corp had prepared a splendid repast.

Just before going to the hall a motion to appoint a committee to look after joint reunions, to try and get better railroad rates, was carried and the chair appointed Messrs. Sylla, Dennison and Kerns. Rev. E. W. Lounsbury offered prayer at the tables.

When the dinner had been disposed of -- and that ceremony was a job the boys seemed to enjoy -- Major Sherman was introduced as toastmaster. He made a few touching and appropriate remarks, recalling the old encampment and Aurora's hospitality in those trying years.

Miss. Lula Ketchum sang "America's Own Goldenrod" in her own inimitable manner. In response to an encore she sang the "Battle Cry Freedom," the audience joining in the chorus.

Mayor T. N. Holden gave a greeting to the old boys and their families. He reviewed shortly the record of the regiment, and made several bits which were happily received. He said, "We have met 36th, and we are his'n anyway," and for the city extended cordial greetings and hearty welcome.

Major Sherman then introduced a "alian Jim from Joliet, Methodist Episcopal Cornell," who responded to Mayor Holden's welcome. He didn't think encomiums and flattery could be spread too thickly on the 36th. His eloquent remarks were worth the close attention they received. The shortcomings of any old soldier should be overlooked, in view of the record he made in his country's service. He voiced the appreciation of the boys for the courtesy of Mrs. White, in providing, free, the splendid dinner set before them, and said they would always remember Aurora in a most kindly way.

Miss. Alice Hitchcock sang a very pretty song in honor of the flag, and also responded to an encore with "Merry Little Vivandiere."

Miss. Kelley gave a pleasing recitation, and then came the day's oration by Rev. Wm. Horace Day.

The latter got back nicely at the toastmaster, and fired a little witty volley at him and the good Baptist brother opposite. He followed with a most eloquent address, recalling certain memorable events in the regiments history and making just such an impressive and patriotic talk as might be expected of him.

Short talks by comrades of the regiment, and the singing of "America," by the audience, closed the exercises, and 31st annual reunion of the loyal old 36th Infantry was over.

1898

Patriotic fervor ran high as the United States declared war on Spain on April 24th. The "Splendid Little War" would not last long, ending December 10th, but it occupied the attentions of all the veterans organizations, leaving just a little time to discuss pensions and joint Federal and Confederate reunions. On May 11th the Illinois Department of the G. A. R. held their annual encampment at Streator, electing John C. Black, of Chicago, to Department Commander. At the encampment, the state level Sons of Veterans promised to form two companies in case they were called on to supply the war effort. The rains which plagued the encampment had a dampening effect on all the activities. Not very much news coverage survives. The national encampment was held in Cincinnati on September 5th, and John A. Sexton, of Chicago, Illinois, became the new Commander-in-Chief. Emotions were still high over the pension debate and erupted in the censure of one of the speakers at the convention. The city was bulging as the G. A. R., Labor Day and the Peace Jubilee attracted thousands of visitors and participants. The 36th held their reunion in an entirely different venue. "Jep" Denison hosted the affair at the Transit House, in Chicago on September 22nd. Joseph Ingham was elected president with John A. McQueen as vice. Wm. Sylla was again secretary treasurer. Post 20 had a new Commander in Gustavus Aucutt. Arthur Quinton was senior vice commander and O. Willson was j.v.c.

Thursday, May 12, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

THE W. R. C. AND G. A. R.

Delegates from the Relief Corps find good quarters.
Notes from the Convention at Streator, Ill.

The delegates and visitors from the Elgin Woman's Relief Corps arrived at Streator on Tuesday afternoon at 4:20, having had a special train from Aurora. The quarters engaged in advance were not found satisfactory, and the party went to the home of Mrs. Graves, sister of Miss. May Houston of Elgin, where everything was first class. This is at 403 North Vermilion street.

Mrs. Sarah Martin, national president; Flo Miller, national patriotic instructor, president of national home; Past National President Mrs. Emma Wallace, together with the executive board, chief of staff and department officers, occupied the stage at the opera house with the president, Miss. Jennie Bross.

After the president's address a very pleasant feature of the occasion was the presentation by the officers and others of a jeweled badge to Miss. Jennie Bross, a jeweled pin to Mrs. Clark, besides other gifts.

Wednesday morning an open meeting was held at which reports were received from the Soldiers' orphans' home at Normal and the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Quincy.

The Grand Army of the Republic parade took place at 2 p.m. The new flag work of the corps was exemplified at the armory at 2:30, and at the close of this the convention reconvened.

It began to rain directly after the parade, and the crowds were driven in doors.

The parade was a splendid one and nearly a mile in length, the marchers being four abreast and in close order. Along one side of the park 2,500 school children were massed and they sung patriotic songs as the veterans passed.

At the meeting of the encampment Commander Schimpff made his report of the year's work, which showed the order to be in better shape than in years past. Last night the candidates for the position of commander were chasing the delegates. It is the general opinion that Gen. John C. Black will win.

Miss. Bross will be a candidate for re-election, her opponent being Miss. Carrie Alexander of Belleville. Mrs. Sarah Martin of Brookfield, Mo., national president of the order, addressed the meeting. The elections take place today.

Thursday, May 12, 1898
The Aurora Beacon News

FINE TIME AT STREATOR

Though Rain Wednesday Afternoon was Rather Unwelcome

Visitors to Streator this week, during the annual convention of the G. A. R. and its kindred organizations, have seen a city beautifully decorated, patriotic, and welcoming with outstretched arms the old soldiers and those who accompanied themselves. The question had been asked, "Can Streator entertain such a gathering?" The answer has been satisfactory to everybody; she did it most handsomely.

Tuesday but little business was transacted by any of the orders, the day being given mostly to organizing and getting necessary committees at work. Aurora has been well represented in all the organizations.

The big parade of Wednesday was a fine affair, and a large number of old soldiers, Sons of Veterans and civic organizations participated. Rain came immediately after the parade and continued well into the night, spoiling the beautiful decorations and soaking everything. It did not prevent the holding of rousing camp fires in the evening, however.

The only organization which had finished its work when the writer left, this morning, was the Sons of Veterans. It elected officers as follows, the remainder of the staff to be appointed later:

Commander, William T. Church, Camp 6, Chicago.

Senior Vice Commander, Guy L. Cleveland, Prophetstown.

Junior Vice Commander, Charles H. Egbert, Streator.

Division Council -- George G. Campbell, Lincoln; L. M. Smith, -----; W. C. Stein, DeKalb.

Delegate at large, Isaac Cutter, Springfield.

Delegates -- James B. Lidders, Rock Island; George C. Powers, Peoria; P. A. Durant, Aurora; Will C. Snyder, Kankakee; E. D. Houlihan, Chicago.

Adjutant, R. R. Longenecker, Camp 87, Chicago.

Quartermaster, W. L. Ekvahl, Camp 166, Chicago.

The boys' band from the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Normal treated the several organizations to some nice music, and a goodly collection was taken up for them.

There were four candidates for Department Commander of the G. A. R., and a hot fight was on.

The Sons of Veterans will take steps to organize two regiments of volunteers, for service in the war with Spain if called.

It was expected the business of the encampment would be completed today.

Tuesday, September 6, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

G. A. R. IN FULL BLAST

Opening Day In Cincinnati Shows the City full of People.

Cincinnati, Sept. 6. -- The opening day of the thirty-second annual encampment of the G. A. R. surpassed expectations in the attendance and in the successful progress of events on the programme of the first day. During the Labor Day parade and other

parades in escorting prominent arrivals from from the stations to the hotels the city presented an unusually brilliant appearance with its elaborate decorations which are displayed everywhere. Last night the illuminations were in full blast everywhere from the triumphal arches in the public places and at street intersections. Excursionists have arrived by the thousands and with the arrival yesterday of Commander-In-Chief Gobin and his staff, Rear Admiral Kelley and his staff and other heads of organizations the national encampment of 1898 was in full blast on the first day.

The large Music hall was filled to its limit at the naval campfire last night, while receptions and reunions were going on at other places all over the city. There will be big campfires at Music hall and Camp Sherman every night this week, and smaller gatherings at other points. There is a notable absence of the old commanders, but they have passed away. Many of the comrades refer to the serious illness of Gen. Buell, who is now considered the ranking survivor of the civil conflict.

Wednesday, September 7, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

THE GREAT PARADE TODAY

ILLINOIS VETERANS HOLD RIGHT OF LINE

Meeting of Blue and Gray attracts much attention.

Cincinnati, Sept. 7. -- The national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was roused with a salute of forty-five guns at sunrise.

Among the numerous meetings today none attracted more attention than that of the "Blue and the Gray." This was arranged by resident federal and confederate veterans with a view to bringing about the most cordial handshaking over the "bloody chasm," and it was most eminently successful.

At 10 o'clock the great Grand Army parade moved in ten divisions, led by the police escorting General A. Hickenlooper, grand marshal, and staff; General P. S. Gobin, commander in chief and staff, veterans of the department of Illinois held the right of line.

Thursday, September 8, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

HOOTS FOR PINGREE

VETERANS AT A CAMP FIRE MAKE A DEMONSTRATION THAT WAS TOO PREVIOUS.

Refuse to hear the Governor

And find after they have driven him off the stage
that they have made a big mistake.

Unpleasant incident of the encampment.

Great annual parade a success.

Twenty-five thousand in line.

Prospects as to the next Commander.

Cincinnati, Sept. 8. -- Music hall was packed to its fullest capacity last night for the campfire presided over by Colonel W. B. Melish, executive director of the citizens committee of arrangements for the G. A. R. encampment. The music was up to the high standard of other evenings as well as the war pictures by the Biograph and the Syrian Arab patrol, of Cincinnati, giving a magnificent performance. Tuesday night Governor Atkinson, of West Virginia, was to have been one of the speakers at the campfire, but he did not arrive in time to get a ticket of admission and although he presented letters and manifold other credentials as to his identity he could not pass by the stubborn policeman at the door and left in disgust before anyone could reach him for identification. While one Governor was shut out with a carefully prepared speech in his pocket Tuesday night another Governor was hissed and hooted out in a still more disgraceful manner last night.

Pingree attacks army management

As Governor Pingree, of Michigan, was compelled to take a train at 10:30 for Detroit he was given the first place on the programme. Governor Pingree in his prologue stated that owing to imperative business he must leave, because the state of Michigan was preparing to send a hospital train through the south to gather up the sick soldiers of that state. The Governor referred to the alleged mismanagement and destitution of the soldiers. "We must not place the blame upon any one man, but we can charge it upon an absolute system of red tape that is still in vogue." He cited several cases of abuse and suffering due to the delay of "red tape," and became very vehement in denunciation for such formalities at the sacrifice of comfort health and human life.

Old Veterans hoot him down

After citing a particular case of bad management in the distribution of disinfectants Governor Pingree said: "If Secretary Alger -- " but Governor Pingree never finished that sentence. He could not proceed, and even with the most persistent efforts of Chairman Melish the Governor was unable to utter another word. A voice in the audience cried: "Hurrah for Alger." The cry was taken up in a boisterous chorus. The Governor attempted repeatedly to proceed, but the audience refused to listen to another word. The three words "if Secretary Alger -- " had left the wrong impression. The audience interpreted these three words to be the beginning of a strain of censure and criticism and absolutely refused to let the speaker proceed.

Governor Pingree continued his efforts to resume, but this only inflamed the audience more, and soon shouts of "Amen." "Take him off," "We don't want to hear him," and the like were heard throughout the hall.

Audience was Too Previous.

Chairman Melish made repeated futile attempts to quell the disturbance, but those who started the racket persisted in keeping it up. The Governor then retired. Governor Pingree was reading his speech from manuscript. After the Governor had left and quiet had been restored Chairman Melish finished the sentence which the audience refused to permit to read. It ran as follows: "If Secretary Alger had been given full power such things would never have happened." The transformation of the audience was then humiliating to all who were present. The hisses of derision were then turned to cheers and repeated calls for Governor Pingree, but he had left the hall and refused to return. Chairman Melish expressed his regrets for the misunderstanding and proceeded with the programme. The succeeding speeches had the most attentive audience.

Veterans march for four hours.

Annual parade of the Grand Army numbers about 25,000 men.

Cincinnati, Sept. 8. -- For four hours yesterday the Grand Army veterans paraded over the asphalted streets, applauded by hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, In every respect the parade was a grand and glorious success. Two ranks, six miles in length, 25,000 veterans in all, scores of bands and thousands of torn and stained battle flags were the component parts of a spectacle to which participants and spectators can look back with satisfaction a few years hence. The belief that it might be their last chance to march shoulder to shoulder is what led many of the age worn soldiers to brave the discomfort of the tedious march.

The parade started promptly at 10 a.m. and was completed at 3:25 p.m. The average time in passing given points was a little over four hours, and the general estimate of the number in line was between 25,000 and 30,000. It was noticed that many who wore the uniform of the order were, among the spectators along the line of march. Most of them did not feel able to parade, although the day was a bracing and cool as in

November. The parade was purely one of the Grand Army, and the usual floats and daylight fireworks and other attractions were reserved for the peace jubilee today. The Denver drum corps with fifty pieces and the band of Rough Riders from Dayton, with 100 pieces, were the leading attractions in their line. The singers from Kansas were loudly applauded.

While the Ohio division outnumbered others, yet the Illinois department, headed by General John C. Black and staff, made an excellent appearance as the first division of the great procession. It ranked next in numbers to the Ohio division which brought up the rear. In the Illinois department was Columbia post, from Chicago, with a combination of the military and naval jackets, making a very fine appearance. Post 384 from Detroit appeared with all members in Prince Alberts. The posts from the Dakotas, Iowa and Kansas displayed with attractive effect their samples of corn and grain. Outside of the parade itself the order was excellent although there were several stampedes and several private platforms broke down.

The western and central states were particularly well represented. Illinois and Ohio each had about 6,000 veterans in line; Michigan, 3,000; Indiana, 2,000; Iowa, 1,000 and Minnesota and Missouri about 1,000 each. Pennsylvania and New York made excellent showings with nearly 5,000 men each. Illinois was given a hearty ovation by the crowds by reason of the candidacy of Colonel Sexton, of Chicago, for commander-in-chief. The reviewing stand was located in front of Music hall, and here General Gobin was the center of a distinguished company. General A. Hickenlooper was grand marshal of the parade. The parade was in nine divisions.

Pleasure comes to an end

Balance of the Encampment's time will be devoted to business.

With the demonstration yesterday the series of festivities is almost closed and the business sessions of the G. A. R. and its auxiliaries begins today. During this afternoon there will be a civil and industrial parade of unusual dimensions, with a peace jubilee, but the business of all the organizations will proceed in the morning and continue until tomorrow night. There are unusually hot contests for the elections among the ladies, as well as among the veterans. It is reported that commander-in-chief Gobin favors Shaw, of New York, for his successor. As Shotts, of New York, has not proven a formidable opponent to Shaw, the name of Daniel E. Sickles is freely used in that connection. Sexton of Illinois has been regarded as a favorite in the race for commander-in-chief until the reports were circulated about General Gobin and his administration being in favor of Shaw.

General Gobin denies any aggressive work in favor of any candidate, but admits that he is an old friend of General Shaw. Anderson, of Topeka, and Mack, of Sandusky, hope to see the contest between Shaw and Sexton become so bitter that one or the other of them will be taken up as a compromise candidate. The contest between Philadelphia and Denver for the next encampment is also quite animated, with the friends of Kansas

City in the hope of winning as a compromise location. The Ladies of the G. A. R. were in session yesterday and transacted routine business, presenting reports and appointing committees. Their business session as well as that of the Woman's Relief Corps will begin today.

At the Music hall campfire last night commander-in-chief Gobin made a very eloquent address on the purpose of the Grand Army, and as he was about to leave the platform he was presented with an elegant gold watch and chain by his surviving comrades of the old forty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment of volunteers. General Gobin was moved to tears while responding to this presentation from his old comrades. There were also campfires at Camp Sherman, Camp Garfield and in other parts of the city.

Thursday, September 8, 1898

The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS CHEER ALGER

Old Soldiers at the National Encampment Resolution for reunions of Federals and Confederates

Cincinnati, Sept. 8.-- Today's feature in connection with the Grand Army of the Republic national encampment was the peace jubilee parade. About one hundred firms were represented in the line by decorated floats, and fifty civic, military and political societies joined the pageant. The business session of the national encampment and its auxiliaries, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, opened today. There were the usual addresses of welcome before the state and city, and responses, together with other preliminaries previous to the starting of the jubilee parade.

At the conclusion of the preliminaries the hall was cleared of all except members and the annual reports of officers and committees were submitted.

After the reports had been referred to committees a flood of resolutions poured in and were referred to the committee on resolutions without reading. They related to a great many questions.

When the annual reports were being read, especially Gobin's, there was considerable cheering at the mention of President McKinley's name, but when the name of Alger was mentioned in connection with the recent war there was an uproarious demonstration in his favor. Many resolutions were offered, especially endorsing his administration of the war department.

There is more sentiment in favor of uniting those who fought on different sides in the same war and a resolution will be offered inviting the confederate veterans to meet

with the Grand Army of the Republic next year. The Missouri delegation will likely present the resolution, as that state was about equally divided during the civil war. If no joint encampment is arranged it is intended to have fraternal delegates sent from one encampment to the other.

Friday, September 9, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS IS HONORED

Grand Army Encampment Makes One of her Sons
Commander-In-Chief
Col. Sexton, of Chicago Chosen

Opposition Unites on Shaw of New York but Pennsylvania wants the next Encampment and she gets it, Philadelphia being the lucky city. Corporal Tanner comes down hard on the Pension Commissioner.

Warm time likely today.

Cincinnati, Sept. 9. -- Illinois and Pennsylvania were celebrating their victories at their respective G. A. R. headquarters last night. The one secured the Commander-In-Chief, Colonel James A. Sexton, of Chicago, and the other the location of the thirty third annual encampment of the G. A. R. at Philadelphia next year. While there were all sorts of combinations between the state departments, yet it is conceded that the fight between New York and Pennsylvania was the most bitter ever known at the encampment. These two neighboring states were competitors for honors, one for the election of Colonel A. D. Shaw, of Watertown, New York, as commander-in-chief, and the other for the location of the next national encampment at the Quaker City. During all the votes and discussions of the day the departments of New York and Pennsylvania were never on the same side of anything.

New York was for Denver

New York voted to hold the next encampment at Denver, and it was only by the diplomacy and shrewd management of the Chicago contingent in the interest of Sexton that Denver lost in the strong contest for the next encampment. While it is true that Pennsylvania gave Sexton a strong vote from the east, yet it is also true that the shrewd managers from Chicago gave Philadelphia much more than the solid vote of Illinois in the contest for the location of the next encampment. All other candidates, except Shaw and Sexton for commander-in-chief were withdrawn and the opposition to Sexton combined on Shaw.

Peace Jubilee outside

While heated contests were going on inside the guarded doors of the encampment all the demonstrations on the outside in the city were in accord with the peace jubilee. The parade of the civic and industrial organizations in the afternoon with all the illustrations of peace and prosperity and happiness that could be produced was the most magnificent pageant ever witnessed in the city. The old demonstrations under the order of Cincinnati at the openings of expositions and on other occasions were eclipsed by the peace jubilee parade yesterday in which it is estimated 40,000 were in line and over 500,000 spectators along the line. There were more people in the city yesterday than on any other day in the history of the city and the entertainment could hardly be surpassed.

Delegates want to wind up today

With the river fronts and parks and Camp Sherman ablaze last night with a most elaborate display of fireworks, the demonstrations are ended, but special entertainments have been provided for today and this evening in excursions on the river and special displays at the summer resorts. The national encampment elected only its commander-in-chief yesterday and will elect its other officers today, adopt its resolutions and attend to other business. The delegates state they will complete their work today, even if it is necessary for a night session. The auxiliaries of the ladies elect their officers also today and complete their annual encampment.

REPORT ON PENSION MATTERS

Corporal Tanner Attacks Pension Commissioner Evans

The morning session of the encampment was devoted to reports, the first and most important being that of Commander-In-Chief Gobin. The afternoon session commenced at 2 o'clock. The first business in order was a lengthy report from the committee on pensions. The report was extensively an effort to refute the charge that the pension roll was a roll of dishonor. It cited the fact that expensive investigations had been undertaken by the department of different states and that after close inquiry there had not been a single case of fraud discovered which could be traced to a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The report went on to say that the roll was distinctly a roll of honor.

When a motion was made to accept and adopt the report "Corporal" Tanner, of New York, arose to discuss it. He said that in the main he agreed with all the committee had said. But in regard to that portion of the report which dealt with the administration of the pension office he did not agree and he went on to speak in unrestrained criticism of the present Commissioner of pensions, Evans. "I stand ready to be responsible here and elsewhere for all statements I make on this subject, and I declare that Commissioner Evans calling his chiefs of division together and using language which indicated intense feeling if not anger, instructed them to disregard totally every application based on deafness or rheumatism." The matter was postponed.

A somewhat dramatic episode arose by the appearance of a colored woman on the platform bearing a small photograph of the monument to Colonel Shaw, the officer of negroes, who was killed at Fort Wagner. The bearer of the photograph was Mrs. William Scott, of Lathrop, Mo. She proceeded to explain briefly what had been done to honor the memory of this negro officer, and made an earnest plea for the recognition in a broader way of faithfulness, bravery and efficiency of the negro soldier.

Commander-In-Chief Gobin replied very briefly, praising in the highest terms the record of the negroes in the army.

Ex-Commander-In-Chief Clarkson, of Nebraska, was presented with a magnificent silver set in an oaken case.

The vote on the election of Commander-In-Chief gave James A. Sexton 424 votes, while Albert D. Shaw received 241. Commander Shaw in a well worded speech moved the unanimous election of Sexton, and the motion was carried. It is understood that since Colonel Sexton has been elected Commander-In-Chief there will not be any opposition whatever to W. C. Johnson, of Cincinnati, for senior vice commander-in-chief, but there are contests for all the other places that will require ballots, and the encampment will have much to do today. The committee on resolutions worked all last night, and when it makes its report there is likely to be a contest in the encampment, especially on the resolutions referring to Commissioner Evans and to Secretary of War, Alger and on other matters.

Last night was the greatest night of demonstrations during the week. The most elaborate fireworks were shown along the banks of the river and from boats in the harbor, while there were also great displays in the same line at the zoological garden, the lagoon, Coney Island, Chester Park, Camp Sherman and other places. These took the places of the camp fires.

The fourteenth annual convention of the Woman's Relief Corps of the G. A. R. convened at 9 o'clock yesterday morning in the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The roll call showed a full attendance of delegates representing 144,000 members of the order. The Corps elected the following officers: Mrs. P. C. Jamison Miller, of Chicago, president; Mrs. Mary Wentzel, of Cincinnati, senior vice president; Ellen T. Daniels, of West Virginia, junior vice president; Mrs. Carolina H. Bill, of Milwaukee, national treasurer.

Friday, September 23, 1898
The Aurora Beacon News

VETERANS OF THE 36TH

They Met at The Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Thursday.

About 96 survivors of the gallant 36th Illinois Infantry, which left camp below Aurora in the fall of 1861, and made a splendid war record, met in reunion at The Transit House, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Thursday. It was their 32nd annual gathering.

The business meeting was held at 12 p.m., when the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Joseph Ingham, ex-resident of Kane County, of Sugar Grove.

Vice president, John A. McQueen, Chicago.

Secretary and Treasurer, W. F. Sylla, Elgin.

The banquet was served at the Transit House, and provided by "Jep" Denison, who carried out the promise made last year, to royally entertain his old comrades.

Friday, September 23, 1898
The Elgin Daily News

THE OLD THIRTY-SIXTH

TALKED OF KENESAW MOUNTAIN AND MISSION RIDGE

And Other Scenes of Battle -- A Splendid Reunion in Chicago

Reminiscence of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and Kenesaw Mountain were topics of interest in the survivors of the Thirty-Sixth Illinois volunteer veteran regiment who gathered at the Transit House, Chicago, Thursday morning, as the guests of Comrade J. C. Denison, secretary and treasurer of the Union Stock Yards Company. The occasion was the thirty-second annual reunion of the regiment. The menu was an elaborate affair and was thoroughly relished by the veterans.

Mr. Denison acted as toastmaster in the absence of Major Sherman and the program was as follows, interspersed with songs by the Oriental Quartet:

Prayer, Comrade A. S. Harpending.

Greeting, J. C. Denison.

Response, J. M. Turnbull.

Address, Frank Joslyn.

Five minute talks by comrades.

Song. "America," by everybody.

There was a large sprinkling of ladies from the company and the comrades from Elgin were: William Smailes, W. F. Sylla, L. T. Lathrop, A. A. Lee, J. C. Hall, Clark Tucker, E. E. Balch, V. O. Wilcox, John A. Hewitt, John Burr, C. B. Stiles, M. S. Townsend, A. S. Harpending, John A. McQueen, F. B. Perkins.

Frank Joslyn's speech was a good one, especially patriotic, and was much applauded. Frank's father was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Thirty-Sixth, and this fact made his speech the more interesting.

The Thirty-Sixth regiment was recruited in the Fox river valley. Many of the survivors live in Aurora, Elgin and adjacent towns.

The following officers were elected: President, Joseph Ingham; vice president, John A. McQueen; secretary and treasurer, W. F. Sylla. A committee on resolutions was appointed. They were J. A. McQueen, W. H. Hall, and J. C. Taylor.

The big city papers mention the reunion, one of them stating that Major G. D. Sherman, who is a paymaster in the army, acted as toastmaster. He would have filled this post very gracefully had not duty kept him away.

1899

The Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois held its thirty-third encampment at Danville on May 16th, where John B. Inman, of Springfield, was elected Department Commander. The national encampment was held in Philadelphia on September 6th. W. C. Johnson had assumed the post of acting Commander-In-Chief upon the death of James A. Sexton, but, did not win the election. Rather, Albert D. Shaw, of New York, became the new Commander-In-Chief. President McKinley, the last of the civil war veteran presidents, attended the grand parade and spoke at a number of banquets. He also toured the Great White Squadron on the river. The pension question now centered upon fair payment to veteran's widows, and proof of infirmity by the aging veterans themselves. Reconciliation between the G. A. R and the U. C. V., still had a long way to go as the proposition to return captured battle flags to the south was soundly defeated. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Survivors Reunion convened at Elgin on September 21st. John A. McQueen, of McQueen, was elected president with C. F. Sweetland as his vice president. William F. Sylla remained as secretary/treasurer. A patriotic poem entitled, "The Old Thirty-Sixth" was read during the program. At G. A. R., Post No. 20, Arthur Quinton was elected Commander. Aurora had a new Mayor, Theodore "Put" Howard, also a comrade at the post. Camp 21 of the Sons of Veterans elected Archie G. Sylvester, Captain. The president of the Aurora Women's Relief Corps was Hattie A. Vaughan and Annie E. Casner became the new president of Lincoln Circle No. 2 of the Ladies of the G. A. R.

Monday, May 15, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

STATE MEETINGS

At which Elgin will be represented

The state encampment of the G. A. R. and W. R. C. will be held at Danville commencing tomorrow. Among the Relief Corps members who expect to attend are Mesdames Jarvis, Hewitt, Brydges, Young, Crabtree, Raymond, Gregory, Gorrecht and possibly Mrs. Pendegast. The last named was elected one of the delegates, but the illness of her sister has made it uncertain as to her going. One of the others mentioned is an alternate.

Monday, May 17, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

Illinois Grand Army Meets

Danville, Ill., May 17, -- There was a large attendance of delegates and visitors at the first day of the G. A. R. encampment. General J. C. Black, department commander, arrived with an escort on a special train. There will be a grand parade today, followed by the executive session, which will elect officers and decide the location of the next encampment.

Monday, May 17, 1899
The Aurora Beacon News

ILLINOIS VETERANS

Danville, Ill., May 17. -- The annual encampment of the Illinois G. A. R. promises to be a success. The parade will take place this afternoon at 1:30. Resolutions will be introduced during the reunion asking the national encampment to admit to membership the participants of the late Spanish war. Chicago will be endorsed for the grand encampment of 1900.

Friday, May 19, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

Illinois G. A. R. Encampment

Danville, Ill., May 19, -- Captain John B. Inman, of Springfield, was elected department commander of Illinois G. A. R. at the convention here. The only other candidate was W. H. Kaufman, of Champaign, and he withdrew, moving the unanimous election of Captain Inman.

Friday, May 19, 1899
The Aurora Beacon News

DELEGATES RETURN

From Annual Encampment of G. A. R. and W. R. C.
New Officers

Aurora's delegation to the thirty-third annual encampment of the Illinois Grand Army of the Republic arrived home last night from Danville. The next meeting will be at Jacksonville.

Mrs. Rebecca D. Lewis of Aurora, was re-elected treasurer of the Woman's Relief Corps, and Mrs. P. A. Durant of Aurora, president of the Ladies Aid. Mrs. Durant appointed her daughter, Miss. Lucy, her secretary. Mrs. R. A. Windett was elected treasurer of the division and Miss. Stella Lewis member of Council.

Wednesday, September 6, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

BIG DAY OF THE CAMP

G. A. R. VETERANS ONCE MORE MARCH
IN RANKS TO THE MUSIC OF THE UNION.

REVIEWED BY COMRADE MCKINLEY.

Buckeye State contingent goes wild over the Major
Whole line of march packed with cheering people on both sides
Over six hours passing the reviewing stand
President visits the White Squadron in the afternoon,
going aboard five flagships.

Philadelphia, Sept. 6, -- The grand event of the G. A. R. encampment is over, the great parade took place yesterday and the thousands of veterans greeted the President as a comrade of the times that tried men's souls thirty-eight years ago. The marchers passed between two lines of cheering people for the whole of the five mile march. From the

fronts of the buildings to the curb the people were packed in a solid mass, and even breathing was difficult. As a result of the crush about 400 men, women and children were overcome and taken from the crowd to various hospitals. With President McKinley and Mayor Ashbridge there were on the reviewing stand Rear Admiral Melville, Rear Admiral Sampson, Captain Chadwick, Captain Taylor, Captain Sigsbee, Captain Train, and a score of other officers of the North Atlantic Squadron; Secretary Root, Secretary Wilson, Jacob G. Sherman, of the Philippines Commission; J. A. Porter, president's secretary, and Assistant Secretary Cortelyou

Ohio was specially enthusiastic

The parade was six hours and ten minutes in passing the reviewing stand. After a portion of the department of Pennsylvania had passed, these veterans bringing up the rear, the President left to visit Admiral Sampson's fleet, Governor Stone reviewing the remainder of the procession. At the head of each organization marched military bands and drum corps, and as the veterans moved proudly along the streets tumultuous applause greeted them and a sea of handkerchiefs and small flags waved in admiration and welcome. When the Ohio posts appeared the aged paraders became wild with enthusiasm. One veteran broke ranks and standing before his comrade shouted: "Three cheers for the biggest man on earth -- Major William McKinley, of Ohio."

President joined in the applause

This invitation for cheers was followed by a mighty roar, which was echoed and reechoed among the spectators for blocks. As the various posts passed in review the president stood smiling and bowing, and on numerous occasions waved his hand to the more enthusiastic of the marchers. When the torn battle flags were dipped in salute he joined in the applause by clapping his hands. Among the bodies marched, not members of the G. A. R., the Kansas Girl Cadets received probably the most enthusiastic applause. They are from Topeka and marched like veterans.

VISIT TO THE SQUADRON

President grows enthusiastic and goes on board five ships.

The visit to the fleet was decided upon yesterday when Admiral Sampson called upon the President at the Hotel Walton. It was the intention to have the chief executive remain here until Friday to review the naval parade and visit the squadron, but the president's desire to return to Washington last night caused a rearrangement of the programme. The visit of the president to the squadron proved to be the greatest marine spectacle ever seen here. It was the intention to have McKinley visit only the New York, but he grew so enthusiastic over the great fighters that he suddenly made up his mind to inspect all of them. Accordingly he visited the Flagship New York, cruiser, Brooklyn, and the battleships, Indiana, Massachusetts and Texas. It was his intention to also visit the cruiser Detroit, but much to his regret he was unable to do so on account of lack of time.

There was almost a continuous roar of guns during the one and three quarter hours that it took to inspect the vessels. In all, 462 guns were fired by the squadron in president's salutes. During the early afternoon everything was bustle on the six big vessels and the decks of all of them were soon stripped of every movable article. At 4:15 the president boarded the barge. He was accompanied by Secretaries Root and Wilson, Lieutenant Commander Winslow, Mayor Ashbridge, United States Senator Sewell, Director of public works Haddock and Director of public safety English. Every vessel in the harbor propelled by steam let its whistle go, and this with the cheers of the crowds on shore made a deafening noise.

The president was the first to step on board the flagship from the steep ladder that hangs over the New York's side, and as he did so the entire squadron belched forth the president's salute of twenty-one guns, or 126 guns in all. The bands of all the ships simultaneously played "Hail to the Chief." The president was received at the gangway by Rear Admiral Sampson and the staff officers of the ship, who were in special full dress uniform. The rail was manned by the men during the formal greeting. The call to quarters was then sounded and every man on board ship sprang to his place just as though an engagement was about to start.

The sight greatly pleased the president. He was then shown over the whole ship, starting at the aft turret, in which two 8 inch guns are located. Standing within the small enclosure of the turret were eight men, naked to the waist, who were going through the motion of loading, sighting and firing the guns. The president watched the proceeding with much interest. It took half an hour to go over the vessel, and so interested did the president become that he expressed a wish to visit the other ships, which he did in turn.

The return of the president to the shore was an inspiring one. The Texas was moored farthest up the river and the presidential party had to pass each of the great vessels on its return to shore. The river was alive with craft crowded to their utmost capacity, and a great noise was being made. As the barge neared the flagship the signal was given to salute and the six big ships again belched forth a terrific salute. Every man and officer on the ships stood at attention and the bands added to the din by again playing "Hail to the Chief." The barge was stopped while the salute was being fired, and after it had ceased the twelve brawny sailors pulled for the shore, closing one of the most patriotic scenes that has ever taken place on the river.

President makes two speeches

One at the official welcome and another at a banquet.

The official welcome of the Grand Army took place last night in the Academy of Music and was participated in by the president, who made a short address after the welcoming speeches and responses. He said in part: "The circle is narrowing, as years roll on, one after another is not present at our reunions, but accounted for. They have gone to join the great majority of our comrades who sleep tonight beneath the low green rent whose curtains never outward sway.

“Great and good deeds never die, and the Grand Army of the republic is to be congratulated tonight that the Union it saved and the peace it secured at Appomattox Court House more than a third of a century ago is stronger, better and dearer to the American people today than ever before in all our history. We are once more and forever one people -- one in faith, one in purpose, willing to sacrifice our lives for the honor of our country and the glory of our flag.

“That during the last year and this summer we are able to convene 250,000 of the best young men in the United States was due to the example of your patriotism and the inspiration of your example.”

A few minutes later the president's party, with Admiral Sampson and his staff, left the Academy of Music and proceeded to Odd Fellow's Hall, where president McKinley was the guest of honor at the banquet tendered by George G. Meade post, the Lafayette post, of New York, and the Kingsley post, of Boston. The distinguished visitors were driven through the “Avenue of Fame,” which for the first time they saw illuminated. Immense throngs surged through the avenue and the cheering was deafening. When the chief executive entered the banqueting hall all present arose and cheered their distinguished comrade. When the president was introduced by the toastmaster to the diners he arose and said in part:

“I could not help but reflect as I passed through the “Avenue of Fame” today that a volume of history it's portraits told. The history of the achievements of the army as well as the navy made well and clear by familiar faces -- familiar in that great struggle. Our great Commander was there -- Ulysses S. Grant, Sherman, Meade, Hancock and Farragut. * * * And not only in the gallery of heroes is found the great captains, but the private soldiers of the army -- he who has no insignia of rank but the blue blouse.

“The men behind the guns of the navy all tell the story of heroism, greatness and matchless achievement in which we all glory. I have about me the army and navy which I command. And everyone who wants to speak to you tonight shall speak.” Secretary Root and Commissioner Schurman, both spoke and, took the stand that the war should be carried on rigorously until peace all over the Philippines is had.

The presidential party retired from the hall and drove directly to the Pennsylvania Railroad station, where the party boarded a special train and left for Washington at 11:30 o'clock.

Thursday, September 9, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS IN COUNCIL

GRAND ARMY BEGINS THE BUSINESS PORTION OF ITS ANNUAL GATHERING WILL MEET NEXT YEAR AT CHICAGO

Pensions the important Question now before the Encampment
What the Commander-In-Chief Says
Report of the Committee that investigated Bureau Rulings
Proves unsatisfactory and is recommitted
Ranks of the Men of 61' Thinning Rapidly

Philadelphia, Sept. 7. -- The National G. A. R. encampment met in executive session at 11:00 A.M. yesterday. The delegates did not hold the customary open meeting owing to the large amount of business to be transacted. The encampment is made up of 344 delegates from the various states and territories, 180 department officers, 111 additional officers and Past Commanders-In-Chief, and 683 past department commanders, the total voting strength being 1,252. The opening address was made by senior vice commander-in-chief, W. C. Johnson, who said regarding pensions that, "The old soldiers ask only that there be fair dealing and a just and fair construction of the laws, intended by those who enact them. And upon this basis there should be no question, no interpretation or construction of the laws, that deprives them of the benefits provided."

Tide of Membership Receding

The report of T. J. Steward, adjutant general, shows that the total membership of the Grand Army of the Republic in good standing June 30, 1898, was 7,213 posts with a membership of 305,603; on December 31, 1898, 7,178 posts with a membership of 298,747, and on June 30, 1899, 6,965 posts with a membership of 287,981. Expended for relief during the year, \$160,955.64. The year 1890 was the high water mark in membership (409,489). "Every year since then," he says, "has shown a decrease. Each year shows an increasing death rate among the members. Surely the Grand Army of the Republic is marching into the shadows." The surgeon general reported that during the last eighteen months 11,083 deaths had occurred in the Grand Army.

Next Encampment in Chicago

The first business after the noon recess was the selection of a place for the next encampment and Chicago was chosen by acclamation. The report of the committee on pensions was then had and a motion was made to refer it to the committee on resolutions. This created much discussion, many of the delegates favoring immediate adoption of the

resolution covering the objects mentioned in the report. The Michigan delegation was the first to object to the report on the ground that it failed to specify what the Grand Army wanted. They were supported by Indiana, Kansas and New York. After a discussion lasting nearly four hours the report was referred back to the Committee on pensions with instructions that it be presented at today's session embodying recommendations and resolutions.

Nub of the Pension Report.

Complaint that the Spirit of the Law of 1890 is being violated.

The greatest secrecy is being maintained in regard to the report of the committee on pensions. It is known, however, that the report begins with an exhaustive review of the history of pension legislation and the causes leading up to the present pension system and methods. The report goes on to say that the veterans rightfully demand the fulfillment of a solemn compact made when they manfully and bravely gave all they had to the country not counting the costs to themselves. The report then cites the conditions when in 1890 congress passed the act to provide relief for disabled veterans and their widows and orphans, not conditioned upon evidence that they were disabled while in the service.

This act was intended to meet the needs of the veterans who in advancing years could not furnish evidence that they were suffering from the hardships of army life. It was claimed that the original construction of this law was abrogated in 1893 by most unjust and arbitrary rulings of the pension commissioner and in the ruling that widows of veterans who applied for pensions were not eligible if they had income aggregating \$8 per month. The committee, the report continues, waited upon the secretary of the interior, Commissioner of pensions, and finally on President McKinley to point out the injustice of those rulings, and expressed a confident belief that the president will take measures to bring about a different ruling in the near future.

The committee has asked that the limit of income to debar widows from pensions shall be placed at not less than \$250 a year, and that the obnoxious rule requiring negative evidence be revoked and the former rule reestablished so as to place the basis of pension claims where it was in 1890.

The Grand Army of the Republic, the report continues, repudiates with emphasis the charge of inference that implies that the pension roll is inflated by fraudulent claims, and challenges any who so believe to produce evidence.

Other associations meeting here are the National Army Nurses, National Association of Navy Veterans, Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., and Ladies Auxiliary Navy Veterans. The Naval veterans voted overwhelmingly against admitting veterans of the Spanish War, and the delegates from Farragut post, Newark, N. J., walked out in a body -- seceded, in fact, and Admiral Boggs post Newark, N. J., will organize

another association to their liking. The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. H. J. Badge, of Connecticut, president, and Mrs. Lizzie Baer, of Wisconsin, senior vice president.

Friday, September 8, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

CLOSE OF THE MEET

Veterans of 61' end their annual gathering with action on pensions.

ASK THAT THE RULES BE CHANGED.

And if they are not will go to Congress with a demand for more Legislation.

Col. Shaw, of New York, elected Commander-In-Chief
and Indiana given Vice Commander.

Closing scenes.

Sons of Veterans at Detroit.

Philadelphia, Sept. 8. -- The thirty-third national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic came to an end last night. Colonel Albert D. Shaw, of Watertown, New York, was unanimously elected to the highest office of the organization after Judge Leo Rassieur of St. Louis had declined to be a candidate. Early in the campaign there were three candidates, W. C. Johnson, of Cincinnati, who was acting commander-in-chief, was first mentioned, and the names of Colonel Shaw and Judge Rassieur later became prominent. Johnson's boom was ended with his election to the office of the unexpired term of the late Commander Sexton, lasting two days.

Disposition of the Pension Question

Aside from the election of a Commander-In-Chief, the pension question received the major portion of attention. Resolutions were adopted that rule 225, as now in practice, was a hardship in that it required proof of identity and injuries which many old soldiers could not furnish, and asking that the president reestablish rule 164 which is not so stringent in its requirements. The resolutions also deplored the practice in the pension bureau which bars widows who have an income of \$96 a year and ask that the limitation be increased to \$250 a year. A committee of five was appointed to seek relief from the administrative officers and, failing there, to ask congress to amend the law in favor of the veterans.

Declined to return flags

A motion was made to return to the south the flags captured during the war. This was killed, as was also a motion to admit sons of veterans as members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Shortly before adjournment Adjutant General Thomas J. Stewart, of Pennsylvania, was reappointed. The other officers elected were: Senior vice commander, Irving Robbins, of Indianapolis; junior vice, M. Minton, of Louisville; surgeon general, William H. Baker, of Lynn, Massachusetts; Chaplain, Jacob L. Guinn, of Maryland.

Features of the fourth day

The features of the fourth day were the illumination of the North Atlantic Squadron and the campfire of the Union Ex-Prisoners of War, both of which occurred last night. The lighting up of the fleet drew large crowds to both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey shores of the Delaware river. The ships were literally covered with electric lights, and presented a magnificent picture. Besides the Ex-Prisoner's campfire at the Academy of Music, there were numerous reunions, the illumination of the "Avenue of Fame" and a fireworks display at Camp James A. Sexton.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. elected Mrs. Julia B. Slade, of Philadelphia, president. All the auxiliary organizations completed their business. The Naval Veterans elected George L. Scavy, of Chicago, president.

SONS OF VETERANS IN SESSION

One important question the order will consider this time!

Detroit, Sept. 8 -- Whether there is really any friction between the Sons of Veterans and G. A. R., and whether the two societies shall in the future camp together are the serious questions being considered by the eighteenth annual encampment of the Sons of Veterans, which began here yesterday afternoon. Opinion among the delegates on the matter of camping together with the veterans of the G. A. R. is divided. There is in the hands of the resolutions committee a resolution fixing the 1900 encampment at Chicago, simultaneously with the G. A. R., and ordering that the Sons camp with the veterans hereafter.

Syracuse, New York and Milwaukee are working for the next encampment, with Milwaukee apparently in the lead. Three candidates for the office of Commander-in-chief to succeed F. L. Shepard, of Chicago, have developed. A. W. Jones, of Youngstown, Ohio, is the leading candidate, with Newton J. McGuire, of Indianapolis, and Rev. W. J. Patton, of Marinette, Wis., also working for the office.

The military feature of the order seems to be on the wane. There is a desire among the delegates to eliminate the drills and military sections, and make of the order a patriotic society of a purely civil character, aside from the officers retaining their present military titles. About 200 delegates are attending the encampment.

The Ladies' Aid Society is meeting at the Hotel Cadillac with forty delegates present.

Thursday, September 21, 1899
The Elgin Daily News

MANY VETERANS PRESENT

ANNUAL REUNION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS

Business and Banquet -- Officers
Next Meeting to be In Chicago

The thirty-third annual reunion of the thirty-sixth Regiment of Illinois Veteran Volunteers was held in this city today. Veterans were present from various parts of the country and they arrived on nearly every train during the afternoon. The wives and daughters of many of the veterans accompanied them.

The gathering was a large one, many comrades coming from a long distance. The regiment is numbered by historian Fox among the eighty regiments that lost the largest number of men in battle and the survivors of the thirty-sixth are men who know what real fighting means.

The business session was called to order about 11 o'clock by president Joseph Ingham in the city council chamber.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary, W. F. Sylla announced that 512 postal card invitations had been sent out and about 300 responded. Many sent regrets because of soldiers reunions in Iowa and other states.

Letters were read from the following comrades:

Lyman G. Bennet, Springfield; M. W. Raymond, Aberdeen, S.D.; Charles F. Dyke, Nunda, Ills., David F. Shaw, Belair, Fla., W. H. Chamberlain, Pittsfield, Mass., A. H. Sellers, Chicago, E. W. Hulme, Ottawa, Kan., R. H. Chittenden, Kansas City, Mo., George W. Dessalet, Philadelphia.

L. M. Kelley telegraphed as follows. "God bless the old boys. Shake the hand of every one of them for me. Business here prevents my presence."

The secretary read the names of the following comrades who have passed away since the last reunion;

Those Who Have Died

E. M. Gardner, Co. B, cavalry, David Jaynes, of Iowa, Co. A, infantry, W. L. Campbell, Co. B, infantry, Emerson, Iowa, J. M. Kingsley, Co. B, cavalry, of Howard, Kansas, Eugent Odell, Co. A, cavalry, of Richmond, Wis., P. W. Rigney, Co. A, cavalry, Ellsworth, Kan., D. C. B. Rowlands, Co. A, infantry, Union, Tenn., C. N. Olson, Co. D, infantry, Rosville, Minn., J. U. Block, and R. C. Mocke, of Co. K, Kirkwood, Ill.

Andrew Turner, Co. F, Texas, Henry Webber, Co. E., John Gannon, Co. K, and M. S. Bushwell, Co. E, Lincoln, S.D. M. Cornell of Joliet, Mr. Kearns of Senaca, and J. H. Harral of Aurora were appointed to committee to draft appropriate resolutions of memory for those who are no more.

The committee on resolutions reported the following:

“In the death of our late comrades, we recognize the inevitable destiny of all. While regretting that our comrades could not have continued longer to make our annual gathering pleasant by their presence, we firmly believe that they are enjoying that peace and rest provided for those whose work while here was well done. We deeply sympathize with the families and friends of our deceased comrades; Therefore, Be It Resolved, that our regimental colors be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days and that a copy of this testimonial be sent by our secretary to the families of our comrades.”

The election of officers was by acclamation and resulted as follows:

President, John A. McQueen, of McQueen Station.

Vice president, C. F. Sweetland, of Sandwich.

Secretary and treasurer, W. F. Sylla, of Elgin.

It was decided that the next reunion of the regiment will be held in Chicago the week of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Those Present

The following are names of those who answered to roll call. Where no state is given, Illinois is understood:

John Hewitt, Co. A, Elgin, Wm. F. Sylla, Co. A, Elgin, Frank B. Perkins, Co. A, Elgin, John Burr, Co. A, Elgin, Maj. Geo. D. Sherman, Co. A, Elgin, Bergo Thompson, Co. F, Sheridan, F. E. Elliott, Co. K, St. Charles, R. J. Eakin, Co. B, cavalry, Elgin, I. N. Buck, quartermaster, Elgin, Clark Tucker, Co. B, cavalry, Elgin, C. F. Sweetland, Co. F, Sandwich, S. M. Foster, Co. H, Waverly, Iowa, George Merrill, Co. E, Highview, Ia., J. F. McCrosky, Co. A, cavalry, Morris, E. R. Zellar, Malta, H. P. Mann, Co. B, cavalry, Blaine, Kansas, H. F. Burch, Co. D, Morgan Park, Alex Manahan, Co. A, Elgin, E. H. Griggs, Co. B, cav., Lily Lake, A. S. Harpending, Co. A, Udina, Tobias Miller, Co. A, Hampshire, L. T. Lathrop, Co. B, cav., Udina,

C. W. Irish, Co. H, Chicago, W. F. Donovan, Co. B, cav., Newark, Charles Landon, Co. G, Racine, Wis., G. S. Dorr, Co. A, Cav., Aurora, B. Loveless, Co. A, Wheaton, Jas. Wells Vining, Co. A, Elgin, J. C. Taylor, Co. D, Sandwich, H. K. Saunders, Co. K, Chicago, Wm. Smalles, Co. A, Elgin, C. H. Truax, Co. A, Crystal Lake, A. A. Lee, Co. B, cav., Elgin, E. E. Balch, Co. B, Elgin, V. O. Wilcox, Co. B, cav., Elgin, Ed. Hute, Co. A, Alder, Ia., Rudolph Brager, Co. B, Alla, Ia., Frank N. Brown, Co. B, cav., Chicago, W. W. Kerns, Co. C, Morris, Jas. B. Campbell, Co. B,

Briggsville, James Shedden, Co. B, cav., Dundee, J. C. Denison, Co. A, Chicago, Wm. Coultrip, Co. F, Somonauk, Thos. Finleyson, Co. H, Chicago, S. Z. Carver, Co. H, Omra, Wis., H. Hannis, Co. E, Sandwich, Wm. Wollenberger, Co. B, Yorkville, Geo. Neff, Co. F, Millington, F. W. Moore, Co. A, cav., Aurora, M. J. Hammond, Co. K, Wayne, J. R. Gillett, Co. A, cav., Chicago, W. E. Partridge, Co. F, Alta, Ia., Frank. F. Henning, Co. D, Chicago, W. A. Mitchell, Co. C, Monmouth, Terris Johnson, Newark, Fred Henker, Co. F, Yorkville, Thos. J. Wilson, Co. F, Morris, D. O. Clark, Co. G, Omaha, Neb., Christ Thake, Co. I, Laverne, Ia., V. W. Race, Co. B, Aurora, E. Todd, Co. A, cav., Aurora, T. T. White, Co. A, cav., Aurora, Wm. Browning, Co. F, Sandwich, John Murley, Co. D, Kendall, W. E. Saterfield, Co. B, cav., Aurora, C. M. Baker, Co. E, Chicago, Samuel Hitchcock, Co. B, Aurora, M. E. Cornell, Co. E, Joliet, Joel Wagner, Co. E, Big Rock, Chris Zimmer, Co. B, Aurora, Ed Pierce, Co. B, Aurora, O. B. Gates, Co. E, Aurora, J. B. Carrol, Co. E, Aurora, M. S. Townsend, Co. A, Elgin, Lewis P. Boyd, Co. B, Lee, Simon J. Baily, Co. A, cav., Plano, Louis Householder, Co. A, Dundee, T. Robinson, Co. A, cav., Aurora, Byron L. Streeter, Co. G, Aurora, Joseph Ingham, Co. A, cav., Aurora, H. B. Douglas, Co. A, cav., Aurora, Uriah Foster, Co. E, Big Rock, W. W. Gifford, Co. D, Joliet, Alfred J. West, Co. B, Port Huron, Mich., E. Mann, Co. K, cav., Batavia, E. M. Barnard, Co. B, cav., Chicago, J. S. Hatch, Co. E, Little Rock, J. Lenhart, St. Charles, Hiram Watkins, Co. K, Montgomery, J. M. Kennedy, Co. A, cav., Aurora, James Allen, Co. A, cav., Chicago, Henry B. Ford, Co. H, Elgin, M. F. Waterjaugh, Co. B, Summer, Ia., Cummings Hall, Co. A, Udina, A. D. Scott, Co. B, cav., Elgin, Jno. A. McQueen, Co. B, cav., McQueen, O. H. Benson, Co. H, Maywood, J. S. Barber, Co. A, cav., Sandwich, John Hier, Co. D, Morris.

The Banquet

A very pleasant occasion -- An original poem

At 12 o'clock after a short talk by Major Sherman, the business meeting adjourned and the veterans with their wives, marched in regimental formation to 74 Grove avenue, where an elegant dinner was served by the Woman's Relief Corps.

Prayer was offered by Frank B. Perkins, and after the banquet, Major Geo. D. Sherman rapped for attention and as toastmaster, made a few introductory remarks.

The address of welcome was delivered by Attorney Frank W. Joslyn, and at the close his eloquence was warmly applauded.

O. M. Ober sang "Illinois" and responded to an encore by singing a song in imitation of a feeble old man.

A response to the address of welcome was delivered by the retiring president Joseph Ingham of Aurora, after which a poem, composed for the occasion by Mrs. R. D. Manahan, was recited by the writer's daughter. It was as follows:

The Old Thirty Sixth

Once more we greet you comrades dear!
Oh! but we're glad to see you here.
We welcome you with song and cheer
For the old Thirty-sixth

God bless you, loyal, true and brave
God keep you for your best you gave,
And on the field left many a grave
From the old Thirty-sixth

Oh, I've been told historians say,
When sure defeat seemed on the way,
Twas Colonel Greusel saved the day
With the old Thirty-sixth

High on the nation's scroll of fame
We find a record free from stain,
Tis signed with Silas Miller's name
Of the old Thirty-sixth

And Olson, early "mustered out,"
Mid cannon's roar and battle's rout,
He dying heard the victors shout
Of the old Thirty-sixth

But give three cheers and "tiger" too,
For mothers, wives and sweethearts true,
Who welcomed home their "boys in blue"
With the old Thirty-sixth.

And when in heavens morn, so fair,
The Captain calls the roll up there,
Oh may there be no "vacant chair"
In the old Thirty-sixth

Here's to our glorious flag so true,
It's stars and stripes and field of blue,
The Philippines, McKinley, too
And the old Thirty-sixth

The program concluded with short impromptu talks by various members including Comrades Harral, Turnbull, Loveless, McQueen, Denison, Cornell, Wagner, Douglas, Taylor, Chamberlain and Robbins.

Mrs. Hattie Hendrickson sang very pleasantly late into the afternoon.

Friday, September 22, 1899

The Aurora Beacon News

Attended The Reunion

G. S. Dorr, F. W. Moore, V. W. Race, E. Todd, T. T. White, W. E. Saterfield, Samuel Hitchcock, Christian Zimmer, Ed. Pierce, J. B. Carroll, T. Robinson, Byron L. Strather, Joseph Ingham. E. Watkins, J. M. Kennedy and E. B. Douglas, of Aurora, attended the reunion of the 36th regiment at Elgin yesterday.

1900

The Department of Illinois G. A. R. encampment was held at Jacksonville on May 3rd with Joel M. Longenecker, of Chicago, elected Department Commander. The guest of honor was Admiral Dewey. At the national encampment in Chicago on August 29th Commander-In-Chief Shaw spoke of his proposal for the government to establish a court of appeals to oversee the pension office. There was also a discussion to move Memorial Day to the last Sunday of May to help stem the desecrations of the Holiday. Leo Rassieur, of Missouri, was elected Commander-In-Chief. The 36th Illinois Infantry held it's reunion at Chicago in conjunction with the national G. A. R. encampment and also took part in a brigade reunion at the same time. Was combination of regimental reunions on the horizon for the 36th? W. W. Kerns was elected president and P. A. Johnson became vice president. William F. Sylla retained the office of secretary/treasurer. In the fall President Mckinley won re-election by defeating William Jennings Bryan a second time, with the promise of "a full dinner pail." His new Vice President was Theodore Roosevelt. The veterans retained their candidate once again.

Thursday, May 3, 1900
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY

JACKSONVILLE PUTS ON HOLIDAY ATTIRE TO RECEIVE THE VETERANS AND DEWEY

Jacksonville, Ills., May 3. -- The city is gay with stars and stripes in honor of the visitors to the annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Thousands of visitors arrived yesterday and more were coming on every train. These visitors include the delegates of the Ladies Aid society, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies of the G. A. R., all of which organizations are holding their annual state meetings in connection with the encampment of the veterans. The business proceedings commenced yesterday afternoon, but the main feature of the encampment is the parade, starting at 1:30 p. m., which is reviewed by Admiral Dewey.

Contest for State Commander

A spirited contest is on for the office of commander of the department to succeed John B. Inman. The veterans of Cook county expect to carry off the honor for Chicago, and ex-Judge Joel M. Longnecker, of that city, is said to be their choice, although there are one or two other Chicagoans whose names are mentioned in connection with the honor. W. H. Coffman, of Champaign, is also regarded as a strong candidate.

Big crowd from the state capital

Springfield, Ills., May 3. -- Captain J. B. Inman, department commander, Grand Army of the Republic, with his staff, left for Jacksonville Tuesday night to prepare for the opening of the annual encampment at that place yesterday. The past commander and delegates to the encampment left yesterday morning. The local posts and members of the auxiliary associations went this morning and with them a very large crowd of sight-seers. The military organization in this city, comprising Company C, Fifth Infantry, the Gatling Gun section of Troop D, First Cavalry, will take part in the exercises at Jacksonville today. The members of Troop D made the trip overland, and left for their destination yesterday morning.

Friday, May 4, 1900
The Elgin Daily News

ADMIRAL DEWEY AT JACKSONVILLE

Military Pageant in his honor is viewed by many thousands.

Jacksonville, Ills., May 4. -- A military pageant reviewed by Admiral Dewey, was the feature of the annual encampment of the G. A. R., of Illinois here yesterday. The arriving trains yesterday morning brought thousands of strangers to the city, and when Admiral Dewey and his party reached the city yesterday afternoon the streets were literally blocked with people. The distinguished guests were escorted to the reviewing stand by the Fifth Regiment, Illinois National Guard. The procession, comprised companies of state militia, Sons of Veterans and scores of semi-military, civic and patriotic organizations and thousands of the Grand Army veterans were also in line. At the conclusion of a brief reception to be held in their honor Admiral Dewey and his party departed for St. Louis to become the guests of that city.

The state encampment merely transacted routine business yesterday, and in the evening four camp fires were held and a number of reunions. The rivalry among candidates for department commander runs high, but it is hard to tell who is ahead. There are four candidates as follows: Joel M. Longnecker, Senior Vice Department

Commander; Aaron F. Wolcott and Past Commander Francis A. Riddle, of Chicago and Captain W. H. Coffman, of Champaign, Ills.

During the last year 640 veterans in Illinois died. This is the highest death rate in the history of the department. The largest previous rate of 606, in 1897, was thought to be due partly to malarial diseases then prevalent over the state. At present there are 22,818 veterans in Illinois. In 1898 there were 23,503. During the last three years 1,800 civil war veterans died in Illinois.

Sixty-nine camps of the Sons of Veterans, 238 Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies of the G. A. R. are in convention.

Wednesday, August 29, 1900
The Elgin Daily News

FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Commander-In-Chief Shaw Recommends That Time be Changed to Sunday.

Welcome of G. A. R. to Chicago
Addresses by Commander
Praise for the Woman's Relief Corps
Finances in Excellent Condition
Pension Laws
Reports of minor officials and various Committees
Business Affairs

Chicago, Aug. 29. -- Commander Shaw called the annual business meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic to order this morning. After prayer by Chaplain Cranin, Major Harrison formally welcomed the soldiers to Chicago. Commander Shaw replied in part as follows:

The comrades of the Grand Army are deeply touched by the splendor of Chicago's welcome and the wealth of her boundless hospitality. Your eloquent words find an echo in every heart before you, and over all this broad land they will charm and delight the aging heroes of other times and other scenes, when war's hard sacrifices filled the nation with mourning. Such unexcelled evidences of the patriotism and appreciative gratitude of your citizens as we see on every hand on this great occasion of the thirty-fourth encampment, touches us almost to tears, for it is sweet to be remembered.

On behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic I thank you from a full heart for your noble hospitality and through you the citizens of this famous city for the bright days prepared for the many thousands who bore the burden of war, in the saving of the nation to full liberty in the 60's. Over all the wide borders of our united and happy country the sweet music of concord and commerce falls upon the ear, gladdening the hearts and promoting the concord as beautiful as it is gratifying from every standpoint of citizenship and national glory. We now have one emblem of our nation's peace and power, and under it lies the promising destiny Lincoln prophesied when 600,000,000 of free and happy people should possess our land.

“Flag of the Seas, on ocean wave.

Thy stars shall glitter o'er the brave;

Flag of the brave, thy folds shall fly

The signal of hope and triumph high.”

And may the blessings of Almighty God rest upon all our people henceforth.

Commander Longnecker of the department of Illinois greeted the veterans in behalf of the soldiers of Illinois, to which Gen. Lois Wagner responded.

The meeting adjourned until afternoon.

Upon reassembling General Shaw read his annual report in which he said:

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS

Finances -- Relief Corps -- Pensions -- Memorial Day

While the Grand Army of the Republic is a fraternal and reminiscent order, and one that has no equal in its unique objects and membership, the fact is that constant effort is necessary to insure its highest usefulness. We are growing old and with increasing infirmities there is urgent need of a closer touch and larger sympathy with and for each other. “Kind words are more than coronets,” and the comradely cheer that knows no shadow of turning, this side of the grave, should be the unfailing basis of our relations to the Grand Army. It is a source of peculiar gratification to your commander-in-chief to know that during the past year a remarkable record of concord has followed this policy of fraternity in all the departments.

The finances of our order are in excellent condition and the Woman's Relief Corps are entitled to cordial praise for their generous aid.

It is believed that with the liberal and just execution of present pension laws, little further in the way of pension legislation will be necessary to secure for the great majority of the dependent saviors of the nation the fulfillment of the pledged faith of the people in behalf of those who periled their all in the morning of their lives, for liberty and union. During the year the original issues were 40,645; restorations, 4,693; total names added to rolls, 45,338. The increases, re-rating, etc., were: Act of 1890, 34,152; general laws, 25,298; old wars, 803. The total number of certificates issued, 105,591, against 89,054

during the year ending June 30, 1899. The number of pensioners on the roll July 1, 1900 was 1,036,863. 43,334 have been dropped during the year, 35,809 by deaths, 909 by remarriages and 6,616 from all other causes. The disbursements for pensioners and maintenance of system from July 1, 1865 to June 30, 1900 had been \$2,612,329,690 divided as follows: Pensions, \$2,528,373,147; medical examinations \$16,532,929; salaries and other expenses of bureau, \$48,808,623; salaries and other expenses of agencies, \$12,613,990.

It is a source of great regret that the pension department is widely criticized by a large number of worthy applicants for pensions under the belief that their claims are not treated in a liberal and just way, under the present administration of the pension laws. Such a state of feeling is greatly to be deplored for it gives rise to irritations of an unfortunate and unhappy sort. The impartial and worthy execution of our pension laws unquestionably calls for great prudence and wisdom on the part of those charged with the duty of their adjudication. The great weakness undoubtedly to be found is the faulty present system in force in the pension office. Nothing should be left to individual interpretation. It is not so much the question of officials as it is of a proper judicial system, in the execution of our generous pension laws. With the proposed pension court of appeals once duly organized, the whole atmosphere of the pension office would be quickly changed into as harmonious and popular a branch of the government as are those of the departments of the treasury, the post office and of justice. For then the law would be effective under high judicial interpretation. Your commander-in-chief believes that the passage of the proposed pension court of appeals bill would bring harmony and settle, once and for all, the vexing questions and irritations now so pronounced in the pension office, though its wise provisions for interpreting the pension laws and ability to speedily clear the appeal cases now burdening the files of the department of the interior. With its peace and concord and full justice in pension cases would be secured; without it, no end of heart burning and irritation will continue.

The importance of proper military drill in school is now generally acknowledged by our prominent educators. It develops both mind and body in a desirable way and it adds greatly to the physical culture of our youth. Besides in a country where the nation depends upon volunteers for its soldiers in time of war, the wise and prudent knowledge of military requirements are elements of national strength of the most desirable sort in times of peace.

Profoundly impressed with the weakening way Memorial Day is being observed in the element of games and diversions of one sort or another which are more and more coming into view, your commander-in-chief strongly recommends that it fall on the last Sunday in May. If this challenge is made it is believed from consultations and interchange of views that the holy Sabbath Day will preserve it from the desecrations which now largely pervert the tender associations of this unique memory day from its original signification.

The Woman's Relief Corps -- a noble organization -- has been a tower of strength during the past year, and stands for the largest influence as an auxiliary of our order. What is true of the Woman's Relief Corps applies largely to the Ladies of the Grand Army.

We are all nearing the final sunset of our lives and our work is mainly done. Let us so live as to inspire our youth with safe ideals of patriotic love of country, and thus insure the culture of a citizenship worthy of our age and one that will dominate all the future along the loftiest planes of enduring liberty.

MINOR OFFICIALS And Various Committees submit Reports

Following the address came a long list of reports submitted by minor officials and various committees.

The report of Adjutant General Thos. J. Stewart showed that the total membership June 30, 1900, was 276,662 in 6,778 posts. The gains during the year were 31,476, and the losses, 42,795, by deaths 7,790. The number remaining suspended June 30, 1900, was 29,474. At present there are on the rolls 306,136.

The report of the Quartermaster General Edward J. Atkinson showed that the cash receipts were \$28,243 and the expenditures \$20,303. The balance on hand being \$7,950.

The report of the Surgeon General William H. Baker contained the following: Deaths, 7,857; number of deserving sick or maimed not receiving pensions, 1,607; number of inmates in soldiers homes supported by the government and states, 15,172; number of ex-soldiers and sailors in alms houses, 70. He recommended that the various departments of the Grand Army call the attention of the several town authorities where there are no posts to the unmarked graves of the veterans of the civil war in their locality and request that they make application to the quartermaster general at Washington for government headstones for all such graves that in the future they may be properly marked and readily recognized.

The report of the Chaplain-In-Chief Jacob L. Grim gave the following figures: Posts reporting as observing Memorial Day services, 2,281; comrades participating, 102,684; cemeteries in which graves were decorated, 10,427; graves decorated, 375,608; graves unmarked by headstones, 18,637; public schools engaged in service, 5,016; pupils participating, 396,138; other organizations participating, 2,673. Only 22 of the 45 department chaplains reported, otherwise the figures would have been nearly doubled.

The report of inspector M. J. Cummings showed that the relief fund amounted to \$403,733; amount expended for relief, \$188,800; aggregate value of property owned by posts, \$1,963,924.

Wednesday, August 29, 1900
The Aurora Beacon News

LONG LINE OF BLUE
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC PARADE AND THOUSANDS LOOK ON
BIG FEATURE OF THE ENCAMPMENT

FORTY-FIVE STATES AND TERRITORIES REPRESENTED IN THE LINE
NOTABLE GUESTS VIEW THE SCENE
TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Chicago, Aug. 29. -- The second day of the Grand Army of the Republic encampment opened Tuesday morning with the formation of what is probably the largest parade of civil war veterans witnessed in three decades. Soldiers representing 45 states and territories marched through struggling masses of humanity, past giant structures decorated with gay colors, where red, white and blue predominated, through valleys whose sloping sides were made by throngs of people. And this maze of brass buttons and the slouch hat wended its way to a goal, the court of honor.

All Had Part

It was a pageant in which foreign dignitaries, men and women of national prominence, local celebrities and survivors of the war of the rebellion had a part. Extending south in Michigan avenue was a solid column of old soldiers. Of the many hundreds of posts in the United States and Alaska all were represented except about 200. It was the big feature of the encampment week and proved to be a magnet which drew hundreds of thousands.

Battle Flags In Line

Fifty ragged and torn battle flags in the pageant of patriotism attracted great attention. In the war they were carried by New York regiments, but Tuesday the members of Columbia Post, Chicago, bore them, tightly wrapped to their shafts. The post was formed in four platoons by Commander M. W. Diftley, the flags and escorts being in the center of a hollow square. This display of war relics brought cheers from the crowd everywhere along the line of march.

Thursday, August 30, 1900
The Elgin Daily News

REUNION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH

LARGE ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF REGIMENT

W. F. Sylla elected Secretary
Next meeting at Morris
Brigade Reunion

The Thirty-Sixth regiment, Illinois infantry held its reunion at room A, Marquette building, Chicago, at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. There was a very large attendance. President McQueen was unable to be present and the vice president, W. W. Kerns, requested Major Geo. D. Sherman to preside. The major performed the duties to the entire satisfaction of his comrades.

Comrade M. E. Cornell was instructed to decorate each lady present with the regimental badge for 1900. There were twenty present and they highly appreciated the honor. Among the ladies were Mrs. White, a daughter of Col. Greusel, the first commander of the regiment.

Letters from L. M. Kelly, W. H. Beardsley, Albert H. Wulff, President John A. McQueen and others were read.

The comrades reported names of those who have died during the year, and J. C. Denison, Frank Raymond and M. E. Cornell were appointed a committee on resolutions who made report as follows, which was adopted by a rising vote:

"In the death of our late comrades, George Neff, Co. F, Millington, Ill.; Daniel Whitney, Co. E, Kingsley, Iowa; Nelson Erickson, Co. D, Story City, Iowa; C. M. Baker, Co. E, Chicago; John R. Henderson, Co. A, cav., Des Moines, Iowa; Hugh W. Harper, Corning, Iowa; Jeremiah C. Hall, Co. A, Elgin, Ill.; Benj. Homes, Co. F, Coffeyville, Kan.; John Clark, Co. K, Quincy, Ill., Soldiers' Home; John Kingsley, Co. B, cav., Howard, Kan., we recognize the inevitable destiny of all. While regretting that our comrades could not continue longer to make our annual gatherings pleasant by their presence, we firmly believe that they are enjoying that peace and rest provided for those whose work while here was well done. We deeply sympathize with the friends and families of our deceased comrades. Therefore be it

"Resolved, That our regimental colors be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days and a copy of this testimonial be sent by our secretary to the families of our comrades."

Comrade W. D. Hawkins of Co. A, cav., Aurora, sang old songs to the delight of the assembly.

The following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That the thanks of the Thirty-Sixth regiment, Illinois volunteers, are hereby most cordially tendered to Comrades John Richie and Wm. J. Smith of the 24th Wisconsin and A. Lammey of the Eighty-Eighth Illinois for their successful efforts in providing large and comfortable rooms conveniently located and provided with so many comforts for holding the brigade and regimental reunions. We feel especially to them, we are indebted for the large and enjoyable gathering so many comrades have so heartily enjoyed.”

The next reunion will be held at Morris, Ill. W. W. Kerns, Co. G, Morris, Ill., was chosen president; P. A. Johnson, Co. D. Morris, Ill., vice president; Wm. F. Sylla, Co. A. Elgin, Ill., secretary and treasurer.

The reunion of the First brigade, Second division, Fourth army corps was held at room A, Marguette building, Chicago, from 9 o'clock until 12 o'clock. Wednesday, August 29.

The Thirty-Sixth had the largest representation. The Eighty-Eighth Illinois, Twenty-Fourth Wisconsin, Twenty-First Michigan, One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Ohio, and other regiments were present. J. C. Denison of the Thirty-Sixth Illinois was chairman and A. Lammey of the Eighty-Eighth Illinois, secretary of the meeting.

Speeches were made by General Frank Sherman, Capt. Murchie and others. Resolutions were adopted to complete a permanent brigade organization; also to make the famous battlefield at Franklin, Tenn., a national park.

There were songs, recitations and instrumental music to fill out a very enjoyable program.

Friday, August 31, 1900
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY DOINGS

Colonel Rassieur Elected Commander-In-Chief for the coming year.

Southern Histories Condemned.

Sham Battle at Washington Park catches the old soldier.

How it was fought and won.

Chicago, Aug. 31, -- Leo Rassieur, of St. Louis, will be in command of the Grand Army of the Republic during the coming year. At the session yesterday of the thirty-fourth annual encampment his name was presented and received the unanimous support

of the delegates. Past Commander-In-Chief, Major William Warner, of Kansas City, presented the name of the Missourian, and Adjutant General Stewart, of Pennsylvania, seconded the nomination. Other officers selected were senior vice commander E. C. Milliken, Maine; junior vice commander Frank Seaman, Tennessee; surgeon general, John A. Wilkins, Ohio; Chaplain-in-chief, A. Grahms, California.

Story of the election

It was known to all what the result would be as to commander-in-chief, as there was no opposition to Judge Rassieur, and when Major Warner mounted the platform to present the name of Judge Rassieur, he was greeted with prolonged applause. When the applause that greeted Major Warner's address had died away, Past Commander Morrison, of Pennsylvania, made a short seconding speech in behalf of Judge Rassieur, and Adjutant General Stewart then asked if there were any more nominations to be made. A motion was made that Judge Rassieur be declared elected by acclamation and it was carried with a roar of approval. The newly elected Commander-In-Chief was escorted to the platform and expressed his thanks for the honor done him by the comrades in a brief speech of acceptance. The other officers elected also received unanimous votes.

Raised \$30,000 off hand.

It was announced that the organization was \$30,000 in debt, and the amount was promptly raised upon the floor of the hall. The pension report was adopted with some discussion. The question of finances was taken up by adoption of a motion to strike out the part providing for an increase of the per capita tax and making no change in the present situation.

Histories Used in the South.

It was a sensation when the report of the committee on histories used in southern schools was read. It shows that southern histories teach what northern men call disloyalty and treason, but what the south calls patriotism. Three histories, the committee reports, pictures the slaveholders as unjustly robbed, and Sherman's march to the sea a "bloody procession of plunder." "The books also assert," the committee says in its report, "that more Confederate soldiers died in northern prisons than northern men in southern prisons. While the Government reports show that Confederates who died in northern prisons were 23 per cent, while Andersonville shows a record of 74 per cent."

Feature of the Pension Report.

Court of Pension Appeals.

Closing transactions of the meeting.

The main feature of the pension report was a petition to Congress to pass a bill providing for a court of appeals to act immediately on thousands of pension applications now pending and which court of appeals shall have final jurisdiction. The subject of service pensions was presented and the whole matter referred to the committee on pensions. Delegates from the various women's organizations affiliated with the G. A. R.

were introduced. With the Women's Relief Corps was Clara Barton, and the venerable lady was heartily cheered.

The report of the committee on resolutions in regard to the various auxiliary organizations was debated and a substitute limiting all auxiliary associations recognized by the G. A. R. to the Women's Alliance was adopted. A resolution was adopted asking Congress to make appropriations for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument at Washington to commemorate the service of the soldiers and sailors of the army of the civil war.

Adjutant General Stewart was directed to send telegrams to the president of the United States, General Chaffee in Peking, and General MacArthur at Manila, expressive of the confidence and admiration of the members of the Grand Army for their distinguished, patriotic service to the country "during the present trying times."

A resolution was adopted asking the railroads centering at the point decided upon for the next annual encampment to grant a rate of one cent a mile. If this should be refused by the railroads, the power was vested in the commander to remove the encampment to some place where the rate could be secured, or abandon the parade entirely. Denver was the unanimous choice for the encampment of 1901. Installation of officers then took place and adjournment sine die was taken.

The following officers were elected by the Women's Relief Corps: President, Mrs. Mary L. Carr, Longmont, Colo.; senior vice president, Mrs. Bell M. Satterlee, St. Louis; junior vice president, Mrs. Abbie R. Flagg, Battle Creek, Mich.; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah E. Phillips, Syracuse, N.Y.

Sham Battle in a Park

Scenes that wake up the old vets to great Enthusiasm.

It was pretty warm in Studebaker hall, where the encampment met, but it was an ice house compared to Washington park yesterday afternoon. Here there was a sham battle raging for three hours, and it made the thousands of old vets who looked on fairly sizzle with enthusiasm. Veterans of the civil war did not take part in it, but the full strength of the First and Second Regiments, Illinois National Guard, was there under command of Colonels J. B. Sanborn and J. E. Stuart, respectively. Colonel E. C. Young and his First Cavalry and Captain Ford and his Police Battery also assisted in making things exciting. In the action about 50,000 blank cartridges were exploded and the attacking party finally won the battle. There were 1,500 men on the field as combatants.

The plan of the battle was for the attacking force to drive the enemy from his position in the thicket at the north end of the green. Gatling guns were used by the attacking party. Infantry, cavalry and artillery took part. The defense consisted of only a small detail from the infantry regiments, and this was concealed in the shrubbery at the north end of the green. The main body of troops, comprising three battalions each of the First and Second Infantry and four Troops of the First Cavalry, was sent to break up this unknown but supposedly small body of the enemy.

The First Infantry formed in the bushes at the southeast end of the green, the Second Infantry occupying a similar position at the southwest end. Two gatling guns were placed at the center of the line. The defense was scattered along the north end of the green concealed in the bushes, with the outpost about 200 yards out in the open. A Troop of cavalry opened maneuvers with a reconnoiter in open order. They were fired upon by the scouts of the defense, and retreated to the rear of the position occupied by the infantry.

Meantime the scouts retired after exchanging a number of shots with the cavalry. The condition of the defense enabled them to throw up light entrenchments, which was done during the preliminary skirmish. The first advance of the infantry was masked by the trees. Two battalions of each regiment was placed in the front line, with the gatling gun in the center. A reserve consisting of one battalion from each regiment was stationed some distance in the rear. At the second stage of the contest the several companies were divided into firing line and a support. Just at the edge of the bushes they began volley firing to cover the advance, and the force developed into a line of skirmishers.

The advance was then made by rushes, one squad firing while others made a dash forward under cover of the powder smoke. The gatlings moved with the firing line. The rushes were about fifteen yards each. Supporters from the reserves in the rear were gradually fed into the firing line from start as the men were incapacitated. The cavalry was on the flanks of the attacking force in order to deliver a decisive stroke at the opportune moment. The rushes continued within 300 yards of the enemy. Then they formed a continuous heavy line. Just as the attacking party reached this position the reserve moved forward, joined the firing line, and the whole force opened upon the enemy in rapid fire. And the enemy emigrated in quick time and rapid movement, giving the assailants the victory.

Friday, August 31, 1900
The Aurora Beacon News

RASSIEUR IS CHOSEN
ST. LOUIS MAN MADE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF GRAND ARMY

DENVER GETS NEXT ENCAMPMENT
Several Resolutions Adopted and Patriotic Messages Sent

Chicago, Aug. 31. -- Leo Rassieur, of St. Louis, will be in command of the Grand Army of the Republic during the coming year. At the session Thursday of the thirty-fourth annual encampment in the Studebaker Theatre his name was presented, and received the unanimous support of the delegates. Past Commander In Chief Maj. William Warner, of Kansas City presented the name of the Missourian, and Adjutant general Stewart, of Pennsylvania, seconded the nomination. Officers selected follow:

Commander in chief -- Leo Rassieur, St. Loios.
Senior vice commander -- E. C. Millikin, Maine.
Junior vice commander -- Frank Seamons, Tennessee.
Surgeon general -- John A. Wilkins, Ohio.
Chaplain in chief -- A. Grahms, California.

Responds to Call and Speaks

Loud calls for the new commander were shouted from every part of the house. A demonstration which continued for several minutes greeted him on his appearance on the platform. He replied to the speeches of the members who had placed him in nomination and accepted the honor as follows:

"I am overwhelmed in the manner in which you have manifested your favor on me. I would have to be untrue to myself if I did not realize that the compliments you have paid me have been tendered and will be accepted as a compliment to the department of Missouri, which has seen fit to make me its representative, in asking for the high honor which has been received. I appreciate that this election confers upon me the honor."

Appointive Officers

Immediately after the election Commander Rassieur announced that he would probably name man in the appointive offices within the day. These are the judge advocate general, adjutant general, quartermaster general and inspector general.

Extend Greetings

Miss. Clara Barton of the Red Cross Society and delegates from the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the G. A. R. and other auxiliary organizations appeared before the Grand Army and extended greetings on behalf of their societies.

Given a Badge

Following the visit of the ladies came the presentation of a handsome badge to Commander in Chief Shaw by Gen. John C. Black on behalf of the veterans, and a token of their esteem and appreciation of his work during the last year.

Installed

At one o'clock in the afternoon the new officers were installed under the ritual, the proposed public installation being abandoned.

Pension Problems

The following resolution dealing with the pension problem and asked for legislation to put an end to the alleged violations of the office of the present commissioner at Washington, H. Clay Evans, was adopted:

“Resolved that the commander in chief appoint a committee of five comrades to present to the president a certified copy of the points of the national encampment, with the express request for the fair treatment of our disabled comrades and the widows and orphans of our dead veterans under the letter of the law.”

Southern School Books

A thorough investigation of a report made by a special committee to the effect that perverted histories of the rebellion are being used in southern schools to perpetuate sectionalism and disloyalty in the minds of the rising generations of the south, and the following petition was adopted:

“Resolved that we call upon the members of the Grand Army of the Republic together with all patriotic citizens, to aid in banishing from our schools all books and teachings of a partisan, sectional or disloyal character.”

NEXT ENCAMPMENT AT DENVER

With the selection of officers and the choice of Denver for the national encampment for 1901, the thirty-fourth national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic practically came to a close Thursday. The programme mapped out by the reception committee includes two days more before the veterans are supposed to return to their homes. Nothing in the way of business remains to be transacted and the next two days will be occupied entirely in affairs of a social character.

Several Resolutions

Before the business session adjourned resolutions were adopted asking congress to make an appropriation for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument at Washington to commemorate the service of the soldiers and sailors of the army and navy of the civil war, and asking railroads centering in Denver to grant a rate of one cent a mile to the next encampment.

Message to the President

The following message was ordered sent to President McKinley:

Chicago, Aug. 30, 1900 -- President William McKinley. The Thirty-fourth national encampment acknowledges the receipt of congratulations of their comrade,

William McKinley, the President of the United States, and send greetings to him, assuring him of the great honor they feel in having a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic as the chief executive of the nation, knowing that the flag that he and they followed in the dark days of the republic will still be upheld in honor and glory. The comradeship of the war still binds together the men of the 60's in a loyalty and patriotism that has proved an inspiration to thousands of the fathers and rallied them to the defense of the country in the hour of danger, and led by Comrade MacArthur in the Philippine Island and Comrade Chaffie in China, they are nobly maintaining the honor, the glory and the dignity of the nation. Regretting that important public duties have prevented your attendance at the encampment, we however convey to you, as the President of the United States our personal greeting and regards."

By order of the encampment.

ALBERT D. SHAW

Commander-In-Chief

1901

The city of Peoria hosted the thirty-fifth annual encampment of the Department of Illinois, G. A. R. N. B. Thistlewood, of Cairo, was elected Department Commander. On September 6th, President McKinley was shot while on a visit to the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo. His condition was not thought to be life threatening and he was placed under the care of his doctor. He had appeared to improve considerably and there was no fear for his survival. The G. A. R. National Encampment was convened at Cleveland, Ohio on September 12th where Ell Torrance, of Minnesota, was elected Commander-In-Chief. Gen. Daniel Sickles having made an unsuccessful run at the office. Only moments after the end of the encampment word was received of McKinley's death from gangrene of the stomach. The civil war veterans lost a very good friend on September 14th. The 36th Survivors met at Morris for their reunion where William F. Donovan was elected president and George D. Sherman, vice president. Wm. Sylla remained as secretary treasurer. Sandwich was selected for the next reunion. Little news print exists detailing the proceedings as the papers were full of the details of McKinley's demise. Teddy Roosevelt was about to take the helm. The veterans were once again fortunate at the turn of national events.

Wednesday, May 15, 1901
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS ASSEMBLED

In their annual encampment the campfires burning brightly in Peoria.
National Chieftain on hand.

Peoria, Ills., May 15. -- The annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic department of Illinois, opened last night in the Coliseum, several thousand people being present. Mayor Bryan welcomed the visitors and there were addresses by Joel M. Longenecker, department commander, and the officers of the organizations kindred to the G. A. R. The veterans were pouring into the city all day and last night there were hundreds of them, with thousands more coming. The first business session was held at 9:00 a.m. today, and will be followed by the parade this afternoon in which Governor Yates and his staff will participate.

National chief is present

Commander-In-Chief Rassieur arrived yesterday morning and was taken to headquarters where a reception was tendered him. Department commander Longenecker

and his staff and about 100 people from Chicago arrived yesterday afternoon on a special train. Large delegations also came in from other cities. The Sons of Veterans opened their field camp yesterday morning, and at night 500 were sleeping under their tents.

Candidates for Department Chief

Messrs. Trimble, Thistlewood and Boyer, candidates for department commander, arrived yesterday and opened headquarters while General Reece, another candidate will be here today. Springfield and Rockford are the only candidates for the next encampment, with the latter in the lead at this time.

Thursday, May 16, 1901
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS ON PARADE

Illinois Boys in Blue have their annual march at the Peoria encampment.

Gov. Yates attends the meet.

Grand Ball at night-- election outlook

Peoria, Ills., May 16. -- Joel M. Longenecker, commander of the G. A. R. of Illinois, delivered his annual address yesterday morning at the G. A. R. encampment. The meeting was held in the Coliseum. Commander Longenecker said in part: "The Grand Army of the Republic has done a world of good, and is yet doing great good for all honorably discharged Union soldiers; and there will be more need of our organization in the future than there has been in the past, or than there is at the present time; for as the Union soldiers grow older and fewer in numbers they need organization and a standing by each other in order to obtain their just rights from this government which they served so faithfully."

Statistics of the State body

Commander Longenecker said the membership of the department at the close of 1900 was 22,787. During the year there were 697 deaths. The shrinkage in membership was but 32, the smallest in ten years. The 560 Illinois posts had cash on hand at the end of the year 1900 aggregating \$63,172.22: cash, invested in bonds, stocks, etc., \$15,650: flags and other equipment valued at \$46,084.97; a goal of \$124,763.19. The expenditures for the year amounted to \$54,579.00. The posts contributed \$544.46 to the relief of Galveston survivors.

Parade was a great success.

The feature of the afternoon session of the encampment was the parade, which was participated in by several thousand veterans. It was led by Commander Longenecker and his staff, and composed of the Illinois G. A. R. posts, Sons of Veterans, militia

companies, and the Peoria fire department. Three thousand school children sang patriotic selections as the parade passed the high school building. Last night a campfire was given at the Coliseum, several thousand being present. The principle addresses were by Governor Yates and Frank Loudon, of Chicago. The local camp of Sons of Veterans gave a grand military ball last evening, at which Governor Yates was present and made a short address. Several of the Woman's organizations met in the afternoon but only routine business was disposed of.

General Reece out of the race.

Today the election of officers will occur and the place of the next meeting selected. N. B. Thistlewood, of Cairo, has the best of it, and will probably be opposed only by Judge Trimble, of Princeton. J. N. Reece has withdrawn and Fred Boyce, of Olney, will probably do the same. Rockford has withdrawn from the race for the next encampment, and Springfield and Rock Island are the only candidates, with all indications favoring the latter.

Thursday, May 16, 1901
The Elgin Daily News

ROCK ISLAND NEXT

G. A. R. To Meet there Next Year.

S. E. Thistlewood of Cairo, Commander.

Woman's Relief Corps chooses Mrs. Baxter President.

Ladies of the G. A. R., Mrs. Hagar.

Other societies and the newly elected heads.

Peoria, Ills., May 16. -- The encampment of the Illinois division of the Grand Army of the Republic adjourned this afternoon. The election of officers resulted: S. E. Thistlewood, Cairo, commander; George W. S. Estover, Chicago, senior vice commander; J. B. Sine, Rockford, junior vice commander; G. A. Canady, Clinton, chaplain. Rock Island was selected as the meeting place next year.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. Sarah K. Baxter, Pawnee, department President.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. elected Mrs. Mary T. Hagar, Chicago, their executive officer.

The Sons of Veterans elected Frank T. Reid, Springfield, commander.

Ella M. Adair, Chicago, was elected Department president of the Daughters of Veterans, and Claudia George, Springfield, was chosen to a similar office by the Ladies Aid society.

Thursday, September 12, 1901
The Elgin Daily News

“BOYS” MARCH AGAIN

Eight miles of vets who fought for the Union in parade at Cleveland.

“Iron Gray Hosts of God” In Line

Old and grizzled as they are only a few drop out of the column.

Cleveland, O., Sept. 12. -- The surviving veterans of the greatest war in all the annals of history -- of the greatest struggle for human liberty the world has ever seen -- that iron gray host of God, known as the Grand Army of the Republic -- have again responded to the bugle call, and yesterday fell into line as they were wont to do in the dark days of the civil war. They awoke yesterday morning to the sound of the reveille, and long before the hour set for the starting of the parade they lined the streets and avenues adjacent to Case and Euclid avenues, where the parade was formed. Old veterans prominent in the affairs of the G. A. R., said it was the grandest parade and the greatest day the organization has ever seen.

Column over eight miles long.

In the seemingly interminable line of blue the various departments took up their march over the hard granite pavements. Surging masses of people -- numbering in the hundreds of thousands -- lined the streets and the housetops and took advantage of every available point of view along the entire line of parade. In the down town district the streets intersecting and adjacent to the line of march were one struggling mass of eager and expectant humanity. It is estimated that nearly half a million people were spectators of the magnificent pageant. The column was over eight miles in length and was splendidly handled.

Was a most inspiring scene.

The scene was most inspiring. Octogenarians with tottering footsteps and others erect and sprightly as in youth, but all with limbs and hearts of steel -- plodded patiently side by side, and among the thousands who made up that gallant host there were scarcely a bare half dozen whom the fatigues of the march caused to fall out before they passed through the living sea of faces in the court of honor and the reviewing stand. Promptly at the hour set for the parade to move General Leo Rassieur, commander-in-chief, gave the signal, and the column moved forward. The solid mass of humanity which crowded the avenue from curb to curb, gave way like the parting of the waves, and the march began.

State Governors in the line.

Senator Hanna also with the “Boys”

Flag composed of children.

The governors of several states marched in the line with their representative posts, and were proud to go afoot with their old comrades in the old way. Senator M. A. Hanna caught the infection of the hour, and left the reviewing stand to march down the line with Memorial post. Every department, as it passed the court of honor and neared the living flag of children, formed upon the grand stand facing the long vista at the foot of Bond street, was greeted with a patriotic chorus from the throats of the thousands of school children composing the flag. Mingled with the inspiring strains of martial music and patriotic choruses was the unstinted applause of the populace.

With General Rassieur in the reviewing stand were the following: Tom L. Johnson, General David R. Hunt, General Henry S. Peck, Adjutant General F. M. Sterrett, M. A. Taylor, Surgeon General Wilkins, George Stone (department commander of Colorado), General John C. Black (of Illinois), General Joel Long (of Illinois), General Daniel E. Sickles, Guy T. Gould (past department commander of Illinois), General Louis Wayne (of Pennsylvania), General James Barnett, Colonel Thomas Scott (of Illinois), L. E. Holden and General J. Warren Kiefer.

The parade was led by mounted police. Following them were the local grand marshal of the parade, Captain Russell E. Burdick, and his staff. Next came past commanders-in-chief of the Grand Army in carriages. Then followed the National Council of Administration. Only Grand Army posts participated. Departments marched in order of seniority with Illinois in the lead, except that Ohio, by courtesy, took the left of the line.

The marching order was as follows: Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maine, California, Nevada, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Delaware, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Kentucky, West Virginia, South Dakota, Washington, Alaska, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Montana, Texas, Idaho, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Ohio.

In addition to the regular lines of veterans ninety bands and 108 drum corps incessantly poured forth patriotic and martial music.

There are two important questions before the National G. A. R. encampment -- the choice for commander-in-chief and the location of the next national encampment. On the choice for commander-in-chief the fight is very uncertain. The friends of Torrance are hopeful that a deadlock may ensue between Stewart and Sickles and thus enable him to be the successful candidate. Missouri is for Sickles with General Torrance second choice. Pennsylvania is united on General Stewart. The result of New York's caucus was: Stewart, 28; Sickles, 19. Illinois is said to be divided. Maryland, California and Vermont are noncommittal, and a Maine delegate said General Torrance was favorably

considered. Ohio's informal ballot is said to have been divided between Stewart and Sickles.

Thursday, September 12, 1901
The Aurora Beacon News

A THANKSGIVING MEETING

It is expected that the patriotic outburst will be duplicated this afternoon when a mass meeting will be held in praise and thanksgiving for the prospective recovery of President McKinley. Senator Hanna, Governor Nash of Ohio, Mayor Johnson of Cleveland, Gen. Rassieur of the Grand Army, Judge William R. Day of Canton, Senator Fairbanks of Indiana, Hon. Charles Grosvenor and Rev. Dr. Manchester, the President's pastor will address the meeting.

Friday, September 13, 1901
The Aurora Beacon News

TALKING BUSINESS G. A. R. VETERANS AT CLEVELAND GET DOWN TO WORK

OVER 1,300 DELEGATES PRESENT

Extracts from addresses of Commander in Chief and Adjutant General
A Thanksgiving meeting is held

Cleveland, O., Sept. 12. -- The national convention of the Grand Army of the Republic opened this morning at the Euclid avenue opera house, with a large attendance. Intense interest was manifested by the delegates, to the report of the committee on pensions, and it was generally believed that the convention would take some very radical action bearing on that subject.

General Sickles offered a resolution at the opening of the proceedings of the convention tendering to the president affectionate congratulations upon his rapid convalescence for which all civilized nations prey.

Comrade Thistlewood of Illinois, offered as an amendment a series of resolutions calling for a law punishing attacks upon the chief executive as treason. The amendment

was not seconded, and Gen. Sickle's resolution was adopted by a rising vote. The message was ordered telegraphed to the president.

The committee on credentials has reported that the roll prepared by the adjutant general was correct and should be adopted.

The roll showed a total voting strength of 1,340, including delegates, department commanders and past department commanders.

Address of Commander in Chief

The Commander in Chief, Leo Rassieur, devoted a large part of his annual address to the subject of pensions.

"Without any effort," he said, "on the part of the organization or its officers, to give the pension department any undue prominence, that subject has overshadowed all others and has called for more attention and thought in the past year than all other questions which concern us."

He criticized the administration of the pension bureau and demanded "the honest and fair administration of laws which are already on the statute books." Continuing, he said, "If an officer's lawlessness, recklessness and boldness go to such extreme length as to lead him to override and ignore a plain and unmistakable order indicating the line of his duty, under the law coming from his superior officer, the secretary of the interior, what can the poor and helpless old soldier expect at his hands when he is claiming to exercise his discretion under that law? The exercising of his discretion cannot possibly result in anything else in most of the cases than a positive denial of the benefits prescribed by the law."

After adverting to the importance of judicial assistance in the administration of the pension bureau and answering objections to the G. A. R. bill, having this object in view, the commander in chief added: "We cannot conceive that the measure of duty to those who saved this country will be belittled while this country has hundreds of millions of dollars to engage in a humanitarian war in the interests of the downtrodden of other countries."

Scores Pension Officers

Commander in Chief Rassieur made a supplemental report to his address, in which he made a sharp attack upon the officer of the Pension Bureau at Washington. He stated that since he had prepared his annual address he had seen the report of the pension committee and that it had made no recommendation as to a remedy for the alleged existing evils. He therefore urged that the committee be instructed to prepare charges to be presented to the president, asking for an investigation of the same.

Senator Hawley of Connecticut, was then presented and spoke at some length on the pension question. He recommended that no formal protest be made against the present administration of the pension bureau. Senator Hawley was loudly applauded.

Thanksgiving Meeting

The Thanksgiving mass meeting in praise and thanksgiving for the prospective recovery of President McKinley was attended by an immense outpouring of the people, including veterans and visitors. Senator M. A. Hanna presided as chairman. When he took his seat upon the platform he was greeted with continued applause. The many eminent speakers of the day included Governor Nash, Judge William R. Day, Senator Fairbanks and others, spoke in most feeling terms upon the absorbing topic of the day.

1902

Theodore Roosevelt was now in the White House. The Illinois Department of the Grand Army held their annual encampment at Rock Island where H. M. Trimble, of Princeton, was elected department commander. This year the reunion of the Thirty-Sixth Illinois preceded the National encampment as they held their gathering in Sandwich on September 25th. William F. Donovan was elected president with Geo. D. Sherman as his vice president. Wm. F. Sylla retained the secretary/treasurer position. The National encampment was held later this year on October 9th at Washington D.C. Thomas J. Stewart, of Pennsylvania was elected Commander-In-Chief. Teddy Roosevelt thrilled the vets by riding up and down the parade route. He had recently cleaned house at the Pension Bureau and things were looking up. Post 20 had a new commander in Morgan Hughes. His adjutant was Christian Zimmer. Sons of Veterans Captain Chamberlain of Aurora was elected vice commander at the state Sons of Veterans.

Thursday, May 22, 1902
The Elgin Daily News

PARADE OF THE BOYS

Who went to the front when the life of the Nation was in danger.
Memorial Day Proclamation

Rock Island, Ills., May 22. -- The parade incident to the G. A. R. encampment yesterday afternoon included about 2,500 people, old soldiers, United States artillery from Rock Island arsenal, Illinois and Iowa militia, members of the G. A. R. auxiliary societies and citizens. The G. A. R. sent a congratulatory cablegram to president Palma, of Cuba. H. M. Trimble, of Princeton, was nominated for commander; J. M. Vernon, of Chicago, for senior vice commander; M. E. Ewing, of Neoga, for junior vice commander, and Rev. A. R. Matthes, of Canton, for chaplain. They had no opposition in the election today.

Officers of related societies

The Sons of Veterans elected officers as follows: James E. Seaberd, Dwight, commander; Captain Chamberlain, Aurora, vice commander. The Daughters of Veterans elected officers as follows: President, Myrtle Kramer, Chicago; vice presidents, Bessie

Howell and Mrs Mary Ball, Chicago; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Bickett, Centralia. The Ladies Aid Society elected officers as follows: President, Mrs. E. Mae Ayres, Springfield; vice president, Miss. Andrews, Naperville; chief of staff, Sadie Ransom, Rock Island.

Governors at the campfire

Last night two campfires were held. The speakers were Governor Yates, of Illinois; Governor Cummins, of Iowa; Governor Van Zant, of Minnesota; National Commander Torrance, and Samuel Alshuler, of Chicago.

Memorial Day Proclamation

Springfield, Ills., May 22. -- Governor Yates yesterday issued his Memorial Day proclamation, asking the people of the state to observe May 30 as a day of honor to the heroes of the Black Hawk, Mexican, civil and Spanish-American wars, and all struggles, both on land and sea, in which the young manhood of the nation revealed its attachment to the sacred causes of freedom and humanity and to the flag.

Friday, May 23, 1902
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY OPINIONS

Illinois encampment goes on record on several important issues.

Roster of the officers elected.

Ladies auxiliaries also chose their leaders.

Rock Island, Ills., May 23. -- The encampment of the Illinois Grand Army voted yesterday afternoon to meet next year in East St. Louis. The delegates adopted resolutions praising President Roosevelt for his order calling attention of those in authority to giving preference to veterans, all things being equal, in all civil appointments. The resolutions declare that now that a new commissioner of pensions has been appointed by the president it is the duty of the veterans to render the new commissioner every reasonable aid in their power, to the end that the pension laws may be promptly executed without friction, not only in the spirit, but to the letter of the law, "without fear, favors or affection."

Anarchy and Socialism condemned.

The resolution declares the spirit of socialism and anarchy responsible for the untimely death of William McKinley. It was further resolved that knowing the circumstances that surrounded their comrades of the army now in the Philippines, and being well advised of all the charges that have been brought against them, the

encampment takes this opportunity of expressing confidence in the army's patriotism, bravery and loyalty to the flag and that with the army the quality of mercy goes hand in hand with that of courage. Hearty support and confidence is pledged to the comrades in the Philippines, "knowing that they will bring back the flag unsoiled."

Officers of the Grand Army

Officers were elected as follows: Department Commander, Judge H. M. Trimble, Princeton; senior vice commander, J. M. Vernon; junior vice commander, M. A. Ewing, Neoga; chaplain, A. R. Matthes, Canton; medical director, Dr. A. W. Groesbeck, Harvard. Judge Trimble reappointed Colonel C. A. Partridge, of Chicago, Assistant Adjutant General, and A. C. McMurdy, of Chicago, Assistant Quartermaster General.

Among the fair auxiliaries.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected officers as follows: President, Mrs. Sophia Spaulding, Springfield; senior vice president, Mrs. Sylvia J. Hennessey, Rock Island; junior vice president, Mrs. Mat Rickard, Aurora; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah M. Snow, DeKalb; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Etner, Galesburg.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. officers elected: President, Mrs. Larada Pillo, Springfield; senior vice president, Mrs. Hattie Cook, Chicago; junior vice president, Mrs. Katherine Brown, Rock Island; treasurer, Mrs. Jennie Tilden, Chicago; councilor, Mrs. Mary T. Hager, Chicago.

Friday, September 26, 1902
The Elgin Daily News

36TH REGIMENT ANNUAL REUNION

Fifty-Eight of the Veterans meet at Sandwich

Officers are elected for the ensuing year

Eight deaths occurred among members of the regiment during the year

Committee in charge of arrangements does excellent work.

List of those present at the reunion.

Fifty-eight members of the regiment and fifty-two of their friends sat down to the dinner table at the thirty-sixth annual reunion of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Illinois Veteran Volunteers which was held at Sandwich yesterday. The exercises were divided into two parts, a business meeting in the morning and program and entertainment in the afternoon, followed by the dinner which was served in the Opera House by the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps.

At the business meeting in the morning, letters were read from fifteen absent members. The committee on enrollment reported eight deaths in the last year. The list is:

Major A. H. Barry, Elgin; Captain S. C. Camp, Wilmington; J. W. McCoy, Gueyden, La.; Clinton Lloyd, White Lake, Da.; Adam Reitz, Arapaho, Neb.; Robert Logan, Neb.; Sergeant Edward Pierce, Aurora and Lieut. W. H. Clark, Mason, Mich.

The officers for the ensuing year were also elected. They are;

President, William F. Donovan, Yorkville, formerly Elgin.

Vice President, George D. Sherman, Elgin.

Secretary and Treasurer, William F. Sylla, Elgin.

Yorkville was decided upon as the place for the next meeting of the regiment. The appointing of the local committee to look after arrangements for next year was according to custom, left to the president, who also according to custom, is elected from the town in which the next meeting is to be held.

In the meeting in the afternoon the program as given in the news was carried out and proved of a most interesting nature.

The reception and executive committee in charge of affairs at Sandwich yesterday proved their worthiness by excellence of the preparations which they had made. The committee was composed of the following: J. C. Taylor, J. S. Barber, C. F. Sweetland, A. Darnell, F. A. Whitney, William Browning, H. Hennis, William Coultrip, J. S. Hatch, H. J. Medabach, William Gifford and M. E. Cornel.

The list of those present is:

Browning, William,	Sandwich
Barber, James,	Sandwich
Coultrip, William,	Somonouk
Hennis, H.,	Sandwich
Newell, Eugene,	DeKalb
Sly, Fred W.,	Sandwich
Whitney, F. A.,	Sandwich
Rolph, C. N.,	Seneca
Sherman, Maj. Geo. D.,	Elgin
Donovan, W. F.,	Yorkville
Sweetland, C. F.,	Sandwich
Denison, J. C.,	Chicago
Kerns, William,	Morris
Harral, Jas. F.,	Aurora
Wagner, H. D.,	Hinckley
Jackson, J. F.,	Hinckley
McCroskey, J. F.,	Joliet
Mann, E.,	Batavia
Moore, F. W.,	Aurora

Rice, I. W.,	Monte Vista, Col.
Beyer, Fred,	Montgomery
Alston, J. W.,	Plano
Bailey, Simeon,	Plano
Cornell, M. E.,	Chicago
Carl, John,	Aurora
Douglas, H. B.,	Aurora
Dyer, Ed. E.,	Aurora
Gunnirson, G.,	Chicago
Hitchcock, Sam,	Aurora
Hawkins, W. D.,	Springfield
Henker, Fred,	Yorkville
Dainell, D. J.,	Sandwich
Brown, James,	Tampico
Moss, Jas. E.,	Scranton, Ia.
Streeter, B. L.,	Aurora
Strait, E. H.,	Ottawa
Townsend, M. S.,	Elgin
Boyd, I. P.,	Lee
Todd, E.,	Aurora
Way, J. E.,	Aurora
Welch, Thos.,	Joliet
Watkins, H. F.,	Batavia
Zimmer, Chris,	Aurora
Van Ohlen, Wm.,	Hinckley
Thompson, John,	Sheridan
Johnson, Ferris,	Newark
Sylla, Wm. F.,	Elgin
Ingham, Joseph,	Aurora
Foster, Uriah,	Big Rock
Hewitt, J. A.,	Elgin
Taylor, J. C.,	Sandwich
Buck, H. F.,	Morgan Park
Gates, Luther,	Sheridan
Thompson, B.,	Sheridan
Wesson, S. D.,	Leland
Perkins, F. B.,	Elgin

Thursday, October 9, 1902
The Elgin Daily News

DAYS OF 65' RECALLED

“Johnnie” who “Came marching home” then, swings thro’ Capital City streets.
Over the grand historic avenue.
President leaves his wheeled chair and drives out on Review.
Veterans receive him enthusiastically from start to finish.
Notable things that were in the Column.

Washington, Oct. 9. -- For more than six hours yesterday, the people of Washington hummed the chorus of the civil war song, “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are marching,” and for an equal time the veterans constituting the Grand Army of the Republic made good the claim. The parade was the climax of the thirty-sixth encampment of their order. The occasion was in every way worthy of the Grand Army. Beginning at a few minutes past 10 o’clock, when the head of the column moved from its station at the Capitol it was almost five o’clock when the last squad in the line had passed the place of disbandment west of the White House. The entire line of march did not exceed two and a half miles in length.

Down the historic Avenue

The route of the parade was down historic Pennsylvania avenue along which many of them marched as raw recruits in going to the war in 1861 and 1862, and many others on the occasion of the Grand Review after the close of the war in 1865. The participants in the imposing pageant entered with life and vigor into the spirit of the occasion. The “old boys” for the time being evidently were reliving the days of their youth. Not many of them exhibited traces of age in their marching. Almost without exception they walked along with alacrity and kept step with precision.

Everything was Propitious

If the veterans had needed any spur to their enjoyment they would have found it easily in the crowds which thronged their pathway and in the smile which Providence bestowed upon them, for the weather was perfect, the spectators were limited in numbers only by the space to be occupied, and they were all enthusiastic. The government departments and the schools were closed for the day, and practically the entire population of Washington turned out to do honor to the veterans, along with the hundred thousand visitors to the city. There were at least 25,000 men in line, and the estimate of Commander-In-Chief Torrance ran as high as 30,000 men. On the reviewing stand were General Torrance, Secretary Hay, Postmaster General Payne, Secretaries Root, Moody, Wilson and Hitchcock, and Generals Howard, Sickles, Edward McCook, Keifer and others.

President's drive along the line

Goes to the review with his leg in a sling as it were, but, goes.

But probably the thing that pleased the marchers more than anything else was the sight of the president, who with his "gameleg" resting on a board, and seated in a barouche, with Cortelyou and Colonel Bingham, drove down the line of marchers from front to rear. He had to be carried downstairs and carefully lifted into the carriage, and his wife watched the operation with great interest from a window of the temporary White House. As he started, the president looked up and saluted Mrs. Roosevelt.

There was a wait of perhaps ten minutes in front of the temporary White House after the president entered the carriage, to allow the head of the big procession to reach the reviewing stand opposite Lafayette park. A platoon of mounted police acted as an escort for the president. As the party swept into the broad avenue a tremendous cheer went up and the sidewalks and stands were white with fluttering handkerchiefs. The president acknowledged the demonstration by lifting his hat and bowing right and left. In front of the reviewing stand the president's carriage was halted until the citizens' committee and escort of General Torrance, the Commander-In-Chief, had passed.

The journey down the avenue was made to the right of the oncoming column of veterans, the demonstration swelling in volume as it proceeded. Spectators and veterans alike cheered the appearance of the chief executive. The return journey from the Peace Monument was made on the other side of the avenue and at a more rapid pace. When the carriage drew up in front of the Jackson place residence the horses were flecked with foam.

Features of the Parade Line

Illinois led the Column

"Old Abe" the eagle

"Boys from Ioway"

The Illinois department leading the column, consumed about a half hour in passing the reviewing stand. When the head of the column reached a point immediately in front of the stand, the commander of the department turned and proposed three cheers for the president of the United States. The summons was heartily responded to, as was a subsequent proposal of cheers for General Torrance and another for Mrs. Logan.

Wisconsin proudly bore at the head of its column all that remains of "Old Abe," the huge bald eagle, which while alive accompanied the troops of the Badger State throughout their campaign in the southern states. The Wisconsin boys also displayed a badly worn and much torn battle flag of the civil war which was cheered far more than was even "Old Abe." Many of the old soldiers carried individual flags and guidons, all wore badges and some posts carried banners bearing peculiar inscriptions. For instance, the post from Somerset, Pa., announced in bold letters that they were the "Sons of Thunder." Scattered here and there in the procession were ladies, and once in a while a

girl appeared as the daughter of the regiment. There was one female band composed of ladies hailing from Waterloo, Ind., all of whom wore long maroon colored dresses.

In many instances the departments representing states carried banners or badges or other devices intended to attract attention to especial state characteristics. South Dakota's sons carried long sticks bearing on the point long ears of corn. Every Kansan in the parade, and there were several hundred of them there, carried an umbrella painted on the outside to represent a huge sunflower. Iowa men each carried a big ear of native corn on the side where formerly canteens were born, these ears being suspended from bright, broad new yellow ribbons. They passed the reviewing stand shouting in unison: "Hurrah, hurrah, for corn and hay. We are the boys from Ioway." The North Dakotans bore aloft sheaves of wheat. One of the Michiganders held up a big gray rooster.

In many cases men of national reputation walked with their posts. Kansas numbered in her line Pension Commissioner Ware and ex-United States Senator Peffer. General Keifer walked for a time with the Ohioans and General Grenville M. Dodge put in the greater part of the day alongside the commander of the Iowa department, carrying his corn canteen and going on foot as did his comrades. A number of colored men marched in the columns from the southern states, including Kentucky, Maryland, Georgia and the District of Columbia. Arizona had but three men, but they marched bravely along abreast having their banner borne in advance by a colored man, the "color bearer" as one of them announced.

Encampment Incidents

Gov. Bliss thrown from his Horse.

Torrance receives the Ladies.

Washington, Oct. 9. -- Governor A. T. Bliss, of Michigan, was thrown from his horse near Washington Circle yesterday, during the G. A. R. parade and suffered several bruises about the body. His injuries are not regarded as serious. The Governor rode with his old regiment in the Michigan division. After he had passed the reviewing stand the horse became frightened and made a bolt westward out Pennsylvania avenue. Governor Bliss succeeded in guiding him safely through the crowded thoroughfare, but at the circle a sudden lurch unhorsed the Governor.

For several hours last night General Ell Torrance received the ladies of the various organizations, auxiliary to the Grand Army. The function took place in Convention Hall, and during the evening many thousand of handsomely gowned women filed past the commander-in-chief and bade him a cordial greeting. A pleasing incident in connection with the reception, and which came as a complete surprise, was the presentation by General A. Noel Blakeman, on behalf of General Torrance's staff, of the handsome gold watch to the General and a diamond ring to Mrs. Torrance.

Camp Roosevelt was again last night the scene of a number of reunions of old soldiers. Grant tent was occupied by the Army of the Potomac, Colonel W. W. Dudley presiding; Sherman tent by the Fifteenth army corps, General Green B. Raum presiding;

Sheridan tent by the Eighth army corps, no presiding officer, and Farragut tent by the Naval Veterans.

The three active candidates for the honor of entertaining the Grand Army of the Republic at the next annual encampment are Saratoga, Atlantic City and San Francisco.

At yesterday's session of the Sons of Veterans the Banner was continued as the official organ of the order. The annual report of Memorial university, located at Mason City, Iowa, whose foundation was inspired by the order of Sons of Veterans, showed that institution to be in a healthy condition and growing. The per capita tax of the order was continued at 30 cents per member per year.

Teddy has a little lamb.

Washington, Oct. 9. -- The members of Captain P. R. Schuyler post, G. A. R. of Philadelphia, have presented Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the son of the president, a lamb named "Teddy." This lamb is the son of "Bessie," which attracted much attention last year at the encampment at Cleveland, where she followed the procession as the post mascot.

Thursday, October 9, 1902
The Aurora Beacon News

THEY WORE THE BLUE
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PARADE IN WASHINGTON
MORE THAN 25,000 MEN IN LINE

The Procession of Grizzled Heroes is Reviewed by President Roosevelt
who is loudly cheered.

Washington, Oct. 9. -- President Roosevelt Wednesday reviewed the Grand Army parade in his carriage. He was carried downstairs from his room on the second floor of the temporary White House in an invalid's chair at 11:10 o'clock, and amid the cheers of a large crowd, was placed in a carriage, in which there was a board to support his injured leg. He was accompanied by secretary Cortelyou and Col. Bingham, his military aid. His carriage was guarded by a platoon of mounted police under command of Maj. Sylvester, superintendent of police. As the carriage appeared on the avenue the president was greeted with loud cheers. The president stopped at the reviewing stand for a moment until the marshals of the parade and Rawlins Post, of Minneapolis, the right of the line had passed, and then drove the avenue to the Peace Monument at the foot of the capitol. The veterans faced the carriage as the president drove by and saluted hm. There was continuous cheering from the crowds as the president drove along.

Mrs. Roosevelt Takes Drive

Less than thirty-five minutes were consumed in the journey. During its progress the president found that the board used to rest his limb was uncomfortable and it was discarded. When the White House was reached the president did not alight. Instead secretary Cortelyou and Col. Bingham got out and, much to the surprise and delight of the waiting crowds, Mrs. Roosevelt emerged, entered the carriage and was driven rapidly away with the president. The drive had been arranged beforehand, but had not been announced. It took the president and Mrs. Roosevelt through the northwest section of the city.

The Parade

The parade was the climax of the thirty-sixth encampment of the order. The occasion was in every way worthy of the Grand Army, and the parade did not fail appropriately to delineate the spirit of the war and the memory of glorious achievements the army seeks to keep green in the minds of the American people. Beginning at a few minutes past ten o'clock, when the head of the column moved from its station at the capitol, it was almost five o'clock when the last squad in line had passed the place of disbandment, west of the white house. None of the soldiers were marching any great part of the time, for the entire line of march did not exceed 2.5 miles in length, but those composed the rear detachments were on their feet practically all day, much of the time consumed in waiting to take their places in the line. More than five hours time was consumed by the procession in passing the reviewing stand in front of the white house. There were at least 25,000 men in line, and the estimate of Commander-In-Chief Torrence ran as high as 30,000 men. At night the veterans held camp fires in the big tents in the white lot.

The Illinois department, leading the column consumed about a half hour in passing the reviewing stand. Wisconsin proudly bore at the head of its column all the remains of "Old Abe," the huge bald eagle which while alive accompanied the troops from the Badger state throughout their campaign in the southern states. The eagle long since has passed to its eternal eyrie, but his features and feathers still go marching on, thanks to the art of the taxidermist. The Pennsylvania veterans probably occupied more time than those of any other state in passing the stand. Scattered here and there in the procession were Ladies, and once in a while a girl appeared as the daughter of the regiment. There was one female band, composed of ladies hailing from Waterloo, Ind., all of whom wore long maroon colored dresses. Arizona had the smallest representation of any state or territory in line. There were only three men in her column, but they marched bravely along abreast, having their banner borne in advance by a colored man.

Friday, October 10, 1902
The Aurora Beacon News

LEADERS SELECTED
VETERANS OF GRAND ARMY ELECT OFFICERS
AN INTERESTING SESSION IS HELD

Gen. T.J. Stewart, of Pennsylvania, is Made Commander In Chief
Other Important Proceedings

Washington, Oct. 10. -- The greater part of the afternoon session of the grand army encampment was devoted to the election of national officers, the result being as follows: Commander In Chief, General Thomas J. Stewart of Pennsylvania; Senior Vice Commander In Chief, William M. Olin of Massachusetts; Junior Vice Commander In Chief, James M. Averill of Georgia. The election of other officers went over until

Big Attendance on Business Meeting

Washington, Oct., 10. -- The encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which is the business meeting of the order, began its session at ten o'clock Thursday in the First Congregational church in this city. The attendance comprised about 1,000 delegates, making it one of the largest conventions ever held by the organization. Commander in chief Torrance presided and an opening prayer was delivered by Rev. J. B. Starkey, of Pittsburgh, who acted as chaplain in chief.

At the outset, a resolution was adopted expressing the grief of the convention over the death of President McKinley and its regret over President Roosevelt's indisposition.

Commander in chief Torrance then delivered his annual address. He was received with cheers and frequently interrupted by applause.

Commander Torrance's address was referred to the standing committee having in charge the reports of officers, after which the other reports of general officers were presented.

The report of the adjutant general, Silas H. Towler, of Minneapolis, shows that on the 30th of June last, the muster roll at the Grand Army contained 263,745 names of members in good standing and that there were 6,511 posts. The figures as to membership show a net loss since the preceding year of 5,804. The adjutant general says that the high water mark of membership was attained in 1890, when it numbered 409,489 and, that there has been a gradual decline since that date.

Report of Pension Committee

The most interesting feature of the session was the report of the pension committee of the G. A. R. This committee severely scored the medical division of the pension bureau, declaring that it was a dead line where were executed the claims of veterans seeking pensions. It accused the personnel of this division of approaching the reports of

the examining surgeons throughout the country with suspicion and distrust and as made in bad faith. It denounced the reports that extensive frauds were practiced in pension claims as absolutely baseless.

Friday, October 10, 1902
The Elgin Daily News

NEXT ENCAMPMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO

G. A. R. selects western city by large vote.

Veterans Union meeting is in great confusion.

Executive committee has prepared a report recommending suspension of General R. C. Dyrenforth, Commander-In-Chief of Order. He is chairman of meeting and refuses to recognize Committee.

Washington, Oct. 10. -- The Grand Army of the Republic decided today by a large vote to hold its next encampment at San Francisco.

Washington, Oct. 10. -- The executive committee of the Union Veterans Union, which is holding its annual convention today, has prepared a report recommending the suspension of General R. C. Dyrenforth, as commander-in-chief of the order. The charges on which the action is based are arbitrary use of power and also bearing upon his personal character. Dyrenforth, who is presiding over the convention, refused to recognize the committee in order that it may not make its report, and the meeting is in a state of great disorder.

The committee directed F. B. Hutchinson, second deputy commander-in-chief, to assume command. When Hutchinson ascended the platform, he read to Dyrenforth the finding of the executive committee and directed him to withdraw. This Dyrenforth refused to do, whereupon the New York, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Pennsylvania delegations walked out of the hall, as did Hutchinson. After the withdrawal of the delegates, the convention proceeded to the election of officers. Dyrenforth was elected commander-in-chief.

WOMANS RELIEF CORPS

Mrs. L. J. Taylor elected national president.

Sons of Veterans

Washington, Oct. 10. -- The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. Lindusky J. Taylor, of Minnesota, president.

The Sons of Veterans elected Frank Martin, of Indianapolis, commander-in-chief.

1903

The department of Illinois Grand Army of the Republic held its annual encampment in East St. Louis on May 6th. Benson Wood, of Effingham, was elected department commander on the first ballot. At the national encampment in San Francisco, John C. Black, of Illinois became Commander-In-Chief. The encampment began on August 20th. The Thirty-Sixth Illinois held their reunion in Yorkville on the 24th of September where C. N. Rolph, of Senaca, was elected president. The association published a 1903 membership roll for distribution to its members. C. B. Ruckgaber was now the commander of Post 20. There would be a lot of excitement for Post 20 and its auxiliary organizations next year as their accommodations were about to change.

Wednesday, May 6, 1903
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS GRAND ARMY

Opens its annual gathering with a campfire at East St. Louis
Drummer dies on the march.

East St. Louis, May 6. -- The thirty-seventh annual encampment of the G. A. R. of Illinois has begun here and will continue for three days. Visitors are being brought to the city in large numbers. Delegations from kindred organizations have augmented the numbers of G. A. R. members here, and the city is well filled with visitors. Large arches have been erected over the principle streets and East St. Louis is in gay attire.

Opened with a camp fire

The opening event was a campfire and joint meeting of all the organizations at the opera house, and an entertainment at Music Hall. At the opera house Mayor Cook formally welcomed the G. A. R., to which address department commander Trimble responded. Department reports occupied a good part of the evening, which concluded with addresses in reminiscent vein by a number of comrades.

Drummer dies on the march

Z. B. McMerrick, a drummer in the Fifth drum corps of U. S. Grant post, Chicago, dropped dead while beating his drum. The train had just brought in the members of the post, and at the head of the body McMerrick was marching from the station when he suddenly expired.

Wednesday, May 6, 1903

The Aurora Daily Beacon (the aurora beacon news received its new name)

ILLINOIS VETERANS MEET

East St. Louis, Ill., May 6. -- The thirty-seventh annual encampment of the G. A. R. of Illinois began here Tuesday night and will continue for three days. The opening event was a camp fire and joint meeting of all the organizations at the opera house and an entertainment at music hall. At the opera house Mayor Cook formally welcomed the G. A. R. to which address department commander Trimble responded. Department reports occupied a good part of the evening, which concluded with addresses in reminiscent vein by a number of comrades.

Friday, May 8, 1903

The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS ADJOURNED

Close of the encampment of the Illinois Grand Army of the Republic
Parade was the chief feature,

East St. Louis, Ills., May 8. -- The thirty-seventh annual encampment of the G. A. R and kindred organizations of Illinois concluded with a parade and election of officers. On the first ballot Benson Wood, of Effingham, was selected commander of the order. The other officers elected are: E. A. Thomas, East St. Louis, senior vice commander; John M. Collier, Gibson City, junior vice commander; J. M. Wyckoff, Kinmundy, chaplain; J. H. Plecker, Chicago, medical adviser; C. A. Partridge, Waukegan, assistant adjutant general; F. N. Boyer, Olney, assistant quartermaster general.

Instructions for General Black

The delegates to the national convention, which meets next August, in San Francisco, were instructed to support General John C. Black for commander-in-chief of the national organization. In the auxiliary organizations the presiding officers elected were as follows: Woman Relief Corps -- President, Mrs. Loraine J. Pitkin, Chicago; Daughters of Veterans -- President, Miss. Zettie Parkinson, Centralia; Ladies of the G. A. R. -- President, Mrs. Sarah M. Boyd, of Chicago.

The parade was the principle feature of the closing day's programme and it was a gratifying success.

Thursday, August 20, 1903
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY OPENS ENCAMPMENT

Thirty-seventh annual event begins at San Francisco.

Meetings are held in Grand Opera house.

Commander-In-Chief reads annual report which is received with applause.

Other officers present documents of interest concerning the G. A. R.

San Francisco, Aug. 20. -- The thirty-seventh annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic opened this morning at the Grand Opera House. Commander-In-Chief Thomas J. Stewart read his annual report, which was received with applause.

Membership Statistics.

The gains in membership the past year were by muster 8,135; transfer 3,608; reinstatement, 11,672. The losses by death 8,366; honorable discharge, 730; transfer 2,920; suspension 13,513; dishonorable discharge, 76; delinquent reports, 5,022; net loss, 7,245.

The observance of Memorial Day was of a character to assure us that the heart of the people of the land is still in sympathy with the beautiful and impressive service. There have been, as there always will be, some who will disregard the obligations that rest upon all those people to pay tribute to those whose valor secured them the blessings and the security which this and future generations will enjoy and share. We cannot but hail with delight the participation in the ceremonies of the school children of the land. I believe that in this direction is one of the ways, to perpetuate the day. We must invoke aid in the work. Our numbers grow less, and the sacred mounds increase in number with each passing year.

The Woman's Relief Corps continues with unabated zeal the splendid work to which it is devoted and for which it is organized. The Ladies of the Grand Army is none the less earnest and active in the work in which they are so loyally and lovingly engaged. The name, Sons of Veterans, is full of meaning. They feel that theirs is a heritage of glory -- that they stand apart in measure from the young men of their time. Bring the boys up nearer the Post room, nearer the Grand Army, and they will form the new line of Union loving, patriotic men, whose flag and purpose and alter will be that of their fathers.

Pensions

The administration by the board of pensions of the pension laws, that for so many years had proven so vexatious and unsatisfactory, seems to have been adjusted to a degree of satisfaction. I believe the present commissioner is earnestly endeavoring to discharge the duties of his high and important office honestly, liberally and justly, and yet he is not able to satisfy the many who feel and assert that the government has not dealt and is not dealing justly with them. The complaints are not so numerous or so vigorous

as in the recent past, and yet they are sufficient to warrant our earnest and careful attention and consideration. Complaint will never entirely cease, nor will cases of injustice be entirely eliminated from the administration of such a great trust, but by an honest, fair and liberal administration of the laws, we may reach the minimum of complaint and of injustice is not the time at hand when wisdom and justice both warrant such an adjustment of the pension laws as will meet the conditions that exists by providing for a fixed amount of pension per month? I believe it would be wise to appoint a committee whose duty would be to frame a proper bill and present the same to congress, providing for a pension of not less than \$12 per month for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who may choose to apply.

The report of the Junior Vice Commander in Chief, James T. Averill, was devoted to the federal dead who rest in the national cemeteries of the south. It was in part as follows:

The graves of Union soldiers in the north will continue to be remembered by kindred organizations when we have all answered the last roll call. The graves of confederate dead will also be the natural shrine of devotion, of loving kindred spirits for generations to come. But to whom can we bequeath the sacred duty of dropping a blossom and sympathetic tear on Memorial day upon the graves of the 260,000 federal dead who sleep in southern soil, and teach the lessons of patriotism associated with them, to future generations of the south? There is scarcely a home in the north but is represented by one or more of these fallen heroes, and to their kindred and friends this is certainly a question of most absorbing interest.

Memorial Day

The Chaplain in Chief, D. B. Shuey, said in his report:

There is a growing danger that Memorial Day will be used by some as a holiday in the sense of pleasure, and thus lose sight of its sacred significance. Baseball games and all kinds of amusements ought to be prohibited on that day, and every effort should be made by municipal authorities and others to prevent its desecration. The school children, upon whose receptive minds the greatest and deepest impressions of the day will be made, should be invited, yea, urged to take part.

The report of Inspector General F. A. Walsh, contained the following figures: "Number of posts 5,711, a loss of 5; members in good standing, 255,100, a loss of 9,162; aggregate of post relief funds, \$300,069, an increase of \$25,185; aggregate expenditure by posts for relief, \$158,666, a decrease of \$60,513. The post quartermasters and trustees have on hand \$104,878. The value of the property owned by the posts is \$1,815,108."

Saturday, August 22, 1903
The Aurora Daily Beacon

GRAND ARMY HAS SOUNDED TAPS
CLOSE OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO
NEW COMMANDER NAMES AIDS

Action Taken on Resolutions of Various Kinds
Installation of Officers
National Campfire Reunion in the Evening

San Francisco, Aug., 22. -- The national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic closed its thirty-seventh annual session Friday afternoon. The newly elected officers, with the exception of junior vice commander Kessler, who is now on the way from the Philippines, were installed. Commander in Chief Black announced the following appointments.

Adjutant general C. W. Partridge, of Illinois; quartermaster, Maj. Charles Burrows, of New Jersey; reappointed, judge advocate general, James Tanner, of New York; inspector general, E. B. Wessen, of Iowa.

To Save the Flag

The committee on resolutions presented a number of resolutions on which action was taken. The proposition to make all past adjutant generals members of the encampment was defeated. A resolution favoring legislation to prevent, by education and in other ways, the desecration of the flag, was adopted.

The endorsement by the committee on the service pension law was approved, and the proposed establishment of national soldier's homes at Fort Sherman, Idaho, and in Florida and Oklahoma was endorsed.

Gen. Miles Honored

The encampment unanimously adopted a resolution congratulating Gen. Nelson A. Miles upon his attainment of a distinguished and honorable retirement after a matchless record as a soldier of over 42 years service.

A committee of seven was appointed to provide for the perpetuation of Memorial Day in the south, and a committee of three will revise the blue book.

It was resolved to ask Congress to erect a statue to the memory of General Meade. Maj. Gen. Mac Arthur was introduced and delivered a brief address, which was warmly received.

Officers Installed

The formal installation of officers took place, the installing officer being Senior Past Commander in Chief Louis Wagner, of Pennsylvania.

Commander in Chief Black was given authority to install the junior vice commander in chief and also the newly appointed judge advocate general, who were absent.

A resolution thanking the people and press who contributed to the success of the gathering was adopted with cheers and the encampment then adjourned, to meet in Boston next year.

National Campfire Reunion

The closing feature in the evening was the National Campfire Reunion at the Mechanics Pavilion. An address of welcome was delivered by Maj. Gen. W. R. Shafter, and it was responded to briefly by Gen. John C. Black, the new commander in chief, who received an ovation.

Maj. Gen. MacArthur spoke on "The Regular Army," and "The Passing Grand Army" was the subject of remarks by Past Commander in Chief Stewart. Corporal Tanner paid a tribute to the dead of the civil war, and Past Commander in chief Torrance eulogized the American soldier. After the speech making the evening was taken up to informal entertainment, the old soldiers enjoying the pleasures of a war-time campfire.

Telegrams Exchanged

Commander in chief J. C. Black, after the adjournment of the encampment, received the following telegram from Gen. John B. Gordon, commander in chief of the United Confederate Veterans:

"My hearty congratulations to you and the country. Your election assures unanimous and increased goodwill and closest amity.

Gen. Black responded as follows:

"The encampment having adjourned, I have submitted your message to the council of administration, and I am directed by them to acknowledge it and say, as do I, that they fully reciprocate its fraternal and beneficent spirit. God bless our land."

Friday, September 25, 1903
The Elgin Daily News

REUNION OF THE 36TH REGIMENT
Veterans were at Yorkville yesterday for annual Meeting

Members of the Thirty-Sixth Illinois regiment held their annual reunion in Yorkville yesterday with an attendance larger than that of the past four years. About eighty old soldiers were present and about 200 people sat at the banquet board over which Major Sherman presided as toastmaster.

Before the close of the reunion it was voted to hold the next meeting at Seneca. C. N. Rolph, of Seneca, was elected president; Chris Zimmer, of Aurora, was elected vice president, and William F. Sylla, of Elgin, was made secretary and treasurer. The roll showed thirteen deaths during the year.

Those present from Elgin were as follows: Major Sherman, William F. Sylla, John Hewitt, Clark Tucker, Lloyd F. Lathrop, John Sheddon, Mark Bunnell. A letter from Gov. Yates was read.

1904

It was once again an election year and Theodore Roosevelt was retained in office. The Illinois Department of the G. A. R. held its annual encampment in Springfield on April 27th with Robert Mann Woods winning the office of Department Commander. Boston was the host to the national encampment of the G. A. R. on August 17th. Wilmon Whildin Blackmar, of Massachusetts, was elected Commander-in-Chief. In Seneca, the 36th Survivors held their thirty-eighth reunion with Bryman M. Loveless elected president, C. N. Rolph, vice president and Wm. F. Sylla secretary/treasurer. The survivors received poor coverage of their event in the paper. C. B. Ruckgaber was commander of Post 20, and, he would have his hands full.

This year thru 1906 Aurora would implement major changes to the Soldier's Memorial Building which would enhance its use by the G. A. R. as well as all of its auxiliary organizations. From 1877 until 1885 the main floor of the Soldier's Memorial Building functioned as a multipurpose shared space for reading, Post meetings, lectures and military memorabilia displays. During that time the lower level provided for storage, heating equipment and coal for the furnace.

In 1885 an addition was constructed primarily to serve the growing need for library space. Post 20 contributed \$2,000 to the project which allowed for a second story. The library would be on the ground floor and Post 20 would occupy the second floor with a lifetime lease. Once again the basement of the 1885 wing was used for storage and heat. All of this allowed for the main floor of the original Soldier's Memorial Building to become a museum room dedicated to the veterans of the civil war. The two buildings had separate entrances.

In 1904 the public library was relocated to Benton street with the aid of a Carnegie grant. Now the entire 1885 building could be used by the G. A. R. The main floor was used for Post meetings with the upper floor available for the auxiliary organizations. The basement would become a banquet hall used by all. The Soldier's Memorial Building, "Angel Room" retained its chapel like ceremonial use. The basement would become a kitchen to serve the banquet hall in the 1885 wing. To that end construction was begun on a stairtower to connect the two buildings and provide a common entrance to both. With membership north of six hundred the Post attracted large numbers of people to meetings and other events. Post 20 would occupy the entire facility in 1906.

Wednesday, April 27, 1904
The Elgin Daily News

STATE ENCAMPMENT G. A. R. in annual session at Springfield

Springfield, Ills., April 27. -- Despite the bad weather two thousand veterans of the civil war are in Springfield to attend the annual encampment of the department of Illinois G. A. R. The city is decorated in both business and residence sections.

General John C. Black, the national commander, cannot attend owing to illness. Gov. Yates delivered the address of welcome and responses were made by General Bronson Wood, department commander. Mrs. Lorraine J. Pitkin, department president of the Woman's Relief Corps; Mrs. Sarah M. Boyde, department president of the Ladies of the G. A. R.; Colonel C. D. Thomas, commanding the Illinois division, Sons of Veterans; Mrs. H. A. Durant, for the Ladies Aid society of the Sons of Veterans; Joel M. Longenecker, of Chicago; Major Robert Mann Wood, of Joliet, and Captain N. B. Thistlewood, of Cairo.

Robert Mann Wood, of Joliet, is the only name mentioned for the position of department commander, and Colonel John N. Stewart, commander of George C. Meade post, Chicago, is understood to have no opposition for junior vice commander. Joseph Bell, of Galesburg, is said to be slated for chaplain.

The Sons of Veterans and Ladies of the G. A. R. held sessions, transacting routine business.

Thursday, April 28, 1904
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS AT SPRINGFIELD Parade was feature of annual encampment yesterday.

Springfield, Ill., April 28. -- The feature of yesterday's meeting of the annual encampment of the department of Illinois, G. A. R., was the parade of 2,000 veterans, escorted by Sons of Veterans and the Springfield high school cadets.

The morning sessions of the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans, Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., and the Ladies Aid society of the Sons of Veterans were occupied in hearing addresses and reports of officers. Department Commander Benson Wood, in his address stated that hope of the service pension law being passed at this session of

Congress had been dispelled, but that the recent order of the commissioner of pensions had afforded some relief.

The reports show 552 G. A. R. posts in good standing in the state, a gain of 2 during the year. The membership on Jan. 1 was 20,519, against 21,025 on Jan. 1, 1903. The loss by death during the year was 753 and by suspension 1,062.

Tuesday, August 16, 1904
The Aurora Daily Beacon

**GREETS WAR HEROES
BOSTON OPENS WIDE GATES TO VETERANS OF GRAND ARMY
THOUSANDS GO TO CITY**

Annual Encampment Begins
Parade of Ex-Prisoners of War
General Black in Command

Boston, Aug., 16. -- For the thirty-eighth time since the civil war the surviving veterans who fought in the Union army assembled Monday in annual encampment, gathering in Boston. The encampment of the veterans, as well as of the subsidiary organizations, including the National Women's Relief Corps, the National Daughters of Veterans, the National Sons of Veterans and other organizations, was formally opened under circumstances which promised a most successful week of parades, reunions, receptions, business and enjoyment. Throughout Sunday and during the night the grand army veterans and the members of the affiliated organizations arrived steadily from many sections of the country. Massachusetts Sons of Veterans stationed at the terminals received the incoming delegations and escorted them to their hotels or headquarters. The American flag was seen everywhere, and red white and blue bunting, the seal and badge of the Grand Army and the words "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," the motto of the order, were shown from the fronts of business houses, hotels, theaters, news paper offices and residences from one end of the city to the other. Notable in all the display was the city's greeting to the veterans, as spoken by the flowers in the public garden, where beautiful design had been made to reproduce the stars and stripes and the various insignia of the veteran organizations. The visitors expected a week of activity.

Parade of Ex-Prisoners

There were fifteen events scheduled for Monday, principal of which was the parade of the Union Ex-Prisoners of war. Massachusetts naval brigade, jackies and

marines from the warship in Boston harbor and others. Of the parade the men of the G. A. R. were to be spectators.

Commander in chief John C. Black of the Grand Army, has assumed active command of the great encampment. A conservative estimate of the people in this city on account of the encampment placed the number at 100,000, with the likelihood of another 100,000 for the G. A. R. parade on Tuesday. The streets were thronged.

Mondays parade was scheduled to move at 12 o'clock. The chief marshal was Captain John Read, U.S.N...The parade formed on the back bay on streets adjacent to Commonwealth avenue and started from the corner of Commonwealth avenue and Arlington street, passing through the principal downtown streets.

At the state house where the decorations are of particular appropriateness and beauty, the column was reviewed by Gov. John L. Bates, with members of his staff. From a stand in front of the state house, several thousand people saw the marching men, as also did thousands from the stands erected on Boston Common and other parts of the city. At City Hall Mayor Patrick A. Collins and the city council reviewed the sailors and the veterans while the procession passed in review before Chief Marshal Read at the corner of Beacon and Charles streets.

Events in the Evening

The reception of the national officers of the Women's Relief Corps to Commander In Chief John C. Black and others of the G. A. R. held at the Vendome Hotel in the evening, was a brilliant affair. A feature was the presence in the receiving line, of Miss. Clara Barton, formerly president of the Red Cross society. Gen. O. O. Howard and nearly all officers of the national G. A. R. and affiliated bodies were received. At the same time and place the Massachusetts Women's Relief Corps received members of the Grand Army and friends. The campfire of the national association of Union Ex-Prisoners of war was held in Tremont temple in connection with the thirty-second national encampment of the association.

Wednesday, August 17, 1904
The Aurora Beacon

HEROES IN A MARCH
ANNUAL PARADE OF VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
26,000 IS NUMBER IN LINE

Many Drop from Ranks from Heat Exhaustion
One Death is Announced

Boston, Aug. 17. -- If anything were needed to prove that the Grand Army of the Republic is still in fact a mighty host, it was to be found Tuesday, when with half a million civilians looking on, 26,000 survivors of the Union forces of the civil war, assembled here from all sections of the United States, marched through the streets of Boston. Five and one half hours were required for the parade to pass a given point, and it was a severe strain on the old soldiers, but generally they bore the hardship well. More than three score of them dropped from the ranks from exhaustion and heat prostration, and were cared for at the field and civic hospitals. The death of one soldier marred an otherwise happy day. Col. John P. Pyron, a member of John A. Dix Post of New York, died from heart failure induced by exhaustion. At least 350 spectators, mostly women, fainted during the parade and many persons were slightly injured and had their clothing torn in the crush.

A Thrilling Spectacle

The spectacle of the marching gray haired soldiers was one calculated to thrill and everywhere the army was received with applause. As the columns of blue swept up Beacon hill, closely following the northerly side of the famous Boston Common, they were reviewed from the state house by Gov. John L. Bates, who was accompanied by distinguished personages, including Gov. Van Zant, of Minnesota, former Governors W. Murray Crane and George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts; Henry Cabot Lodge and Booker t. Washington; and at the city hall, Mayor Patrick A. Collins reviewed the parade, having as his guests the mayors of a dozen cities. At the end of the route Commander In Chief John C. Black, of the G. A. R., held his review.

A "Living Flag"

The preeminently picturesque feature of the parade was the "living flag" formed by 2,000 children dressed variously in white, red and blue, and seated near the reviewing stand. Every soldier of the marching army raised his hat as he passed this picture, while the children joined in "Dixie," and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Several regimental reunions and various receptions, including that of the Daughters of Veterans to the national officers occupied the afternoon following the parade.

At night the G. A. R. campfire was held in Mechanic's Building. Tobacco, coffee and doughnuts and cheese were served to 10,000 persons.

Thursday, August 18, 1904
The Aurora Beacon

ARE HARD AT WORK
GRAND ARMY VETERANS HOLD BUSINESS SESSION WEDNESDAY
ATTENDANCE VERY LARGE

Reports of Various Officers Show Good Condition of the Order
Extracts from Address

Boston, Aug. 18. -- The real business of the Grand Army of the Republic, which is holding its annual encampment in this city, began Wednesday in the organization and business sessions of affiliated societies.

Four conventions were called to order in the Tremont temple building. Most important of these was the convention of the Women's Relief Corps. The other meetings were those of the Ladies of the G. A. R., the national Daughters of Veterans and the Ladies Aid society, auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans. Still another convention to be opened was that of the National Order of the Sons of Veterans at Boston university.

Between 1,300 and 1,400 delegates were present when the annual convention of the Grand Army was called to order in Symphony hall at ten a.m. The feature of the proceedings was the reading of a letter from President Roosevelt expressing regret at his inability to attend the encampment.

Gen. Black's Address

John C. Black delivered the annual address of the commander in chief and the reports of the adjutant general and quartermaster general were circulated.

On the subject of pensions the commander in chief urged that further attempts be made to crystalize into statute law the provisions of the executive order promulgated by the commissioner of pensions in March of this year, which calls for the pensioning of veterans who have passed the age of 62, who shall be considered disabled one half in ability to perform manual labor, and shall be entitled to a pension from \$6 to \$12 a month. He pointed out that the names of 47,373 new pensioners were placed on the roll during the year, while 49,156 were dropped for various causes. The entire cost of maintaining the pension system for the year was \$144,942,937. In the year previous it was \$141,752,870. The pension roll decreased from 996,542 pensioners in 1903 to

994,762 in 1904. The number of civil war widow pensioners made a net gain of 5,570, reaching 253,960. Commander Black urged departments to take necessary steps for the sub-organization of posts in order that scattered members might come together for fraternal greetings. Speaking of Memorial Day he recommended overtures to the secretaries and all the people of their public to help make Memorial Day the "grand American sabbath of time."

Body In Good Standing

Adj. Partridge's report showed that the members of the G. A. R., in good standing on June 30th, 1904, numbered 246,261, a net loss during the year of 10,249. The number of posts dropped during the year from 6,246 to 6,149. During the year ending June 30, \$160,594 was expended in relief. In 1890 the high water mark of membership, 469,489, was reached, but in succeeding years there was a falling off. The loss by death in 1904 was 9,029, or 3.52 per cent, as compared with 5,476 in 1890 or 1.33 per cent.

A sound financial condition throughout the Grand Army of the Republic was reported by quartermaster general Burrows, and this in spite of a decrease of receipts from per capita tax and profits on supplies. The total assets are \$28,070.24 or \$497 less than last year. The report continues: "With proper economy and due regard to business principles, we may safely expect to meet our obligations without increasing the taxation for some years to come. The response for aid for the southern memorial fund was generous and wide spread, coming from the auxiliary organizations and a greater number of posts than usual."

Employment for Veterans

The most important matter which came before the afternoon session was a resolution referring to the employment of veterans by the government after they reached the age of 70 years. According to proposed legislation in the national house of representatives an employee would retire after he reaches that age. The encampment adopted resolutions recommending that veterans be exempted from this provision.

Thursday, August 18, 1904
The Elgin Daily News

NEW COMMANDER OF THE G. A. R.

W. W. Blackmar is elected at Boston by acclamation.

Three candidates for office were in the field.

John R. King, of Washington, is chosen vice commander.

Denver, Col. probably will be next meeting place of annual encampment.

Boston, Aug. 18. -- General W. W. Blackmar, of Massachusetts, was elected Commander-In-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic today by acclamation.

John R. King, of Washington, former commander of the department of Maryland, was chosen senior vice commander.

With three avowed candidates in the field the question of selecting the next commander-in-chief was an absorbing issue when the delegates reassembled today in Symphony hall for the second day's session of the national encampment convention. The Massachusetts delegates went into the convention confident that their own department commander, Gen. Wilmon W. Blackmar, would easily be chosen. The friends of Colonel John C. Shotts and Colonel Albert C. Bakewell, both of the department of New York, also felt certain of the excellent chances of their candidates. Every Grand Army man has recognized that General Blackmar's canvas has been the most aggressive of the three, the Massachusetts man, having besides all the advantage arising from the fact that the encampment was being held in his home city.

The opinion was expressed before today's session was called to order that Denver, Colorado, would be selected for the next encampment.

Friday, August 18, 1904
The Elgin Daily News

EXCURSIONS FOR G. A. R.

Many veterans remain in Boston for social events.

Boston, Aug. 19. -- The chief events of encampment week being over, many of the veterans of the G. A. R. have left for home. There was however, still a large contingent remaining in the city to take part today in various excursions arranged in their honor and which will continue throughout tomorrow. Business sessions were planned for today by the Daughters of Veterans and the Sons of Veterans, both organizations having to elect

national officers and consider other routine matters. The delegates to the Woman's Relief Corps convention went to Revere Beach this forenoon and participated in a general reunion. About the same time the delegates to the G. A. R. encampment started in special steamers for Bass Point, Nahant, where a shore dinner was to be served. The party numbered about 1,400 persons.

Friday, August 19, 1904
The Aurora Daily Beacon

VETERANS ELECT LEADERS GRAND ARMY CONVENTION ELECTS ITS OFFICERS

General Blackmar, of Massachusetts
Unanimously made Commander In Chief

Boston, Aug., 19. -- General Wilmon W. Blackmar, of this city, was elected Commander-In-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic by acclamation at the closing session of the national encampment Thursday, and Denver, Colo. was selected as the place for the encampment of 1905. The other national officers elected were: Senior vice commander in chief, John R. King, of Washington, D.C.; junior vice commander, George W. Patten, Chattanooga, Tennessee; surgeon general, Dr. Warren R. King, Indianapolis; chaplain in chief, Rev. J. H. Bradford, Washington, D.C.

Later Gen. Blackmar made the following appointments: adjutant general, John E. Gilman, Massachusetts; quartermaster general, Charles Burrows, New Jersey; assistant quartermaster general and custodian of the records, J. Henry Holcomb, Pennsylvania; assistant adjutant general, E. B. Stillings, Massachusetts.

The convention was adjourned sine die shortly after three o'clock Thursday afternoon. The principle business was the passage of the resolutions declaring that any modification of the voting franchise should be along lines of "intelligence and fitness, and not along lines of race and color," approving of the admission of Sons of Veterans to secrete G. A. R. meetings, and the laying on the table of a resolution regarding the proposed fraternal convention of the survivors of the Union and Confederate armies.

A resolution of sympathy with Gen. Nelson A. Miles, upon the death of his wife, was passed and a resolution adopted asking the President of the United States to instruct the civil service commission that the veterans of civil war or widows of such veterans in the employ of the government who may have been discharged without just cause or proper charge against them at the time of their dismissal.

Thursday, September 22, 1904
The Aurora Daily Beacon

WILL HOLD THEIR REUNION

Thirty-Sixth Regiment Will Gather in Seneca for Annual Session

The thirty-eighth annual reunion of the thirty-sixth regiment, Illinois Veteran Volunteer association, met at Seneca, this state, today.

Headquarters will be at the opera house, where a business session will be held at eleven o'clock a.m.

On wednesday evening a campfire will occur at the Ehrman hotel.

A banquet will be tendered the comrades by the Ladies Aid society of the First M. E. church. This will be held at woodman hall. J. C. Denison will preside as toastmaster.

The officers are: President, C. H. Rolph, Seneca; vice president, Chris Zimmer, aurora; secretary and treasurer, William F. Sylla, Elgin.

1905

Rockford hosted the annual encampment of the department of Illinois G. A. R. on May 24th. John Corson Smith, of Chicago was elected to department commander. The encampment voted in favor of returning captured confederate battle flags currently held at Springfield. Rockford's proximity to Aurora drew the attention of the papers which posted every detail of the anticipated proceedings. The national encampment opened in Denver on September 7th with John R. King serving as Commander-in-chief in place of the deceased Wilmon Blackmar. James Tanner won election to the post in the subsequent election. The Thirty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Veteran Survivors Reunion was Held in Joliet on September 21st. B. M. Loveless was elected president, C. N. Rolph, Vice and Wm. Sylla, secretary-treasurer. Their guest speaker was past state G. A. R. commander Major Robert Woods. The veterans were all surprised when Charles Stiles brought his relic drum. Work continued on the stairtower of the Soldiers' Memorial Building. Post 20's new commander was Theodore Howard and one of it's own, H. B. Douglas, was elected Mayor of Aurora. It was good to have an advocate for the building project in the city's leadership. Amelia Bartholomew was the current president of the Aurora W. R. C.

Monday, May 22, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

VETERANS WILL GO
AURORA MEN WILL TAKE IN BIG CONVENTION
TO BE HELD AT ROCKFORD

TO BE WELL REPRESENTED

Program of the Great Event Will be of Interest to Old Soldiers

Tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock the delegates and members of the Aurora post and Aurora corps of the G. A. R. and W, R. C. will leave this city for Rockford to attend the annual meeting of the state departments of the two organizations. They will be joined here by a large delegation from Joliet and by others from towns in this vicinity and will descend upon Rockford strong.

The following delegates will represent Aurora Post at the meeting: A. J. Pratt, S. M. Farwell, P. M. Wait, George Harrington. Theodore Howard is the present post commander and he and the delegates and the following past commanders are entitled to vote: T. B. Coulter, H. B. Douglas, J. H. Freeman, Eb Denny, M. D. Yager, J. M. Kennedy, W. H. Watson, John H. Hubbard, J. F. Harral, J. R. Walker, D. B. Lincoln, N. J. Thomas, C. B. Rukgaber, Gus Aucutt, A. Quinton, O. Wilson, Chris Zimmer, M. Hughes, M. Tarble.

The Aurora Post will have a candidate for delegate to the national encampment at Denver, and may have a candidate for another state office.

Mrs. Mae Lincoln of this city is a candidate for department president of the W. R. C., the highest office in the gift of the convention. She has already held the position of department patriotic inspector and department aide and is very well known in W. R. C. circles, being a past president of Aurora corps. Other candidates for the place are Anna B. Tucker of Plymouth and Amanda Brown of Havanna.

The following delegates from this city have been chosen to represent the local corps: Mesdames Jennie Casteline, Mary Schoeberlein, Mary Hawley, Flora Wilder, Anna Ward, Carrie Geyer. The following past presidents of the corps are also entitled to a vote: Mesdames Eva Windett, Anna Reilein, Cynthia Woodard, May Ricker, Myra Stolp, Lizzie Hubbard, Eliza Clapp, Hattie Vaughan, Rebecca Lewis, Clara Harral, Rae Logan, Mary Conant, Elizabeth Kapferer, Mae Lincoln. The present president is Mrs. Amelia Bartholomew and she also is entitled to vote.

Is Interesting Program

Illinois veterans of the civil war are preparing to attend the thirty-ninth annual encampment of the department of Illinois Grand Army of the Republic which will be held in Rockford May 23, 24 and 25. Gen. Wilmon W. Blackmar, of Boston, commander-in-chief, and John E. Gilman, adjutant general of the Grand Army of the Republic, will be the guests of honor at the annual gathering of Illinois veterans. Department Commander Robert Mann Woods, Adj. Gen. Charles A. Partridge and representatives of eighty Cook county posts will leave for Rockford next Monday on special trains.

The detailed program for the encampment is as follows:

Tuesday, May 23, 10:00 a.m. -- Opening of headquarters at the Hotel Nelson. 2:00 p.m. -- Meeting of the council of administration. 8:00 p.m. -- Open session of encampment. Addresses of welcome will be delivered by the Mayor of Rockford and Congressman Charles E. Fuller with responses by Department Commander Robert Mann Woods; Mrs. Nettie McGowan, president of the Women's Relief Corps, Chicago; Mrs. Virginia C. McClure, Peoria, president of the Ladies of the G. A. R.; Division Commander G. W. C. Estover of the Sons of Veterans, and Miss. Clara Hoover, president of the Daughters of Veterans.

The program Wednesday is as follows: 9:30 a.m. -- Business session of the encampment; 1:30 p.m. -- Parade; 3:00 p.m. -- Business session of the encampment;

8:00 p.m. -- Campfires by the different posts; 9:00 p.m. -- Reception to Commander-In-Chief Wilmon W. Blackmar of Boston.

On Thursday at ten o'clock there will be a business session of the encampment, election and installation of new officers. John N. Stewart of George G. Meade post is a candidate for department commander.

Tuesday, May 23, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

VETS ON TRIP

LEAVE THIS MORNING FOR THE SCENE OF GREAT CONVENTION AT ROCKFORD

Auxiliaries also Leave
This City will be Well Represented at the Gathering
of Union Soldiers

More than 250 people boarded the four extra coaches of the C. B. & Q. train from Aurora to Rockford this morning, to attend the state encampment of the G. A. R. and kindred organizations, which is being held there this week. Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R. and Aurora Corps No. 10, W. R. C were very largely represented and will make a fine showing at the convention.

Early this morning a large number of the delegates met at the Memorial Hall and marched in a body to the train. They were led by the post fife and drum corps, made up of the following men: A. J. Cramer, H. A. Webb, P. A. Durant, S. W. Durant, H. L. Durant, T. M. Dougherty, H. A. Matteson and G. P. Briggs. The corps will play at Rockford during the encampment. At 9:30 the Joliet delegation arrived on the electric car and marched to the depot. They also had a fife and drum corps. The post and corps were well represented.

Other Illinois towns were represented in a big crowd gathered at the depot. Among them were Quincy, Ottawa, Streator, Galesburg, Mendota and intervening towns. At Rochelle the train picked up a delegation. The representation from the Various towns follows: Aurora and Joliet, 150; Ottawa and Streator, 35; Mendota and local passenger train, 25; Galesburg, 50; Rochelle, 70.

The Galesburg and Quincy delegations were both after the next encampment. The Galesburg men declared that they are entitled to it as it was given to Rockford last year with the understanding that Galesburg would be next in line. A movement is on to get

Quincy to vote for Galesburg, with the idea that Quincy take the convention the following year. Among the Galesburg delegation was Dr. Joe Bell, pastor of the First Methodist church there, who is the department chaplain.

The members of the Woman's Relief Corps here have great faith in the candidacy of Mrs. Mae Lincoln of this city, who aspires to be president of the state organization. Badges of all kinds promoting Aurora and her candidacy were distributed. She will put up a strong fight. The post will have a candidate for delegates to the national encampment.

Wednesday, May 24, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

CONVENTION IS ON
VETERANS AT ROCKFORD ARE ENJOYING REUNION WITH COMRADES
MANY OLD FRIENDS MEET

Much Interest is Manifested in the Selection of the
Officers to Guide Body

The thirty-ninth annual encampment of the G. A. R. and kindred organizations opened at Rockford yesterday with the ranks of the organization thinner by 960 than at the last gathering in Springfield, but the present meeting is declared to be larger and more enthusiastic than any of its predecessors, more than 5,000 persons have arrived, with as many more expected.

Governor Deneen has promised to attend if press of business does not prevent, and he is expected to address the veterans. Gen. Wilmon W. Blackmar, Commander-In-Chief of the national G. A. R. will arrive today.

Unusual interest centers in the election of officers. In the contest for department commander are General John Corson Smith and John N. Stewart of Chicago, Col. A. C. Mathews of Pike county, Col. W. R. Jewell, postmaster of Danville, and W. F. Calhoun of Decatur. The chances are in favor of general Smith. Comrade Stewart has a strong following, however, and a strong point in his favor is that he is "from the ranks."

E. H. Buck of Rock Island and M. A. Ewing of Neoga are the only ones who have come forward so far as candidates for senior vice commander. The race between them seems to be neck and neck.

Z. R. Hotchkiss of Oak Park wants to be junior vice commander, and no one has entered the field against him.

Bid For Next Meeting

Decatur, Galesburg and Quincy are bidding for the encampment next year.

Three of the prominent candidates for department president of the Woman's Relief Corps to succeed Mrs. Nettie McGowan of Chicago are Mrs. Mae Lincoln of Aurora, Mrs. Amanda Brown of Havana and Mrs. Anna B. Tuck of Plymouth.

The Ladies of the G. A. R., a distinct Grand Army auxiliary, has established headquarters at the Nelson house, and its officers are there greeting members. Among the candidates for office in the state department are Mrs. Bessie Howell of Austin for president, Mrs. Emma Slick of Aurora for senior vice president and Mrs. Jennie Koehler of Bloomington for junior vice president.

Division secretary Joel M. Longenecker of Chicago, has established headquarters for the Sons of Veterans at the Chick house and reports the state camp to be in a "booming" condition. Division Commander George W. G. Estover of Chicago has arrived and commander in chief Dustin of Dwight is expected. Bruce H. Garrett of Rockford has announced himself as a candidate to succeed Division Commander Estover, and none has appeared to oppose him.

Few questions of importance will come before the veterans. A lively contest is promised over the proposition to return to Tennessee and other southern states the flags captured during the war. This question grows out of the effort of Representative Struckman of Chicago to secure the passage of a resolution in the Legislature authorizing the return. Depart Commander Robert Mann Woods of Chicago is a leader of the movement, but he is opposed by others as strong in influence.

Formal welcome was extended to the visitors in Memorial hall last night when Mayor Jackson delivered the address. Other speakers were Congressman Charles A. Fuller, Department commander R. M. Woods, Mrs. Nettie McGowan and Virginia McClure of Peoria.

Wednesday, May 24, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY AT ROCKFORD

State encampment is record breaker for attendance.
Contest on for Commander.
Decatur, Galesburg and Quincy bid for meeting next year.

Rockford is entertaining a host of Grand Army men.

The thirty-ninth annual state encampment opened with the ranks of the organization thinner by 960 than at the last gathering in Springfield, but the present meeting is declared to be larger and more enthusiastic than any of its predecessors, more than 5,000 persons having arrived, with as many more expected today.

Unusual interest centers on the election of officers. In the contest for department commander are General John Corson Smith and John N. Stewart, of Chicago; Colonel A. C. Mathews, of Pike county; Colonel W. R. Jewell, postmaster of Danville, and W. F. Calhoun, of Decatur. The chances are in favor of General Smith. Comrade Smith has a strong following, and a strong point in his favor is that he is "from the ranks."

E. H. Buck, of Rock Island and M. A. Ewing, of Neoga, are the only ones who have come forward so far as candidates for senior vice commander. The race between them seems to be neck and neck.

Z. R. Hotchkiss, of Oak Park, wants to be junior vice commander, and no one has entered the field against him.

Decatur, Galesburg and Quincy are bidding for the encampment next year.

Relief Corps President

Two of the prominent candidates for department president of the Woman's Relief Corps, to succeed Mrs. Nettie McGowan, of Chicago, are Mrs. Amanda M. Brown, of Havana, and Mrs. Anna B. Tuck, of Plymouth. The former is backed by most of the Cook county delegation, and Mrs. Tuck has the support of the down-state delegates.

The Ladies of the G. A. R., a distinct Grand Army auxiliary, has established headquarters at the Nelson house and its officers are there greeting members. There is keen rivalry between this organization and the W. R. C. The Ladies of the G. A. R. admit to membership only blood relatives of veterans. Among the candidates for office in the state department are Mrs. Bessie Howell, of Austin, for president, Mrs. Emma Slick, of Aurora, for senior vice president and Mrs. Jennie Hoehler, of Bloomington, for junior vice president.

Division secretary, Joel M. Longenecker, of Chicago, has established headquarters for the Sons of Veterans at the Chick house and reports the state camp to be in a "booming" condition. Division commander George W. G. Estover, of Chicago, has arrived and commander-in-chief Dustin, of Dwight, is expected tomorrow. Bruce H.

Garrett, of Rockford, has announced himself as a candidate to succeed division commander Estover, and none has appeared to oppose him.

Many from Elgin

A large delegation of Grand Army veterans left this morning at 9:40 over the Milwaukee road to attend the encampment.

Those going from here today were: John Hagaman, John Herman, A. A. Lee, W. A. Waterman, Mrs. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Benham, Mrs. E. F. Jarvis, A. H. Hammond, Mrs. A. J. Crowfoot, Mrs. C. F. Salisbury, Clark Tucker, Horace Brintnail, S. Bouck, L. B. Webb, F. B. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hobart, E. C. Warner, O. V. Wilcox, J. S. Wilcox, E. E. Balch, John Hewitt, C. Ross, C. A. Hinsdell, Chas. Krahn, J. E. Farrington, G. H. Peck, E. C. Carpenter, G. W. L. Brown, Francis Wilson, Capt. and Mrs. Patchen and D. Lawrence. Several were on the train from towns below Elgin and also a delegation from Chicago.

Thursday, May 25, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

GALESBURG IS NEXT
G. A. R. STATE ENCAMPMENT TO BE HELD THERE NEXT YEAR
AURORA MEN ARE HOME

Mrs. Amanda Brown of Havana is Chosen President of Woman's Relief Corps

Rockford, Ill., May. 25. -- General John S. Smith of Chicago, was today elected commander of the Illinois department of the G. A. R. By a large majority the encampment voted to return to the southern states the Confederate flags now in the Memorial hall at Springfield.

Galesburg was awarded the next state encampment of the G. A. R., at the annual meeting at Rockford yesterday. Mrs. Mae Lincoln of Aurora, candidate for department president of the W. R. C., was not elected, but Mrs. Amanda M. Brown of Havana was chosen. It is said that Mrs. Lincoln has a very strong pull for election to the position next year.

The parade was the feature of the encampment yesterday and the veterans, 1,500 strong, marched the route of three miles without a man dropping out.

With the marchers, five abreast, with carriages and bands and battalions of militia and military cadets, the entire pageant was nearly one and a half miles long. A touch of a lighter blue was added by the Highland Park Academy cadets and band, in their white helmets and bright uniforms. Fifers, drummers and buglers from the River Forest

academy and the Soldier's Orphans' home, none of them more than twelve years old, called forth enthusiastic demonstrations. The parade was reviewed from a balcony at Memorial hall by Maj. Gen. Wilmon W. Blackmar, national commander-in-chief, and his aids.

The crowd in attendance at the encampment was augmented by at least 3,000, and with the day the city blossomed into still brighter garb. With the exception of a few in the outer residence district not a building was without its dress of red white and blue.

To Unite Blue and Gray

In line with the objects of the Blue and Gray Legion, of which he is chaplain in chief, Bishop Samuel Fallows of Chicago presented to the veterans his plan for a national reunion of both Confederate and Union veterans of the Civil war.

The election of officers by the veterans, with the exception of the delegates to the national encampment at Denver in September, reached only the nomination stage. The contest for department commander narrowed down to John S. Smith and John N. Stewart of Chicago, but there are several candidates for each of the other offices.

E. H. Buck and M. A. Ewing were named for senior vice commander, and for junior vice commander, John H. Trent, C. W. Demond and Z. P. Hotchkiss.

Allied Bodies Elect

Other elections were as follows:

Sons of Veterans Ladies auxiliary:

Division president -- Ida M. Patterson, Rockford.

Division vice president -- Jennie Thole, Dwight.

Division secretary -- Harriet Williamson, Rockford.

Division treasurer -- Mary Whitmore, Rockford.

Woman's Relief Corps:

Department president -- Mrs. Amanda M. Brown, Havana.

Senior vice president -- Mrs. Sadie Rowley, Bloomington.

Other officers will be elected and chosen today.

Daughters of Veterans:

Department president -- Mrs. Gertrude Siderberg, Austin.

Senior vice president -- Miss. Laura Hill, Chicago.

Junior vice president -- Miss. Josie Blackinon, East St. Louis.

Chaplain -- Mrs. Emma Smith, Chicago.

Treasurer -- Mae. Ball, Chicago.

Among the delegates and alternates chosen to represent Illinois at the national encampment at Denver in September, Melvin Tarble of Aurora was chosen alternate from the eleventh congressional district. M. H. Luke of Joliet is the delegate.

Thursday, May 25, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

WILL RETURN CAPTURED FLAGS
State G. A. R. encampment favors action.
Gen. Smith elected State Commander.
Galesburg is selected as next place of meeting.

By a large majority the state encampment of veterans voted this morning to return the confederate flags now in Memorial hall at Springfield. This was one of the most important matters presented to the meeting. A request was received from the Confederate Veterans association for the return of the banners captured by Illinois regiments. It was expected there would be considerable opposition to the move, but Department Commander Woods was greatly in favor of granting the request. His own regiment captured two of the banners, but the survivors were in favor of their return.

General John S. Smith, of Chicago, was elected commander of the Illinois department, G. A. R., at the business session held this morning. In the great parade at Rockford yesterday, Veteran Post, of Elgin, was represented by thirty-five of the old soldiers. Most of them have returned home and are loud in their praises of the entertainment furnished by the Forest City. The encampment is declared to be one of the most successful and best attended in recent years. The next meeting will be held at Galesburg.

Friday, May 26, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

DELEGATES ARE HOME
ROCKFORD PEOPLE ARE PRAISED AS GREAT ENTERTAINERS
AURORA GETS HONORS

Residents of this City are given Fine Positions
at Annual State Meetings

Two representatives of this city were successful in obtaining offices at the session of the Illinois Grand Army convention yesterday. Pliny A. Durant, who has for years been a prominent feature of the local Sons of Veterans' circles, was chosen as one of three

delegates from this state to the national convention of the order, which will be held later in the year.

Mrs. Emma Slick, also of this city, was chosen as senior vice president of the Ladies of the G. A. R. of Illinois. Mrs. Slick is the wife of John B. Slick of Concord street.

The delegates from Aurora to the convention returned home last night greatly pleased with their trip. They declare that Rockford is a great place to be entertained.

Twelve past presidents, the present president and six delegates represented Corps 10 of the W. R. C. at the convention. The delegates numbering 545, held their session in the Congregational church. Mrs. Nettie McGowan of Chicago, delivered her annual address which was greatly enjoyed.

In the election contest, Mrs. Amanda Brown of Havana was elected. Mrs. Mae Lincoln of this city withdrawing her name. It is the sentiment of the Aurora women attending the convention that Mrs. Lincoln's chances are exceedingly bright for election to the position of department president next year. As it was, Mrs. Lincoln was made department inspector and was chosen first delegate to the national convention in Denver in September.

It is said that 5,000 ladies attended the meetings of the various organizations at Rockford. They speak highly of their entertainment there.

In spite of fiery protests from fully one third of the delegates, the Illinois department of the Grand Army of the Republic today offered to the south a token of good will in the shape of a resolution recommending that the captured flags at the state house be returned to the confederate veterans from whom they were captured forty years ago.

Colonel James H. Davidson of U. S. Grant post, Chicago, introduced the resolution and then followed an interesting struggle, which at times was highly dramatic in its intensity.

Resolutions were adopted thanking President Roosevelt for his appointment of Vespasian Warner as pension commissioner, recommending that the ratio of representation to future national encampments be changed from one in 750 to one in 500, and expressing appreciation of Rockford hospitality.

The expected happened in the election of department commander, Gen. John Corson Smith being chosen over John N. Stewart by a vote of 370 to 53. Other officers elected were:

Senior vice commander -- E. H. Buck, Rock Island.

Junior vice commander -- Z. R. Hotchkiss, Oak Park.

Medical director -- Dr. E. P. Murdoch, Chicago.

Chaplain -- Rev. James H. Moore, Polo.

Council of administration -- C. E. Vaughn and James O'Donnel, Chicago; R. M. Campbell, Peoria; B. F. Lee, Rockford; A. S. Wright, Woodstock.

Delegates at large to national encampment -- J. G. Everest, Chicago and George R. Lyon, Waukegan.

Following the announcement of his election Commander Smith made a short speech thanking the delegates. He then hunted up the defeated candidate and they shook hands in true comrade fashion. General Smith said he would visit every camp in the state during his term of office and hoped to bring in many new members.

Officers Chosen by "Sons"

The Sons of Veterans elected officers as follows:

Senior vice commander -- Harry G. Wasson, Peoria.

Junior vice commander -- R. M. Wilson, Lincoln.

Division Counsel -- Joel M. Longenecker, Chicago; Will C. Creighton, Champaign, and H. B. Casserly, Springfield.

Delegates to the national encampment -- P. A. Durant, Aurora; Henry Abells, Springfield and John T. Stockton, Chicago.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. balloted with the following results:

President -- Mrs. Bessie Howell, Austin.

Senior vice president -- Mrs. Emma Slick, Aurora.

Junior vice president -- Mrs. Jennie C. Koehler, Bloomington.

Treasurer -- Mrs. Lilly Stewart, Chicago.

Chaplain -- Mrs. Rose Fife, Chicago.

Nearly all the visitors departed last night, although many remained over to enjoy the opportunities for a pleasant outing afforded by the Rock river and near by pleasure resorts.

Friday, May 26, 1905

The Aurora Daily Beacon

SERVICES IN THE SCHOOLS VETERANS TALK TO SCHOLARS TODAY

East Aurora schools are Visited by Men Who Fought in the Civil war
Exercises are Held

Ante memorial day exercises were conducted in the East Aurora schools today under the auspices of Post 20 of the G. A. R., assisted by the organizations associated with the post. On Monday the West Aurora schools will be visited in preparation for Memorial day on Tuesday.

Chris Zimmer from the time when the mind of man runneth not to the contrary, has been in charge of the services in the schools. He was on hand bright and early this morning, surrounded by a number of other comrades who were to assist in the services of the day. They left Memorial hall at nine o'clock in a band wagon, accompanied by Superintendent Bardwell of the East Aurora schools.

The schools, Indian Creek, Oak Park, and New York street, were visited first this morning. At each school the veterans made patriotic talks and to each scholar was given an American flag. This custom will be observed in every school, public and parochial, and the entire expense is borne by the post. Mrs. E. J. Clapp, a prominent worker in the W. R. C. was also present and spoke to the children.

At 11:30 o'clock the party reached the high school, where very interesting exercises were held. Comrade E. J. Clapp and Rev. William Caton delivered patriotic addresses and Prof. T. J. Meek responded for the school. At the Young school this morning Rev. Caton was the speaker and the scholars participated in the program.

At two o'clock this afternoon the exercises of the Center school were held in Clark hall at the high school. The pupils took part in the program and the veterans spoke. Exercises were held at the Brady and Marion avenue schools at the same time this afternoon.

Visits this morning were also paid to the parochial schools, German Catholic, the two Lutheran schools, St. Marys, St. Josephs and the French Catholic schools. At each place the veterans were given a very hearty reception.

Thursday, September 7, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS MEET FOR BUSINESS

Session held today in Secrete.

Fight on in Relief Corps.

Five members are aspirants for Presidency.

Denver, Sept. 7. -- The first meeting of the legislative body of the thirty-ninth annual national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic began today at the Broadway Theater. With the exception of a few minutes during which state and city officials welcomed the old soldiers to the city formally and responding speeches were made by Commander-In-Chief John R. King and others, the sessions today were secrete. It did not take long for the encampment delegates to get down to business. After accepting the roll, which had been prepared and printed in advance, formal presentations

of the diamond badge to Commander-In-Chief King, indicative of his past commandership, was made. At the same time it was announced that the aides of former Commander-In-Chief Wilmon W. Blackmar, who died before the expiration of his term of office, would present a loving cup to the widow of General Blackmar.

Relief Corps Election

The national convention of the Woman's Relief Corps began its session today. The most interesting political fight of all the conventions connected with the Grand Army encampment is in this body. There are five candidates for the office of president and three for that of treasurer. The latter office has a five year term and the incumbent, besides controlling the finances of the organization, is a power in the politics of the body. As one prominent leader in the ranks of the Woman's Relief Corps expressed it, anyone aspiring to either office must line up openly in choosing her favorite for the other office and consequently some very peculiar combinations are the result.

Friday, September 8, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

TO MEET IN MINNEAPOLIS

G. A. R. national encampment will be held there.

Denver, Sept. 8. -- Minneapolis was chosen as the G. A. R. national encampment city next year.

Col. George W. Cook, of Denver, was unanimously elected senior vice commander. Hugie Philler, of Wisconsin, was elected surgeon general and Rev. Father Leary, of Kansas, was elected chaplain-in-chief.

Saturday, September 9, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY ELECTION

Great excitement follows choice of James Tanner as Commander.

Denver, Sept. 9. -- The Grand Army elected the following officers:

Commander-In-Chief, James Tanner, New York.

Senior vice -- George W. Cook, Denver.

Junior vice -- Silas H. Towler, Minneapolis.

Surgeon general -- Hugo Philler, Waukesha, Wis.

Chaplain-in-chief -- Rev. Father J. G. Leary, Chapman, Kan.

Minneapolis was chosen as the next meeting place.

The contest for commander-in-chief was the most interesting feature of the session and when the result was announced the delegates leaped from their seats, shouting and cheering and throwing their hats in the air. While Tanner was being escorted to the stage the delegates made a rush for him and, lifting him on their shoulders carried him bodily to the rostrum. The delegates then rose en masse and cheered for several minutes.

Corporal Tanner thanked his comrades in a short speech. "There is one man," he said, "whose esteem and assistance is necessary for the soldiers to have. There are three men in the encampment whom I can call in counsel in meeting President Roosevelt."

Thursday, September 21, 1905
The Aurora Daily Beacon

REUNION AT JOLIET

BOYS OF THE FAMOUS 36TH ILLINOIS ARE MEETING THERE TODAY

Are Having a Fine Time

Charles Stiles, The Drummer Boy is On Hand with his Old Drum

The famous Thirty-Sixth Illinois regiment held their annual reunion in Joliet today with over a hundred members of the gallant veterans and their families in attendance. The meeting was called to order at ten o'clock in the K of P hall by the president, W. W. Gifford, of Joliet, and sixty-two were present to answer the annual roll call, while a score of letters of regret were read by the secretary.

Before the adjournment to Clement Hall, where the Woman's Relief Corps tendered one of their famous dinners, Major Robert Woods, past commander of the state, addressed the boys. Following the dinner at 12:30 o'clock Major George Sherman as toastmaster called on Rev. A. H. Lang, pastor of the Universalist church to offer prayer. The address of welcome to Joliet was delivered by Mayor Richard Barr. He was followed by M. E. Cornell in response. G. A. Brewster rendered two beautiful solos, and the veterans were then treated to a grand surprise in the shape of the appearance of the old regimental drummer boy, Charles Stiles, with his old battle scared drum. From 61' to 64' Stiles, then only a mere lad, tramped with the regiment of a hundred fights with this same old drum, which is now one of the dearest relics of the late unpleasantness, to the boys.

Among the carload of Aurora people who attended the reunion were Mayor Henry B. Douglas, J. F. Harral, Nicholas Hettinger, Chris Zimmer, A. B. Hitchcock, James Halyard and A. B. Streeter.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were President, Raymond Loveless, of Wheaton; vice president C. F. Rolph, of Seneca and secretary W. F. Sylla, of Elgin.

Friday, September, 22, 1905
The Elgin Daily News

36TH HAS A REUNION

Large attendance at meeting of veterans in Joliet.
W. F. Sylla is re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

Sixty-two members of the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, the original Fox Valley Regiment which took the picked men of every town, village and hamlet along the Fox river when the call came for troops, met yesterday on Joliet and discussed old times. The occasion was the annual reunion of the survivors and the attendance was gratifying, many more than expected being present. The Ladies of the W. R. C. served dinner to 140 guests, which number includes the families of many of the old soldiers.

The business meeting was held in the morning and Wheaton was selected as the meeting place for next year. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President -- B. M. Loveless, of Wheaton.

Vice president -- C. N. Rolfe, of Seneca.

Secretary-treasurer -- W. F. Sylla.

At the close of the banquet one of the best programs that has ever been given at any of the reunions, according to some of the veterans, was carried out under the direction of Major Geo. D. Sherman, of this city, who acted as toastmaster. Mayor Barr was unable to be present and the address of welcome was delivered by George W. Young. A vocal solo, "My own United States," by George Brewster, was heartily encored. The members listened to an address by Comrade M. E. Cornell, of Chicago. After his address which was greatly enjoyed by his audience, letters and telegrams from absent members were read, and the veterans indulged in a series of five-minute reminiscences on war-time.

Those present from Elgin were: Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. John Hewitt, Major Geo. D. Sherman, Frank B. Perkins, Clark Tucker, R. J. Eakin and Wm. F. Sylla. There are several other members of the regiment living in or near Elgin.

1906

The Illinois department of the G. A. R. held their encampment at Galesburg on May 23rd. There, Edwin H. Buck, of Rockford, was elected Department Commander. For the first time a private in the army had achieved the highest rank in the Illinois command. The fortieth annual national encampment of the G. A. R. was held in Minneapolis on August 16th. Robert B. Brown, of Ohio, was elected Commander-in-Chief. Though the change was insignificant at first, it was beginning. News coverage began to pick up more and more information about the allied organizations and a little less about the veterans activities. The survivors of the 36th Illinois met at Wheaton on September 27th. J. F. Elliot, of St. Charles was elected president. George D. Sherman, vice president and Wm. F. Sylla, secretary-treasurer. The work on the Memorial Building stairtower and remodeling was completed and the boys were ensconced in a regular show place. Post 20 of the G. A. R. was ready for something big, but, what was it?

Wednesday, May 23, 1906
The Aurora Daily Beacon

HONOR HER MEMORY
MONUMENT TO MRS. MARY BICKERDYKE IS UNVEILED AT GALESBURG

AT G. A. R. MEETING
ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION OPENS TODAY IN THE COLLEGE CITY

The second G. A. R. train was run this morning via the Burlington to the state encampment being held at Galesburg. The train was made up at this city and left the local depot at seven o'clock. No Aurora people took the train, but a large crowd was picked up at the many cities, towns and villages along the line between here and Galesburg. A number of local people left for Galesburg this morning on the regular train which leaves this city at ten o'clock.

When Mrs. Marietta Ervin, a member of the Galesburg Woman's Relief Corps, noted for her benevolence, drew aside the flag concealing the monument to Mother Bickerdyke erected on the courthouse park, the assembled thousands of the Grand Army comrades and members of affiliated organizations loudly cheered, while many were moved to tears by the pathos of the group, in bronze. It was regarded as a most auspicious opening to the fortieth annual meeting of the Illinois Grand Army of the Republic and associated organizations at Galesburg.

The exercises were under the auspices of the Woman's Relief Corps of the state. Mrs. Theodore A. Ruggles Kitson of Boston, who designed the monument, was present and was showered with congratulations.

The exercise opened with a song by the Knox College Glee club and prayer by Mrs. Ruby Loring of Chicago. After the welcome address by Mayor Lake W. Sanborn the unveiling took place, and was followed by a poem to mother Bickerdyke by Z. P. Hotchkiss, junior department commander.

The oration was delivered by Richard Yates, who paid a glowing tribute to the women for the part that they took in the war.

Tanner Speaks

National commander Tanner followed with a fine eulogy of Mother Bickerdyke and the old soldiers. Department commander Smith and others spoke.

The public reception was held last evening in the Central church and a program was given there on which each of the seven state organizations was represented. The business session of the encampment began today. A delegation of 500 arrived from Chicago yesterday afternoon. This company paraded Main street headed by its famous drum corps.

Eliot Callender of Peoria and E. H. Buck of Rock Island are the leading candidates for department commander. Interviews with a number of Chicago delegates shows a strong feeling in favor of Callender.

For Department President

A three cornered fight has developed for the office of president of the department of the W. R. C. Mrs. Ida E. Palmer of Chicago, Mrs. Anna B. Tuck of Plymouth and Mrs. May G. Lincoln of Aurora are the candidates, and the different delegations are busy rounding up votes for their respective candidates.

Mrs. Lincoln is the youngest candidate and has held no department office, but is an earnest worker and has a large following.

Mrs. Tuck is an old and efficient member of the corps and has held several of the more important offices of the state.

Mrs. Palmer is the favorite daughter of the Chicago and Peoria delegates and has been closely identified with the work. She has attended every department convention since 1897 and all but two of the national conventions.

Ladies of the G. A. R.

Lively politics is in prospect before the election of the state officers of the Ladies of the G. A. R. is over. Five candidates are in the field and the fight has already assumed interesting proportions. Mrs. Genevieve Longfield and Mrs. Elizabeth Field are mentioned as being in the lead, each having considerable following. Mrs. Bertha Jahries Gasser of Chicago, is also a candidate for department commander of the Ladies of the G. A. R. The aspirant for the office is a charter member of the first circle organized in 1885.

She is past president of the Ulysses circle of Chicago and comes highly endorsed by the upstate order. Mrs. Gasser is the daughter of a veteran.

Mrs. Martha Van Duser of Chicago and Mrs. Charity Nicols of Moline are also candidates. The interest in the election also extends to the other officers of the order.

Mrs. Alberta L. Till of Chicago, president of the Keturah Hoover Tent No. 10, of the Daughters of Veterans, and Mrs. Lulu Carlin, senior vice president of the same tent, arrived yesterday. A large delegation is expected from the state metropolis, many coming on the special which arrived at noon yesterday with a delegation numbering over 500. It is rumored that Mrs. Randall of Tent No. 2, Austin, Ill., and Miss. Mary Bowery of Tent No. 5, Chicago, are aspirants for the office of department president.

Wednesday, May 23, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

GRAND ARMY ENCAMPMENT

State meeting of veterans is in session at Galesburg

Galesburg, Ill., May 23. -- The fortieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of Illinois was opened auspiciously by the dedication of the Mother Bickerdyke monument, the exercises of which were held in the court house park. Eight thousand people heard the program, comprising comrades of the Grand Army and members of the affiliated organizations from all parts of the state. When the flag concealing the monument was drawn aside by Mrs. Marietta Ervin, the blind member of the Woman's Relief Corps, a great cheer went up and many were moved to tears.

On the platform sat many distinguished members of the Grand Army. The dedication address was delivered by former Governor Richard Yates, who signed the appropriation for the monument, and consisted of an eloquent tribute to the part the women had in the civil war and to Mother Bickerdyke in particular. National department commander Tanner followed with a fine tribute to Mother Bickerdyke. Gen. John C. Smith, of Chicago, then spoke and was followed by others.

Another feature of the day was the arrival of another company of 500 from Chicago. They paraded Main street, headed by a drum corps. In the special car of the Chicago train reserved for officers were Commander-In-Chief James Tanner, Department Commander Gen. John C. Smith, and other well known Chicago veterans.

Every part of the state is well represented. The largest delegations are from Peoria and Rock Island. The former are booming Elliot Callender for department commander, while Rock Island people are for E. H. Buck.

Decatur and Quincy are making a strong contest for the next encampment, and both cities have delegations present. The claim of Decatur is based on the fact that the first Grand Army was organized there. Quincy men claim that Quincy was promised the meeting at the last encampment.

Ida E. Palmer, of Chicago, is at present the leading candidate for president of the Woman's Relief Corps. Five Chicago women are seeking election to the presidency of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Friday, May 25, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS RETURN HOME

Declare encampment at Galesburg was one of best ever held.

Delegates from Elgin to the G. A. R. state encampment at Galesburg returned home last evening. All report the largest and most enjoyable of encampments. Many reunions of regiments were held and incidents of the war recalled. For the first time since its organization a private was elected department commander. E. H. Buck, to whom the honor was given, is a member of the Galesburg post. He was severely injured twice during the war and has a most creditable record for service. The Elgin delegation succeeded in electing Joseph Vollar, past commander of Veteran post, delegate at large to the national encampment at Minneapolis in August.

Friday, May 25, 1906
The Aurora Daily Beacon

ANOTHER HONOR

Mrs. Alice Chambers is Given Position at Galesburg Convention

COMING HOME TODAY

Veterans and Members of Kindred Societies Enjoy their Vacation

Aurora was given additional honor yesterday at the state convention of the G. A. R. and kindred organizations at Galesburg. Mrs. Alice Chambers of Aurora was chosen junior vice president of the Daughters of Veterans and will fill the office during the coming year. This is the fourth state office to come to Aurora at the convention and this city is certainly getting a good share of the honors.

As stated in the Beacon yesterday the officers of the Grand Army were elected yesterday morning and in addition to those already published are the following members of the council of administration:

A. Wright, Woodstock; William Andrews, Rockford; R. M. Campbell, Peoria; A. D. Cadwallader, Lincoln; C. E. Vaughan, Chicago.

Delegates Are Chosen

The following were elected as delegates to the national encampment in Minneapolis:

Henry Emrich, Galesburg; W. Doherty, John S. Hair, C. W. Carr, D. W. Howe, J. W. Bennett, H. B. Martin, E. P. Murdock, M. W. Diffley, Chicago; Robert Oliver, Rockford; J. W. Gale, Bushnell; Davis Cleveland, Prophetstown; S. P. Powelson, Canton; Orrin Williamson, Princeton; E. C. Stillman, Chenoa; James P. Bailey, Danville; J. B. Nowlin, Farmer City; W. A. Wells, Winchester; John Underfanger, Springfield; E. A. Thomas, East St. Louis; B. W. Henry, Vandalia; J. C. Bothwell, Fairfield; George W. Young, Marriam; T. J. Abbott, Rockford; C. H. Castle, Quincy; B. F. Funk, Bloomington; C. C. Duffy, Ottawa; J. D. McClure, Peoria; Joseph Vollar, Elgin; James M. Taylor, Taylorsville; Louis Krughoff, Nashville; Samuel F. Ridgway, Springfield; G. W. G. Estover, Chicago; W. H. Jenkins, Pontiac; James G. Elwood, Joliet; William McConachie, Rock Island; John W. Lusk, Monmouth.

Officers of the Woman's Relief Corps are:

President, Mrs. Mae Lincoln, Aurora
Senior vice president, Mrs. Fannie Blazer, Galesburg.
Junior vice president, Mrs. Mary Moody, Joliet.
Treasurer, Mrs. Lucy Rennick
Chaplain, Mrs. Nettie Nickolson, Kewanee.

Executive board, Mrs. Cora Marshall and Mrs. Mary C. Parker, Chicago; Mrs. Mary Arnold, Watseka; Mrs. Mollie Routzahn, Olney; Mrs. Deliah Peterson, Pullman.

The retiring department president Mrs. Amanda M. Brown of Havana was endorsed for national president.

Officers elected by the Ladies of the Grand Army are:

President, Mrs. Martha Vanduzer, Chicago.
Senior vice president, Mrs. Dora Bales, Springfield.
Junior vice president, Mrs. Mary Hartman, Chicago.
Treasurer, Mrs. Ethel Durfie, Chicago.
Counselor, Mrs. Elizabeth Howell, Chicago.

The Daughters of Veterans chose these officers:

President, Mrs. Josie Blackmon, East St. Louis.
Senior vice president, Mrs. Clara Young, Chicago.
Junior vice president, Mrs. Alice Chambers, Aurora.
Chaplain, Mrs. Rich, Chicago.
Treasurer, Mrs. Clara F. Hoover, Chicago.
Secretary, Mrs. Alice Ammen, Chicago.
Council, Mrs. Gertrude Soderberg, Chicago
 Mrs. Louise Asfeld, East St. Louis
 Mrs. Gertrude Scott, Chicago.
Instituting and Installing officer, Mrs. Mary Flood, Chicago.
Inspector, Mrs. Emma Smith, Chicago.
Guide, Miss. Lillian Phillips, Chicago.

At the business session of the G. A. R. the report of the committee on resolutions contained many pertinent suggestions which if carried into effect would produce some decided changes and work for the advancement of the order. One of the most important recommendations was that the custom of observing Memorial day be transferred from the G. A. R. to the Sons of Veterans, the active work of the observance being passed on to the latter organization. It was urged that the arduous and trying labors connected with the assumption of full charge of all arrangements should be shouldered by the younger generation. It was further urged that all measures consistent with the entry of the G. A. R. be used to bring the Sons of Veterans into closer relations and cooperation with the parent organization.

At the meeting of the Daughters of Veterans at Galesburg, Mrs. Chambers was not only chosen to be junior vice president of the state association, but she was also honored by being elected a delegate to the national meeting. This is considered a great honor as Aurora Tent is the youngest one in the state, having been organized here the first of last December.

The delegates and visitors at the convention have returned home with the exception of Mrs. Mae Lincoln, the new department president of the W. R. C. She is expected home tomorrow having remained in Galesburg to take charge of the state work.

Monday, May 28, 1906
The Aurora Daily Beacon

SOLDIERS AT SCHOOL

Veterans of the Grand Army Visit the Various Institutions

ON WEST SIDE TODAY

Tour will be made of the East Side Schools Tomorrow all day

Members of Aurora Post No. 20 of the Grand Army this morning began three days of strenuousness, when six squads of the veterans, with six men in a squad, began their annual visit to the public schools of Aurora. Today the veterans will make their calls on the schools of the West Aurora district, tomorrow they will visit those of the east division, and on Wednesday the old soldiers will celebrate Memorial day. The members of the Grand Army were down at the Memorial Hall bright and early this morning and promptly at nine o'clock they started out on their day's trip.

The soldiers will pay a visit to all the schools today and tomorrow when each teacher and every pupil will be presented with a miniature flag. The schools to be visited will take in everything in the shape of a place of learning whether it be a regular public school or parochial institution.

There will be speeches made by various members of the Grand Army at the various schools which will be appropriate to the occasion. The annual visit of the Grand Army each year is by order of the national commander, and a report of the number of schools visited will be made to the national commander.

One squad was sent this morning on a visit to the school in Montgomery, another went up to North Aurora and the balance of the veterans visited the various institutions of learning on the west side.

Monday, May 28, 1906
The Aurora Daily Beacon

OLD VETERANS ATTEND CHURCH

Aurora Post of the Grand Army and Affiliated Societies Worship
at First Methodist Church Yesterday

The martial tap of the drum and the call of the bugle yesterday told the story. Memorial day is coming and the boys in blue, with their wives and sweethearts and their sons and daughters and grandchildren were on their way to the special services in the First Methodist church. Considering the flight of time, these boys ought to be old; considering the inroads of death and disease, yet ought to be few and, far between; but the truth of the matter is they have met the enemy of time and destruction as gallantly as they met the rebel Johnnies and with as patent a victory. There were sixty-five of more veterans in line yesterday and they kept time to the fife and drum with the step of indomitable youth. Each one was tacit invitation to "Grow old along with me -- the best is yet to be!"

Nor did Pastor Atchison pull down their cheery banners. He announced that the service was to be "one of rejoicing"; that we had met together to be glad; glad that the war was a thing of the past; glad that in our victory we could read the ultimate and universal victory of right over wrong; glad that we still had so many of these sons of victory and heroism. The church was brave with the waving folds of "Old Glory"; there were banners and colors and uniforms here, there and everywhere until the embers of patriotism were stirred into a ruddy blaze and every man, woman, and child in the audience was ready to follow the leader back into the past and the troublesome days of '61.

"He being dead, yet speaketh"; that was the text Pastor Atchison chose. He reviewed the war, its aims and purposes; he quoted Grant's expression that this was "the wickedest of all wicked wars"; he showed how it was a war of Greek against Greek, brother against brother; and told how, in spite of all this, it was a war for unity and harmony, and that unity and harmony meant liberty.

Thursday, August 16, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

WRITES OF ENCAMPMENT

Captain Patchen tells daily news of G. A. R. reunion at Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 15, 1906.

Editor Daily News:

We had a reunion of the old 52nd Illinois Inf. Vet. Vol., at Soldiers Home near Fort Snelling. The Fort is a stone building about 60 feet in diameter, and 40 feet high. It is in a commanding position overlooking the Mississippi River. The Old Soldiers' Home is on a beautiful spot above Minnehaha Falls, and is commanded by Capt. Compton of the 52nd Illinois. He took care of the old regiment in fine shape, gave us a regular soldier's dinner, good enough for anyone. He said it was the regular fare. We had about 35 members present as follows: Capt. James Compton, Lieut. E. H. Spaulding, Gen. Milo. Sherman, T. Russell, Wm. Walaber, Jacob Nelson, Sheridan Dixson, H. K. Rutman, G. W. Thatcher, E. H. Buck, A. J. Foster, H. N. Patchen, Geo. W. Robinson, Andrew Abbott, Thomas Drake, J. W. Nash, F. B. Perkins, T. W. H. H. Watkins, Albert Dodge, A. L. Beckley, F. Whiting, F. B. Doran, D. C. Smith, Wm. Shattuck, J. L. Smith, Geo. Coats, M. G. Getzelman, W. R. Mose, S. P. Barns, J. J. Eighnny, Chas. Baumgartner, John Hydon, Fred Winger, Chas. Pack, F. H. Taylor, H. Wills and H. Carl.

The weather here is fine and hot. Crowds are coming night and day. I think it will be the largest gathering held yet. Only two old veterans died on the street so far. Mead and I are located on Endicott avenue, near the grand stand. We can see the parade from our windows.

Yours Truly,

H. N. Patchen.

Friday, August 17, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

MAN FROM OHIO HEADS VETERANS

R. B. Brown, of Zanesville is elected Commander-In-Chief.
Ireland made Chaplain
Annual encampment at Minneapolis proves great success.

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 17. -- R. R. Brown, of Zanesville, Ohio, was yesterday elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. Other officers elected were:

Senior vice commander -- William H. Armstrong, Indianapolis.

Junior vice commander -- E. B. Fenton, Detroit.

Chaplain in chief -- Archbishop John Ireland, St. Paul.

Surgeon general -- W. H. Johnson, Lincoln, Neb.

All other officers are staff appointments and will be announced later by the new commander in chief.

The strongest opponents of Mr. Brown for the honor of being commander in chief were G. G. Burton, of Missouri and Capt. P. H. Coney, of Kansas. Both of these withdrew when it was seen that the election of Mr. Brown was a certainty.

Several candidates were nominated for senior and junior vice commanders, but at the last instant all withdrew in favor of Armstrong for the senior position and Fenton for the junior place and both men were chosen unanimously.

Archbishop Ireland had no rivals for the position of chaplain in chief.

Mrs. Carrie Sparkling, of St. Louis, was last night elected national president of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Canteen question still open.

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 17. -- The chances are growing less that the encampment of the Grand Army will take any action either on the question of the abolishment of the canteen from the old soldiers' home or the proposed erection of a monument to Henry Wirz. The committee on resolutions which was in session until a late hour last night did not prepare any statement on either question. It is highly probable, however, that both matters will be brought up on the floor before the adjournment. The personal following of Commander-In-Chief Tanner is strong and it is not probable that his strong recommendation that action be taken in relation to the Wirz affairs will be allowed to pass without notice. The sentiment, however, is steadily growing that the affair is not in such shape at the present time that it is worth the while of the Grand Army to notice it.

Next encampment considered

When the encampment opened today the first question called up for consideration was the selection of a place for the next encampment. At yesterday's session the name of Saratoga was offered by the New York delegation and met with great favor. Today Cincinnati extended an invitation and the veterans were strongly urged to visit the Ohio city.

In the convention of the Ladies of the Grand Army, the project to purchase the McLean house at Appomattox, where Lee surrendered to Grant, and present it to the government as a peace memorial was unanimously endorsed.

Saturday, August 18, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

VETERANS HOME FROM ANNUAL

Report most successful encampment at Minneapolis.

Citizens Entertain

All Elgin boys back last night without a mishap and happy

Life at Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the annual convention of the G. A. R. has been in session this week, proved too strenuous for only one Elginite. All the other local excursionists returned home last evening. They were somewhat weary from the long trip but were liberal in their praise of the hospitality shown them by the residents of Minneapolis. Past commander Mead was taken ill while on the train and when he reached his destination went to a hospital. He has recovered from his illness.

Most successful Encampment.

Of all of the annual encampments yet held the delegates from Elgin claim that the one just closed has been the most successful. There was not a thing which interfered with the pleasure of the trip. A pleasant surprise for the veterans and other members of the party was the Standard Pullman car provided by the Milwaukee road. The weather until Tuesday was pleasant. That evening it began to rain and the downpour continued throughout the night. In the morning the sun rose bright and clear and the streets were in excellent condition for the march. The old soldiers imagined they were on a battlefield Thursday, so warm was the day, everybody sweltered in the heat.

Many short trips to the various places of interest surrounding Minneapolis were made, one of particular interest being the sixteen mile journey to Lake Minnetonka and to the falls of Minnehaha.

Citizens are Hospitable

The Illinois headquarters were found at the West hotel, one of the finest hotels in the city. Several of those going from Elgin were the guests of relatives and friends during their stay at Minneapolis, but reported each morning at the state headquarters.

“People could not have been more hospitable to us than were the residents of Minneapolis,” stated a veteran, “this morning when recounting his experiences while there. Those who could not secure accommodations at the hotel were invited into the private homes and everything was provided for their comfort. Wherever we went people extended a hand of welcome to us. We almost regretted when it was time to return home.”

Friday, September 28, 1906
The Elgin Daily News

COMRADES MEET IN REUNION

Members of 36th Illinois assemble at Wheaton, Ill.

Major Sherman Presides

Next meeting of regiment will be held at St. Charles.

Yesterday was a gala day in Wheaton, the occasion being the fortieth annual reunion of the 36th Illinois volunteers. Places of business were decorated in honor of the survivors of one of the bravest regiments Illinois sent to the great civil war, and “Old Glory” floated everywhere. When the line of march was taken up from the depot to the court house Charles B. Stiles, of this city, marched at the head of the line beating the same drum that he used forty-six years ago, when the regiment started out for the scene of battle.

Resolutions adopted.

The following resolutions were drawn up and adopted by the meeting:

“Our annual reunion of the surviving members of the 36th, while it is an occasion of rejoicing, also has a pathetic side as we listen to the reading of the names of those who have died during the past year.

The following named comrades are reported as having answered to the last muster call:

W. W. Walters, Grand Island, Neb., Co. F.

Ira M. Johnson, Co. F.

Knute Phillip, Co. F.

W. C. Massey, died at Los Angeles, Co. F.

Uriah Foster, Big Rock, Co. E.
Barney Wheeler, Co. E.
Chas. W. Rhoades, Co. B.
Frederick Hanker, Yorkville, Co. H.
Myron J. Amick, Co. B.
Ezra E. Munson, Co. C.
Mortimer Briggs, Co. B., cavalry.
Frederick Smith, Co. H, St. Charles.
Andrew Neville, Los Angeles, minn., Co. G.
C. G. Armour, Co. G.
Geo. W. Moore, Co. A. cavalry.
C. O. Dorr, Co. A. cavalry.
Rev. F. C. Schmidt, Co. H.
Ole Langhan, Co. A, cavalry

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of our deceased comrades.

Resolved, That this report be spread upon the records of the association and that the regimental flag be draped for a period of thirty days.

M. E. Cornell, F. B. Perkins and J. C. Taylor.

Officers are elected

Resolutions were also passed regarding the erection of a monument to the soldiers of Kane county who fought in the civil war, and the board of supervisors was requested to purchase the strip of land near Geneva where the first house was erected in Kane county and erect a monument thereupon. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President -- J. S. Elliot, St. Charles.

Vice President -- George D. Sherman, Elgin.

Secretary and Treasurer -- William F. Sylla, Elgin.

Letters are read

A number of letters were read from absent comrades. After the business meeting an elegant banquet was served by the Ladies of the Relief Corps of Wheaton, and Major George D. Sherman acted as toastmaster at the love feast which followed. Musical selections were given by Mrs. C. M. Ferry, Mrs. H. W. Stough and N. E. Sutcliffe. The entire musical program was under the direction of Miss. Nora Loraine Olin. Next years reunion will be at St. Charles.

The names of those comrades who attended the reunion will be printed in Saturday's news.

Thursday, September 27, 1906
The Aurora Daily Beacon

REGIMENT GATHERS

Meeting of the Old Thirty-Sixth is taking place in Wheaton Today
Large Number Attend It
Regiment is Close to Hearts of Kane County People
Many from here Going

Today was gay day at Wheaton. The little town was decorated in flags and bunting and groups of old soldiers thronged the many corners talking over war days. The event was the fortieth reunion of the Thirty-Sixth regiment of Illinois Volunteers. Aurora was well represented and sent over a delegation of over fifty old soldiers on an early morning car. Elgin, Batavia and St. Charles and many surrounding towns were represented.

The session commenced at eleven o'clock with a business meeting in the court house building. This was followed by a program at which Major George D. Sherman was master of ceremonies. The program was as follows:

Prayer.

Address of welcome, Rev. William Macafee.

Song.

Response to greeting, President Loveless.

Song.

The music was under the direction of Miss. Olin of Wheaton. One of the features of the program was martial music furnished by Charles Stiles, who was drummer boy of the regiment in the days of '61. Following the program the old soldiers formed in line and marched to the Wheaton hall, where dinner was served by the Woman's Relief Corps.

The announcement was made today that the 124th regiment Volunteer infantry will hold its next reunion at Vicksburg, Mississippi. There were two Aurora companies and one Batavia company in the regiment. A large number will attend from this section of the country. The affair will be held from October 24 to 27 on the old battlefield. The last reunion of the regiment was held two years ago in this city and was attended by nearly 100 veterans of the Civil war.

On the old battlefield where the reunion is to be held, the Illinois veterans are arranging to erect a monument. The spot, which has been chosen for its location is exactly where the trenches of the 124th regiment were during the siege of Vicksburg. Kewanee has several companies of the 124th.

1907

The Illinois department of the Grand Army of the Republic held its annual encampment in Decatur on May 22nd. A. C. Matthews, of Pittsfield was elected department commander. Illinois was down to 523 posts with a total membership of 18,211 comrades. Saratoga Springs, New York was the site of the forty-first national encampment on September 12th. The old veterans marched through a driving rain storm. Charles G. Burton was elected Commander-In-Chief. Casualty rates of the old veterans continued to climb with 9,052 deaths in the preceding year. Two veterans died during this years parade. Membership now stood at 222,748. "High Water Mark," here-to-for reserved for the Confederates at Gettysburg, was now describing the membership numbers back in the early 90's for the G. A. R. The organization continued to push for improved pension benefits, this time for the veterans widows. The 36th held their reunion in St Charles on September 26th. There was, however, an error in an earlier news paper claiming the reunion would be on the 24th in Elgin, obviously wrong. Post 20 had a new commander in G. S. Case, adjutant, J. M. Kennedy and quartermaster, Mark D. Yager. Post 20 and the 36th would lose one of their own this year, Christian Zimmer passed at 63 years of age. Ella Knapp was president of Aurora's W. R. C., and B. E. Gould was captain of the Sons of Veterans.

Wednesday, May 22, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

ILLINOIS G. A. R. MEET

Decatur gaily decorated in honor of veterans from all over the state.

Decatur, Ill., May 22. -- Decatur was decked in holiday attire yesterday and was entertaining six or seven thousand members of the Grand Army of the Republic of Illinois and kindred societies. Chicago is represented by George H. Thomas and Grant posts. Today there will be a delegation here from Columbia post. The first day's attendance is the largest in ten years.

The first public exercise was a campfire at Powers' grand opera house in the evening, when Mayor E. S. McDonald for the city and Judge W. C. Johns for the veterans delivered the address of welcome. A response was made by commander Buck. Then followed patriotic talks by commander in chief Brown, Adjutant Gen. O'Neill, Gen. John C. Black and Charles Partridge.

The Grand Army council of administration met this afternoon and passed on the reports. Dec. 31, 1906, there were 523 posts, a loss of four. The total membership is 18,211, a loss of 597. The finances show a balance in the quartermaster's hands of \$2,000 and total expenditures for the year of \$4,691. The total number of deaths of old soldiers reported during the year was 800, of whom 770 were G. A. R. men.

Col. A. C. Matthews, of Pittsfield practically is unopposed for commander. Mrs. Elizabeth Morse of Chicago and Anna B. Tuck of Plymouth are candidates for department president of the W. R. C.

The Union Veterans' association elected the following:

Major general -- W. H. Summers, Springfield.

Division commanders -- Robert C. Markee, Quincy; C. B. Tucker, Chicago; Thomas H. Halligan, Springfield; R. H. Epler, Shelbyville.

Executive committee -- Wade Abbott, Quincy; L. H. Hess, Springfield; C. L. Cureton, Chicago.

The session of the G. A. R will open at 9:30 on Wednesday, when reports will be acted on. An amendment will be offered to make the senior and junior vice commanders of the department life members of the encampment. There will also be an amendment to admit a comrade on application to the posts if in good standing, instead of laying over the application.

Thursday, May 23, 1907

The Elgin Daily News

DECATUR MECCA FOR G. A. R. MEN

Six thousand members of state encampment being entertained there.

Statistics showing depletions in the ranks during the last year.

Decatur, Ill., May 28. -- Decatur is entertaining six thousand visitors brought here by the meeting of the department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic, and six affiliated organizations. The business sessions yesterday were chiefly occupied with reports of officers. In the afternoon a parade was held with eighteen visiting posts and many bands and drum corps in line, 4,000 men in all.

Colonel A. C. Matthews, of Pittsfield, was elected department commander without opposition. Quincy was chosen as the next meeting place. Mrs. Anna B. Tuck, of Plymouth, was elected department commander of the Woman's Relief Corps and W. C. Creighton, of Champaign, was elected commander of the Sons of Veterans.

597 members lost in year

Assistant Adjutant General Charles A. Partridge reported that there were 18,211 members in good standing; net loss during the year 597; loss by death 770; expended

for charity \$4,927. The loss in posts was three, but one new post had been mustered since January 1, 1907. The total value of post property in Illinois is \$164,043.

Chaplain Garrett R. Van Horne reported that 456 posts observed Memorial Day last year, with an attendance of 16,213. The total number of graves decorated was 53,160, the public schools participating being 792 and the number of pupils in line 133,500. He recommended that citizens memorial associations be organized in the cities to cooperate with the posts in observing Memorial Day, decorating and caring for graves, and aiding in disseminating patriotic ideas.

Department Secretary Anna C. Reilein reported for the Woman's Relief Corps that the total number of corps in the state was 228, with members in good standing 11,561. During the year \$4,674 was expended for relief, and the money value of other relief was \$6,993. In all \$2,975 was turned over to the posts. Eight new posts were initiated during the last year. Treasurer Lucy Renick reported \$3,296 cash on hand.

Commander Harry G. Wasson of the Sons of Veterans reported 1,374 members, a gain of 268. The Ladies of the G. A. R. reported six new circles and a total membership of 2,000.

Monday, May 27, 1907
The Aurora Daily Beacon

AIKEN TALKS TO VETERANS GRAND ARMY AT CHURCH

Attend Memorial Sunday Services at Fourth Street Methodist Church

A beautiful Memorial service was held at Fourth Street Methodist church yesterday morning. The G. A. R. and auxiliaries were present in large delegations. The church was handsomely decorated with flags and flowers, palms and bunting. Every seat was taken.

White carnations were given to the old soldiers by two young ladies of the church, Miss. Ruby Lincoln and Miss. Flossie Wood. The Post appreciated this very much as it was something new for Memorial Sunday. The choir under the leadership of C. G. Garrison, gave special music. Rev. Aiken delivered an address on "Out Inheritance" which was well received by the large audience.

At the close of the sermon Mr. Bachus moved a vote of thanks to Rev. Aiken for the fine address, saying that it was one of the best he had ever heard.

After some introductory remarks Mr. Aiken said:

“To the large audience, and if I had the voice, to this saved and wealthy nation, I would say in the words of the Great Captain of all of the hosts of earth and heaven, ‘Other men labored and ye are entered into their labors.’ It is hard for us, born since the war, to realize the labors of the boys in blue. It must ever seem like a dream to us born since that awful struggle. But the fathers remember the shock of that first shot against Fort Sumpter and the call for volunteers.

“The old veteran of the G. A. R who was not physically able this morning to march with his comrades, watches in his armchair at the window or leans upon his cane or crutch on the doorstep, and recalls the day when these gray haired men who tramp past him now, were young and strong. Little more than boys they were ready to go to their death, as they would go to the ball game. When the old veterans think of this picture and then of that it is not that he is disloyal, that tears flow down his cheeks. He would do it all over again, God knows.

“But the old flag waving yonder, has for him a baptism of tears, and there is in his love for it a pathos which his son and his grandson have not yet learned, Let us thank God that love and forgiveness have mended the tattered flag of ’65, and this morning north and south both alike enjoy the blessings of peace, and all have entered into the labors of the old soldiers.

“We must remember our benefactors. To forget them is to be unworthy of our inheritance. Our inheritance has cost the lives of these heroes whose graves we go to garland next Thursday. We owe a debt of love, honor, gratitude to the men who have saved the Union. Today more than when they marched away, keeping step to the music, more than when we first laid flowers on their graves, should we be able to appreciate their labors. As the landscape is most beautiful at a distance, so as this nation steps out where it can see more plainly the labors of these men, will we appreciate our inheritance.

“O friends let these Sons of Veterans and Ladies of the G. A. R., never have reason to make the charge of ingratitude against us. But in my humble opinion the living soldier should be as gratefully remembered as the hero who sleeps beneath the garlanded soil. Oh friends if you have any flowers for these soldiers give them now, that they may enjoy them, do not wait until they are dead, and then scatter flowers on their graves. Their pathway down to the tomb should be made as beautiful as the mound that marks the last resting place of their comrades.

“Sons and daughters of the Revolution, say to their illustrious ancestors, not that they were men of letters, men of wealth, but simply and grandly, that they were soldiers of the Revolution.

So I believe it will be with the fame of these men and those they fought beside, and so heroically died, on the battlefield. The proudest boast of their children and grand children will be that their fathers were Union soldiers who, with Sherman and Sheridan, Logan and Lincoln, saved a nation and ransomed the race.

“Do not let these men be dealt with as a niggardly poor-master would deal with the unfortunate of his town. They should be held as the nobility of the land.

“Members of the G. A. R., year by year, as you gather in services like these your ranks grow thinner, your steps more feeble, your forms more bent and, your hair more white. One by one the living are crossing the dead line, to join their comrades in the silent land, and when we look at the mound that marks the last camping ground, we say these men labored and we are entered into their labors.”

August 23, 1907

The Aurora Beacon News

ANGEL CALLS UPON CHRISTIAN ZIMMER

Well known veteran of the civil war dies after Long Illness

HAD A THRILLING CAREER

War record of the deceased was that of a Hero
Short sketch of his career both official and civil.

Was once Chief of Police and Deputy Sheriff under John Kelley.

After a brave struggle with an insidious disease which had extended over several months, Christian Zimmer, one of the best known of Aurora's citizens, passed away at his home on Pennsylvania avenue, last evening five minutes before six o'clock.

Christian Zimmer, or "Chris" Zimmer as he will always be remembered, had been confined to his home for two months with a complication of liver and stomach troubles, at times suffering intense pain. True to his character as one of the bravest soldiers whoever enlisted in Aurora, he had borne the pain without murmuring, his mind during the weary days and nights being filled with thoughts of his old comrades and the affairs of Post 20, of which he had always been a hard working member.

Yesterday afternoon he suffered increasingly, but as the end drew near he became quiet and sank into the dreamless sleep which knows no waking.

Christian Zimmer was born in Baden, Germany, July 24, 1844. He came to America with his parents when a child of four years, living in Lancaster, N. Y., until November, 1854, when they came to Aurora and moved into the house on Walnut street next to the Nichols property.

Mr. Zimmer married Miss. Emeline Stauffer, of the then Turner Junction, and four children were born of this union, Miss. Carrie Kennedy, of Minneapolis, William C.

Zimmer of Springfield, Mrs. Marie Hartman of Chicago, and Albert who died at the age of seven, eight years ago.

Enlisted in 36th Regiment

He enlisted, August 12, 1861, in Company B, 36th Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers, and was mustered into the service September 23, 1861 and re-enlisted as a veteran near Knoxville, Tenn., January 1, 1864. He was mustered out of service at New Orleans October 8, 1865.

With the old 36th he passed through the following battles: Pea Ridge, Ark., March 6, 1862. He was taken prisoner at VanBuren, Ark., and held one month.

He fought the Battles of Perryville, Ky., October 8, 1862; of Stone River, or Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862; Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863; Chattanooga and Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863; Resaca, Georgia, May, 14, 1864; Andersonville, Georgia, May 17, 1864; Dallas, Georgia, May 25, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. June 27, 1864; Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864; Front of Atlanta, Ga., July 23, 1864; Spring Hill, Tenn., November 29, 1864; Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864 and was here severely wounded in the thigh and was taken to the hospital in Louisville, Ky., afterward coming home on furlough. He returned to the south and remained until mustered out in 1865.

Was a Hero

Many of those who have seen the old tattered stained flag of the 36th in G. A. R. hall have heard the story of Chris Zimmer's heroism upon the day he received his terrible wound. The old flag in its glass case was carried around to the various schools upon Memorial Day, one of the last days the departed commander was able to be about.

In the thrilling history of the old 36th the story is told in part in the following words: "A prominent feature in the charge was the conspicuous position occupied by the regiment flag. In the wild dash the flag of the 36th ever in the front, was first borne by Sergeant William R. Toll of Company C, who fell severely wounded before attaining half the distance. Sergeant Chris Zimmer of Company B snatched the flag from his wounded comrade, leaped forward with it to the trenches, but while passing over the bullet scathed interval, the staff was splintered through several times while its folds were rent in tatters. Zimmer was among the first to reach the works with the flag and in the hand to hand encounter the flag was held proudly aloft. Observing the danger which threatened the left of the line, Zimmer sprang forward shouting "Hurrah, boys for the flag -- to the left." The words were scarcely uttered when there was a blinding sheet of flame from muzzles of three rebel guns and Zimmer fell with bones shattered and blood pouring from the gaping wounds."

He was taken to the rear, thence to the hospital, then home.

In the old 36th there are but few remaining in and around Aurora. Of these are Frank Harral, H. B. Douglas, Samuel Hitchcock, J. B. Kennedy, Joseph F. Ingham, G.

L. Dorr, of Sugar Grove, E. E. Dyer, J. Holkyard, Deloss Hawkins of Chicago, John Hollering, Carl Miller, Byron Streeter, J. E. Way and W. VonOhlen of Hinckley.

Was a City Marshal

After the war deceased followed his trade of blacksmith at the Q shops until his appointment of city marshall in 1881, which he held until 1885, he was then deputy sheriff under John Kelley at Geneva for a year, and after that was a member of the police force until his retirement January 1, 1896.

He has been commander of Post 20 many times, acting in that capacity last year and the previous. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 254 and has been worshipful master of that lodge. He was a member of Aurora commandery, No. 22, K. T.

Deceased is survived by his widow, two daughters and one son, his father Christian Zimmer Sr., of Aurora, and the following brothers and sisters, John Zimmer and Ferdinand Zimmer of Aurora, William Zimmer of Portland, Ore., and Mrs. H. A. Williams of Chicago.

Funeral Arrangements

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the home, 168 Pennsylvania avenue, and at 3:00 o'clock from G. A. R. hall, and will be in charge of Post 20 and Masonic Lodge No. 254. The various fraternities of which the deceased was a member, as well as the patriotic societies will attend in a body. Interment will take place in West Aurora cemetery.

Only this last year Mr. Zimmer with his wife visited his old battlefield at Chattanooga and Mission Ridge and innumerable souvenirs from this as well as other historic spots completely fill a museum maintained at the home. Chris Zimmer was a brave man, a good soldier and a fine citizen. He leaves behind him many sorrowing hearts. He has fought the good fight, the lights are out and taps have been sounded.

August 25, 1907

The Aurora Beacon News

COMRADES SAY LAST RITES FOR CHRIS ZIMMER

G. A. R. is packed to Overflowing by friends of the late Commander of Post.

One of the largest funerals ever held in Aurora was that of the late Christian Zimmer. Services were held at the home on Pennsylvania avenue at 2:30 o'clock and at 3:00 o'clock at G. A. R. in charge of Post 20. The members of the Post acting as pall bearers were J. M. Kennedy, John Hubbard, J. F. Harral, M. D. Yager, C. B. Rukgaber and George Cowdrey.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. W. A. Mathews after which a farewell service to the old soldier was conducted by his comrades of Post 20.

G. A. R. was crowded to overflowing while the lawn surrounding the hall was packed with those who came to pay their last respects to the man who had made so many friends by an honorable life. The floral tributes were among the most beautiful ever seen in the city and were sufficient in number to completely fill a carriage.

From the hall to the West Side Cemetery the pall bearers were members of the Masonic Lodge, No. 254, of which deceased was a member. The bearers were Daniel Lilley, J. Dana Hall, John Cherry, W. T. Meagher, G. S. Thompson and J. S. Moses.

At the cemetery the beautiful and impressive ceremony of the Masonic fraternity was held. The oration was delivered by James McCredie.

In addition to the members of Post 20 and the Masonic Lodge No. 254, marching in a body, the Women's Relief Corps to a number of 100 were in attendance, as were the Order of the Knights Templars, No. 22, and the various patriotic societies.

Thursday, September 3, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

THIRTY-SIXTH'S REUNION

Kane county civil war veterans to hold annual meeting in Elgin
September 24.

Announcement was made today by city clerk Sylla that the annual reunion of the Thirty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry of which he is secretary, will be held in this city Thursday, Sept. 24.

Plans for the affair are not yet complete. The business session will be held in the city council chamber at the city hall and the social gathering at the First Baptist church where dinner will be served by the ladies of the congregation.

The Thirty-Sixth regiment enlisted from Kane county and was one of the best known organizations from this state during the civil war. Its reunions are always most enjoyable affairs. Last year the veterans met at St. Charles.

Thursday, September 12, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

DEATH CLAIMS 9,052 G. A. R. MEN

Figures out at encampment
Roosevelt "Veteran's Friend."

Saratoga, N.Y., Sept. 12. -- The ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic assembled here in the forty-first national encampment were depleted during the last twelve months by the death of 9,052 members. To offset this there were 6,506 old soldiers who joined the organization. These figures were made public today in the report of Adjutant General Joseph W. O'Neill of the organization.

On June 30 of last year the total roll of the G. A. R. was figured as 222,748. The high water mark of membership was reached in 1899, when there were 409,489 veterans enlisted. The total number of posts is given by Gen. O'Neill as 5,976 and during the last year \$95,314 has been spent for relief.

President Roosevelt was called the "veteran's friend" in the annual address made today by commander in chief Robert B. Brown. In opening his remarks the commander in chief paid a tribute to the memory of General U. S. Grant and urged a systematic canvas for new members to offset the inroads of death. He urged a bill making the minimum pension to soldier's widows \$12 a month. In speaking of the chief executive he said:

"President Roosevelt is the friend of the veteran soldiers and sailors of the Republic. Official acts, public declarations and assurances in private conferences warrant the statement that no chief executive in the history of the nation has held or could hold in higher regard the services of the men who saved the union, and no president has evinced a stronger desire to adequately recognize that service and its results than Theodore Roosevelt."

Thursday, September 12, 1907
The Aurora Daily Beacon

GRAND ARMY HOST MARCHES IN RAIN
TEN THOUSAND VETERANS IN PARADE AT SARATOGA
BRAVE PATHETIC SCENE

Immense Throng Cheer the Old Soldiers
Resolutions that the encampment probably will Adopt

Saratoga, N.Y., Sept. 12. -- The Grand Army of the Republic held its parade Wednesday -- its forty-first -- in memory of the days of war. Ten thousand veterans, the remnant of the once victorious army whose scores of thousands passed in review at the national capital when the war was over, braved a driving storm to march again beneath their battle flags.

Unmindful of the stress of the storm, as the days of "sixty-one," when youth and vigor and love of the flag knew no physical bounds, those that were left passed in review over a measured mile through village streets -- a distance suited to their gathering years. Thousands of spectators, with heads uncovered, watched the faltering lines bearing the old banners with unsteady hands.

Undeterred By The Rain

The rain fell with steadily increasing fury as they marched, but through the drenching torrents they kept on. For an hour and more the veterans walked between lines of cheering people, keeping step to the music, which again and again right cheerily played "How Dry I am" and "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie."

Gov. Charles E. Hughes, his military staff, the national officers of the Grand Army and distinguished visitors stood on the reviewing stand all the while, sheltered from the driving storm only by a flimsy covering of cloth, through which the rain swept almost unchecked.

For an hour the veterans marched, and when the last faltering rank had passed in review the rain ceased, the skies cleared and the sun broke forth. The dripping but undaunted old soldiers found their way to lodging places, satisfied that a trifling rain storm had no more arrested their onward march, than it had in the days of the war.

Hughes Praises Their Courage

It was not a cheerful day nor a good one for men burdened with the weight of years. "I have never seen anything so inspiring or so Pathetic," said Gov. Hughes when the last dripping veteran had passed the stand. "When the serious consequences of the march through the rain to many of the veterans are considered, it is a revelation of the courage and determination of the American people seldom seen. It should serve as an inspiration and encouragement to us all. It was splendid, magnificent."

Thirty-six veterans are in the local hospital. The condition of none of them, however, it was stated Wednesday night, is serious. They are nearly all men who did not take part in the parade, but who suffered from the exertion of walking about the streets.

Begin Business Thursday

The business sessions of the encampment begin Thursday, when Commander Brown will present his annual address and other official reports will be read. The annual election of officers will probably take place in the afternoon.

Former County Judge, Charles G. Burton of Nevada, Mo., undoubtedly will be elected Commander-In-Chief. Toledo, O., seems likely to be the next meeting place.

Resolutions, it is expected, will be introduced asking the increase of the pensions of veterans' widows to \$12 per month; urging Congress to repeal the anti-canteen law, and authorizing the formation of branches of the "Patriotic Ancient and Honorables," a society created for non-veterans who desire to perpetuate the principles and work of the Grand Army when its members shall have died.

Wednesday night Memorial post of Cleveland, O., gave an illustrated "muster-in" service in Convention hall.

The last open meeting of the week will be a national camp fire and muster Thursday night in Convention hall.

Friday, September 13, 1907
The Aurora Daily Beacon

CHARLES G. BURTON NEW CHIEF OF G. A. R. MISSOURI MAN ELECTED OVER THREE COMPETITORS OTHER OFFICERS CHOSEN

Next Years Encampment to be held in Toledo
Parade proves Fatal to two of the Veterans

Saratoga, N. Y., Sept., 12. -- Charles G. Burton, of Nevada, Mo., a former member of congress, was elected Thursday Commander-In-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, which is holding its forty-first annual encampment here.

The new commander-in-chief was opposed by three candidates, Gen. John T. Wilder, of Knoxville, Tenn.; Charles Burrows, of Rutherford, N. J. and Patrick H. Coney, of Topeka, Kan. His plurality was more than 300.

Other officers elected by the encampment were as follows: Lewis C. Griffith, Troy, N. Y., senior vice commander; William M. Scott, Atlanta, Ga., junior vice

commander; R. Lane Taneyhill, Baltimore, Md., surgeon general; Bishop Samuel Fallows, Chicago, chaplain in chief.

Toledo, O., was selected as the place for the next meeting for the next encampment. The date will be fixed by the national council of administration.

Busy Day for the Veterans

The greater part of the day's session was devoted to this portion of the business. In the morning the report of the officers and the annual address of Commander-In-Chief Brown were presented: In the afternoon the reports of the two committees were received and adopted. This included the resolutions of the committee on pension, which endorsed an effort to increase the pensions of veterans' widows to \$12 per month, and that of the committee on the Commander-In-Chief's address which approved all his recommendations.

Resolutions urging the repeal of the anti-canteen law, with several minor propositions, were considered Thursday night by the committee on resolutions, which report at the final session Friday.

Annual Campfire

At the sound of a bugle blown by Benjamin F. Simonds, of Troy, N. Y., who sounded the alarm when the Merrimac was first sighted at Newport News, the annual encampment campfire was called to order Thursday evening. The speakers included Gen. Louis Wagner of Philadelphia, past commander-in-chief; Gen. John C. Black of Washington, D.C., past commander in chief, and Bishop Samuel Fallows of Chicago, the newly elected chaplain in chief.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. Kate E. Jones of New York city national president. The Ladies of the G. A. R. elected as their national presiding officer Mrs. Clara I. Sawyer of South Portland, Me.

As a result of the parade Wednesday two veterans died Thursday. Ensign S. Bunce, past commander of John E. Griswold post, of Troy, N.Y., was stricken on Broadway, dying shortly after of heart disease caused by exposure and over-exertion. Eli S. Robinson, of Post No. 234, New York city, also was overcome and died.

Friday, September 13, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

Annual campfire called to order by bugler who sounded alarm at
Newport News.

Saratoga, N.Y., Sept. 13. -- Charles G. Burton of Nevada, Mo., a former member of congress, who yesterday was elected commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, which is holding its forty-first annual encampment here, was opposed by three candidates -- Gen. John T. Wilder, of Knoxville, Tenn., Charles Burrows, of Rutherford, N. J., and Patrick H. Coney, of Topeka, Kan. His plurality was more than 300.

Other officers elected were:

Senior vice commander -- Lewis C. Griffith, Troy, N. Y.

Junior vice commander -- William M. Scott, Atlanta, Ga.

Surgeon general -- Dr. Lane Tanneyhill, Baltimore, Md.

Chaplain in chief -- Bishop Samuel Fallows, Chicago.

Toledo was selected as the place of meeting for the next encampment. The date will be fixed by the national council of administration.

In the morning the report of the officers and the annual address of Commander In Chief Brown were presented. In the afternoon the reports of two committees were received and adopted. This included the resolutions of the committee on pensions, which endorsed an effort to increase the pensions of veterans widows to \$12 a month, and that of the committee on the commander in chief's address, which approved all of his recommendations. Resolutions urging the appeal of the anti canteen law, with several minor propositions, are being considered by the committee on resolutions, which will report at the final session.

At the sound of the bugle blown by Benjamin F. Simonds, of Troy, N.Y., who sounded the alarm when the Merrimac was first sighted at Newport News, the annual campfire was called to order last evening.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. Kate E. Jones of New York City national president. The Ladies of the G. A. R. elected as their national presiding officer, Mrs. Clara L. Sawyer of South Portland, Me.

As a result of the parade two veterans died. Ensign S. Bunce, past commander of John E. Griswold post of Troy, N.Y., was stricken on Broadway, dying shortly after of heart disease caused by exposure and over exertion. Eli S. Robinson of post No. 234, New York City, also was overcome and died.

Saturday, September 14, 1907
The Aurora Daily Beacon

G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT
VETERANS INSTALL OFFICERS AND ADJOURN UNTIL 1908

Resolutions urging Legislation on various matters Adopted
Appointment of Commander-In-Chief

Saratoga, N.Y., Sept. 14. -- Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic who have been attending the forty-first annual encampment of the organization concluded their business Friday and adjourned until 1908.

Installation of officers elected Thursday, adoption of several recommendations from the committee on resolutions and commander in chief Burton's announcement of appointive officers took up the time of the veterans.

The officers were installed by Robert B. Beath, of Philadelphia, past commander in chief. The encampment adopted the report of the committee on resolutions which recommended legislation by congress authorizing the erection of a soldiers' hospital in the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico; increasing widows' pensions to \$12 a month; providing some suitable memorial for the soldiers and sailors of the Union army who were in the south when the war began and did not join the southern forces, and directing that the widows of soldiers buried in the national cemetery may be buried beside their husbands. These recommendations will be incorporated in bills to be presented to congress.

Commander-In-Chief Burton's appointments will include the following: Jere T. Drew, Kansas City, Mo., adjutant general; Charles Burrows, Rutherford, N. J., quartermaster general; Col. D. R. Stowitz, Buffalo, inspector general; L. L. Collins, Minneapolis, Minn., judge advocate general; J. Henry Heacomb, Philadelphia, assistant general and custodian of records; J. Corie Winans, Toledo, O., senior aide-de-camp and chief of staff.

Thursday, September 26, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

FAMOUS 36TH AT ST CHARLES

More than 100 attend annual reunion of regiment.
Fine program enjoyed by veteran fighters in civil war.

Surviving members of the old 36th Illinois regiment gathered in St Charles this morning in attendance of the annual reunion and assembly. More than 100 members of the regiment gathered at 11 o'clock at the Irwin hall.

Last year the reunion was held at Wheaton and 130 members of the organization from nearly every state in the union were present. City clerk William F. Sylla is secretary of the organization.

The program prepared for the day was as follows:

11 a.m. Business session at the Irwin hall, which was followed by the assembly of veterans and a march under the command to Glos hall. Drummer C. B. Stiles, of this city, led the regiment.

1 p.m. Dinner at Glos hall.

2 p.m. Social at Glos hall.

Vice President Major George B. Sherman, had charge of the afternoon social.

The 36th was organized in Aurora in September 1861, with the late Nicholas Greusel in command. On September 24th the regiment started for the front, and what a memorable day it was in the city on their departure.

During the unpleasantness the command was in many of the hardest fought battles, losing many of their officers and men. It was mustered out at camp butler, Ill., Oct. 17, 1865, with only a remnant of the original command, with one of the best records of any of the hundreds of regiments which enlisted in the service of Uncle Sam.

Among the many who attended the reunion was John Heir of Morris, Ill., who, though 81 years of age, has attended every reunion of the regiment since the war. He is probably the oldest surviving veteran of the 36th.

Thursday, September 26, 1907
The Elgin Daily News

36TH REGIMENT 'VETS' HOLD ANNUAL REUNION

OLDEST MEMBER IS JOHN HEIS, MORRIS, ILL.
IS ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN AFFAIR

Officers elected at the annual reunion of the 36th Illinois Infantry veterans at St. Charles today were as follows:

President, George Sherman, Elgin.

Vice President, John Hewitt, Elgin.

Secretary-treasurer, William F. Sylla, Elgin.

It was decided to hold the 1908 reunion in this city.

The remnant of the 36th Illinois Regiment, veteran volunteers, gathered today for the forty-first time in annual reunion at St. Charles. Almost a complete attendance of the surviving members was recorded, and particularly was the attendance marked of those from a distance.

The regiment was organized in this county, and the greater number of the members have always resided in this vicinity, and each year have assembled in memory of the days from '61 to '65. The company of men were organized into the association immediately after they were disbanded in 1865, and as the ranks have grown smaller each year the union has become stronger.

204 Killed in Battle

Attached to the records of the regiment is the fact that 204 men were killed in the regiment in battle. This record was exceeded by only one other regiment in the state. The following engagements were participated in:

Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Relief of Knoxville, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Marietta, Kenesaw Mountain, Franklin, Nashville, Vicksburg and Atlanta.

Charles B. Stiles of Elgin was present, and had with him the same drum that he used during the war. This drum has been used at every gathering of the soldiers since the disbanding, and has become one of the coveted curios of the regiment.

Oldest Member Attends

John Heis, of Morris, Ill., who is the oldest member of the regiment, was present and participated in the pleasures of the occasion as heartily as the youngest. Mr. Heis has not missed a reunion since the organization was organized.

The following program was carried out:

Major George D. Sherman, toastmaster.

Prayer, Rev. John Lee.

Song, quartet -- Miss. Richmond, Mrs. Underwood, Mr. Stumbaugh, Mr. Lewis.
Welcome address, Hon. F. B. Hunt.
Song, quartet.
Response to greeting, President J. F. Elliott.
Song, quartet.
Short talks and social visiting.

Thursday, September 26, 1907
The Aurora Daily Beacon

ELGIN TAKES ALL OFFICES
NEXT MEETING PLACE TOO

The Thirty-Sixth Regiment holds Annual Reunion
in St. Charles Today

Thirty five Aurora survivors joined their comrades of the famous "fighting" Thirty-sixth regiment to day at the forty-first annual reunion held in St. Charles.

Following a short business session at Irwin's hall, at which officers were elected and eighty members of the old regiment responded to the roll call, the veterans formed in line with drummer George Stiles of Elgin beating a march with the old drum he used throughout the war in Company A, at the head of the procession. The veterans marched to Glos hall in East Main street where a dinner was served at one o'clock by the ladies of the First M. E. church.

Post Prandial Program

The post prandial features of the dinner were as follows:

Remarks by Major George D. Sherman, toastmaster.

Address of welcome, Mayor Frank B. Hunt.

Response, Captain John F. Elliott, president of the regiment.

Selections of war songs by a quartet composed of Mrs. F. P. Underwood, Mrs. Hattie Richmond, Paul Mellander and J. C. Stumbaugh of St. Charles.

Stories and reminiscences by a number of the veterans closed the reunion. A total of 175 were present at the dinner, the reunion being the largest and most successful held by the regiment in several years.

Elgin Captures Honors

At the business session this morning Elgin was decided upon as the place for holding the next reunion and the following officers were selected.

President -- Major George Sherman, Elgin.

Vice President -- John Hewitt, Elgin.

Secretary -- William F. Sylla, Elgin.

1908

A new President would enter the White House this year, William Howard Taft, Republican. On May 20 the forty-second annual encampment of the Illinois department of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Quincy. Joseph Rosenbaum of Chicago was elected commander. This was a big convention for the Fox Valley boys as Aurora was selected for the site of the 1909 state encampment, her first state encampment! The old post 20 veterans would have their hands full putting such an endeavor together. The national encampment was held in Toledo, Ohio beginning September 3rd. Henry M. Nevius of New Jersey was elected Commander-In-Chief. The handwriting was officially on the wall when the G. A. R. agreed to place a three year moratorium on any "old soldier Legislation requests" of congress. It may have been political posturing on the part of the G. A. R. leadership, but, the fact remained that the organ's membership was now at 224,157 with no where to go but down. The Thirty-sixth Illinois held their reunion at Elgin on September 24th. Fred Sly, of Sandwich was elected president with John C. Taylor, also of Sandwich, as vice president. Wm. F. Sylla once again served as secretary-treasurer, his eleventh term.

Wednesday, May 20, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

ILLINOIS G. A. R. MEETS
ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT OF VETERANS OPENS AT QUINCY

Quincy, Ill., May 20. -- The annual encampment of the Illinois department of the G. A. R. began Tuesday. There are 5,000 visitors in the city, and as many more are expected Wednesday.

With the Grand Army meets its allied organizations, the W. R. C., Ladies of the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans, and Association of War Musicians.

Friday, May 22, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

AURORA MAY INVITE THEM VETERANS RETURN HOME

NEXT ENCAMPMENT OF THE ILLINOIS G. A. R. IS LIKELY TO BE HELD HERE

Aurora delegations to the annual state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and kindred organizations at Quincy returned home last night on a special train with the Chicago delegations.

Aurora did not extend an official invitation to the encampment to meet here next year, but it is expected that this will be done. Alton wanted the encampment, but the Chicago delegates said that it was too far to go so long as the railroads would not make special rates. The Chicago men insisted on coming to Aurora, and the matter of location was left to the executive committee.

Aurora To Be Active

It is altogether likely that Aurora will invite the encampment here. Since returning home the members of Aurora Post 20 have been actively at work, and a public meeting will probably be called to start the ball rolling. The Grand Army men here feel they cannot shoulder this load alone, with all of the thousand and one details to look after, and the money to be raised for department headquarters, places of meeting, entertainment, etc. They are correct in this. But the people of the city have never been found wanting yet when it comes to, individual and collective hustling, and the spirit of enthusiasm is already apparent.

Every Aurora citizen should put his shoulder to the wheel and show the visitors the best time they ever had at an encampment.

The encampment closed with a sham battle at Baldwin Park, which was attended by 10,000 persons despite a heavy rain.

At the business meeting officers were elected as follows:

G. A. R.

Department commander -- Joseph Rosenbaum, Chicago.

Senior vice -- M. Wilkinson, Princeton.

Junior vice -- J. R. West, Elgin.

Chaplain -- Henry C. First, Rock Island.

Medical director -- Alfred Cote, Chicago.

Assistant adjutant general -- Col. Charles L. Partridge, Waukegan.

Rosenbaum received 258, Murdock, 144 and H. S. Wells of Quincy, 56 votes.

Woman's Relief Corps

President -- Mrs. Elizabeth Morse, Chicago.

Senior vice -- Mrs. Blanche Calhoun, Decatur.

Junior vice -- Mrs. Ella Rue, Jacksonville.

Treasurer -- Mrs. Louise Spaulding Scoville, Rockford.

Chaplain -- Mrs. Emma Burch, Chicago.

Three ballots were taken on president. Mrs. Morse winning over Ida Palmer of Chicago by a vote of 207 to 196.

Following are the officers elected by the Ladies of the G. A. R.:

President -- Mrs. Adelaide Reed, Chicago.

Senior vice -- Mrs. Sylvia Hall, Moline.

Junior vice -- Mrs. Minnie Bishop, Quincy.

Counsellor -- Mrs. Genevieve Longfield, Springfield.

Chaplain -- Mrs. Julia Barber, Joliet.

Council of administration -- chairman, Mrs. Mary Duddleston (retiring secretary); Mrs. Ethel Durfee and Mrs. Mattie Cooper, all of Chicago.

Mrs. Rebecca Lewis, of Aurora was elected division president of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans. Mrs. Fannie B. Henderson, division treasurer of the same organization. Mrs. Mattie Farwell, chief of staff, and Mrs. J. May Ricker, secretary.

The ladies announced that on the whole the meeting was satisfactory and that whatever slips there might have been, were due entirely to the fact that the Aurora delegation from the W. R. C. was thirteen in number, a sufficient hoodoo to defeat Mrs. Henry Reilein as a department officer.

Monday, June 1, 1908

The Aurora Daily Beacon

MEMORIAL DAY IS OBSERVED BY THE AURORA VETERANS

CITY ATTORNEY CHARLES F. CLYNE DELIVERS
THE ADDRESS OF THE DAY

PARADE IS IMPOSING

One of the most satisfactory Memorial days ever observed by the people of Aurora was that of Saturday, when the annual exercises of strewing the graves of the dead soldiers with blossoms of spring took place.

The exercises of the day under the auspices of Post 20 of the Grand Army of the Republic were very largely attended. At the opera house in the morning City Attorney Charles F. Clyne delivered the Memorial day address and after dinner at the Memorial hall the veterans and the auxiliary societies visited the various cemeteries and placed flowers upon the graves.

The members of Post 20 who have died since May 30, 1907, follow:

C. Zimmer, August 21, 1907.
Joseph Ingham, September 6, 1907.
J. W. Rice, September 16, 1907.
George W. Reed, September 19, 1907.
J. M. Bigger, September 28, 1907.
N. J. Thomas, November 13, 1907.
J. Lyke, November 20, 1907.
J. H. Mostow, November 20, 1907.
Theodore Howard, December 10, 1907
Andrew Welch, December 25, 1907.
H. Harris, December 25, 1907.
M. Maloney, February 11, 1908.
George Bartholomew, March 9, 1908.
A. J. Joslyn, March 15, 1908.

The opera house was filled to the doors at the exercises in the morning. The decorations were profuse and the American flag predominated. The veterans of Post 20 assembled at Memorial hall and were seated in a body at the opera house.

John L. Walker is Chairman

John L. Walker, chairman of the committee on arrangements was chairman of the day. The program was carried out as published in the Beacon on Friday. One of the most impressive numbers was a tableau showing a little girl scattering flowers upon a veteran's grave. Little Miss. Alice L. Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans, and the granddaughter of a veteran, appeared in the tableau, which was arranged by the Sons and Daughters of Veterans.

The oration by city attorney Clyne was a splendid effort, and he was frequently interrupted with outbursts of applause. This was especially true when he paid a glowing tribute to Abraham Lincoln and the volunteer soldiers of America and cheers and applause greeted his laudatory mention of President Roosevelt.

Thursday, September 3, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

TWELVE THOUSAND VETERANS IN LINE

Parade of the Grand Army is a Great Success

IS REVIEWED BY MR. TAFT

His Dramatic meeting with Senator Foraker elicits Cheers
Amusing sights among the Marching Warriors

Toledo, O., Sept. 3 -- For an hour or more Wednesday, the grand parade of the Grand Army of the Republic, with its attendant throngs, served merely as the background of a dramatic incident as has enlivened a political campaign in some years, namely the public meeting of William H. Taft and his erstwhile rival, Senator Joseph Benson Foraker.

The Republican leader and his antagonist politically of the pre-convention canvas met in the official reviewing stand, shook hands, smiled and exchanged greetings, while from thousands of throats came cheer after cheer as the significance dawned upon the beholders.

Parade a Great Success

The parade was remarkable from the absence of accidents and cases of exhaustion, and for the good order which prevailed, not only among the dense crowds along the line of march, but throughout the city. Mayor Whitlock stated that despite the crowd of 100,000 visitors there had been fewer accidents, fewer misdemeanors and less work for the police generally than on any average day of the year. Aside from a veteran who was slightly bruised by being hit by an ambulance, there were no accidents, and not more than a dozen visited the hospital as a result of fatigue.

Estimates of the number of veterans in line varied from 8,000 to three times that number, but it is doubtful if there were more than 12,000. The various posts marched with half a block between them, and the departments were even farther apart. There was a good ten feet separating each row of marchers and it was this liberality of space which made it require four hours to pass the reviewing stand. Fully half the veterans wore the badges of either Michigan or Ohio.

Some Amusing Features

Some of the veterans wise in experience of parades carried camp stools over their arms, and whenever there was a halt they promptly sat down, to the envy of their comrades. The first amusing incident of the march came with the marching past of the Rhode island detachment. Two veteran tars, in sailor suits and each carrying a broom

bearing the placard, "Who won the battles of '61 and '65? We did." danced along the way and were the targets of many flowers. The Berdan sharpshooters carried their name on a 12 foot cloth sustained by poles at each end and borne by two men. The wind being brisk, propelled the bearers faster than they cared to go, and they were compelled to strain at the banner at every step to avoid being carried forward at a run.

Friday, September 4, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

COL. NEVIUS IS ELECTED
NEW JERSEY MAN MADE CHIEF OF GRAND ARMY

Only One Ballot Necessary
Salt Lake City may get the next National Encampment

Toledo, O., Sept. 4. -- Col. Henry M. Nevius of Red Bank, N.J. was elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic Thursday. The election occurred on the first ballot, which gave Mr. Nevius 454 votes compared with 254 for former Gov. Van Sant of Minnesota, and 90 for L. T. Dickason of Illinois. On motion of the former Minnesota executive the nomination of the New Jersey man was made unanimous.

Other officers were chosen as follows: Senior vice commander, J. Kent Hamilton of Ohio; junior vice commander, C. C. Royce of California; chaplain in chief, J. F. Spence of Tennessee; surgeon in chief, G. Lane Tannehill of Maryland.

The selection of a city for the next encampment will be made some time Friday, and although the weight of sentiment so far expressed, is in favor of Salt Lake City, this city is certain to meet with opposition. It is stated that stories that Atlanta was after the encampment this year had been set afloat by unauthorized persons, but the retiring vice commander declared that when Atlanta's new auditorium was completed next year his city would make a decided bid for the honor of entertaining the veterans.

Col. Nevius, a native of New Jersey, was studying law with the late Russell A. Alger of Michigan when the war broke out, and enlisted from the state with the Lincoln cavalry. He rose to a commission with the Seventh Michigan and the 25th New York cavalry regiments, and lost an arm in front of Fort Stevens when the Union army was engaged with Gen. Early. Col. Nevius, besides being twice department commander of New Jersey, has been a judge and president of the New Jersey state senate.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. W. L. Gillman of Roxbury, Mass., president.

Saturday, September 5, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

RESPITE FOR CONGRESS
G. A. R. TO ASK NO LEGISLATION FOR THREE YEARS

Salt Lake City selected for Next Encampment
Atlanta to ask it in 1910

Toledo, O., Sept. 5. -- Not for three years will the Grand Army of the Republic ask Congress for further relief measures. Resolutions looking to an amendment to the service pension bill, reducing to 65 years of age at which a veteran can receive \$20 a month, and another amending the pending widow's pension bill to make eligible all soldiers' widows who were married prior to the date of the bill, were laid over in favor of the resolution granting congress three years respite from old soldier legislation.

It appeared to be the consensus of opinion of the leaders' that too much hammering for pension bills and relief measures might create an unfavorable impression in the minds of congressmen and reflect discredit on the civil war veterans at the time in their lives when they would need the most assistance at the hands of the nation they helped to save.

After the installation of the newly elected national officers at the morning session Friday, the G. A. R. delegates decided upon Salt Lake City as the next meeting place.

Vice commander in chief Scott notified the encampment that Atlanta, with more skyscrapers and better and more hotels outside of seaside resorts, would be in the field in 1910. His only fear was she could not care for all the "Johnnies" who would come to greet them from three states. This was greeted with great applause, cheers and calls: "We will go." "We want to go."

Thursday, September 24, 1908
The Aurora Daily Beacon

SANDWICH GETS NEXT REUNION

Fred Sly President of 36th Veterans' Association

Forty survivors of the famous Aurora Regiment, the 36th, gathered at the city hall, Elgin, this morning at 11:30 o'clock for the annual reunion. Sandwich was selected as the next meeting place, and the following officers were elected:

President, Fred Sly, Sandwich.

Vice President, John Taylor, Sandwich.

Secretary and Treasurer, William F. Sylla, Elgin.

At the roll call responses were read, showing that eighteen members of the regiment have died during the past year. The oldest member present was Hiram Watkins, aged seventy-eight years, of St. Charles. James E. Young of New Galilee, Pa., travelled more than 1,000 miles to attend the reunion.

Following the morning business session the regiment marched to the music of drummer Charles Styles of Elgin, to the First Baptist church, where they had dinner and indulged in a reunion.

September 24, 1908
The Elgin Daily News

36TH REGIMENT'S ANNUAL REUNION

Veterans celebrate 46th anniversary of Battle of
Chickamauga Creek.

Officers are elected.

List of Members present and those sending their regrets.

Veterans of the civil war -- members of the Thirty-Sixth regiment, Illinois Volunteers -- celebrated the forty-sixth anniversary of the battle of Chickamauga creek, and held their annual reunion in Elgin today. Men from every part of the country, some of them coming nearly a thousand miles, attended the session which was one of the most interesting ever held.

Meet at Sandwich next year.

Sandwich was selected as the next meeting place of the society and the following officers were elected at the annual meeting:

President -- Fred Sly, Sandwich.

Vice President -- John C. Taylor.

Secretary and Treasurer -- William F. Sylla.

From the early morning until noon the white haired veterans came to the city. Many who joined the 36th in Kane county when the call to arms was sounded, now live many miles away. Among the visitors from great distance were A. C. Wagher, of Linton, N.D., J. F. Young, of New Galilee, Pa., and T. L. Munn, of Parker, Kas. Mr. Young was a drummer boy in Co. C, and shook hands with his old comrades today for the first time since the regiment was mustered out of the service.

Drummer Stiles beats assembly.

Charles B. Stiles, of this city, the drummer of company A, composed chiefly of Elgin men, played his drum at the upper window at the city hall and at 11 o'clock the veterans assembled for their meeting. Major George D. Sherman, of Elgin, president of the society, called the meeting to order and for several minutes letters of regret from comrades living too great a distance to attend were read.

The thanks of the 36th was voted Captain L. M. Kelley, chief deputy in the department of pensions, for his assistance in collecting the names of the living members. There are now but a few hundred left of more than a thousand who enlisted from this vicinity.

Dinner at Baptist Church.

At noon the old soldiers and their wives marched to the Baptist church to the music of Mr. Stiles drum and Mrs. Harriet Joslyn Hendrickson sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and there were songs and speeches by various members. Major Sherman presided as toastmaster.

The following members of the regiment registered at City Clerk Sylla's office prior to the meeting in the city hall council chamber:

Company A -- Major George D. Sherman, Milton S. Townsend, William F. Sylla, John Hewitt, F. B. Perkins, Charles B. Stiles, all of Elgin, and Albert C. Wagher, Linton, S.D.; C. C. Truax, Crystal Lake; Homer Wilcox, Marengo; J. C. Denison, Chicago; John F. Scott, Pittsfield, Ill.; Bryman Loveless, Wheaton, and John Carl, Aurora; Alexander Manahan, Elgin; John Cooper, Yorkville; E. H. Young, Fulton; J. C. Hall and Ed Harpending.

Company A, (cavalry) -- A. R. Gillette, Chicago; W. D. Hawkins, Chicago; and Nicholas Hettinger, Aurora; Thomas Robinson, Aurora; J. T. McCroskey, Joliet; Eugene Mann, Batavia; J. S. Barber, Sandwich.

Company B (cavalry) -- James Shedden, Dundee; W. F. Wattenpugh, Sumner, Ia.; Lloyd Lathrop, Elgin; V. O. Wilcox, Elgin; A. A. Lee, Elgin; John McQueen, Elgin; Frank U. Brown, Chicago; James S. Hatch, Plano; E. E. Balch, Elgin; Willis Richardson, LaFox; Willet Richardson, Kaneville; John P. Fyfe, Ravenswood Park.

Company B -- W. F. Donovan, Yorkville; J. E. Way, Aurora.

Company C -- Joseph A. Young, New Galilee, Pa.; Abraham Stewart and W. H. Rogers, Monmouth, Ill.; Major John M. Turnbull, Monmouth.

Company D -- Olie H. Johnson, Newark; John Larking, Joliet; J. C. Taylor, Sandwich; W. W. Gifford, Joliet; John Heier, Morris; Frank T. Hennig, Chicago.

Company E -- J. F. Harral, Aurora; William Wollenweber, Yorkville; Henry Hennis, Sandwich; Charles Foster, Plano; and Joel Wagner, Big Rock.

Company F -- T. L. Munn, Parker, Kan.; G. A. Cummings, Edina, Mo.; C. M. Rolph, Seneca, Ill.; G. Gunnersin, Herscher, Ill.; Terrance Johnson, Newark; Bergo Thompson, Sheridan; Fred L. Sly, Sandwich; Martin Wilson, Aurora; F. A. Whitney,

Sandwich; Charles F. Sweetland, Sandwich; E. H. Strait, Ottawa; William Browning, Sandwich.

Company G -- Wallace Ellis, Seneca; W. W. Kerns, Morris; Joseph Schofield, Morris; Charles Pratt, Rochelle.

Company H -- Henry B. Ford, Elgin; C. H. Benson, Maywood; S. Carver, Omro, Wis.; B. E. Allen, Laurens, Ia.; Charles Dygert, Algonquin; C. H. Thomas, Chicago.

Company I -- Joseph M. Comp, Winterset, Ia.; Hobart Doctor, St. Johns, Ind.

Company K -- Harrison Blank, Winthrop, Ia.; C. H. Tucker, Belvidere; Hiram Watkins, St. Charles; John F. Elliott, St. Charles.

Members in Many Engagements

Northern Illinois' 36th infantry is named by authorities as one of the eighty regiments participating in the greatest number of engagements and losing the most men in battle in the civil war. The regiment was composed of ten infantry companies and two cavalry. All told, 1,200 men. The regiment returned from the struggle with less than half their number. The others died on the Battle fields of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga Creek, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Franklin, Nashville, Vicksburg and Atlanta, the principal contests in which the regiment participated.

Regrets were received from the following comrades:

John H. Burr, Co. A, Davenport, Ia.; Wm. Varnes, Co. I, Oswego, Ill.; W. A. Mitchell, Capt. Co. A, Wilmington, Ill.; G. W. Mossman, Co. F, Las Cinces, N. M.; John Bush, Co. E, Table Rock, Neb.; John Pfanstiel, Capt. Co. E, East Oakland, Cal.; James Warrensford, Co. A, Dahinda, Ill.; William W. Trimble, Co. H, Glencoe, Okla.; William Smailes, Co. A, South Haven, Mich.; Henry Russel, Co. A, Avoca, Ia.; Robert H. Gilmore, Co. D, Hastings, Neb.; Robert Jordan, Co. G, Elk City, Okla.; Henry C. Scott, Co. B, Folsom, Cal.; George F. Roots, Co. F, Manhattan, Kan.; C. H. Bissel, Co. D, Mena, Ark.; Albert H. Wulff, Co. F, Fredericksburg, Mo.; Duportal G. Sampson, Co. A, Ashland, Wis.; Alfred J. West, Co. B, Port Huron, Mich.; William C. Hall, Co. K, Madera, Cal.; G. S. Hollenback, Co. F, Chebanse, Ill.; C. F. Dike, Co. H, Nunda, Ill.; W. E. Partridge, Co. F, Alta, Ia.; N. H. Clark, Co. I, Knoxville, Ill.; J. C. Wright, Co. C, Aledo, Ill.; M. G. Yarnell, Co. G, Minneapolis; Irwin Benton, A Cav., Redding, Ia.; J. Henry Hogue, Co. K, Monmouth, Ill.; Alex M. Friland, Co. F, Fedora, S.D.; John D. Pingel, Co. B, Sedgwick, Kan.; A. G. Switzer, A Cav., Wales, Mass.; E. B. Baldwin, Capt. Co. C, Edna, Kan.; Eben Gates, Co. D, Brook, Ind.; John W. Evarts, A Cav., Oklahoma City, Okla.; E. Nute, Co. A, Alta, Ia.; E. H. Stinson, Co. C, Hampton, Ia.; J. H. Moore, Co. A, Chicago; H. E. Dewey, Co. E, Lead, South Dakota; W. H. Mossman, Co. F, Ellensburg, Wash.; John P. Lloyd, Necedah, Wis.; N. G. Curly, Co. G, Osage City, Kas.; Hamlet Levens, Co. E, Hancock, Minn.; Thos. C. Pennington, Co. B, cav., Chicago; F. N. Brown, Co. B, cav., Chicago.