

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

TAKEN FROM

THE AURORA BEACON NEWS

1866 - 1878

PART ONE

Compiled and Transcribed by
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As the "War for the Preservation of the Union" finally ground to a close, Veterans, North and South, started for home. Aurora, Illinois, like many other Northern communities anxiously awaited the return of their husbands, fathers and sons. By the end of 1865 almost all who were coming home had arrived and were being regaled and honored for their patriotism.

Now things could return to the way they were before the war. But, would they?

New bonds had been forged between the "boys" who left home together in '61'. They had memories to share with each other as well as family. A new fraternity had been born.

The communities had many who would not see their loved one return. 600,000 would not come home. And, many would return disabled and unable to take up the reins they had left to serve the Union.

Something had to be done for the widows, orphans and disabled veterans who could no longer make their way through life unaided. Benevolent pursuits must be expanded to help those who gave so much. Charity would become a greater part of the social fabric of these communities.

Perish the thought that "the South should rise again." What would be done, with the greater part of the armies and navies disbanded, should an emergency arise? The retired soldiers vowed to once again put on their knapsack and musket and rush to meet the foe. Their Loyalty could be counted on so long as they drew breath.

As early as 1866 National organizations were founded to promote the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty." The Grand Army of the Republic, born in Illinois, was the first. But, on the local level, there were springing forth, societies and associations with the same ends in mind.

In Aurora, Regimental Associations were founded and chartered. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Survivors Association became the predominant local order, comprised of men from all over Kane and adjoining Counties, with a significant number of members from the Aurora community. Others were the 8th Cavalry, 124th, 52nd and 89th Infantry.

The social interaction of these groups and the community is well witnessed in the pages of the "Aurora Weekly Beacon." Their story is recorded in the following pages.

Sit back and imagine yourself as a retired vet from the good old 36th. You are a comrade in the local Grand Army Post and a citizen of Aurora. You have created a scrap book by clipping articles from the pages of the "Beacon."

In 1866 the organizational meeting of The Grand Army of the Republic was held during the month of March

in Springfield, Illinois. The first post was established at Decatur on April 6th by Major B.F. Stephenson who was surgeon of the 14th Illinois Regiment and was the first Department Commander of Illinois. On this date the charter was issued. The opening work was done by Major Stephenson assisted by Fred J. Dean of Smith, Arkansas. Doctors Hamilton and George H. Allen assumed the obligation of forming the National GAR in February. On July 12th Illinois held its State Convention at Springfield. Later that year on November 20th, the first National Encampment of The Grand Army of the Republic was held at Indianapolis, Indiana with S.A. Hurlburt as Commander-In-Chief. Fraternity, Loyalty and Charity became the watch words of the GAR for years to come. And as the years passed, other States were chartered. Within those States, Districts were established and Posts chartered; Aurora became Illinois' twentieth. Concern for the care of widows, orphans and disabled veterans was growing.

Andrew Johnson, (Lincoln's new second term running mate, selected for his appeal to the South) was already embroiled in his struggle with Congress over a moderate reconstruction. Thrust into the Presidency upon Lincoln's demise, Johnson faced an unforgiving Legislature and Cabinet. Under a threat of re-impeachment, he would not run for election in 1868.

Thursday, February 1, 1866

SOLDIERS FAMILIES

Let the patriotic and liberal citizens of Aurora read this.

There are many soldiers' families suffering in our midst for food fuel and clothing. Widows and children of men who offered themselves as sacrifice to the nation in its dark hours and fierce struggle for life and liberty, are now mourning and dying for bread, in the very shadow of our happy homes and comfortable abundance. Is it not a sad and shameful spectacle in our American society, that want and woe should invade the soldier's home even before the grass has grown green above his lowly grave? The ladies of the Soldiers Aid Society have found many such homes, and in their efforts to relieve hunger and distress, have exhausted the last dollar in their treasury, and the last article of clothing in their possession. Will the people allow these poor families to die of cold and starvation? Will they longer turn a deaf ear to the piercing cry for help that comes to them from feeble women, widowed, and little children, orphaned, that our homes might be saved to us and the nation redeemed? Shall we redeem our solemn promise made to the fallen heroes before they went forth to battle, that we would care for their wives and little ones, and drive want and suffering from their doors with our ready hands and sympathizing hearts? Let all who read this pause and consider the shameful attitudes in which we stand, with our "professions so greatly overtopping our performance." And let those who read bear in mind that on *Tuesday, February Sixth*, the house of Mr. Isaac Gilson, No. 35 Lincoln Avenue, will be open all day to receive gifts of food, money, and clothing for the destitute families. In the evening there will be a general donation party at the same place for the same purpose. Friends, forego your pleasure and parties and luxuries for one day, and give what those things cost to the defenders of your homes and country.

Mrs. Isaac Gilson, Pres.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
GRAND ARMY
OF THE
REPUBLIC.

1866

SPRINGFIELD

E. J. BRONSON, PRACTICAL BOOK AND JOB PRINTER
1866

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

5th. – For the establishment and defence of the rights of the soldiery of the United States, morally, socially and politically, with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of such services and claims by the American people.

ARTICLE II

QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Recruits presented for enlistment in the Grand Army of the Republic, shall be soldiers or sailors honorably serving, or honorably discharged soldiers or sailors of the United States Volunteers or Regular Army or Navy; and shall exhibit their discharges on enlistment or shall produce satisfactory evidence of having been honorably discharged. No soldier or sailor who has been convicted of desertion or any other infamous crime shall be eligible for

membership.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. This association shall be composed of National, State, County and Precinct organizations, and shall be called the Grand Army of the Republic.

The National Organization shall be known as the Grand Army of the Republic.

The State Organization shall be known as the Department of...[name of State].

The County Organization shall be known as District of.....[name of County].

The Precinct Organization shall be known as Post No....., of [name of city, town, township, ward or precinct].

SEC. 2. The officers of the Grand Army of the Republic shall be one Commanding officer, one Assistant Commanding officer, one Adjutant General, one Assistant Adjutant General, one Quartermaster General, one Surgeon General, and one Chaplain. This body shall be composed of two delegates from each Department. Two alternates shall, also, be elected from each Department.

SEC. 3. The officers of each Department shall be one Department Commander, one Assistant Department Commander, one Adjutant General, one Assistant Adjutant General, one Quartermaster General, one Surgeon General, and one Chaplain. This body shall be composed of one delegate from each District of the Department, and shall meet once a year and have special meetings, when ordered by the Department Commander.

SEC. 4. The officers of each District shall be one District Commander, one Assistant Adjutant General, and one District Quartermaster. This body shall be composed of one delegate for every ten members of the Army in the District, and shall have general supervision of the Posts and the establishment of new Posts in the district.

SEC. 5. The officers of each Post shall be one Post Commander, one Assistant Post Commander, one Post Adjutant, one Post Quartermaster, one Post Surgeon, one Post Chaplain, one Officer of the Day, and one Officer of the Guard.

SEC. 6. The duties of the Commanding Officer shall be essentially those of a presiding officer.

SEC. 7. The duties of Assistant Post Commanders will be those usually devolving in a Vice President.

SEC. 8. The duties of Adjutant Generals, their Associates, and of Adjutants, shall be essentially those of Secretary.

SEC. 9. Quartermasters shall perform the duties usually appertaining to a Treasurer, and shall have general supervision of all accounts and disbursements.

SEC. 10. The duties of Post Surgeons are to examine and report on all cases presented for charity, and assistance from the Post.

SEC. 11. The Post Chaplain will be present at all assemblies of the command and officiate in his proper duties.

SEC. 12. Officers of the Day, Officers of the Guard, Orderlies, and such other officers as are necessary for the transaction of business shall be detailed by the commanding officer.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1. Each member of the Army of the Republic shall pay not less than one dollar on enlistment to the Quartermaster of the Post where he is enlisted.

SEC. 2. There shall be transmitted to the Quartermaster General of the Department at the end of each quarter, fifteen cents for each paying member, *per capita*.

SEC. 3. Disbursements of money from the Department Treasury in behalf of any of the objects of the Grand Army of the Republic, incidental expenses and salaries shall be paid on the order of the Adjutant General on the Quartermaster General, approved by the Department Commander.

SEC. 4. Each District and Post within the Department is invested with authority to pass such laws as may be deemed proper for its government, and to raise and disburse all funds necessary for the demand of its District and Post organization.

ARTICLE V REPORTS

SECTION 1. A monthly report shall be made direct to the Adjutant General of the Department, by the Commander of each Post, attested by the Adjutant, of the number of members at last report, and the number of new members, and the number who have ceased to belong; together with a statement of the condition and working prospects of the Post, and a record of their proceedings for the month.

SEC. 2. The Post Quartermaster shall make his quarterly report, direct to the Quartermaster General of the Department; transmitting the funds required by section 2 of article 4, of this Constitution.

SEC. 3. The District Commander shall send to the Adjutant General of the Department, a report of each monthly meeting at District Headquarters, with the result of their action.

SEC. 4. The Department Commander shall send an annual report to the Adjutant General of the Grand Army of the Republic, of all the operations in his Department; combining the reports of the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General.

ARTICLE VI CHARTER

SECTION 1. No Post shall be recognized by any of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, unless regularly established by orders from Department Headquarters and chartered by the Department Commander and Adjutant General.

Application for a charter must be accompanied by the charter fee of ten dollars.

ARTICLE VII

SECTION 1. Any failure of any Post, or any other organization of this Army, to comply with any of the provisions of this Constitution, shall render it liable to forfeiture of its charter and exclusion from the benefits and privileges of members of this Army.

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 1. The election of the Officers of the Department of Illinois shall be held on the first Wednesday in June of each year, at the assembly of Department Headquarters, at the City of Springfield, State of Illinois.

SEC. 2. The officers of each Post named in the Constitution shall be elected annually at the last meeting in December.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended at any time by the Grand Army of the Republic, approved by two thirds of the Department Organizations.

STATE CONVENTION ROOMS,
Grand Army of the Republic,
Springfield, Illinois, July 12, 1866.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing pages are a correct and literal copy of the Constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic for the Department of Illinois, as adopted this day by the State Convention, Grand Army of the Republic.

WALTER B. SCATES,
President of the Convention

Robert M. Woods, *Secretary*

November 1, 1866

The National Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic is ordered to convene in Indianapolis on Tuesday, the 20th of November, for the purpose of perfecting a national organization. All honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, and those now serving in the army of navy, desirous of becoming members of the Grand Army of the Republic, are invited to attend the Convention.

In 1867 The Grand Army of the Republic did not hold a National Encampment. Nor did Illinois hold a State Encampment, though there must have been organizational meetings held in Springfield over the next five years, as there were Department Commanders in place. The survivors of the 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment held their first annual re-union on October 15th at Aurora. B.F. Campbell served as Chairman and J.H. Karl was Secretary. It marked the beginning of organized remembrance at Aurora.

Thursday, August 29, 1867

EIGHTH ILL. CAV. ATTENTION !

**SECOND ANNUAL RE-UNION OF THE EIGHTH
ILL. VETERAN CAVALRY ASSOCIATION**

The second annual meeting of the soldiers of the glorious old Eighth Illinois Cavalry Regiment will be held at Wheaton, DuPage County, Ill., on Wednesday, the 18th day of next September. Come one, come all! A good time is expected. Try and reach Wheaton before noon on the 18th.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

HARD.

Late Surgeon of the Regiment., Secretary.

Aurora, Ill., July 17, 1867.

Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa papers, please copy.

Thursday, September 5, 1867

ATTENTION ! 36th ILLINOIS, FALL IN !

In pursuance to a call published, the members of the old 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers met on Monday evening, Sept. 2, 1867.

On motion, Col. B.F. Campbell was chosen Chairman, and J.H. Karl Secretary.

On motion of D.W. Young, it was resolved that we have a reunion of the surviving members of the regiment on Tuesday the 15th day of October, 1867, and that the exercises consist of an address of welcome, speeches, processions, visit to Spring Lake Cemetery to Col. Miller's grave and monument, dinner, etc., and a magnificent military ball in the evening.

On motion of Capt. Dugan, a committee was appointed to make arrangements to carry out this programme. Dr. D.W. Young, Major S.B. Sherer, Col. B.F. Campbell, Hospital Stewart J.H. Karl, Sergeant Charles G. Ayers and Sergeant William Hanson were appointed said Committee.

On motion the Committee was instructed to invite Rev. William M. Haigh, the gallant old Chaplain of the Regiment, to deliver the address of welcome. On motion of D.W. Young, the committee was also instructed to invite Major General P.H. Sheridan, the famous old Division Commander, to be present.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet again on next Monday evening, Sept. 9th, at the same place (Grand Army Hall, over Harrel's store, on Broadway), at 8 o'clock, to hear reports of Committees, and make further arrangements. All members of the regiment in and about Aurora, are invited to be present.

B.F. Campbell, Chairman.

J.H. Karl, Secretary.

Thursday, September 12, 1867

RE-UNION OF THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE 36th REG. ILL. VOLS.

There will be a re-union of the surviving members of the 36th regiment Ill. Vols., at Aurora, on Tuesday, the 15th day of October, '67. Every man who has ever belonged to the regiment in any capacity, either infantry or cavalry, is requested to be present. The object of the meeting is to organize a Regimental Society, to meet annually, to perpetuate the memory of the regiment, and those noble comrades who have laid down their lives in order that we might live in a Christian government. The exercises of the day will consist of an address to the regiment by Rev. Wm. M. Haigh, Chaplain of the regiment, speeches by Col. E.S. Joslyn, and others; after which the regiment will form and headed by their old band, march to Spring Lake Cemetery, to view the grave and monument of the loved and lamented Col. Silas Miller. Returning to the city, will be dismissed for dinner. After dinner they will meet and organize a Regimental Association, elect officers, and spend the balance of the day in social intercourse. In the evening there will be a ball at Brady's Hall, to which all soldiers and citizens are invited.

Com. of Arrangements, - B.F. Campbell, S.B. Sherer, C.G. Ayers, Wm. Dugan, L. Kelly.
Papers in Kane, DuPage, Grundy, McHenry, Kendall and Warren counties, please copy.

Thursday, October 17, 1867

RE-UNION OF THE 36TH ILLINOIS

VAST CROWD !

SPEAKERS, PROCESSION, ADDRESSES, MUSIC, ETC.

Reported expressly for the Beacon.

Tuesday, October 15th, the day fixed upon for the re-union of the "Fox River Regiment," was a splendid one, clear and warm. Quite early large numbers came from the country, augmented by the trains from north and south. The streets were lively with the people. Many of the public buildings displayed flags. Everything reminded one of a "Fourth of July."

Long before 10 o'clock the large City Hall was filled to overflowing, leaving a vast crowd in the hall, on the steps in the street, where the Grand Army Brass Band were discoursing music, so that it was found necessary to adjourn to the public park. At 10:30 the

PROCESSION

formed in front of City Hall, under the guidance of Col. B.F. Campbell, Marshal, assisted by half a dozen aids, among whom were Maj. S.B. Sherer, Capt. Hobbs, of Bristol, Capt. Dugan of Big Rock, Capt. Kelly, Plato, Sergeant Pierce, Big Rock, etc. Leading the procession was the brass band, followed by the members of the 36th Ills., at their head the old battle torn flag they had borne through the war. Next came members of other regiments, while carriages and citizens generally brought up the rear. In this order they marched directly to the Park.

EXERCISES AT THE PARK

commenced at 11 o'clock. The colors, speakers and the choir occupied the stand, while soldiers and citizens densely crowded around it. The choir, composed of pupils of the Normal School, (in session in this city,) led by Messrs. Suffren and Lauderdale, then sang "Battle-cry of Freedom," "We'll rally around the Flag, boys," the audience joining in the chorus.

This was followed by prayer by the Chaplain Rev. D.A. Carnahan, of Aurora, after which an

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

was delivered by Rev. Chas. Button, Aurora, in which the speaker delivered himself nearly as follows:

Soldiers of the gallant 36th, and volunteers of the Grand Army of the Republic: -- I am desired to address a few words of welcome to you today. This is a pleasing task. We bow in admiration before those brave men who bared their bosoms, and left home and loved ones behind to go and fight for us and country, more and before any and all others -- men who went forth to defend the flag and sustain the integrity of the nation! You saw treason striking at the prostrate form of liberty; then you buckled on the armor, stood shoulder to shoulder, broke the mighty force of battle, and rolled back the crimson tide of war, and planted your triumphs on the high places, and placed your names on the undying annals of the nation. We need not go back to the old times for deeds of heroism. Your deeds are first on the pages of history. Our patriots

have left their names on the historic fields of Gettysburg, Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, in the seven days, battles of the Wilderness and in Sherman's grand march to the sea, "and victory perched on their banners wherever they went." Cheers. You, my comrades of the 36th, bore your full share of the laurels; you were engaged in no less than twenty three pitched battles, besides many skirmishes. Pea Ridge, Stone River, Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Franklin, Nashville and Kenesaw Mountain witness your valor. Everywhere you bore the banner bright over the heads of the bleeding foeman, and placed it on the fields where you won the victory. You thus made history for us and the world at large. You demonstrated the great truth that Republics can fight – that they have firmness and stability, and a determination to sustain the cause of freedom against traitors, and save the oppressed from the oppressor. Nay, more; you have cut the Gordian knot of our national difficulties with the sword, and have said to the world that the cap-stone shall not be taken off. You, soldiers, have saved the nation, and it, in turn, brings its gifts of gratitude to you. All hail to the valiant soldiery that won our victories in the field; and now, scarred veterans, we hope you will maintain those victories in civil life. Those days of blood and danger are passed, but we know that if need be, you will take upon you again the bivouac, the march and the tented field. But we pray such scenes may come no more.

In behalf of the people of this city, the City Council, and the mothers, wives and daughters of our brave comrades, and all other loyal men and women, I bid you welcome to-day. Rome welcomed back her conquering armies; but we bring this ovation of gratitude this day in the name of country – of liberty! In my heart of hearts I again bid you cordial welcome; and may the God of Nations keep you. "As in the hollow of his hand," for ever and ever, Amen.

This was followed by a

SONG BY THE CHOIR

(Miss Jennie Norton, soloist,) the good old "Star Spangled Banner." "Thus be it ever when freemen shall stand," found an echo in every heart of all the vast audience. "In God is our trust" rang out through the park. After this was an address of

WELCOME TO THE 36TH

by their old Chaplain, Rev. Wm. M. Haigh. D.W. Young proposed three cheers "for the Chaplain," which were heartily given, when the speaker said in substance:

Comrades of the 36th: -- It is a pleasant service to speak to you to-day. Whether in the field or in the valley, in the burning sun, or 'neath the forest shade, when I addressed you I was always sure of attentive ears; and when I witnessed the re-union of other regiments around me, I thought that something might and ought to be done to bring our comrades together, to revive the scenes of the past, and recount those days of trial and peril we shared in common. There is something in the idea of facing danger side by side that brings hearts strangely together. When the 36th left for the field, I followed them with intense interest. Soon after I was called to them, to labor with and among them. It was not till Stone River, however, that I learned to love the 36th – there, what I saw on the field, and as I went from cot to cot in the hospital, made my heart grow toward the boys of the 36th Ill. There, where they left forty-one men buried in our graves, was born in my heart a love that shall only die when I die. I don't think it is the same fighting for wrong that it is for right; for slavery as for liberty, for Government, for God. True the principles had been fought for before, By Cromwell, Washington and others. But we were called to fight for a wider range of principles than any of which they ever dreamt.

We have the inspiration of success to revive us to-day. We fought for the flag that shall

wave for a thousand years to come, for the government that shall live through coming time.

I am glad, too, to meet with representatives of other regiments here to-day; but they will not blame me if I will speak particularly of the 36th, because I know more of them than any other – of their origin and their history. I will remember their beginning; it was no ordinary time; it was a trying time in the life of the nation. It was just after the Federal arms had received their first bold rebuff at Manassas. The 36th was truly the “child of defeat.” This may have had its influence in molding the future character of the regiment, in giving it that firm, bold and reliant tone which it ever manifested. If there were any hard marching, any hardest part in the war, there it seemed this fated regiment was sent. Again, this regiment was always true in a crisis. Moments sometimes count as days. Call to mind, my comrades, Stone River, the 31st of December, 1862; remember the sound of the “first gun,” and the roll of musketry that announced the onset of the enemy. You saw Johnson’s and Davis’ division swept before the foe like a whirlwind. Sheridan saved the day! Yes, the noble Phil and his brave troops. What were the regiments that did it? You know that close up to the right of the 36th all the regiments were swept away. The 36th did noble work, but what did it cost? Two hundred men, by holding that spot!

I love the regiment for another thing. Men were going out of service. The war was far from settled. Government called for re-enlistments. You were in the valley way up in east Tennessee, in December, 1863, in mid-winter, but most of you signed your re-enlistment papers for another three years.

You were the healthiest regiment that ever fought. The 36th were, too, so intelligent and self reliant, commanding the respect of others. The best proof I can give of this is in the many gifts of the people to you, such as no other regiment received. The regiment contributed – from August, 1862 to Nov., 1864, \$582, and the people gave me \$41, for the use of the regiment, making \$623,. This you invested in literature. During the same period there were distributed in the regiment 640 copies of Tract, Journal, Banner, and Am. Messenger; 720 Christian Times; 520 N. W. Christ. Advocates; 1,586 Chicago Evening Journal, Post, N. Y. Evangelist, and Army and Navy Gazette; 536 Harpers, Atlantic, and other magazines; 200 Christian Herald; 2,000 Tracts; 300 Soldiers’ Books, and 7 Soldiers’ Libraries; 800 Testaments and Hymn Books; 309 volumes of books, worth over \$300, besides a large number of miscellaneous books, papers, etc.

I love the 36th, too, for its long roll of wounded and honored dead. Sherman made this endorsement upon one of his reports; “Perhaps there is no regiment of whom it may be said of so many of its members killed in battle.” Our casualties and deaths were not through sickness, or profligacy, but through conflicts with the enemy. From Pea Ridge to Nashville the graves of your comrades are lasting monuments of your bravery.

You expect me to speak of him around whose monument we are soon to gather. Few men so young, were so brave, and leave such a record behind; he drew to him the hearts of all around him. When wounded, all wept – when he died, all mourned.

The speaker paid a passing tribute to the gallant Lt. Col. (Olsen) as “brave in battle, even to a fault. It is fitting we should speak of these two young men together, as they were friends in life, and have now both passed away.” The speaker also referred in touching terms to the Adjt. Case, and to the various companies, paying a special tribute to the dead. “The thought of those noble men, who bought the privileges we now enjoy, are not here with us, almost dashes my joy. Our homesteads are safe, but the noble men who purchased them, lie low in unknown graves. Well may we go to-day in solemn procession to surround the grave of our departed Colonel.

My comrades, I need not ask that when we go to our homes, we may as firmly be the

friends of our country in peace as we were in war.”

The procession then marched to

SPRING LAKE CEMETERY

in about the same manner as it came from the City Hall, only greatly augmented by new comers, and quite a corps of cavalry, mounted, who took the advance. The cemetery was reached about 12:30 p.m. The infantry formed a circle around the monument, in two ranks, and the cavalry dismounted on the west side and facing the monument. The services of the inauguration of Colonel Miller's Monument commenced with "Wrap the Flag around me, boys," by the choir; the Rev. Chaplain Haigh then gave a very appropriate prayer, after which followed

DR. FORRESTER'S ADDRESS

Having very poor facilities at the place for taking notes, your reporter offers as the only apology for the imperfect report of the truly beautiful and eloquent address of the Dr.

Members of the 36th – Fellow Citizens and Friends. I could wish, for your sake and mine that this address had been by someone familiar with the life and trials of the soldier. Men should speak from their own experience. Having been invited I come to speak a few words on the occasion of commemorating the monument of Col. Silas Miller. We are here, near the dust of the man who led the men of a gallant regiment, till the dread shot laid him low.

Brief was his life. But truly is it said, we live in deeds, not years. We should count life by heart throbs. Though only twenty-five when he gave his life to the nation, he will be pointed out and remembered by the Republic. It is right we should erect monuments over the graves of those who fell; the cause has been baptized in blood – human blood was spilled to give us all the glorious realization of the present and hopeful anticipations of the future – and we do right to perpetuate their sacrifices that gave these privileges to us.

The heart and soul of man has always been loyal to greatness – the vital force of man beats true to the genius of loyalty and patriotism – the mind delights to hold in remembrances such glowing deeds of heroism. We would be recreant to the conviction that always sways the patriot, were we to neglect to pay tribute to one who represented so much. What did he not represent? He represented a country, the like of which is unknown in all the annals of the past – a nation whose loyalty was so deep and grand as to shame the whole world. He represented the great state of Illinois, and her soldiers. The speaker here paid a tribute to Illinois and its high order of loyalty and patriotism. He represented also a heroic caste, not known among any other people. He represented a government that recognized the rights of man – which has demonstrated that there are on the face of the globe but one people, and but one power which rules the destinies of nations – viz., that of the common people, the "universal sovereigns." Ranking from this stand point, the Americans stand first in the triumphs of mind, and thought, as well as in arms. The orator cited Phil Sheridan, who holds high the nation's ensign of liberty above the heads of civil foemen, as he did in the martial struggles in the Shenandoah valley.

What offering can you give to the proudest man? What eulogy better than to say, "He gave his life for the nation." Tis thus we feel for all our fallen heroes, and we scarcely less revere those battle scarred veterans who have survived the stern shocks of war, and come home to us, and the endearments and avocations of life. We do right in this, and none the less when we resolve that those who periled all, shall not be cheated out of office, or any other gift at our disposal, by those who stayed at home.

We must not forget our soldiers, and we prophesy that such thoughts as these will sway our people. Here and everywhere this feeling grows strong. Politicians greedily steel the offices from our one armed and one legged soldiers. Such as these most aptly do the words of the poet fit:

*“But turn we now to those who seek for fame in empty honors of an empty name;
Whose coward hearts ne’er felt a manly glow, boldly to face their country’s common foe.
They would be leader – but in civil bands – no fearful weapon soils their dainty hands.
They war right valiantly on civil foes, and deal bold speeches, rather than bold blows,
Of all base things that crawl this earth around, where human forms or social life is found,
They are most loathsome, who with selfish view,
Make men their dupes – their beasts of burden too.
In secrete conclave, mark the little knot, planning for self the public good forgot.
Base combinations and dishonest schemes, office and honors, pride and golden dreams.
These form the means, the object, aim and end, to which all zeal of mis-named patriots tend.
What mortal bond can hold them firm and true, who to each pop’lar breath make homage due.
Who cringe and flatter for the people’s votes, and change opinions as they change their coats?”
These are the men against whom the soldiers have to contend. I charge you, soldiers, to give the office to your own comrades. When you have a representative to elect, don’t elect a parlor-general, but someone of your own tried and true comrades.*

In behalf of our people, I bid you a hearty welcome to the hospitalities of our city. When you went into the field, we promised to stand by you, and we intend to do so yet. And when you shall pass away from here, may the eulogy of each one be, “he was a true American!

The choir then sang Playell’s Hymn, after which the procession reformed and marched down Broadway, and over the bridges, through the principle streets of the west side, thence back to the Universalist Church, in the basement, of which an ample dinner was in waiting for the now tired and hungry soldier boys.

THE DINNER

covered five long tables, each seating about 100 persons, and piled full of every delicacy that the fair hands of our loyal women of Aurora could provide. At the close of the ample meal the boys gave three cheers and a “tiger” for “the ladies.” Mr. Brady estimated that over 1,000 persons partook of the dinner. After the soldiers were served, the wives, widows and children of the soldiers were provided for out of the abundance, and we opine that the provisions not only held out, but that many “loaves and fishes” remained after the multitude had been fed.

It was about 8 p.m. when dinner was finished. Then the crowd adjourned to the park, where after music by the band, and a

Song by the choir – “My Country tis of Thee.”

GEN. JNO. F. FARNSWORTH

was introduced and spoke. He said, substantially:

Comrades – Ladies and Gentlemen; An occasion of this kind must give rise to mingled emotions. It must be so; I know with what emotions comrades take comrades by the hand and greet each other, who were companions through the storms of war. This is well. But we cannot forget that there are many vacant empty seats at the hearthstone. Yet those that survive are firmly bound by ties of friendship; no form of life cements friendship like that of the soldier. Those who have marched and fought side by side – (Voice, “And taken rails from the same

fence,") – yes and taken rails from the same fence, someone suggests (cheers) – and I may add, stolen chickens from the same coop (cheers); those who shared each others sacrifices and dangers, are and should be the strongest friends.

In the light of such feelings, re-unions like these are among the best of life's feasts. The boys have some many reminiscence to relate of experiences in prison, camp and field! I like the practice of forming regimental societies for the purpose of keeping up the same patriotic fire that burned when marching to "Dixie." I would that it may continue until you are grey headed, and only a few old veterans come together to talk over the old times.

You have shown to your countrymen your patriotism in a manner not to be doubted – you shouldered your muskets – and went right into the deadly affray. Patriotism costs something. You deserve the praise of all good and loyal men; but you don't forget that many who did not go were just as loyal and patriotic as you were – did all they could for those in the front. I wish I could say as much of another class – those who set up a fire in your rear. I won't ask you to forget them – it will be well to remember them – men who laughed over your defeats, and were crestfallen over your victories. Don't forget those men who could not be found on your streets when the papers announced a Union victory.

Finally my friends I am addressing soldiers – don't forget that you are citizens as well as soldiers. With a war forced on us and half our army disloyal to the call of the Executive, the people rushed to arms. Scott marched to the city of Mexico with 8,000 men and it was called a big army. Scarcely were the 75,000 mustered when a call came for "300,000 more"; hardly was the ink dry before they were mustered in. Another spectacle – when this grand army left the field at the termination of the war, they were all quickly and quietly transformed to citizens – they laid down their long tried muskets and resumed their avocations, retiring to their plows, their stores, their shops, etc. And but for the black emblems of mourning we see everywhere, we should not know there had been a war. Many think war is demoralizing – many mothers had misgivings lest their sons should contract bad habits in the army, and come back to disgrace themselves and friends. Take the 36th, or my own regiment as examples – they came back better men; they were educated in the field – felt that they had done something for the world; their heads and hearts had grown and they came back enlarged men. Our war has not been demoralizing to soldiers; the bad soldiers were generally bad men before they went into the army, and of course came out such.

Don't forget your duties as citizens. I hope and trust you may never again be called on to wear the blue – that further call for blood and sacrifices be spared. It is a fearful thing, this fighting and slaying one another! Act your part like men. Remember what you fought for – vote as you fought. The country is grateful to you. You see the evidence of this – you see it in the elections – the people recognize your service on the tickets submitted for your suffrages.

But don't imagine, because you are soldier that you are to remain pensioners all your life. Don't forget that many who never were soldiers may be far fitter for some of the offices. I have seen too much of the idea that all the offices were created for soldiers, and should be filled by them. Struggle for competition, but recollect that you must hew your own fortunes – learn to paddle your own canoe, and don't ask to be remembered in the political arena. Put up your privates who fought for \$8 a month, when you do desire to be represented by soldiers; put such men up in preference to live generals, parlor generals, or no generals at all. I love to vote for the soldier – that is, one of those private soldiers, who marched through the bogs of the South, ate hard tack, etc. Generals who fought for \$200 a month, and had "soft spots," may do a nice thing to come home and run for office on the "soldier dodge." When I look at the maimed

soldiers I feel a little ashamed, and almost wish I had lost a leg or an arm, so as to travel by their side. Soldiers, you will always be remembered by a grateful public. But when you come to select your officers, there is a question of capacity to be considered.

I am glad that this 36th organization is being consummated. There are many mutterings – some fearful in character. I, myself, am hopeful, and think the Southern people feel that they have had enough of war. The principle now feared comes from the stay-at-homes. If any comes, 'twill be from them. If it does, let the gallant old 36th organize, ready to march to the front again, if need be.

During my trip east lately, I met the gallant Phil Sheridan. He spoke of your regiment – said he was invited to attend its re-union, and regretted being unable to do so. He said you were the best among his brave troops. “I believe I’m always in luck,” he said to me, “I have escaped this yellow fever, and I had much rather meet Early in the Shenandoah Valley than the yellow fever.” I had the pleasure of meeting the brave Hancock, who succeeds Sheridan. He said I might say to the people of Illinois, “Those who think I am a Copperhead, because of Johnson’s appointment, are mistaken. I have fought rebels too long in the field to be a Copperhead.” I also met Sickles returning from his department, just relieved – the gallant, brave Dan, who left his leg at Gettysburg – who had been faithfully executing the laws of congress in his department, and who was relieved by the President simply because he did so. The man who succeeds him is equally loyal. In my opinion, there is no danger from that quarter. We are told there is danger to be apprehended from Maryland. True, their affairs have got into the hands of returned rebels – men who tried to take the State out of the Union along with Virginia. It is said the Maryland militia intend to prevent the meeting of Congress. This Maryland militia would get 10 miles on their road before they would receive a sharp fire in the rear as well as warm welcomes in front, for Washington is not in the condition to-day that it was at the outbreak of the war. Grant is there! and at the head of the war department. Whether he remains such, or not, he is Commander of the Army, and no President can remove him! (Cheers) The laws say all orders to the army must go through Grant. I think any treasonable orders of Johnson’s, (if he should be so foolish as to give such,) would be apt to assume a very different shape after it has been digested by Grant. We have a very different army now from what we had at the beginning of the war; it is composed of officers and men who are loyal – a large majority of them “volunteers.” Do you think such men are going over to the enemy? By no means. It may be necessary for Congress to remain in perpetual session to watch the President; I think ‘twould have been better had we not adjourned; we must either remain in perpetual session, to prevent mischief, or remove the cancer of the troubles. (Cries of “remove him!” “impeach!”) We are disgraced now – we can’t deny it – not by the Union people, not by the army, not by Congress – but by the chief Executive, who thwarts the execution of the laws made by the law-making power. I think the causes are sufficient, and that he should be removed.

It is a great gratification to talk to you, but you must excuse my rambling remarks. Thanking you for the honor conferred by calling on me, I will take my seat. (prolonged applause.)

SONG BY THE CHOIR

Dr. Pierce, formerly of the 36th Illinois moved that the thanks of the regiment be tendered to the ladies of Aurora, for the collation they had so generously served, - also to the choir who have sung to-day. After this, three cheers were given to the ladies.

L.D. Brady said; - I am neither a soldier nor a speaker, but what I have to say comes from

a suggestion made to me by several in regard to our soldiers who have fell or died in the service of their country. I should like to see a committee to raise subscriptions for erecting a fitting monument for all the fallen soldiers of Kane County. If every voter only, would give \$1, it would build a noble monument. I am prepared to give at any time, and think the people of our country would generously respond. Let us appoint such a committee here to-day. I would therefore move that the committee of three be chosen for the above purpose.

The motion prevailed, and the following were selected as the committee;

Gen. J.F. Farnsworth, St. Charles.

Col. Frank Gilbert, Elgin.

Col. B.F. Campbell, Aurora.

To which on motion, L.D. Brady, Esq., was added.

Dr. S.B. Hawley was then introduced and read letters from Col. J.S. Wilcox, Gen. Frank T. Sherman, of Chicago, and Adj. Gen. Fuller, Springfield, expressing regrets for inability to attend the re-union.

The members then adjourned to the City Hall, to elect officers for the permanent regimental organization. The permanent officers elected were,

Capt. John M. Turnbull, (a one legged soldier of Monmouth,) President, Capt. A.M. Hobbs, Yorkville, Secretary. Executive Committee, Dr. D.W. Young, Dr. W.B. Pierce, Capt. L.M. Kelly, Chaplain W.M. Haigh and Major S.B. Sherer. A resolution was passed to have an annual re-union on the 8th day of October; a vote of thanks voted to the citizens and especially the ladies of Aurora for the reception; and a vote of thanks to Chaplain Haigh for his superintendence of the monument arrangements; and a vote of commendation to Stickle & Co. for the superior taste and execution displayed in the work. Capt. Turnbull on taking the chair was greeted with three cheers and a tiger; and after some pleasant intercourse the boys closed with "Rally round the flag, boys." The crowd then dispersed, after an announcement that the dance would be at Brady's instead of City Hall. It was half past four when the services at the park were completed. The ball room in the evening was densely thronged and all present enjoyed the occasion.

During the evening the Grand Army of the Republic held a meeting of delegates from all the posts in the district, to elect officers of the same, and transact other business.

Taken altogether, it was a happy brilliant affair, reflecting credit upon all who had charge of arrangements, and one long to be remembered by all who participated therein.

(1867P1, P2)

In 1868 The Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On May 5th, Commander-In-Chief, John A. Logan, of Illinois, by General Order No. 11 chose May 30th as Memorial Day, which was to be devoted to the strewing of flowers on the graves of deceased comrades who had died in the defense of the country during the Civil War. Illinois did not hold a State Encampment. But the 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment Survivors held a joint re-union at Elgin with the 52d Illinois survivors on October 7th. J.M. Turnbull was the first President and A.M. Hobbs was Secretary. This was billed as the Second Annual Re-union. Regimental Re-Unions became increasingly popular throughout the North. In this election year, Ulysses S. Grant and Schuyler Colfax (Republicans) ran against Horatio Seymour and Francis Blair (Democrats). Though the GAR insisted it was a non political benevolent organization, Grant, the "savior of the Union," only second to Lincoln, was their favorite.

Thursday, September 3, 1868

SECOND GRAND RE-UNION OF THE 124TH REGT. ILL. VOL. INFANTRY

Will be held in Aurora, Ill., Thursday, Sept. 19th, 1869. President of the day, Maj. Adin Mann. The regiment will meet at the Court House at 10 o'clock, a.m. The procession will form in front of the Court House under direction of Lieut. O. Wilson, marshal of the day, and headed by the brass band and martial music, march through the principle streets to the East Division

Park, where the following exercises will take place.

1st Song by Glee Club, 2d Prayer by Chaplain, Rev. Charles Button. 3d Address of welcome by Rev. Dr. Forrest. 4th Address to the regiment by Gen. John H. Howe. 5th Remarks by Rev. Charles Button and others.

Afterwards the procession will reform and march to a free dinner, prepared by the ladies of Aurora, at which toasts will be read and responded to.

All soldiers and sailors are heartily invited to form in the procession with the regiment, and participate with us, in all the exercises of the day. A good time may be expected.

Farmers and all friends of the regiment are requested to bring butter, eggs and any other eatables they can, and leave at the Universalist church, on Wednesday p.m. on the 9th.

A salute will be fired on the arrival of each delegation, also at the formation of the regiment at the Court House.

The park will be comfortably seated and provided with water. The City Hall has been engaged, in case the weather should be bad.

Turn out! Turn out! And have a good time.

By order of Executive Committee.

(The compiler believes that in their haste 1869 was mistakenly inserted)

Thursday, October 15, 1868

RE-UNION OF THE 36TH AND 52ND ILL. VOLS.

We are dependent upon the *Herald's* very complete and interesting report on the re-union at Elgin, on Wednesday, Oct. 7th, of the 36th and 52d Ill. Vols. The day was unusually unpropitious, but the boys had met many worse storms, and we gather from a report – which we regret our inability to publish in full – that the occasion was one of deep and lasting memory. About 450 members of the two regiments were present.

“The meetings, the greetings, the hand shakings, the embraces, the sayings and shoutings may be imagined but cannot be described. Several hours were thus spent in most pleasant recitals of the past; thousands of pleasant, and sad, and even terrible incidents were recalled and retold of both the living and the dead. The terrible battles of Shiloh, Pea Ridge, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Franklin, Nashville and many others were talked over and fought over again in the imagination; hundreds of the noble boys that now lie buried in those terrible battle-fields were recalled and their bravery, their hardships and their sufferings, discussed and commented upon by their surviving comrades. Poor brave boys! Although they are dead, they are not forgotten – at least by their surviving comrades – who recall their sacred memories and heroism at each recurring annual re-union of their regiments.”

Speeches were made by Dr. D.W. Young, late Surgeon of the 36th Regt.; by Capt. C.B. Wells, and by Col. Davis of the 52d. After these eloquent addresses, the body retired to the basement of the M. E. church – their commissary department – and after the boys had “filed in” and all taking seats, Captain M.B. Baldwin, the President of the day, called them to order in a few well timed and appropriate remarks, and introduced Rev. H. Shade, the Chaplain of the day who delivered a short and feeling prayer, after which Rev. Mr. Atchinson, the orator of the day, was introduced, who welcomed the boys to Elgin and the hospitalities of the city in such an address as only a soldier who has been upon the battle-field and experienced and shared the exposures and hardships of the camp and the soldiers can deliver. It was a most eloquent production, and made every boy who had worn the blue feel that he had met a comrade.”

The toasts being next in order, first came
“The old Flag: May it ever be as now – the emblem of our liberties,” and named Col. E.S. Joslyn to respond.

The Colonel came forward and was received with thundering applause, showing that he has a firm hold on the affections of his old comrades. He responded to the sentiment in the most eloquent and patriotic manner – one of his best strains – and everybody knows that was good.

After Colonel Joslyn’s speech the band played the Star Spangled Banner and the President read a second toast:

“Our absent friends,” and named Dr. S.B. Hawley to respond.

The Doctor responded in a few appropriate remarks, after which the third was read:

“The 36th and 52d Regiments,” and Dr. D.W. Young named to respond.

The Doctor responded in a short speech, again reviewing the histories of the Regiments.

The President then announced the fourth toast:

“The cause we fought for,” and introduced Capt. C.B. Wells, who responded in a neat manner, after which the fifth toast was read:

“The sacred dead,” and Rev. Dr. Forrester, of Aurora, introduced to respond.

“The Doctor, apparently animated by the surroundings and the hallowedness of the sentiment, entered into the subject with a will, and while we have often heard him, and upon different subjects, we must say that we never heard him equal this effort – it was a most eloquent production, and when the Doctor took his seat fully one half of his audience were in tears.”

Rev. W.M. Haigh, the former gallant old Chaplain of the Regiment, was requested to prepare and publish a history of the regiment.

The Secretary then read interesting letters from Chaplain Haigh and Capt. John Turnbull, expressing regrets for their necessary absence.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:

President – Major Geo. D. Sherman.

Vice President – Maj. Sam’l B. Sherer.

Secretary – Capt. Albert M. Hobbs.

Executive Committee – Surgeon D.W. Young, Capt. L.M. Kelly, Surgeon W.B. Pierce, Capt. M.B. Baldwin, and Lieut. Elijah Buck.

The time and the place for the next meeting was left with the Executive Committee.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered the ladies and citizens of Elgin for their bounteous and magnificent entertainment; also to the officers of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and Northwestern Railroads for their liberality in furnishing extra trains at half fare rates for accommodation. The regiment then sang “Rally Round the Flag Boys,” as only soldiers can sing it, and adjourned.

When the 52d arrived at Sherman Hall, they organized by calling Capt. C.B. Wells to the chair, and Lieutenant Thompson Secretary. This being the regiment’s first re-union since their muster out of the service, they adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, and then elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

President – Capt. C.B. Wells.

Vice President – Col. Frank T. Gilbert.

Secretary – Lieut. Thompson.

Ass’t Secretary – Capt. A.P. Vaughn.

Statistical Secretary – Capt. John Swadling.

Treasurer – Capt. A. Barto.

The officers elected were also made an Executive Committee. The time selected for the next re-union was the first Wednesday in September, 1869. The place, Camp Lyon, Geneva, the place where the regiment first went into camp.

In 1869 The Grand Army of the Republic held its National Encampment at Cincinnati, Ohio. Illinois once again did not hold a State Encampment. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment held its 3rd annual re-union at Monmouth on October 8th. Major George D. Sherman was chosen President, Captain Albert M. Hobbs was Secretary and for the first time a Vice-President was named, Major Samuel B. Sherer. In Aurora, a Soldiers Monument Association was established to raise funds for an appropriate memorial to those who served.

Grant and Colfax took office.

Thursday, June 3, 1869

THE DECORATION OF SOLDIER'S GRAVES

The arrangement for these commemorative ceremonies do not seem to work together harmoniously, as between the soldiers and citizens – particularly that portion of the latter representing the religious element. Several meetings and adjourned meetings have been held, and as many postponements and changes made, until at the present writing, it seems agreed upon that next Sunday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the ceremonies shall take place.

At a meeting in the Court room Tuesday night, which was well attended by soldiers, clergymen and citizens, an effort was made by those claiming to have conscientious convictions against celebrating on Sunday, to induce the soldiers to change the time to some week day, but the efforts failed. Lengthy discussions were had, and some little feeling evinced on both sides, but the only effect produced was a voluntary change by the soldiers themselves, of the hour for commencing the ceremonies, from 10 in the forenoon to 1 o'clock. Without wishing to impugn wrong motives to either party, we desire that the utmost harmony should prevail in carrying out these sacred and worthy observations.

Another meeting to make final arrangements will take place in the City Hall next Saturday night.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE. The undersigned committee having in charge the general arrangements of decorating the soldiers' graves in this city, upon due consideration, find that they have no power to act upon the request made by the meetings of Tuesday evening. In order to harmonize, as much as possible, all opinions as to the time and manner of decorating, respectfully recommend – to soldiers and citizens that *all* ceremony be dispensed with, except that of strewing the graves with flowers, and for that purpose we request that the committee on flowers bring them to the Grand Jury Room, in the Court House, Saturday afternoon, or evening, and that all persons who desire to participate in the ceremony, meet at the Court House on Sunday afternoon, June 6th, at one o'clock, whence they will proceed to the different cemeteries, as heretofore published.

Billing

the band played dirges which added solemnity to the scene. The monuments of Wallace and Joel Wilder were handsomely decorated with flowers, and upon the former hung a portrait of him who, after fighting bravely for his country, died a victim of rebel brutality.

About four o'clock the procession reformed in line of march, and passing around by Oak, Galena and Lake Streets, halted at the spring house at the foot of Downer Place, where the soldiers were provided with a drink of cold water. Re-continuing the march, the procession moved around to Broadway, and followed that street south to

Spring Lake Cemetery.

The spacious grounds and extensive drives in this cemetery admitted the carriages, which must have numbered over one hundred. The procession halted at Silas Miller's monument, where a hymn was sung and a prayer offered by Dr. Forrester. Col. Miller's monument was beautifully twined with a wreath of vines and blossoms reaching from summit to base. The plot of grounds surrounding it was strewn with the choicest of flowers, after which the procession moved across to the east side of the cemetery, where several other graves were visited, thence moved out at the east gate into Lincoln Street, which was followed up to New York Street and across by Anderson to

The Old Aurora Cemetery.

Here hundreds of people, principally women and children, had preceded the procession, so that with those coming later, the grounds were densely packed. Gathering together as closely as possible near the center of the cemetery, the soldiers took a seat on the ground, the choir again sang a hymn and a prayer was again offered by the Rev. A.P. Mead, after which the graves were strewn with flowers. We noticed a beautiful cross laid upon one of the graves, which the mother, we suppose, of the brave boy watched with jealous solitude for a while, and pressing it to her bosom bore it away as a treasured keepsake.

A fitting close to the beautiful ceremonies was a visit to the grave of Frederick Vaughan, a revolutionary soldier buried in this cemetery. Here Mr. J.C. Eberwin paid a most feeling and glowing tribute to the old veteran and the cause in which he struggled – taking that and the latter war in one, wherein both had fought for the same principle.

The day was beautiful, and the exercise passed off in such a manner that they will long and favorably be remembered by those who are the friends of the departed brave.

Thursday, July 1, 1869

SOLDIER'S MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

In accordance with a call, a meeting was held at the Grand Jury Room Monday evening, June 21st, to make a report in regard to the distribution of money received for the decoration of Soldier's graves. A. Billing was elected chairman. The following bills were presented, and ordered paid.

Jenks & VanVleet, carriages,	\$19.00	
R. Reece, Plants & Flowers,	21.00	
Printing and posting handbills		4.00

Band	30.00
J.C. James, for flags	5.75

Leaving a balance of \$12.75 on hand. It was moved and seconded that the balance be turned over to the Treasurer of a Monument Association hereafter to be formed. It was moved and seconded that a committee consisting of seven be appointed to report at an adjourned meeting next Monday night a plan for organizing a Monument Association – carried. The following gentlemen were appointed said committee; O. Willson, F.O. White, A. Hard, L.D. Brady, W.S. McMicken, J.C. Sherwin and A.C. Little. The meeting was adjourned to next Monday evening, at the Grand Jury Room. All are cordially invited to attend.

Thursday, July 8, 1869

AURORA MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

A few patriotic citizens have made a move toward the erection of a soldier's monument, and on Monday evening, June 28th, held a meeting, organized themselves into an association, and adopted a constitution. Another meeting will be held as soon as one hundred signatures for membership are obtained – the price of membership being \$1. The soliciting committee are L.D. Brady, D.W. Young, Jacob Hopper and A. Billing, East side, and O. Willson, S.B. Sherer and F.O. White, West side, F.O. White treasurer and C.M. Rathburn secretary. It is proposed to raise from six thousand to ten thousand dollars for a monument to perpetuate the memory and deeds of both the dead and the living soldiers who went from Aurora. We sincerely hope that the movement may meet with success. Below is the

CONSTITUTION

Desiring to perpetuate the names of those soldiers who have lived in Aurora and its vicinity, or who are buried there, we, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of erecting at Aurora a Monument to their memory.

ARTICLE I The name of the association shall be, "The Soldiers' Monument Association."

ARTICLE II Any person can become a member of this Association by paying into the Treasury the sum of one dollar.

ARTICLE III The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, ten Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Board of five of which the President and Secretary shall be *ex-office* members – and all officers of this Association shall be elected by ballot, shall serve for a term of one year, and until their successor shall be elected and qualified.

ARTICLE IV It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the Association, also of the Executive Board – and, in case of the absence or decease of the President, then the Senior Vice President shall perform the duties of President.

ARTICLE V It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep all records and attend to all correspondence of the Association, and also to keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds the property of the Association; he shall give receipts for all monies received by him, and shall pay out, loan or invest the same only upon the order of the Executive Board, or a majority of them, signed by the

President and countersigned by the Secretary. He shall also make a report of all business transacted by him during the year, at the annual meeting of the Association, or as often as called upon to do so by the Executive Board, and shall give such bonds as shall be required by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII The Executive Board shall have power to call meetings of the Association whenever a majority of them shall deem it necessary, and it shall be their duty to give notice in the papers of this city of the annual meetings for the election of officers at least two weeks preceding said election. It shall be their duty to recommend to the Association, from time to time, such plans as they shall deem expedient to accomplish the object for which it is formed, and all such plans adopted by the Association shall be executed by them. It shall also be their duty, in case of a vacancy in any office not otherwise provided for, to call a special election to fill said vacancy, and notice of the same shall be published at least two weeks prior to said election.

ARTICLE VIII Every member of the Association shall be entitled to vote at any of its meetings, and they shall also be entitled to a certificate of membership, which shall be signed by the President and Secretary.

ARTICLE IX The Constitution can be amended at any annual meeting of the Association, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, due notice having been given as heretofore provided, by the vote of three-fourths of those present at such meeting.

The annual meeting of this Association shall be held on the first Monday of July.

Thursday, August 5, 1869

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of "The Soldiers' Monument Association" held at the City Hall on Thursday evening July 28th, Dr. A. Hard was elected President, and Fred O. White, Secretary.

As there were but few present it was resolved to adjourn to Thursday evening August 5th. Meeting to be held at the City Hall, at which time the officers of the Association will be elected.

Every person who has paid one dollar into the Treasury is a member of the Association, and it is earnestly hoped that all such will feel sufficient interest to be present next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, and assist to elect such persons to fill the various offices, as will by their influence and energy, carry forward successfully the work for which we are organized.

Hard, Pres't.

Fred Otis White, Sec.

Thursday, September 1, 1869

ANNUAL RE-UNION OF THE 36TH ILL.

The third annual reunion of the 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers will be held at Monmouth, Warren County, on the 8th day of October, 1869. Arrangements have been made with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad to carry the members of the Regiment and their

friends at half fare. Every member should turn out and pay Company C a visit.

By order of the Committee.

A.M. Hobbs, Sec.

Saturday, December 4, 1869

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT FESTIVAL

This Saturday evening the first entertainment given by the Soldiers' Monument Association will be held at Empire Hall. All of our citizens are aware of the object of this association: - the creation of a monument to the soldiers of the "Grand Army of the Republic," who enlisted from the Fox Valley; and not only this, but to keep as nearly as possible, a complete record of the whereabouts and history of those living, as well as dead, upon substantial and enduring books, which are finally to be preserved in the monument. Thus every person of the community comes to have deep interest in it, and should do all in their power to forward its interests.

The entertainment this evening will be one of the most pleasant of the season. The music will be pleasant, and of as great variety and excellence as that give at many 50 cent concerts, while the social entertainment and refreshments are vouched for by the character of the committees on arrangements and cookery.

The ceremony of voting the gold headed cane, who to either Dr. Quereau or Hon. E.R. Allen, will be exciting and deeply interesting to the particular friends of either gentleman, who, while complimenting these gentlemen, will, at the same time, be aiding a meritorious and patriotic cause.

Again we urge our citizens to a general attendance at Empire Hall this evening – with well filled pocket books.

Wednesday, December 8, 1869

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT SUPPER

The following are the receipts and expenditures of the supper given by the Soldiers' Monument Association on Saturday evening the 4th inst.:

Total amount received,	\$142.65
Expenses,	<u>65.27</u>
Net profits,	\$ 77.38

The Executive Board desire to return their sincere thanks to the Committees on "Cooking" and "Tables" for their contribution of labor; to the Choir and Glee Club for the musical entertainment so kindly given; to those whose liberal donations of butter and milk saved a large amount of expense; and to those of the public whose liberality and sociability helped to

make the supper pleasant and profitable.

Fred O. White, Sec.

-For the cane 678 votes were cast at ten cents each. It was awarded Hon. E.R. Allen, by some 118 majority. There has been some fault found with the manner of voting, both parties claiming "sharp practice." At the time announced for closing the polls, a gentleman just casting 100 votes for Prof. Quereau, claims that he was some 30 or 40 votes ahead, while some desiring to vote for E.R. Allen claim, as the money was not all paid when time was called, only the money in counted, and that they were entitled to vote to match that deposited after "time." After some debate, the polls were opened some fifteen minutes longer with the result above.

We cannot impute any motive, except to get as much money for the Association as possible, to any person; -yet in view of this difficulty, we suggest that in future strict rules as to voting be adopted, and that time and rules be rigidly adhered to. Any but the most kindly feeling, and interest dealing, will be fatal to the Society – and every reasonable means should be taken to avoid even the appearance of anything else.

Saturday, December 11, 1869

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT FESTIVAL AND CANE ELECTION

The undersigned acting as Judges of the cane election between Mr. Quereau and Mr. Allen, agree in saying: The time fixed upon and announced for closing the election was 10:30 o'clock p.m. As the end of the time approached it was announced by one of us, ten minutes more for voting, five minutes more, four, three, two, one minute, giving all notice and a fair opportunity for voting. When the last minute of the time fixed for voting expired, and the call was made, Mr. Quereau had thirty eight more votes than Mr. Allen. We regarded the election ended and so announced it.

Seeing this, some of the friends of Mr. Allen proposed and urged the continuance of voting twenty minutes. Mr. Quereau's friends opposed it, insisted that the election was ended, and when they saw the persistence of their opposers, withdrew and had nothing more to do with it. Mr. Allen's friends continued voting and the result was that at 10:50 p.m. he had 118 majority, which was announced at 10:50 p.m.

Dr. Gale
D.D. Owen,
A.G. McDole.

Saturday, December 18, 1869

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION SUPPER

EDITORS' BEACON: For more than a week past there has been considerable said, and some things published, in regard to the "cane contest" which came off at the oyster supper given at Brady's Hall, on the evening of December 4th.

I desire to make a few statements which *have been omitted*, and to correct a number of misstatements which have been made by those who have entirely and unjustly criticized the

motives and actions of Hon. E.R. Allen, myself and others.

It must be evident to almost any one who has given the matter a thought, that the "cane contest" was gotten up, not for, *or in the interest* of any private individual, but for the benefit of the Association, and it was hoped and believed that the social and business of Dr. Quereau and Mr. Allen were such that the generous rivalry of their friends would add to the funds of the Association without creating any unkind feelings, whichever way the contest might turn. The impression, however, has been conveyed to the public, or some parties, that fraud was practiced by myself and others at the polls, for the purpose of giving the cane to Mr. Allen, whether it belonged to him or not. I desire to make a statement in this connection, to show that if such was our intention, we took an expensive and bungling way to do it.

A gentleman living east of Aurora, whose sympathies are enlisted in every worthy enterprise, but who was unable to be present at the supper, gave a dollar to a friend and told him to give it to the Association. When the money was given to me I suggested that it should be used in the cane election when the polls were opened giving five votes to each candidate. The friend objected to this and stated that if the giver were present, he would put in all in for Mr. Allen. I then said, as no instructions were given in relation to the matter, that it would be unfair to use it for Mr. Allen, and unless he would consent to have it used in equal amounts for each, I should not feel at liberty to use it at all. He then consented to my proposition, and I deposited five votes for each candidate.

About ten o'clock Mr. McCarty came to me and stated that Dr. Quereau was considerably behind and requested me to vote for him and; also to get my friends to do the same; stating at the same time that we could make it more interesting, and consequently more profitable if the contest appeared more equal. Upon inquiry, I ascertained that Mr. Allen was something over one hundred ahead, and I deposited two dollars (twenty votes) for Dr. Quereau. A number of others, who, like myself, were supposed to be partisans of Mr. Allen, upon solicitation, voted for Dr. Quereau. The public can judge whether or not these acts are an evidence of evil intentions toward those who complain of ill treatment, or whether they are an evidence that we desired to give each an equal chance; and more than that, that we are anxious to make a good thing for the association out of the election, and were willing to spend money on both candidates in order to do it.

And now a few words in regard to the "statement", which was published in your last Saturday's issue, and signed by the "acting judges" of the election. That the time for the polls to close was *half past ten* is true, but that the polls *were closed* at that time as the public were led to believe, *is not the fact*. When the time "eight seconds more to vote" was called, Mr. McCarty stood at one corner of the hall talking with some ladies. That, before he came up and called for the one hundred votes for Dr. Quereau, *it was past the "half past,"* two of the judges do not deny. In the mean time parties came to me and said, "What ever amount is necessary to give the cane to Mr. Allen, put it in and we will make it good," and it would seem I cared but little for the real purpose of the vote: *viz.*, the success of the entertainment financially, if I had not taken advantage of so liberal an offer. Just before Mr. McCarty came up, the judge stated that Mr. Allen had 78 majority, although in their "statement" they claim he had but 69. As Mr. McCarty called for one hundred votes he laid down two bills, a five and a one, and at that time Dr. Gale said, "times up." I was standing by Dr. Gale's side with some bills in my hand and just as he said, "times up" I called for 56 votes for Mr. Allen. Mr Owen took my money and afterwards took four dollars from Mr. McCarty. Objection was then made to receiving my votes, and I insisted that if they received the four dollars from Mr. McCarty they ought also to receive mine,

as both amounts were put in after time was called. In the meantime sums of five dollars each were offered by Messrs. Polleys, Hawkins and Loomis, but were not received by the Judges. Considerable discussion then ensued, each party confident that their view of the matter was the correct one. Some five minutes were taken up in this manner, when, Mr. Polleys moved that the polls be reopened for *fifteen minutes*. This seemed the only fair way to settle the matter as both parties would then have an equal chance, and the Judges opened the polls. Dr. Quereau's friends opposed this movement; one of them requested the Judges return his money to him and finally a number of them left the hall.

Mr. Allen's friends continued voting up to 10:50 when the polls were closed a second time, and the vote was announced from a tally list, which I now have in my possession, as follows, Total vote 667, for Allen, 430, for Dr. Quereau, 237, Allen's majority 173 instead of 118 as published in the Judges statement. In view of the facts above stated, it is evident, 1st that had the polls closed at *half past ten*, Mr. Allen would have had a majority of 78. 2d, had no money been received after time was called he would have had a majority of 18. 3d, that his final majority was 173, and the cane was awarded him by the Judges.

It would seem to most people that one party should deem it expedient to hold back their votes during the first part of the election for the purpose of flooding the ballot box at the last moment and than should be beaten at that "little game." They ought to appreciate the joke and not take the matter so much to heart.

In 1870 The Grand Army of the Republic held its 4th National Encampment at Washington, D.C. Again, Illinois did not hold a State Encampment. The 36th Regiment Volunteers 4th annual re-union was held on October 8th in Aurora. A.M. Hobbs was Secretary. Decoration Day Ceremonies grew in importance and size through out the North. In Aurora, a city ordinance was passed on October 1.

Wednesday, May 18, 1870

ADJOURNED MEETING FOR DECORATION CEREMONIES,

Jno. C. Sherwin was called to the chair, and W.H. Watson was appointed Secretary.

Moved that the Committee on Artillery procure the gun at Geneva for use on Decoration Day. Carried.

Moved that Capt. A.C. Little be added to the Committee on Artillery. Carried.

On motion the following were elected as Chaplains for the different cemeteries;

Rev. A.P. Mead, West Aurora Cemetery.

Rev Chas. Button, Aurora Cemetery.

Rev. Dr. Forrester, Spring Lake Cemetery.

Rev. Father Murphey, Catholic Cemetery.

On motion the Rev. Mr. Clark of the Union Baptist Church was elected as alternate for the Aurora Cemetery, in case the Rev. Chas. Button is unable to serve.

The death of Anthony Handy, of the 89th Ills. Vols., was announced and the following persons volunteered to act as pall bearers at the funeral, on Tuesday at 2 ½ o'clock, p.m.

Wm. Vinter, Robt. Miller, Fred O. White, S.B. Sherer, A.C. Graves, H.B. Douglas.

On motion the following were added to the committee to make arrangements for the 38 young ladies who represent the States.

Wm. Vinter, W.H. Watson, Mrs E.H. Burdsall, Miss. Mary McLallen, Mrs. Dr. Hawley, Mrs. Robt. Miller, Mrs. Dr. O. Wilson, H.B. Douglas.

On motion the Committee on Arrangements were authorized to make out and publish a programme; also to procure an orator in case the Rev. Robt. Colyer is unable to serve.

On motion the meeting adjourned on Monday evening, May 23d, at half past 7.

W.H. Watson
Secretary

John C. Sherwin
Chairman.

Wednesday, June 1, 1870

ADJOURNED MEETING FOR DECORATION CEREMONIES

Monday Evening, May 23.

Dr. O. Wilson in the chair, and W.H. Watson Secretary.

Chairman Committee of Arrangements reported that Hon. E.A. Storrs had been engaged to deliver the address, and that the public schools would be closed on Decoration Day.

On motion Mr. Yager was added to the Committee on Artillery.

Capt. A.C. Graves being unable to take command of the soldiers on foot, on motion Dr. O. Wilson was appointed to take his place.

Committee on Finance were instructed to procure conveyances for the use of the young ladies who represented the states and for the Floral Committee.

It was moved that the Principals of the public schools were requested to ask the scholars under their charge, to bring flowers for the decoration, as their offering in the demonstration; also, that an invitation be extended to all citizens to do the same. Carried.

On motion the colored people were invited to participate in the ceremonies.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet Thursday evening at the City Hall at half past seven. It is hoped there will be full attendance.

W.H. Watson
Secretary

O. Wilson
Chairman.

Wednesday, June 1, 1870

DECORATION DAY ITS OBSERVANCE IN AURORA --- SCENES AND INCIDENTS

The entire population of Aurora and surrounding country seemed feelingly and fraternally united in the memorial services of decorating our soldier's graves on last Monday.

It was a day around which will cluster the sweetest memories for long years to come. It was a day which for once was hallowed with fitting and worthy bestowals of affection for the memory of those who now occupy a place dearer in every true heart than that of kindred, for the nation's liberty was purchased by their blood.

In every respect the memorial obsequies this year were in comparison with last, of a fourfold higher character. The call issued by a few patriotic citizens a couple of weeks since, was responded to, and all are proud of the result.

At an early hour in the morning people commenced arriving in large numbers from the surrounding towns and neighborhoods, and by ten o'clock the city resembled the appearance of a Fourth of July celebration. At that hour the great bell in the City Hall tower rang out an inviting peal, which was echoed back from the east hill by Tom Bexon's Artillery.

The island was the center of attraction. From eight till ten o'clock a continuous throng poured into the City Hall with their floral offerings. The Court Room presented a beautiful appearance – a hundred fair hands weaving the flowers into wreaths and arranging them into bouquets.

At two o'clock the procession started, formed in the following order;

Ryder's full cornet band (the members in usual form;) Ezra Smith's Oswego fife and drum corps, (Fitzgerald fifer;) soldiers numbering some thirty; members of the Holly Hose and Young America Engine and Hose Company; Colored "Company," numbering sixteen, bearing a flag, commanded by "Capt." James Moore with a sword; carriages containing Mayor, Councilmen, city officers, Hays, Forrester, Mead and Button, and Aurora Glee Club; two large band wagons containing thirty-eight young ladies in white, representing each State – "commanded" by Major W.H. Watson, and a line of carriages reaching nearly a mile in length. Major S.B. Sherer was Marshall of the day, and Robert Miller and Henry B. Douglas, assistants.

Reaching the West Aurora Cemetery, a portion was detached and proceeded to the Catholic Cemetery, where Rev. Charles Button offered prayer, and the graves of six soldiers

were strewn with flowers. (Father Murphey was not present, having been suddenly called away to Chicago on business, but wrote a letter to the decoration committee expressing regret for his absence, but promising to be with them another year, if life was spared.) In the first named cemetery the Glee Club sang. Rev. Mead offered prayer, and the soldier's friends and young ladies deposited the flowers upon the graves –the band meanwhile played Webster's Funeral March. There are, we believe, nineteen of our brave boys in this cemetery. The white headstones of Wallace, Wilder and John Mostow were hung with beautiful wreaths of flowers and evergreens, while special marks of affection were visible upon several of the graves.

After the exercise had been completed at the cemetery, and while waiting for the return of those from the Catholic grounds, owing to intense heat, a large number started back in search of water and shade, and the procession reached the city somewhat disorganized, but reformed on the island, where a fresh supply of flowers was obtained, and the long line moved on again across the river and down Broadway to Spring Lake Cemetery. At this cemetery the most beautiful scene of the day was witnessed at the grave of Colonel Silas Miller. The stately monument which marks the repose of this valiant and gifted young officer was handsomely wreathed with evergreens and flowers. The young ladies in white formed a circle around it, and the soldiers and firemen in other lines back. The Glee Club in the centre sang a hymn, and Dr. Forrester offered up a prayer.

There was but one other brave boy in the west division of this cemetery, and three in the east.

Leaving Spring Lake in coming up Lincoln Avenue, the soldiers and friends, tired and thirsty from their long march through the dust and heat, were halted by Marshal Henry B. Douglas in front of his house, and each refreshed with a glass of ice water.

The procession left nearly a thousand behind at Spring Lake Cemetery, but found an equal number in waiting at the old East Side Cemetery. There the largest number of our fallen heroes lie buried. Twenty-six of the boys in blue and their gallant commanders quietly repose amidst the flowers and foliage of this lovely little "city of the dead."

The procession on reaching this cemetery marched to the east side where the civic orders were drawn into line, the Glee Club sang and Elder Button offered a prayer. Then the graves were visited and each covered with flowers. Several German soldiers lie buried in the eastern portion of this cemetery, who received an equal share of the bestowal of affection's tributes. The grave of Frederick Vaughan, the old revolutionary soldier, was decorated in the same manner as the rest, but no eloquent eulogy was paid to his memory as on last year.

"Breaking Line" as the procession passed out of the gate, we retraced our steps and found a lady in black gazing on the most tenderly decked slab in the cemetery – that of Lieut. M.V.B. Akin, who died two years ago. The lady was his widow, who had come from St. Charles to deck the grave of one who was dearest of all the world to her, but who died a martyr to liberty long after the decisive struggle was over.

We should be glad to publish the names and something of the history of all Aurora's patriot dead, but have not the space in our paper this week. The names and companies and regiments to which each belonged, are now being collected by the Monument Association, and may be given another year.

IN THE EVENING

The cornet band assembled at the Fitch House and escorted a large procession to Lincoln

Park, where Hon. E.A. Storrs of Chicago addressed a couple of thousand in the most eloquent and patriotic speech probably ever listened to in Aurora. He spoke but about fifteen minutes, but uttered some of the finest sentiments which ever fell from the lips of mortal man. Revs. Forrester and Button, were afterwards called out, and though unexpectedly to either, they each reflected honor upon themselves and drew approbations of applause from their listeners.

Saturday, June 25, 1870

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

Public notice is hereby given to all members of the Soldiers' Monument Association, that the annual; meeting for the election of a President, ten Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and three members of the Executive Board will be held at the City Hall on Monday evening, July 4th, 1870, at eight o'clock. A full attendance is desired.

L.D. Brady,
John C. Sherwin,
A.C. Little,
H.B. Douglas,
Fred O. White, Executive Board

Aurora, June 18th, 1870.

Wednesday, September 7, 1870

36TH RE-UNION

The fourth annual Re-union of the 36th Illinois Vol. Infantry will be held at Aurora, Kane County, Ills. On the 8th day of October, A.D., 1870. Comrads fall in,
By order of the Committee,
A.M. Hobbs, Sec'y.

October 1, 1870

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA that permission is hereby granted to the Executive Board of the "Soldiers Monument Ass'n." of this City, to excavate for the foundation and erect a Soldiers Monument, in a central location upon the City Hall lot, east of the Court House, at such time as said Board shall feel that a sufficient sum has been raised to warrant the commencement of the work subject to the control of the Common Council.

Saturday, November 5, 1870

MONUMENT OYSTER SUPPER.

The ladies of the Soldiers' Monument Association will give an Oyster Supper at the Fitch House, next Thursday evening. Mr. Naper has kindly donated them the use of the parlors, kitchens and dining rooms for the occasion and the ladies will put forth every exertion to make the occasion one of pleasurable enjoyment. They, in turn, desire that the public in appreciation of their efforts and the cause for which they labor, will second their efforts with a liberal patronage. The following ladies will act as table committee.

Mrs. S.B. Sherer and Misses Cleora Stolp, Mary Ferguson, Ella Winegar, Ella Emerson, Mary McLallen, Julla Brady, Mary Ellis, Mittie Miles, Jennie Davis, Anna Foster, Della Button, Julla McCollum, Annie Hibbard, Ruth Rising, Louisa Buck, Wilcox, Sarah Richardson.

Saturday, December 24, 1870

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

give a model party and supper at Brady's Hall, Tuesday evening, Dec. (Jan.) 3d, 1871. They have engaged Prof. J.A. Wedgwood and his band from Chicago, and some of the most competent of the young folks of the city will be present to make the evening agreeable and brilliant. The ladies have also engaged rooms on the second floor for an oyster supper, where they will entertain those who do not desire to mingle in the party above. Tickets to the party and supper at \$2 per couple; while oysters will be furnished those who desire, at fifty cents a person.

The ladies of the Association are putting forth every effort within their power to accomplish the erection of a creditable monument – and have succeeded in placing a considerable amount in the treasury. Our Society, however, is considerably behind those of adjacent counties, - Freeport and Ottawa being especially forward in their operations. The ladies are especially anxious that their exertions should be well seconded, and will put forth every effort in their power to be worthy of the patronage they hope to receive at the hands of the patriotic public. At Brady's Hall to-night.

In 1871 The Grand Army of the Republic held its 5th National Encampment in Boston, Massachusetts. This would mark the fifth year that Illinois did not hold a State Encampment. It is not known where the 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment Survivors 5th Annual Reunion was held, but, J.C. Dennison was the Secretary.

Saturday, May 13, 1871

DECORATION DAY

There will be a meeting of the soldiers at the Court Room next Tuesday evening, May 16th at 7 ½ o'clock, to make arrangements for the proper observance of that day. All soldiers invited.

Wednesday, May 21, 1871

DECORATION DAY

MEETING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DECORATION OF THE SOLDIER'S GRAVES

On Tuesday evening a number of our citizens convened at the City Hall for the purpose of making arrangements to pay the usual tribute to their fallen comrades, who gave up their lives during the rebellion for their country. The meeting was organized by calling Dr. A.C. Ferre to the chair, when M.S. Barns was appointed Secretary. Remarks were made by Dr. O. Willson, F.O. White, J.C. Sherwin, J.H. Blackmore, Dr. Ferre, A.C. Graves, H.B. Douglas, and Mr. I.W. Rice, and others. The speakers all agreed that the custom of decorating the graves of the fallen heroes with spring flowers should always remain national and permanent as long as our government stands.

The following Committees were appointed:

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

F.O. White, M.S. Barns, Dr. A.C. Ferre, J.C. Sherwin, J.H. Blackmore.

LADIES TO ARRANGE FLOWERS

Mrs. S.B. Sherer,
Mrs. Fred O. White,
Mrs. S.S. Sensenbaugh,
Mrs. Dr. O. Willson,
Mrs. Robert Miller,
Mrs. I.W. Rice,
Mrs. J.H. Blackmore,

Miss Mary McClellan,
Miss Mary Ellis.

COMMITTEE ON CEMETERIES

Spring Lake. – Thomas Watson, I.W. Rice

West Aurora. – R.B. Gates, Joy Tarble.

East Aurora. – H.B. Douglas, B. Winton.

Catholic. – M.J. Tarble, Geo. Perrigo.

CHAPLAINS AT GRAVES

West Aurora. – Rev. A.P. Mead.

East Aurora. – Dr. Forrester.

Spring Lake. – Rev. Charles Button.

Catholic. –T.B. Murphy.

COMMITTEE ON CARRIAGES

Chas. Bexon, G.L. Collins, I.W. Rice

A.C. Graves and Robert Miller were appointed a committee to make arrangements to have flags raised at half mast on the City Hall and car shops, and such other buildings as they may deem proper. Also to make arrangements for the tolling of the bell on the City Hall during the progress of the procession to the cemeteries.

It was resolved that each soldier furnish the flowers he can and take them to the City Hall early on the morning of decoration. Also a general request for the citizens of Aurora, and especially to the ladies, to provide flowers for the occasion.

Also resolved that all citizens be invited to unite in the performance of the sacred duty of decorating the graves, and thus show a proper respect for those who laid down their lives in a noble cause.

Friends of the deceased soldiers are cordially invited to contribute bouquets of flowers for the occasion, and if properly marked will be used for the particular grave indicated.

The ladies appointed to make the flowers into suitable wreaths and bouquets are requested to meet at the City Hall as early as nine o'clock on the morning of decoration.

It was resolved that the city press be requested to publish the proceedings of the meeting, and also to urge upon the people of Aurora the duty of observing the day thus ever keeping in remembrance the noble deeds of the fallen heroes.

It was stated that there are about fifty graves in the several cemeteries to be decorated.

The meeting adjourned to meet on Monday evening next at half past seven o'clock, at the City Hall, at which time a cordial invitation is expected to all our citizens to be present and take part.

The Committee on Arrangements will meet on Saturday evening at eight o'clock, in the counting room of the Daily Herald for the purpose of perfecting some matters over which that committee has supervision. They will be pleased to have members of the other committees present.

A.C. Ferre, Ch'm.

M.S. Barnes, Sec'y.

Wednesday, May 31, 1871

OUR MARTYRED DEAD FLORAL HONORS TO THE FALLEN BRAVE

Tuesday, the 30th day of May was a day of public solemnity; it witnessed the outpouring of national affection, the tribute of grateful memorial for those who died in their country's defense. The feelings which prompted the hallowed act of yesterday were sincere in origin and practical in fulfillment. Every wreath or bouquet that strewed a soldier's grave, spoke volumes for the hands which laid it there, and called up reminiscence only to be obliterated by the stroke of death.

For some time past arrangements have been in progress looking to the appropriate celebration of "Decoration Day," and our own city has not been behind in making preparations for this national anniversary. Fortunately the weather was extremely favorable and although the sun was hot and scorching, not the slightest appearance of rain or storm prevailed to mar the interest of the occasion. In the various parts of the city flags were all at half mast, prominent of which were those at the Court House, railroad shops, Temple of Fashion and other buildings; the stores were generally closed in the afternoon, and the Court House bell tolled during the day. A general interest seemed to pervade our citizens who turned out in large numbers to testify by their presence and appreciation of the memorial event. Large supplies of flowers, wreaths, floral crosses and similar decorations had been received in the City Hall during the day by the ladies designated to accept them, and who performed their duties in a most kind and efficient manner. It had been wisely arranged that flowers should at first be only distributed for the West Aurora cemeteries and that on the procession returning it should halt on the island for a fresh supply for those on the East Side. All this was well carried out. Shortly after one o'clock the procession commenced to form on the island, the proceedings of the day being under the supervision of a Committee of Arrangements. S.B. Sherer acted as Marshal, with W.M. Page and I.W. Rice as aids. At half past one the head of the procession left the Court House preceded by Ryder's Military Band in their new uniforms, followed by a company of soldiers who served in the rebellion, and who were commanded by Dr. O. Willson, then the choir, consisting of Miss Emerson, Miss Porter, Dr. Kilbourne and Mr. E.C. Brown. The Chaplains of the day and Col. M.S. Barnes, the Orator, with the members of the press followed, after which over sixty carriages formed in line and added to the length of the procession which was very imposing. The line of march was as follows: Over the west bridge, up Downer Place to River street, thence north on Lake to Galena, thence west on Galena to Lake, thence north on Lake to Catholic Cemetery, then returned to West Aurora Cemetery, from thence south on Lake to Downer Place and across the river to Broadway, thence south on Broadway to Spring Lake Cemetery, returning by way of Lincoln Avenue to Fox Street, thence east to Root Street, thence north on Root Street to Aurora Cemetery. The first halt made by the procession was at the

CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

Arrived at the gate, a general dismounting took place and the soldiers having marched to the centre of the burying ground the choir sang a suitable piece and the prayer was offered by Rev. Isaac Clark, of the first Congregational Church, in absence of the Rev. T.B. Murphy, after which the graves of soldiers interred there, were decorated in the usual manner, the subjoined being a list: James Wade, Phillip Reedy, Thomas Maloney, Andy Handy, Patrick McGrath and James Manahan. The procession then reformed and proceeded to the

WEST AURORA CEMETERY

where a large concourse of people and carriages assembled. The clergy and choir having taken up their respective positions, the latter sang,

“A tear for the comrade that’s gone,”

which was beautifully rendered, and its simplicity and appropriateness, seemed to add materially to the solemnity of the moment. The Rev. A.P. Mead, Pastor of the Galena Street M.E. Church, then offered up the following prayer:

“Our Divine Father, we implore Thy blessing upon us while we come into the presence of our dead to remember that they died for us. We thank Thee for this beautiful day. While we scatter over the graves of the fallen brave the mementoes of affection, may we be impressed with a sense of our responsibility that it is ours to live for our country as our friends died for it. O Lord, we pray Thy blessing upon the surviving comrades of the fallen, the bereaved who mourn for the departed. Bless, O Lord, our country and government, and may the time never come when our land shall be plunged into war for the defense of the liberty we now enjoy. Guide us O Father, and bring us at last to Thy Kingdom of peace and glory, through Christ our Savior. Amen.”

The ceremony of decorating the graves in this Cemetery was next proceeded within the order annexed:

Name	Reg't	Co.	Lot.
Trask			14
George Miers			29
S.D. Towle	52 Ill.	A	32
Joel Wilder	36 & 156 Ill.	B	51
H. Young			93
J.H. Dodge			33
Babcock			101
Joy Tarble	124 Ill.		329
W. White			204
R. Anderson			178
J. Mostow			184
J.C. Smith	127 Ill.	F	147
J. Roe			149
Seymour Crance	52 Ill.	A	133
Hough			116
T. Race			130
M. Race	156 Ill.	B	130
W. Shies			132
Cyrus W. Randall	124 Ill.		

Once again the line of march was taken up and continued until reaching the island, where ice water was served out and fresh supplies of flowers distributed. The scene along the principal streets was peculiarly animating; the whole population seemed to have turned out in honor of the day. Everything being in readiness, a fresh start was made, the official line of march being strictly adhered to, and passing along Fox Street and down South Broadway, it was not long before

SPRING LAKE CEMETERY

was reached and again the decorating ceremonies were performed. The Rev. Charles Button had been deputed to act as Chaplain at this burying ground, but his absence was filled by Rev. Dr. Forrester, who, after singing by the choir, pronounced an appropriate prayer. The following are the names of the soldiers interred in this cemetery:

Silas Miller,	Robt. Parmalee,
Joseph Burley,	E.S. Dewey,
A.S. Hawkins,	Henry Baker,
P. Odell,	J. Marlett.

THE LAST DECORATION TOOK PLACE AT THE
EAST AURORA CEMETERY

On Root Street, where also Rev. Dr. Forrester conducted the religious exercises, when flowers, wreaths, crosses, immortelles bouquets and other floral devices were deposited upon the following graves:

	Lot	Block
Geo. Gardner,	57	2
Willson Denniston,	31	2
Coggswell,	18	2
Albertt Mosley,	8	2
Robt. Fleming,	62	2
Chas. Titsworth,	19	2
Chas. Otis,	25	2
J.E. Goodwin,	64	2
Freeman Goodwin,	64	2
E.M.Emerson,	22	2
Levi Morgan,	25	2
Berry,	20	1
J.E. Merrill,	36	1
Unknown on free ground 2d grave from 2 trees.		
Hoff, on free ground 3d grave from 2 trees.		
Wm. Blakesley,	32	4
Wm. B. Aiken,	43	3
Robt. A. Drain,	89	3
Purdy,	40	1
M.A. Fenton,	42	1
Hollenbeck,	31	1
Gilbert Ross,	33	1
Henry A. Snell,	22	4
Thomas McCray,	41	4
Frederick Vaughn, Revolutionary veteran.		

After the decoration of all had been completed, the soldiers and company gathered around the grave of an old revolutionary hero, when

COL. M.S. BARNES

proceeded to deliver the "Oration of the Day." We regret that our limited space prohibits our publishing it in our present issue. It was perfectly pertinent to the day, alluded feelingly to the occasion, and was attentively listened to by all present. Immediately on the conclusion of the address, Dr. O. Willson proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for the floral arrangements, to the Chaplains, the orator and all who had contributed towards the "memorial," not omitting the press. The motion was put by Marshal Sherer, and carried with acclamation, when the company dispersed, and thus the proceedings of Decoration Day, 1871 were brought to a close. Aurora has reason to be proud of the manner in which her citizens turned out, and for the quiet, orderly manner in which the entire programme was carried out. The movement was wholly free from all sordid or political motives, and was neither more nor less than the spontaneous offering of deeply cherished regard for the dead brave defenders of our glorious Union.

Wednesday, June 14, 1871

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE 36th, 52^d, 89th AND 124th ILL, INF. AND 8th CAVALRY.

A *special* invitation is hereby extended to the surviving members of the above named regiments – and soldiers of other regiments are invited to join with them – to come to Aurora on July 4th, 1871 and have a grand "*Re-union*" on our national anniversary.

All who can do so are requested to come mounted, and those who cannot, will be formed into an "Infantry Battalion" to join in the procession. One of the principal reasons which the gallant Phil Sheridan gives for desiring to be in Aurora on that day is, that "*he wants to see the boys.*"

Let every soldier who can make arrangements to come, whether uniformed or not. Our numbers are constantly decreasing, and let us improve every opportunity to take each other by the hand and renew the acquaintances formed in army life.

The arrangements which are already perfected, give promise to the grandest celebration ever held in Illinois, and you can all rest assured that you will not regret any effort that you make to be present with us at that time.

The large "*Hall in Dunning's Block*" will be the place of rendezvous for all included in this invitation, and they are requested to report to the Military Committee on their arrival at that place. The headquarters of the "*Elgin Zouaves*" will be in the upper "*Hall in Dunning's Block.*"

All organizations or individuals who can be present at that time are requested to report by letter to Fred O. White, Chairman Military Committee, as soon as possible, and to state whether they will come mounted or not.

Fred O. White,
S.B. Sherer,
H.B. Douglas,
O. Willson.

Committee on Military Organization.

Saturday, December 2, 1871

SOLDIER'S MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

The Ladies' Auxiliary Soldiers' Monument Association held its annual meeting for 1871, at the house of Mrs. E.R. Allen, on the first day of November.

From the report presented to the Association by Mrs. Merrill, the Treasurer, we learn that the net proceeds of the ladies' efforts during the year, in cash, are \$1,091.98, which sum added to the amount in the treasury one year ago, makes an aggregate of about \$1,500.

When we consider the small number of ladies, only six or seven, who are actively engaged in forwarding the purposes of the Association, this result may be considered a splendid compliment to their business energy and their usefulness and devoted labors to honor the memory of our heroic dead. With few exceptions the Association testifies to the uniform kindness of the public in seconding its efforts, and are stimulated to pursue the good work so nobly and successfully begun, until a sum sufficiently large shall have been secured to erect a Soldiers' Monument in Aurora, which shall fittingly express the regard with which our citizens hold the martyrs of the rebellion.

Few can realize the difficulties which were met and overcome by the ladies in the first organization of the Association. Meeting after meeting was called, but it was a great exertion only, that five or six could be got together at one time. All wished the Association well, but the pressure of domestic duties and other occupations prevented their active co-operation. Thanks to the perseverance of such as could give it to their time, the Association is now up on a firm basis; it has established methods of work; the people understand its scope and object, and are willing to help it along; and it is extending its membership and gaining strength for future work.

The money, as fast as earned, is put at interest and well secured by real estate mortgages, and will be so kept until enough shall have been secured to warrant its expenditure in building the monument.

We publish this fact to correct the notions of occasionally a person who seems to think that this money is used by the ladies for their own profit. It would hardly be supposed that such aspersions would be cast upon ladies so well known in all benevolent work in our city as are these; but we are told that an old merchant here asked in the course of a business transaction with the officers of the Association, "How many families were getting their support out of it."

At the last meeting of the Association, it was *Resolved*, That while pursuing vigorously the general objects of the Association to devote a portion of its earnings, to the next three months to the relief of the home poor.

At the same meeting the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Mrs. A. Merrill; Vice-President, Mrs. E.R. Allen; Secretary, Mrs. S.T. Allen; Treasurer, Mrs. Clark Wilder; Asst. Treasurer, Mrs. Dr. O. Willson. Executive Committee, Mrs. L.W. Gray; Chairman, Mrs. S.N. Harrington, Mrs. A.F. Shedd, Mrs. S. Lake, Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. W.B. Allen, Mrs. Myron Pease, Mrs. Clara Brown, Miss. L. Allen.

We bespeak for this Association not only the good will, but the active co-operation of our citizens.

We had prepared this notice some time since, but have not been able to publish it.

In 1872 The Grand Army of the Republic held its 6th National Encampment in Cleveland, Ohio. Illinois held its first State Encampment (since its 1866 Springfield Convention) in February at Springfield. The 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers held their 6th re-union at Newark, Illinois on October 25th. G.G. Biddulph, President, and S.B. Sherer, Secretary, officiated. Grant, with his new running mate Henry Wilson, won re-election over Horace Greeley and B. Gratz Brown.

Wednesday, January 10, 1872

DEATH OF CAPT. A. M. HOBBS.

An extra from the office of the Kendall County *Record*, dated Thursday, January 4th, 1872 announces that:

Capt. Albert M. Hobbs, formerly of the 36th Illinois Volunteers, and Clerk of the Circuit Court of Kendall County, died at the residence of his father, in Bristol, this Thursday morning at six o'clock. On Saturday last he had a bullet taken from his leg that he had carried since the battle of Chickamauga, and he died from the shock his system received in the surgical operation.

Capt. Hobbs was widely and well known hereabouts, and his popularity was only circumscribed by the limit of his acquaintance. The announcement of his death will be received with unfeigned sorrow.

The *Record* of the same date has the following:

At the battle of Chickamauga Capt. A.M. Hobbs, now Clerk of the Circuit Court, was shot in the leg by a Minnie ball. The ball entered the leg just by the knee, imbedding itself among the tendons and muscles, and remained there until Saturday last. For some months the ball has given much pain, and on Saturday, in Chicago, the Surgeons extracted the ball, having to cut deep into the important muscles of the limb, and causing a painful wound. Returning home to Bristol he has since been confined to the house suffering the great agony – a repetition of the suffering when first shot.

Wednesday, August 21, 1872

EIGHTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY RE-UNION

The seventh annual re-union of the Eighth Regiment Illinois Cavalry will be held at St. Charles, Kane County, Ill., on Wednesday, the 18th day of September next – that being the anniversary of the muster of the regiment into the U.S. service, eleven years ago, at St. Charles. A large gathering of the surviving veterans and friends of the regiment on the old camp ground is expected.

Abner Hard

Sec'y 8th Ill. Cav. Association

Newspapers in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Minnesota please copy.

Wednesday, October 16, 1872

SIXTH ANNUAL RE-UNION OF 36th ILLINOIS VET. VOLS.

The sixth annual re-union of the old 36th Ill. Vet. Vols., will meet at Newark, Illinois, Oct. 25th. A free dinner served by the ladies, speeches, toasts, etc., will be the order of exercises.

A cordial invitation is extended to all the old members and friends of the regiment. Let us all turn out and revive old memories. For further particulars enquire of J.C. Denison.

Per Order Com.

Saturday, October 26, 1872

THE 36th RE-UNION

RE-UNION YESTERDAY AT NEWARK

The 36th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers – those old veterans who made so glorious a record upon the sanguinary fields From Stone River to Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain – from “Atlanta to the sea” – met at Newark on yesterday to hold their sixth annual re-union. The weather was delightful, the soldiers from the vicinity of Aurora enjoyed the double pleasure of riding to Millington in charge of agreeable gentlemen, conductor Voeburg and being accompanied by the splendid Aurora Cornet Band – while the fair ladies of Newark, and the citizens in general, made every effort to give the boys a hearty and fitting welcome.

Leaving the train at Millington, carriages and wagons were in waiting to convey the party to Newark, a distance of two miles, and though the road was rough and the dust intolerable, both were made subjects of sport, and the distance soon overcome. Just outside the town we found another detachment of soldiers, and on alighting, the procession was formed, with Major Biddulph in command. On entering Newark we found the streets thronged with people along the line of march, many flags and streamers displayed from the principal buildings, while from windows and doorways fair ladies waved their greetings to the war-worn veterans, and on

reaching the M. E. Church we found an assembly of about 2,000 persons in waiting. The church being far too small for the accommodation of so large an audience, the speaking took place from the front steps of the same.

Prof. Burns, of Newark, had been designated to welcome the soldiers in behalf of the citizens of Newark, and his address was most eloquent and appropriate. We regret that want of space will not permit of our giving even a synopsis of his pleasing effort.

M.B. Castle the poet-banker of Sandwich returned the acknowledgments of the soldiers in a brief but humorous speech, which called forth much laughter. He, too, served his country – not with a musket, but in the capacity of sutler, for three months. He recalled the position with much pride, and thought himself peculiarly qualified to stand between the soldiers and citizens upon this occasion, etc. He extended, in behalf of the 36th, the right hand of fellowship to all other soldiers present, and invited them to take part in the festivities of the occasion – and thanked the ladies of Newark in elegant style for their efforts in making the re-union a pleasant affair.

The attention of the soldiers was then called to the splendid collation spread by the ladies. Between the M. E. and Baptist Churches, five tables of 112 feet in length had been arranged, the centre one surmounted by a massive arch of evergreens, bearing the legend “Greetings to Soldiers.” At this table the soldiers were seated, while the other visitors occupied those on either hand, and all did ample justice to the substantials and delicacies beneath which the boards fairly groaned, while scores of ladies flitted hither and thither with kindly and unceasing attention. The dinner was truly a marvel of taste and skill both in cookery, arrangement and serving, and the soldiers were free to vote it the best at which they had ever been entertained – expressing their appreciation, upon rising, by three cheers and a tiger for the ladies of Newark.

The members of the 36th then repaired to the M. E. Church to transact the annual business of the organization, while the band at frequent intervals delighted the citizens outside by some of their choicest music.

Major Biddulph called the meeting to order, as President, and Capt. Dennison, of Elgin, in the absence of Major Sherer, acted as Secretary. After reading the minutes of the last meeting, the Secretary read the following letter from Co. A’s drummer boy, which explains itself:

Elgin, Oct. 24th, 72.

Dear Comrades:

Although I cannot respond in person to the call, I wish to answer to my name while life lasts.

The same Merciful Father who shielded you and I from death at the south has bestowed on me numberless blessings at home, and I hope to meet you next year, and finally in that bright world above, where parting is no more.

Your affectionate comrade.

Charley Stiles,

Co. A’s drummer.

(1872D)

He also exhibited two photographs of Charley Stiles – one taken on entering the service, and the other quite recently. They were passed to each of the comrades, and inspected with affectionate interest, such as is only experienced by soldiers for those who have braved with them the terrors of the battle-field.

On motion of Dr. A.C. Ferre the matter of preparing the history of the regiment was laid

over. The Secretary reported \$75 collected for the monument to the memory of Lieut. Col. Olson, and the amount was materially enlarged by additional subscriptions. Milton Cornell, of Yorkville, was elected Treasurer, in place of Capt. Hobbs, deceased, and on motion Mr. Cornell was also declared Treasurer of the Olson Monument Committee. A committee of one from each company was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the monument – the names of whom we shall publish next week. It was decided to hold the next re-union at Morris on the first Thursday after the 22nd of September, 1873. Secretary Denison explained the absence of the Elgin delegation in consequence of change in time by the trains. Dr. Young sent regrets for unavoidable absence. Mr. Geo. G. Biddulph was re-elected as President of the organization, and Capt. Dennison as Secretary. A new Executive Committee were elected as follows: Wallie Ellis, L. Hemmingway, Thos. Hill, J.C. Dennison, A.C. Ferre and G. Vreeland. Resolutions of respect and condolence were passed upon the death of Capt. Hobbs of Yorkville, which we are also compelled to defer publishing to-day.

At the close of the business meeting, forty-two remaining members of the 36th signed the muster roll. A canvas was taken of the soldiers present, showing fifty-two regiments and ten States represented. Of these old veterans, three were found to vote for Greeley (one of whom is a candidate for some minor office on the Greeley ticket) – and the balance of the boys declared emphatically for Grant.

The balance of the day was spent in pleasant converse, and at about four o'clock the carriages were announced, the soldiers wrung each others hand with a last good bye as they separated for another year, renewed their thanks to the kind friends who had rendered the sixth annual re-union so gratifying a success, and hastened to Millington to catch the evening train for home.

In 1873 The Grand Army of the Republic held their 7th National Encampment in New Haven, Connecticut. The Illinois State Encampment was held in Chicago on January 22nd. The 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Re-union (7th) was held in Morris, Illinois. President G.G. Biddulph, Secretary J.C. Denison and Milton Cornell Treasurer officiated.

Ulysses S. Grant began his second term as President.

The "Beacon" published precious little about the Regiments or the Soldiers Monument Association. As a matter of fact, the 36th was not mentioned at all!

Wednesday, April 30, 1873

DECORATION DAY

All soldiers, sailors and citizens interested in decorating the graves of our departed comrades, are requested to meet in the Grand Jury room at the City Hall, on Monday eve., May 5th, at 7 ½ o'clock, for the purpose of making arrangements for the same.

Per Order of Committee.

J.C. Sherwin,
W.H. Watson,
M.D. Yager.

Wednesday, May 28, 1873

DECORATION DAY THE ORDER OF EXERCISES AND LINE OF MARCH

The procession will form in front of Court House, Friday, May 30, at 1 o'clock p.m. in the following order: Soldiers on the right, led by the Aurora Cornet Band, followed by the chaplains, orator of the day, choir, Mayor and Council, members of the press and citizens.

The line of march will be west to River Street, thence north to Galena, west on same to Lake, north on same to Catholic Cemetery, where the exercises will consist of singing by the choir, prayer by the Rev. T.B. Murphey, strewing of flowers on graves by soldiers. Counter march to West Aurora Cemetery, where the same exercises will be performed, chaplain, Rev. W.D. Atchison.

The procession will reform, move south to Downer Place, east to Broadway, north on same to Main, east on Main to West Park Place, north on same to New York Street, east to fourth, north to Flagg street, east on Flagg to East Aurora Cemetery, chaplain Rev. S.A. Wadewett.

After exercises at this cemetery, procession will reform moving south on Root Street to Fox Street, west on Fox to Lincoln Avenue to Spring Lake Cemetery, chaplain Rev. Chas. Button. The exercises will end at Spring Lake Cemetery.

Wednesday, June 4, 1873

DECORATION DAY

Proved much more fair during the afternoon than could have been hoped during the early part of the day, and the turnout was larger, if anything, than last year, when the weather was somewhat more pleasant. The prospect in the morning was most discouraging and the various committees who had labored under very many troublesome annoyances, had almost made up their minds before noon for a postponement of the exercises – but luckily this misfortune was not rendered necessary, and at the hour designated the attendance upon the island was unusually large.

About fifty of the old veterans were present to drop a tear upon the graves of departed comrades who had with them defended our homes and firesides during the war “for the Union,” among whom we noted the following regiments represented:

Illinois – The 8th and 15th cavalry, and the 13th, 15th, 7th, 20th, 27th, 35th, 37th, 8th, 62nd, 65th, 45th, 72nd, 89th, 124th, 127th, 152nd, 146th, 23rd.

Pennsylvania – The 53rd, 128th, and 61st.

Indiana – 80th infantry.

Ohio – 14th and 15th infantry.

Rhode Island – 1st infantry and 1st battery of artillery.

Missouri – The 27th infantry and 1st artillery.

New York – The 16th infantry.

Massachusetts – The 5th artillery and 7th and 37th infantry.

From the regular army the 5th infantry and the 6th veteran volunteers, 16th veteran volunteers, and the 50th colored infantry was represented.

The procession formed according to programme, and proceeded direct to the Catholic Cemetery, upon the West Side. The committee deeply regretted that owing to prior engagements, the Rev. Father Murphey could not be present to officiate here. In his place, however, Elder Keyes offered prayer. Then owing to the absence of the committee appointed to designate the graves of soldiers, their comrades were compelled to search them out from memory, and felt satisfied that in this manner several were omitted. The quartette club, composed of Mr. Eugene Bowen, Charley Strong, J.S. Perkins and Miss. Emma Baker, here rendered, very acceptably, “A Tear for the Comrade That’s Gone.”

At the West Aurora Cemetery, after singing by the club, the Rev. W.D. Atchison offered prayer, and the graves designated were strewn with fresh spring flowers.

Upon reaching the island the soldiers abandoned their carriages, and under command of Mr. Thos. Bexon, marched to the East Side Cemetery, where the usual appropriate ceremonies were gone through with – the club singing “Sleep Gently,” and S.A. Jewett engaging in prayer.

Resuming their carriages the procession wended its way to Spring Lake, where the exercises were opened by the club singing “Once Again We Meet.” Rev. Chas. Button followed with prayer, the graves were thickly covered with flowers, and then the multitude gathered together to listen to an oration from John C. Sherwin, Esq., which was most eloquent and appropriate.

All of the pastors officiating, we believe had been army chaplains, with the exception of the Rev. Mr. Jewett. Business houses generally were closed, and the turnout was much larger than could be hoped from the unfavorable condition of the weather. The procession, at one time, was at least a mile in length, and in the business portion of the city the streets were thronged with people.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the season there was a great abundance of flowers, many persons having made trips to neighboring woods, and secured great quantities of wild flowers which fair ladies speedily wrought into tasteful bouquets. Then, too, the morning train from the east brought a generous floral contribution from Hinsdale, from the household of H.F. VanNortwick, Miss. Ella VanNortwick, Miss. Mattie VanNortwick and Miss. Emma VanNortwick, which proved a most acceptable acquisition, and for which the committee desire us to return their grateful thanks.

The ceremonies were admirably managed in every particular, the Aurora Cornet Band furnished excellent music, and the decoration proved a most gratifying success.

In 1874 The Grand Army of the Republic held its 8th National Encampment in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Illinois State Encampment was held at Rockford on January 27th. The 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers Survivors held their 8th re-union at Plano, Illinois on September 24th, G.G. Biddulph, President, and J.C. Denison, Secretary, officiated once again. Their former regimental Surgeon Dr. Delos W. Young passed on September 8th. In the Beacon, less and less space was allocated to the veterans reunions.

Saturday, April 25, 1874

ATTENTION SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS !

All soldiers and citizens interested in the appropriate decoration of the graves of our fallen heroes on May 30th are requested to meet at the office of Rice & Higgins, 15 Fox Street (over Trask's jewelry store) on Tuesday evening next, at half past seven o'clock, to make arrangements for such decoration.

Thomas Bexon,
J.D. Calahan,
J.H. Blackman. Com.

Wednesday, April 29, 1874

DECORATION DAY

A large number of our veteran soldiers met last evening to make arrangements for the appropriate decoration of the graves of their fallen comrades on May 30th at the office of Rice & Higgins on Fox Street last evening, when Capt. A.C. Little was called to the chair, and C.M. Ross made Secretary.

The meeting at once proceeded to the appointment of committees, as follows:

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

Lieut. I.W. Rice, Lieut. J.D. Calahan, and Major W.H. Watson.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

E.C. Beardsley, Capt. A.C. Ferre, M.W. Page, Dr. S.B. Hawley and Dr. O. Wilson

COMMITTEE ON MUSIC

Dr. M.M. Robbins, M.O. Southworth and C.G. Evans

COMMITTEE ON CARRIAGES

Lieut. Thomas Bexon, Capt. J.H. Blackmore, Albert Stickle and E.G. Rice

COMMITTEE ON CEMETERIES

Catholic Cemetery	John Halsbach
West Aurora Cemetery	Bruce Gates
East Aurora Cemetery	Wm. Scragg
Spring Lake Cemetery	M.D. Yager

The following named clergymen were chosen to act as chaplains at the various cemeteries:

Catholic Cemetery	Rev. T.B. Murphey
West Aurora Cemetery	Rev. E.W. Lounsbury
Spring Lake Cemetery	Rev. S.P. Keyes
East Aurora Cemetery	Rev. James Gorton

MARSHALS

J.D. Calahan was selected as Marshal; 1st Asst., E.C. Beardsley; 2d Asst., H.H. Evans; 3d Asst., Russell Richardson – with Thos. Bexon as Capt. of squad.

COMMITTEE FOR PROCURING AND ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS

Mrs. Robert Miller	Mrs. S.B. Hawley
Mrs. E.W. Porter	Mrs. R.W. Gates
Mrs. C.M. Ross	Mrs. L. Titsworth Jr
Mrs. Theo. Porter	Mrs. Wm. Knickerbocker
Mrs. A.C. Ferre	
Mrs. F.O. White	Mrs. H.H. Miller
Mrs. J.D. Calahan	Mrs. Wm. Gardner
Mrs. A.K. Perry	Mrs. Geo. Hall
Mrs. W.H. Miller	Mrs. Richard Rees
Mrs. E. Perrigo	Mrs. Ira B. Copley
Mrs. W.H. Scragg	Mrs. W.J. Pollock
Mrs. N. Bowdish	Mrs. Ben Covert
Mrs. J.H. Blackmore	Mrs. Jas. Gorton
Mrs. D.B. Sibley	Miss. Mary Ferguson
Mrs. F.L. Thayer	Miss. Clara Hitchcock
Mrs. M.D. Yager	Miss. Ethel Stoughton
Mrs. G. Bartholomew	Miss. Clara Stolp
Mrs. S. Dennison	Miss. Ruth Rising
Mrs. L. Otis	Miss. Mary Denny
Mrs. Ira Fox	Miss. Mary Long
Mrs. J.W. Parrington	Miss. Louisa Hard
Mrs. Geo. Wilcox	Miss. Mary Keyes
Mrs. J.H. Hodder	Miss. Eva McCarty

Mrs. H.H. Evans
Mrs. A.C. Graves
Mrs. Pierce Burton
Mrs. T. Stickle
Mrs. A. Stickle
Mrs. O. Wilson

Miss. Fannie Bishop
Miss. Ella Emerson
Miss. Ida McMicken
Miss. Flora Budlong
Miss. Lizzie Wheaton
Misses Somarindyke

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the same place on Tuesday evening, May 12th, when the several committees are expected to report, and it is confidently hoped that our citizens will each and all, as upon former occasions, lend their hearty co-operation.

Saturday, May 23, 1874

DECORATION DAY THE ORDER OF EXERCISES AND THE LINE OF MARCH

The procession will form in front of the Court House, Saturday, May 30th at 1 o'clock p.m., in the following order; Soldiers on the right, led by the Aurora Cornet Band, followed by the chaplains, orator of the day, choir, Mayor and Council, members of the press and citizens.

The line of march will be west to River street, thence north to Galena, west on same to Lake, north on same to Catholic Cemetery, where the exercises will consist of singing by the choir, prayer by the Rev. T.B. Murphey, strewing of the flowers on the graves by soldiers. Counter march to West Aurora Cemetery, where the same exercises will be performed; Chaplain, Rev. E.W. Lounsbury.

The procession will reform, move south to Downer Place east to Broadway and south to Spring Lake Cemetery, where Rev. S.P. Keyes will officiate as chaplain.

Leaving the cemetery by the east gate, the procession will move north on Lincoln avenue to New York street, east to Root street, and north to the East Aurora Cemetery. Rev. Chas. Button will here officiate as chaplain, when the exercises of the day will conclude with an oration by Capt. A.C. Little, the Mayor of Aurora.

It is requested that all soldiers and citizens wishing to join in the procession will be on hand at 1 o'clock sharp.

All friends, both in city and country, willing to assist with flowers, will oblige us by sending them to the City Hall on the morning of the 30th.

I.W. Rice
W.H. Watson
J.G. Calahan
Com. of Arrangements.

Wednesday, September 2, 1874

REGIMENTAL REUNIONS

The following regiments will hold re-unions this fall at the times and places designated below. Preparations are being made to give the boys hearty receptions all around.

The 95th meets at Nunda on Friday, September 4th.

The 127th at Elgin on Tuesday, September 8th.

The 52d at St. Charles, Wednesday, September 9th.

The 105th at Downer's Grove, Wednesday, September 2d.

The 8th Illinois Cavalry, at Woodstock, on Friday, September 18th.

ATTENTION SOLDIERS !

The veteran soldiers of Aurora are requested to meet at the Grand Jury Room this evening at 8 o'clock. Let there be a full attendance.

This very vague announcement may mark the beginnings of forming an Aurora GAR Post.

Saturday, September 19, 1874

RE-UNION OF THE 36TH ILLINOIS

The eighth annual reunion of the veteran regiment of the State, the 36th Illinois, will be held at Plano, Thursday next, Sept. 24. A welcome address, free dinner, toasts, etc., will be the order of exercises. Music will be furnished by the Plano Cornet Band. The citizens of Plano tender the use of Stewarts Park, one of the finest in the State, to the boys, and promise the surviving comrades of the 36th Illinois a rousing reception. Let all the "boys" turn out and answer to "roll call," shake each other by the hand, and revive old camp memories, and make this a time long to be remembered.

J.C. Denison, Secy.

(1874R)

36th ILL. VOLS.

Comrade _____

THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

VETERAN REGIMENT OF THE STATE, THE 36th ILL.

WILL BE HELD AT
PLANO, SEPTEMBER 24, 1874

-----0-----

A Welcome Address, Free Dinner, Toasts, Etc., will be the order of
Exercises

Music will be furnished by the PLANO CORNET BAND.

You are respectfully requested to attend

J.C. Denison,

Secretary

Maj. G.G. Biddulph,

President

(1874I)

Saturday, November 14, 1874

PRINTING AND BINDING

Commercial, Insurance, Legal, and all kinds of *Job Printing*,
Ruling and *Binding*, executed with accuracy and dispatch, and a first class

BLANK BOOK MANUFACTORY

All orders will receive prompt attention

KNICKERBOCKER & HODDER

This Aurora Company would play a role in the preparation of the "36th Regimental History" as well as reunion and GAR Post print work.

In 1875 the Grand Army of the Republic held its National Encampment in Chicago on May 12th. John F. Hartranft of Pennsylvania was the Commander-in-Chief. National membership in the GAR had reached almost 28,000. The Department of Illinois Encampment was held at Joliet on January 20th, H. Hilliard of Chicago was Department Commander. The proximity of both Encampments to Aurora allowed many local veterans to attend and raised interest in establishing an Aurora GAR Post. Aurora Post was chartered on June 10th. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Survivors Re-union was held in Aurora on September 23rd. Geo. G. Biddulph was President and J.C. Denison, Secretary.

President Grant was bringing a rather dismal term of office to an end. Though his administration was fraught with rampant corruption, his "Boys" still loved him.

Wednesday, May 5, 1875

ATTENTION, SOLDIERS

All soldiers are requested to meet at the office of Capt. A.C. Little, Opera House, at 7:30 o'clock this (Wednesday) evening, to take measures for the proper observance of Decoration Day. A full attendance is earnestly requested.

W.H. Watson,
I.W. Rice,
C.M. Ross, Com.

DECORATION DAY

Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic.

Department of Illinois, 106 Fifth Avenue.

General Order No. 3

Chicago, April 26, 1875.

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic, the 29th day of May next (the 30th being Sunday), will be observed as Memorial Day, and the customary honors will be paid to the memory of our deceased comrades, by visiting and decorating their graves, and by public services.

A proper observance of the day is enjoined upon all comrades and posts of this department, and the clergy and all patriotic citizens are earnestly requested to participate in the ceremonies of that day.

We would seek to honor the memory of all those passed away, who in the honor of trial did their duty faithfully. The graves of Illinois patriots are scattered far and wide. Let all be united in our remembrance as we strew flowers on the graves of those who have their last resting place within her borders.

By order H. Hilliard, Commander.

Joseph S. Reynolds, Ass't Adj. General.

Saturday, May 8, 1875

DECORATION DAY

In pursuance of notice, a meeting of the soldiers was held on Wednesday evening at ex-Mayor Little's office to make arrangements for Decoration Day.

W.H. Watson was called to the chair, and C.T. Douglas elected Secretary.

It being thought by some that flowers could not be had in sufficient quantities as early as the 29th of May, the day set apart by the Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., a motion was made to postpone the services until the 15th of June; but the motion was lost. The majority seeming to feel that it was better to conform to the usual custom and observe the day set apart for that one sacred purpose all over the land, though they could offer no better a tribute than that of the *evergreen branch*.

The following committees were then appointed, *viz*:

Committee on Finance – Frank Harrall, E.C. Beardsley, R.W. Farrell, Thos. Bexon, B.F. Leonard.

Committee on Arrangements – C.T. Douglas, A.C. Little, W.H. Watson, Dr. Hard.

Committee on Music – Dr. Robbins, M.O. Southworth, J.A. Egleston.

Committee on Carriages – John D. Calahan, M.M. Page, Frank Harrall.

Committee to Designate Soldier's Graves – H.M. Titsworth, East Aurora Cemetery; Bruce Gates, West Aurora Cemetery; John Hasbrook, West Aurora Catholic Cemetery; Ald. Welter, German Catholic Cemetery; M.D. Yager, Spring Lake Cemetery.

On motion, the Sextons of the various cemeteries were also added to the committee.

Committee on Flowers –

Mrs. Robt. Miller,	Mrs. Ira B. Copley,
“ A.C. Ferre,	“ J.J. McClallen,
“ F.O. White,	“ C.M. Ross,
“ W.H. Watson,	“ Will Hoyt,
“ J.D. Calahan,	“ Dr. Ricker,
“ A.K. Perry,	“ J.B. Chase,
“ Elijah Perrigo,	“ E.C. Beardsley,
“ W.H. Scragg,	“ T.B. Coulter,
“ J.H. Blackmore,	“ G.A. Pfangle,
“ F.L. Thayer,	“ R.R. Northam,
“ G. Bartholomew,	“ A.C. Graves,
“ L. Otis,	Miss. Clara Hitchcock,
“ J.W. Parrington	“ Clara Stolp,
“ Ira Fox,	“ Ruth Rising,
“ Geo. Wilcox,	“ May Denny,
“ Chas. Douglas,	“ Mary Keyes,
“ Chas. Wheaton,	“ Eva McCarty,
“ J.H. Hodder,	“ Bell Newlan,
“ H.H. Evans,	“ Jessie Hoyt,
“ M.M. Page,	“ May Loomis,
“ T. Stickle,	“ Cora West,
“ Dr. O. Willson,	“ Isa Cushing,
“ Dr. S.B. Hawley,	“ Gertie Little,
“ R.W. Gates,	“ Lon Hawley,
“ H.H. Miller,	“ Somarindyck
“ Geo. Perrigo,	“ Geneve Hard,
“ Richard Rees	Misses. Brady.

Chaplains – Rev. T.B. Murphy, Catholic Cemetery; Rev. E.W. Lounsbury, West Aurora Cemetery; Rev. N.A. Prentiss, East Aurora Cemetery, Rev. S.P. Keyes, Spring Lake Cemetery; Rev. Father Learmann, German Catholic Cemetery.

Marshal of the Day – E.C. Beardsley.

Assistants – Thomas Hornby, J.D. Calahan.

On motion of Capt. Little, the President and Secretary were directed to prepare a communication to the Common Council, requesting them to erect a platform and stand in the East Aurora Park, suitable for the decoration services.

On motion, it was also voted to invite the Common Council and Public Schools to attend in a body the services to be held in the park.

On motion the meeting adjourned to two weeks from tonight.

C.T. Douglas, Sec.

The feeling of the meeting was that the ceremony of decorating the graves should be done in the forenoon, and that the various delegations for that purpose, after having performed their mission, should unite in the East Aurora Park, where the general ceremonies of the day should take place; these exercises to consist of an address, music by the Glee Club, Band, etc.; but all was referred to the Committee on Arrangements to decide and prepare its programme, and make all necessary arrangements for speakers, etc. This committee will meet on Thursday evening and make known the order of exercises at as early a date as possible.

Wednesday, May 26, 1875 (also reprinted on Saturday, May 29)

DECORATION DAY

Assemble at the Court House at one o'clock p.m.

There be formed into three squads. One under charge of Marshal Beardsley will proceed to Spring Lake Cemetery; another under charge of Assistant Marshal Calahan will go to West Aurora and the Catholic Cemeteries; and the other under charge of Assistant Marshal Hornby, to East Aurora and German Catholic Cemeteries.

Chaplains: For the West Aurora Cemetery, Rev. E.W. Lounsbury; Catholic Cemetery, Rev. T.B. Murphy; Spring Lake Cemetery, Rev. S.P. Keyes; East Aurora, Rev. W.A. Prentiss; German Catholic Cemetery, Rev. Father Learman.

Carriages will be in attendance on the island to take the several squads and the officers to the cemeteries.

Return to Lincoln Park at 3 o'clock p.m. where an oration will be delivered by Emery A. Storrs, Esq., of Chicago.

The occasion will be enlivened by appropriate music, both vocal and instrumental, and other exercises incidental to the Dedication of Lincoln Park.

All interested in perpetuating the memories of our fallen heroes and commemorating their noble deeds are respectfully invited to participate in the exercises.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

Abner Hard, Chairman.

Saturday, June 12, 1875

The Democratic newspapers are dissatisfied with the address General Hurlbut made on Decoration Day, in Cincinnati. It seems impossible for the General to forget that there was a war when the soldiers were killed, and the rebel sympathizers do not like to have such things brought up. In fact, they would like to have Decoration Day, and the cause in which the boys lost their lives, done away with entirely.

Wednesday, June 23, 1875

Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., meet at their hall in Stenger Block on Friday evening next, June 25th, at 8 o'clock, sharp. Full attendance of members is requested, as business of

importance is to be transacted.
(This Post would later become No. 20)

Saturday, June 26, 1875

The only celebration of the Fourth that we know of will take place in Geneva on Monday, June 5th. Mr. Herrington, of Geneva, has kindly granted the use of the island for the day. The citizens of Geneva will construct a bridge from the town to the island. Gen. Farnsworth, of St. Charles, will open the proceedings, and Judge Parks, of this city, will deliver a speech, Col. Joslyn, of Elgin, will read the Declaration of Independence, and other public men will address the citizens of Kane County. Refreshments of all kinds, a splendid band of music, a platform for dancing, and a ball at night will make young and old happy in celebrating the Fourth. The celebration gives splendid chances for the out of door enjoyment of the day, and many of the young men and ladies of Aurora will take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a most pleasant day. Bands of music will be in attendance. Aurora doubtless will have the largest delegation of all present.

Wednesday, August 25, 1875

REUNION OF THE 36th

At a meeting of the surviving members of the 36th Illinois Volunteers, held at the City Hall, on the 21st of August, Dr. A.C. Ferre was elected Chairman and Fred O. White Secretary.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to write to Governor Beveridge, inviting him to deliver an oration at the annual reunion, also to extend an invitation to B.F. Taylor to deliver a poem at the grave of Col. Silas Miller.

Dr. A.C. Ferre was appointed as Committee on Transportation.

The following were appointed as Committee of Arrangements:

Henry B. Douglas, Fred O. White, and I.W. Rice.

The following named persons were appointed a Committee on Finance:

Dr. S.B. Hawley, Thomas F. White, and Samuel Hitchcock.

The Secretary was instructed to invite Dr. S.B. Hawley to deliver the address of welcome.

A meeting of the citizens and soldiers of Aurora, who are interested in the reunion of the old 36th, and desire to make it a success, will be held at the City Hall on Saturday evening, August 28th, at 8 o'clock.

Ladies and gentlemen, any and all who are willing to work, give or advise, will be welcome. Many of the boys are gone, but we believe that neither the living nor the dead are yet forgotten by the loyal people of Aurora. Will you come out and help us?

The meeting adjourned until Saturday night.

A.C. Ferre, Chairman.

Fred O. White, Secretary.

Saturday, September 8, 1875

THE 36th REGIMENT

As the reunion of the 36th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers is to be held in this city on the 23rd inst., a brief review of its history will be of interest to your readers.

The original organization was effected at "Camp Hammond," near Montgomery, under authority of the War Department, and the regiment was mustered into service by Capt. A.G. Brackett, U. S. A., Sept. 23rd, 1861.

The following are the names of the officers who were commissioned by Gov. Yates when the regiment was organized:

Colonel, Nicholas Greusel; Lieutenant Colonel, Edward S. Joslyn; Major, A.H. Barry; Adjutant, Geo. A. Willis; Quartermaster, I.N. Buck; Surgeon, Delos W. Young*; Assistant Surgeon, S.B. Hawley; Chaplain, Geo. G. Lyons.

Company A Cavalry – Captain, Albert Jenks; 1st Lieutenant, S.B. Sherer; 2d Lieutenant, A.C. Ferre. Co. B – Captain, H.A. Smith; 1st Lieutenant, Sam'l Chapman; 2d Lieutenant, J.S. Durand.

Company A Infantry – Captain, M.B. Baldwin; 1st Lieutenant, E.L. Chappell; 2d Lieutenant, I.N. Buck. Company B – Captain, Silas Miller*; 1st Lieutenant, J.M. Walker; 2d Lieutenant, B.F. Campbell. Company C – Captain, E.B. Baldwin; 1st Lieutenant, J.B. McNeil; 2d Lieutenant, J.M. Trumbull. Company D – Captain, W.P. Pierce; 1st Lieutenant, J. VanPelt; 2d Lieutenant, G.D. Parker. Company E – Captain, C.D. Fish; 1st Lieutenant, A.M. Hobbs*; 2d Lieutenant, W.H. Clark. Company F – Captain, P.C. Olson*; 1st Lieutenant, G.F. Stonax; 2d Lieutenant, M.C. Wilson. Company G – Captain, I.W. Parkhurst; 1st Lieutenant, A. Longworth; 2d Lieutenant, R.M. Denning. Company H – Captain, M.L. Joslyn; 1st Lieutenant, Alfred Sellers; 2d Lieutenant, C.F. Dyke. Company I – Captain, S.C. Camp; 1st Lieutenant, Wm. Walker; 2d Lieutenant, W.F. Sutherland. Company K – Captain, J.Q. Adams; 1st Lieutenant James Foley; 2d Lieutenant, A.C. Holden.

The following table will show the strength and some of the casualties of the various companies during their term of service:

	Offi'rs.	Enl'd	Subs.	Recr'ts & Died.	Killed.	
Co. A. Cav.	3		92	97	26	
Co. B. Cav.	3		88	30	2	3
Co. A. Inf.	3		99	41	15	9
Co. B. Inf.	3		99	21	8	6
Co. C. Inf.	3		98	40	28	13
Co. D. Inf.	3		98	33	17	12
Co. E. Inf.	3		97	28	10	15
Co. F. Inf.	3		98	38	17	14
Co. G. Inf.	3		99	34	13	7
Co. H. Inf.	3		92	31	13	8
Co. I. Inf.	3		74	40	18	6
Co. K. Inf.	3		84	38	13	21

Total,	36	1118	471	180	113
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The Regimental Staff consisted of 9 members; the Non-Commissioned Staff, 5 members; the Regimental Band, 22 members, making a grand total of officers and men connected with the regiment, 1,661.

Commissions were issued to members of the regiment as follows:

Brigadier Generals, 1; Colonels, 5; Lieutenant Colonels, 4; Majors, 8; Adjutants, 5; Quartermasters, 3; Surgeons, 3; Assistant Surgeons, 5; Chaplains, 2; Captains, 46; 1st Lieutenants, 61; 2d Lieutenants, 61. Total number of commissions reported, 204.

A large number of men from the different companies were on detached service, and filled honorable and responsible positions.

The regiment left the East Side depot at Aurora on the 24th of September, 1861. Went by rail to Quincy, and thence by steamboat to St. Louis, where they were quartered and armed at Benton Barracks. They went from St. Louis to Rolla, where they went into camp and remained until the middle of January, 1862. They then started on the great march under General Curtis down through the southwestern part of Missouri, and on the 6th, 7th and 8th of March, 1862, were engaged in the battle of "Pea Ridge." It was at this battle that Peter Pelican, a private of Company B, killed the Rebel General McCullough and took his watch, while under the fire of the enemy. They then marched to Batesville, Ark., where they were transferred to the department of the Mississippi, and under General Asboth marched to Cape Girardeau, Mo., where they embarked on board a steamboat and arrived at Hamburg Landing early in June. They were on duty in the department until the first part of September, when the infantry was transferred to the department of the Cumberland, the cavalry remaining in the Army of the Tennessee. They were engaged in the battle of "Perryville," at which time they lost 70 in killed and wounded. After various marches they went into camp for a time near Nashville. They were subsequently engaged in the battle of Stone River, Mission Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, and numerous others. At Stone River forty of the boys of the 36th lay dead upon less than an acre of ground.

The divisions in which the 36th had served have been commanded by Generals Siegel, Asboth, Davis, Granger, and Sheridan, and the army corps of Generals Curtis, Pope, Granger, Gilbert, and McCook. Its Department Commanders have been Fremont, Hunter, Halleck, Grant, Wright, Nelson, Buell, and Rosecrans. The cavalry served as "body guard" to Generals Schuyler, Hamilton, Siegel, Asboth, Rosecrans, Granger, and C.S. Hamilton. After being separated from the regiment, Gov. Yates, by authority of the War Department, ordered the formation of a regiment of cavalry, to be made up of these and other detached companies, and thus they became a part of the 15th Illinois Cavalry. When they re-enlisted as veterans, they were consolidated with the 10th Cavalry Regiment, in which they remained until the close of the war. During their term of service the cavalry made long and fatiguing marches in the States of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

The whole regiment was made up of a superior class of men, many of the soldiers in the ranks being the peers of the officers under whose command they were placed. No regiment from Illinois has a more honorable record than the 36th, which was earned and equally merited by both officers and men.

The infantry was stationed at New Orleans, La., during the last part of the war, and were mustered out October 8th, 1865, and arrived at Camp Butler, Ills., Oct. 17th, 1865, for final

discharge. At date of muster-out there were 21 officers and 230 enlisted men. The cavalry was mustered out at Springfield, Ills., Nov. 22d, 1865, and after the consolidation of the 15th and 10th regiments, together with all of the recruits, substitutes, etc., a total of only 25 officers and 580 men were left for their final discharge.

Probably not over one hundred of the surviving comrades will be present at the reunion this year, and it is these men with this record, together with other soldiers in this vicinity no less honorable, that the people of Aurora are asked to “*welcome home*” on the 23rd day of this month, that being the 14th anniversary since their muster-in.

F.O.W.

Saturday, September 11, 1875

THE REUNION OF THE 36th REGIMENT

At a meeting held at the City Hall on Tuesday last, to make arrangements for the proper reception of the survivors of the 36th Regiment in this city on Thursday, the 23rd inst., the following committees were appointed.

Soliciting Committee – Capt. A.C. Graves, chairman; Mr. Ezekiel Mighell, Mrs. E.C. Allen, Miss. Flora Lilley, Miss. Mary Loucks, Mr. Frank Harral, Mrs. Eb. Denney, Mrs. Bert S. Wilder, Mr. Jos. Ingham and wife, Wm. Hall and wife, Charles Stolp and wife, Wm. Dugan, Albert Albee, Miss. Alice Albee, Mrs. T. Porter, Mrs. Dr. Ricker, Mrs. Geo. Hale, Leander Keck and wife.

Table Committee – Mrs. Cyrus Robinson, chairman; Mrs. Clark Wilder, Mrs. E.R. Allen, Mrs. L. Otis, Miss. Julia Otis, Mrs. F.O. White, Mrs. L.W. Rice, Mrs. O. Willson, Mrs. H.B. Douglas, Mrs. M. Wingate, Mrs. I.B. Copley, Mrs. Eb. Denney, Mrs. Laura Hodges, Mrs. Henry Miller, Miss. Geneve Hard, Miss. Alice Barr, Miss. Susie Bean, Miss. Emma Rice, Miss. Louise Hawley, Miss. Carrie Parker, Miss. Libbie Mann, Miss. Ella Knickerbocker, Miss. Ella Winegar, Miss. Lizzie Kilbourne, Miss. Willis Hoyt, Miss. Annie Hoyt, Miss. T.B. Coulter, Miss. M.W. Page, Miss. Jennie Brown, James F. Harral, David Marsh, Eb. Denney.

Committee on Decorations – Jas. F. Harral, chairman; E.C. Allen, Eb. Denney, W.H. Tilton, Mrs. Wm. Knickerbocker, Mrs. Hough, Mr. Chas. Ross, Mrs. J. Calahan, Mrs. Geo. Willson, Miss. Kitty Brady, Miss. Mary Hurd, Miss. Nancy Tilton, Miss. Lizzie and Annie Warnic, Miss. Nellie Howe, Miss. Sarah Wingate, the Misses Graves, and Mrs. S.B. Taylor.

Committee on Artillery – M.W. Page, chairman; M.D. Yager, Fred. Munson, Thomas Bexon, Thomas Hornby, B.P. Page.

Committee on Reception – Hon. L.D. Brady, I.B. Copley, Capt. A.C. Little.

Committee on Finance – Dr. S.B. Hawley, Samuel Hitchcock, Thomas F. White.

Committee of Arrangements – H.B. Douglas, Fred. O. White, I.W. Rice.

Committee on Music – Dr. M.M. Robbins and C.E. Strong.

Wednesday, September 15, 1875

EIGHTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY REUNION

The annual reunion of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry will be held at Morrison, Whiteside County, on Tuesday, the 21st inst. Arrangements have been made with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad on main line and all its branches for the payment of full fare to Morrison, and for return trip one fifth of the regular fare will be charged to all points in Illinois. A cordial invitation is extended to all members and their friends. A large attendance is expected. Gov. Beveridge, Gen. Farnsworth, Gen. Dustin, and others will be there.

B.L. Flagg
Watson Ludlam,
Com. on Transportation.

Wednesday, September 22, 1875

ORDER OF EXERCISES FOR THE REUNION OF THE
36th ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23d

The "headquarters" for the 36th will be in the hall of the G. A. R. in Miller & Coulter's block, corner of Main Street and Broadway. A committee will be at the East Depot on the arrival of trains and escort soldiers to headquarters.

Committee on General Reception – Hon. L.D. Brady, Ira B. Copley, Capt. A.C. Little

The bells will ring at nine o'clock, and an invitation is extended to all soldiers to meet at headquarters on the ringing of the bells. All soldiers of the 36th will be furnished by the committee with the required badge.

The procession will form on Broadway at half past nine o'clock, and headed by the Aurora Silver Cornet Band will march to the East Side Park, where the following order of exercise will take place:

Music by the Band
Prayer.
Music by the Glee Club.
Address of Welcome
Response
Music by the Band
Address
Music by the Glee Club
Oration, by Gen. Jno. L. Beveridge,
Music by the Glee Club
Presentation,
Music by the Band.
Dinner.

Annual meeting of the regiment for the election of officers at the Hall of the G. A. R. at 8 o'clock p.m.

Tickets of admission to the dinner will be issued by the Committee of Arrangements to all soldiers and their wives at the headquarters, and a cordial invitation is extended to *all soldiers* to be present and participate in the festivities of the day.

H.B. Douglas,
Fred O. White,
Isaac W. Rice Com. of Arrangements.
(1875B1,B2)

1875
ANNUAL RE-UNION
Comrade _____
THE
NINTH ANNUAL REUNION
OF THE
OLD VETERAN REGIMENT,
THE 36th ILLINOIS,
Will be held at Aurora, Sept. 23.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

Welcome Address. Geo. Beveridge.
Poem. B. F. Taylor

To be followed by Free Dinner
You are Respectfully Requested to be Present
J.C. DENISON Maj. G.G. Biddulph
Secretary President

(1875I,R)

PROGRAMME
OF THE
36th RE-UNION
AURORA, SEPT. 23d, 1875.

-----0-----
Soldiers will meet at Headquarters Cor. Main Street and Broadway, at 9 o'clock A.M.
The Procession will form at the Corner Main Street and Broadway, at 10 o'clock A.M., and
March to Lincoln Park.

-----0-----
COL. N. GREUSEL, *Marshal.*
HON. L. D. BRADY, *President*

-----0-----
ORDER OF EXERCISES.
MUSIC BY THE BAND.

Prayer **Rev. S. P. KEYES**
SONG BY THE GLEE CLUB
Address of Welcome, **Rev. J. GORTON**
Response, **MAJ. GEO. G. BIDDULPH**
MUSIC BY THE BAND.

manifest in selecting Capt. A.C. Graves as Chief of Commissariat Department, and that gentleman won fresh laurels by its admirable management. In the outset his work was thoroughly systematized, and up to the last moment its smallest minutiae received his direct personal attention and supervision. The territory was carefully districted, every section being placed in charge of competent assistants who were patiently drilled into a perfect knowledge of the duties assigned them, and everything worked like a charm. The canvassers were everywhere met with open hearts, rendering their labor rather a pleasurable past time than otherwise, as attested by the wondrous prodigality with which the kitchens at the Universalist Church were flooded with edibles of every description, and the fact that after satisfying the craving appetites of some seven hundred persons there remained several wagon loads of loaves and fishes to be distributed among the poor.

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BANQUET,

In preparation of tables, securing of tableware, cooking of vegetables, service at table, etc., etc., was happily left in the hands of Mr. J. Frank Harrall, than whom no better selection could have been made. But poor Frank labored under many trials and difficulties which we will not stop to enumerate – suffice it to say that he succeeded in overcoming all obstacles. He was ably assisted by fifty or more energetic ladies, and we do not think the spread could have been improved in any respect. Five tables extended the entire length of the basement, affording seating capacity for three hundred persons, and with their wealth of silver and glassware, groaning beneath the generous array of tempting viands presented a magnificent spectacle upon which the eye loved to linger, and which the hungry veterans almost regretted to disturb. In this connection we may say that the representatives of some forty different regiments were unanimous in the assertion that beyond comparison, this was the most generous, complete and enticing banquet to which they had ever been invited to seat themselves.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Consisting of Messrs. H.B. Douglas, Fred O. White and L.W. Rice were untiring in their labors, having a careful supervision over all details, and are entitled alike to the thanks of the soldiers and citizens for the complete manner in which all their arrangements were carried out.

AURORA POST OF THE G. A. R.

Had designated a committee to act in conjunction with the committees of citizens and soldiers, and tender the services of its members in any capacity where most needed, and we believe they did good service throughout in various ways. Except by the Post, little effort at

DECORATION

was made. Their hall in the Miller & Coulter block was thrown open as the headquarters of the 36th Regiment, and tastefully decorated with flowers, flags and evergreens, while the Broadway front of the building displayed considerable red, white and blue bunting festooned in such manner as to represent an army tent, the letters “G. A. R.” appearing conspicuously; the heavy drapery of the American flag below, and the star spangled banner fluttering in the breeze from the summit. The gentlemen entitled to the credit of the work here were Messrs. J.C. Porter, W.H. Watson, T.B. Coulter, Dr. Robbins and Thos. Bexon.

The city flag was thrown to the breeze from the Court House, and another from Hoyt’s block on the West Side, while N. & A. Goldsmith and Perry & Powell attached red, white and blue streamers to their banners suspended across Broadway. S.S. Sencenbaugh’s and A. Somarindyck & Co’s store front were also handsomely decorated.

THEY COME

Members of the regiment, in many cases accompanied by their wives and children, commenced arriving by the early morning trains, being met at the depot by a committee who escorted them to the Grand Army Hall or posted them upon the order of exercises, while others dropped in from the country by private conveyances and found the comrades promptly on hand to bid them welcome. Soon Colonel Greusel appeared upon the scene, and as he pressed his way slowly forward receiving the warm greeting of his war worn veterans the throng in front of the Grand Army Hall swelled to many hundreds, and continued to increase until at ten o'clock the Colonel, who had been designated to officiate as Marshal, gave the order to "Fall in!" and the soldiers took up the line of march for

LINCOLN PARK,

where a large concourse of citizens had already assembled. On East Park Place a halt was called and the ranks opened to admit the passage of Governor Beveridge, escorted by Colonel Greusel. Upon the stand in the park were assembled, besides the Governor, Hon. L.D. Brady, President of the Day; Senators M.B. Castle and Eugene Canfield; Lewis Steward, of Plano; Hon. E.R. Allen, Rev. S.P. Keyes, D.D. Hill, E.W. Lounsbury, T.B. Murphey, Jas. Gorton, S.A.W. Jewett; several members of the Common Council, a number of invited guests, the Glee Club, consisting of Frank Lumbard and Wm. Hubbard, of Chicago, and H.C. Boutwell, and the Aurora Cornet Band.

The exercises were opened with music by the band, after which Rev. S.P. Keyes offered prayer, followed with "America," by the Glee Club.

REV. JAMES GORTON

was called upon to deliver the address of welcome. In the name of the citizens of Aurora, who loved them so well in the days gone by, and who still loved them for their brave deeds and noble daring, he gave the remnant veterans, soldiers and officers of the 36th a cordial welcome. The great virtue of his speech would consist in the fact that he had but few words to offer, since he was selected as a substitute at the last moment to fill a vacancy. The gentleman who was to have bade them welcome (Capt. A.C. Little) had prepared a sort of historical reminiscence of their army days – their marches and battles, their sacrifices and privations, their struggles and triumphs. Could he revive those memories there and then, it would have been most interesting; yet he could only have done so by a long process, such as the preparation of a Thanksgiving turkey in pleasing and appropriate language he referred to the brilliant record of their regiment, and their brave and valiant services in the cause of freedom, reminding them that their glory and their pride was also ours. The mothers and sisters and daughters who loved them so well in the old days would today give them another manifestation of their continued and undying affection – and here he fittingly referred to the prompt and open handed generosity with which our people responded to make this reception a grand success. While enjoying the happiness of this meeting, he would not have them forget the brave comrades who had fallen, but who were looking down upon them to day from the gates of Heaven – nor that grand reunion when all the great principles of liberty should be practically realized among men. Again, in behalf of our citizens he bade them cordial and hearty welcome, and expressed the hope that it might be a day full of interest and full of joy.

MAJOR BIDDULPH.

When the applause had subsided, Major Biddulph responded in brief but appropriate terms. He referred to the departure of the regiment from Aurora, and stated that as the surviving members passed up or down this line of railroad they always looked upon Aurora and the old camp ground with a great deal of interest, and memory was busy with the scenes of other days,

ever recalling with pleasure the warm affection so generously lavished upon them by our people, and in behalf of the regiment he returned thanks for this new expression of our regard.

At this point the President of the Day produced the following letter from

B.F. TAYLOR

Dunkirk, N.Y., Sept. 11, 1875.

Fred O. White, Esq.

DEAR SIR: I have this moment read your letter of the first inst., it being the only intimation received that my presence was desired at Aurora. I need not say how glad I should be to say something for my brave and noble friend, Col. Silas Miller, but my engagements forbid.

On the 16th I deliver a poem before the Winnebago Agricultural Society at Rockford, Illinois, and must immediately thereafter return here. Wishing the surviving members of the gallant 36th – the regulars of Illinois – all prosperity and happiness, and with a loving thought for their heroic dead, I am dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,
Benj. F. Taylor.

Both soldiers and citizens had anticipated the presence of Mr. Taylor, and very much regretted his absence. After music by the band,

SENATOR M.B. CASTLE

of Sandwich, was called for and warmly welcomed. The honorable gentleman reminded the audience that he was a very eloquent talker. He was chuck full of it – in fact, there was only one thing in his composition which exceeded his eloquence, and that was his generosity. And in the generosity of his heart he begged to be excused, that he might give place to

OLD SHADY,

and when the laughter had died away the club sang that ever popular song, being rewarded by uproarious applause, which was increased when the Senator announced that the song had completely knocked out of him his long and eloquent speech and he must again beg to be excused – but the audience were pacified with “Marching through Georgia,” after which

GOVERNOR J.L. BEVERIDGE

was introduced. We regret that the pressure upon our columns necessitates our giving but a brief and hasty resume of the eloquent oration, which was frequently interrupted by hearty applause. He said that in coming into our city in the morning, riding through our busy streets, viewing our beautiful residences, and noting our commerce and industries, strange memories had thronged his heart. Thirty-two years ago, a boy in his teens, he had crossed the Fox River at Aurora, accompanied by his father, seeking a home on the prairie to the west. Fox River still wandered by on its way to the sea, but the Aurora of 1842 was not the Aurora of 1875. Then he saw no elegant residences, no temples of learning, no church spires pointing heavenward, and no productive industries bringing wealth to Aurora – while beyond was only the wallless prairie, dotted here and there perhaps by a log cabin or a mud hut. There were no fields of waving grain, no railroads reaching out into the beyond, no wires spanning the continent, and no telegraph poles standing alone upon the prairie listening to the converse of a nation. Before him was only the broad prairie covered with beauty and the wealth of nature’s creative power, wealth for the coming of a new race, a new creative power, and the onward march of civilization. They came – this new race – bringing with them their energy, their enterprise, their indomitable perseverance, their wealth, and their lives, built up homes, sowed and harvested, constructed highways and bridges, built up villages and towns and cities, and opened up commerce from river to river, from lake to lake, and from ocean to ocean. A people came and in a day possessed the land, laying the

foundations of wealth and industry, and on these everlasting foundations built up this fabric of society. In contrasting the changes wrought in these few years, he said some wondrously potent agency, the genius of our civilization, the genius of the great Northwest, had thus transformed forest and prairie. He referred to the strange experiences of that man of ten centuries who saw the keel of the ark fashioned; who saw nations boom and lived to see them die, but more wonderful changes had been wrought in the third of a century in the great Northwest than old Methuselah ever dreamed or thought of. He would by no means disparage New England – her daughters were as beautiful as her valleys, her sons are noble as her mountains, etc., but the soil of Illinois when the red man trod these prairies was much better adapted to agriculture than that of Massachusetts after two hundred years of civilization. Nature must pulverize her rocks, Jehovah must ride over her hills, and by volcanic power melt her rocks and sweep away obstructions, then cover all with alluvial soil before she could compare with Illinois. He hoped New England would pardon him for this digression and this magnificent sample of Western boasting. (Laughter.)

He had come here to join the 36th regiment in their reunion. Objection had been made to these annual reunions, but the comrades had their reunions in the army, upon the battlefield, by the lonely camp fire, in the malarious swamp, the hospitals and the prisons, and by virtue of these old memories they have a right to continue them. Objection had been made that they had served to keep up the memories of the past; but he would not forget the past, or the brave deeds of those who will return to us no more – nor would he have the mother forget her soldier boy buried in Southern soil. Objection was made that they were political in character. He had attended many of those reunions but heard no mention made of politics – yet he had heard the boys say among themselves that they were getting ready for 1876. He did not pretend to know what that meant, but he did know that there was an unalterable determination upon the part of the soldiers to keep this a Government of loyal men, be they Democrat or Republican. (Applause.)

He referred to General A.J. Smith's command, and their reputation as guerillas, because of their scattering so much when on the march. In the outset of the war it was usual in line of battle or on the skirmish line to present a firm front, and to stand and be shot down without knowing enough to take advantage of trees, stumps or other obstructions – but we all learned experience, and were soon glad to take advantage of every obstruction. He cited an incident in connection with Smith's Brigade at the battle of Nashville, and the taking of Brentwood Heights. The command was moving to the front when General Thomas called Smith's attention to the scattering of his men. On they went, charging up the heights and over the earthworks, and as the stars and bars were run down, giving place to the stars and stripes, Smith resumed the conversation with "Yes, Gen. Thomas, they scatter a good deal, but then the fight like h—l." (Laughter and Applause.) The latter portion of his remarks would be something like Smith's Brigade, a good deal scattered – though he hoped they would not apply in the other way. (Laughter.)

The balance of the oration was devoted to a careful resume of the record of the 36th regiment, and was glowingly eulogistic of their noble deeds, but which we cannot produce for want of space. He had a battle flag unfurled in front of the stand, and said that upon that flag was written the bloody history of the regiment: Pea Rodge, March 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1862; Perryville, Oct. 8th, 1862; Stone River, Dec. 31st, 1862; Mission Ridge, Nov. 25th, 1863; Resaca, May 14th, 1864; Pleasant Hill, May 17th, 1864; Kennesaw Mountain, June 27th, 1864; Peach Tree Creek, July 20th, 1864; Atlanta Campaign; Spring Hill, Nov. 29th, 1864; Franklin, Nov. 30th, 1864; Nashville, Dec. 15th, 1864.

The Governor's remarks were listened to with deep interest, and frequently interrupted with bursts of applause or laughter.

After music by the band, members of the regiment took up a position directly in front of the stand, and

THE PRESENTATION

of a heavy gold-headed cane to Col. Greusel, by the surviving members of his old command, was next in order. The presentation speech, made by Rev. S.P. Keyes, was one of those happy impromptu efforts for which the Elder is noted – brief, just to the point and most appropriate. The response by Col. Greusel was equally appropriate. He retraced the career of the regiment while under his command, and recalled with pride their gallantry and devotion to duty and in a very feeling manner expressed his thanks for the valuable token of esteem.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the members of the regiment gave three rousing cheers and a tiger for their old commander. The Glee Club sang "John Brown." Three cheers were given for the ladies who had spread the banquet, and three more for Frank Lumbard and the Glee Club, followed by "Auld Lang Syne" from the club. Three more cheers were given for "The people of Aurora," which closed the exercise at the Park.

The top of the cane in question bore the following inscription: "Presented to Nicholas Greusel, Colonel of the 36th Regt. Ill. Vols., by the surviving members of the old regiment, at their annual reunion at Aurora, Ill., Sept. 23d, 1875." Upon the sides appeared the names, "Pea Ridge," "Stone River," "Perryville."

THE DINNER

at the basement of the Universalist Church as elsewhere referred to, was without doubt the most bountiful and complete in every particular of any ever spread by the fair ladies of Aurora, and praises were lavished upon them by all. Rev. Mr. Lounsbury invoked the divine blessing, when the tempting viands were attacked with a will. The first toast, at the conclusion of the repast, was "The 36th Regiment, 1861-1875," responded to by Colonel Greusel, who took occasion to say that the 36th had lost in killed and wounded more than any other regiment in the service. It had never given an inch in front of the enemy. Of stragglers they had none, and only one coward – thank God, only one. At Perryville it took two men to hold this fellow. At Stone River he ran again. They concluded to let him run, and that was the last ever seen of him. Not long since he had received a letter from him, asking if there was not some means of securing his pay from the Government – but in reply he had told him that since he was too cowardly to fight for the preservation of the Government, he had no business drawing its money. The 36th was the most healthy regiment in the western armies, because it was composed of men of brains, sober men, men who knew their duty and did it well.

"The Army and Navy – the cause they fought for," was most fillingly responded to by Dr. Hard – after which the Glee Club sang "Red, White and Blue."

"Our fallen Heroes – may their memory be ever sacred," was followed by a dirge from the band.

"Our Country's Emblem – the stars and stripes," was most eloquently responded to by Gov. Beveridge.

THE BUSINESS MEETING

of the regiment was held at the City Hall at 2 ½ p.m., when the roll call showed the following survivors of the organization in attendance:

Aurora. - O.B. Merrill, I.W. Rice, E. Newell, C.H. Odekisk, C.W. Rhodes, C.W. Baker, N.H. Goodale, Christ Zimmer, J.A. Lannigan, Geo. Lannigan, W.E. Satterfield, F.O. White, John

Hoyle, J.F. Harral.

Crystal Lake. – C.F. Dyke, Jack Simmons, Wm. Beardslee.

Millington. – G.G. Biddulph, C.F. Sweetland, Geo. Heff.

Little Rock. – S.M. Jay, J.S. Hatch, Daniel Darnell.

Big Rock. – J.G. Allison, W.H. Dugan, Joel Wagner, Ed. Price, Dan Davis, J.E. Way.

Plano. – J.S. Hemmingway, Wm. Hall, S. Winans, R. Fralick, Oscar Pecoy, J.W. Alston.

Sandwich. – F.W. Sly, J.C. Taylor, C.D. Fish.

Chicago. – S.B. Sherer, J.C. Dennison, F. Malloy, D.H. Henderson.

Yorkville. – Wm. Peterson, M.E. Cornell, L.G. Bennet.

Elgin. – Alex Manahan, G.D. Sherman, W.S. Sylla, F.W. Raymond.

Seneca. – C.N. Ralph, F.A. Mossmann.

Dundee. – E. Nute, Leonard Mann.

Northville. – M.H. Curtis, H. Walsworth.

Bartlett. – H.P. Mann, Schuyler Rue.

Bristol. – Thos. Finderson, W.P. Boyd, H. Hough, R.H. Gilmore.

Sugar Grove. – J. Ingham, U. Foster.

Sheridan. – John Thompson, Luther Gates, A. Thompson.

Morris. – Aaron Christopher, N.G. Farwell, W.W. Kerns.

Lisbon. – Clinton Lloyd, Eber Gates.

Millbrook. – J.S. Barber, David Clark.

Oswego. – G.W. Avery, Gus Vass.

Batavia. – E. Mann.

Leland. – G.W. Woods.

Hinckley. – J.A. Hewitt.

Forreton. – Jas. Gillett.

St. Charles. – John Lanhart.

Newark. – G.G. Vreeland.

Joliet. – David Flynn.

Turner Junction. – Al. Morey.

Mendota. – G.W. Hagedone.

Belvidere. – L.S. Tucker.

Algonquin. – C.E. Dygert.

Woodstock. – Chas. Irish.

Elmwood. – W.W. Gifford.

Kentland. – Dr. Hatch.

Monmouth. – J.A. Porter.

DeKalb. – E.R. Zeller.

Denny. – J.C. Barton.

Mount Pleasant, Iowa. – N. Greusel.

Maisawauke, Ind. – N. Perkins.

Montgomery. – N. Zimmers.

State Centre, Iowa. – S.O. Brimhall.

Ottawa. – E.H. Strait.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. On motion the committee to whom was entrusted the raising of funds for the erection of a regimental monument, was granted a years further time in which to prosecute the work, and were instructed to place at interest the

funds already collected. The Treasurer, Milton Cornell of Yorkville reported that the total amount of subscription was \$151.40, and the total amount collected \$108.40. The report was accepted and placed on file.

Col. Greusel called attention to a history of the regiment from the time of enlistment up to their arrival at Cape Girardeau, compiled and written by Mr. L.G. Bennett, of Yorkville, Ill., and on motion Mr. Bennett was requested to read from his entertaining manuscript volume that portion relating to the battle of Pea Ridge, which was received with hearty applause by the comrades. Mr. Bennett required the assistance of the comrades in procuring data necessary for the completion of the work, though not tenacious about continuing it himself if anyone else would undertake the task. Yet the years had rolled by and no one had undertaken it, and he thought by making this beginning the interest of the survivors might be aroused and the work carried out. In the discussion it transpired that there were several diaries in existence and one or two complete histories of individual companies which would be tendered to the compiler.

On motion of Mr. Kelley, Mr. Bennett was instructed to proceed with the history, and the following committee of one from each company was appointed to procure any and all possible information that would prove of interest or importance, compile the same and report to Mr. Bennett at Yorkville; Co. A. Cav., F.O. White; Co. B. Cav., S.B.Sherer; Co. A. Inf., J.C. Dennison; B, S. Hitchcock; C, J.L. Dryden; D, G.G. Vreeland; E, L.G. Bennett; F, G. Neff; G, M.G. Yarnell; H, Chas. Daggert; I, O.B. Merrill; K, Jas. C. Hogan.

(Mr. Bennett desires us to add an urgent request from himself personally, that any friend of the regiment having in their possession any information, personal or otherwise, that would be of interest in the compiling of this history, will confer a favor by transmitting the same to "L.G. Bennett, Yorkville, Ill.")

It was decided to vote to hold the next annual reunion of the regiment at Yorkville, Ill., upon the first Thursday after the 23d of September, 1876.

On motion a vote of thanks was passed to the C. B. & Q. Co., for their liberality in passing members of the regiment to and from the reunion at one and one fifth fare.

Secretary Dennison read interesting letters from Chaplain Haigh, Chas. B. Styles, F.P. Cass, R.M. Denning, and Adj't Gen. Hilliard, expressing their regrets at not being able to be present. The regrets of Capt. Trumbull and Dr. S.B. Hawley were verbally expressed by some of the comrades.

WHO GOT THE BUTTER?

[The following letter, which explains itself, arrived too late to be read at this meeting:]

Urbana, Ill., Sept. 9th, 1875.

To the members of Co. "D.," 36th Ill. Infantry – fellow soldiers: Seeing an account in the *Daily Press* of your approaching reunion at Aurora, I was reminded of a little incident that occurred during the war, and as you will be indulging in stories and all kinds of reminiscences, I venture to write and answer the question: "Who got the Butter?"

During the occupation of Murfreesboro early in 1863, a teamster came to our camp (the 36th Indiana) and told us there was a barrel for us (Co. D.) at the depot. So we sent over, and sure enough, there was a barrel, which we took to camp, and on opening found it contain a fine lot of butter, fresh and sweet. Of course we were much elated, and lived high for a time, wondering all the time who could have sent it. But a barrel of butter could not hold out forever against forty or fifty Hoosiers, and we were not long in getting half way down, when we struck something else, something not down on the bills. The other end had been filled with canned fruits and all manner of nice nick nacks, and duly labeled to parties not known to us. About this

time it began to occur to us that there might be some mistake. So hunting up the old barrel head and inspecting it closely, found it read "Co. D., 36th Ill."

I think if I am not mistaken, it was sent from Cincinnati, but "Co. D., 36th Ind." "got away" with it, and felt duly grateful to the unknown donor.

Now, after a lapse of twelve years, I come to the front to tell you "who got the butter." I never hear of the "36th Ill.," without thinking of this incident.

Wishing you much happiness around your camp fires, and many more happy reunions, I remain yours truly.

A.W. Saint,

Late orderly Sergeant, Co. D. 36th Ind.

The old officers of the organization – Major Biddulph, President; J.C. Dennison, Secretary; and Milton Cornell, Treasurer, together with the Executive Committee, were reelected by acclamation.

Major Biddulph preferred to be allowed to step out, and modestly expressed his thanks for the honor conferred. He thought he could beat Grant, since this would be his fifth term of service.

On motion Major Sherman, a vote of thanks was extended to Governor Beveridge for his eloquent oration.

The Association then adjourned and the comrades mingled together in social converse until the outgoing evening trains parted them for another year.

OTHER REGIMENTS,

thirty-two in number, were represented at this grand reunion as follows: 18th, 15th, 19th, 7th, 91st, 46th, 89th, 11th, 141st, 20th, 52d, 156th, 83d Ill. Infantry; 8th, 15th, 11th Ill. Cav.; 8d Mich. Cav., 54th Penn. Inf., 1st Wisc. Cav., 86th Iowa Inf., 6th U.S. Inf., 3d Ill. Artillery, 2d Ill. Artillery, 6th Mass. Inf., 11th N.H. Inf., 7th N.Y. Inf., 3d Vt. Inf., 8th Vt. Inf., 80th Ind. Inf. and 6th Mich. Artillery.

Saturday, October 2, 1875

It has been heretofore announced that the club parties, so popular last winter, will this season be conducted under the auspices of Aurora Post G. A. R. Those interested will be pleased to learn that all arrangements are now perfected, and that the parties will be held at the Opera House, with the same management as last season. The dates are November 12th and 25th, December 10th and 31st, and the music will be furnished by the famous Johnny Hand, Chicago's greatest favorite in orchestral music. The subscription lists will be open next week and only a limited number of tickets will be sold. The net proceeds of these parties will go to the charitable fund of the Aurora Post, G. A. R.

Wednesday, October 13, 1875

The first of the series of Opera House club parties, under the auspices of Aurora Post, G. A. R. occurs on Friday evening, Nov. 12th, and the invitations are now being issued. It is the aim of the management to render them the most social, pleasant and enjoyable parties ever given in this city, and as nearly as possible to give satisfaction to all. To this end, every alternate dance

will be a square dance, dancing will commence at a certain hour, and the programmes will all be issued at the same time, to prevent unfair monopoly. Johnny Hand and his celebrated orchestra have been secured, new music and new dances will be introduced, and those who have been honored with invitations may consider themselves fortunate indeed.

Saturday, December 4, 1875

ATTENTION ! 36th REGT.

At the last annual re-union, the survivors of the 36th Regiment, measures were taken which it was supposed would result in the early completion and publication of a regimental history before the next re-union. Offers of assistance were tendered from every quarter, and from the promises made we felt assured that a very full and readable history might be written, and the efforts of years crowned with success. A committee of one from each company was appointed to aid in collecting material; but with the exception of companies A and B Cavalry, and three others, nothing has been received, and no response made to urgent appeals for aid.

The official reports and an extensive reading of many of the histories of the events connected with the late War of the Rebellion furnish matter from which a history might be written, and in it scarcely the name of a single member of the regiment would appear. But such a history would be as little satisfactory to the members and friends of the regiment as ourselves. One object of the work is to rescue the names and memories of members of the Regiment from oblivion, and to make a permanent record of their achievements. To accomplish this, personal reminiscences, feats of daring, and the achievements of individuals should be given with the names of actors in full. Anecdotes either grave or humorous, which serve to spice the uneventful life in camp are wanted. We have all the official reports and documents connected with the movement of the 36th, but of personal incidents almost nothing.

We would therefore earnestly request every member or friend of the regiment to send us such memoranda and incidents as they may be in possession of. We care not how crudely written for such defects, are easily remedied. We want incidents and facts to weave into, and fill our details of our glorious record.

L.G. Bennett
Yorkville, Ills.

As America began to celebrate its 100th anniversary in **1876**, the Grand Army of the Republic held its 10th National Encampment in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 30th. John F. Hartranft remained as Commander-in-Chief for a second term. The Department of Illinois Encampment was held in Sycamore on January 20th with H. Hilliard serving his third consecutive term as Department Commander. Once again the encampment was close by Aurora and many locals attended. In fact, T.B. Coulter, from the Aurora Post, served as Senior Vice Commander. Not coincidentally, the Aurora Post, chartered in 1875, was organized in June of this year. Though earlier newspaper articles identified it as Post 26, toward the end of this year, possibly as a result of its organization in June, it became Post 20. As the deadline for the History of the 36th

drew near, Wm. M. Haigh stepped up and co-authored the book with L.G. Bennett just in time for the Regimental re-union held in Yorkville on September 21st. Bennett had born the entire cost of the volume and every effort to liquidate the 1500 volumes was discussed. The *Beacon* would play a large part in its advertisement.

Rutherford B. Hayes, another war veteran, was elected Republican President, after a very contentious campaign, with his running mate, William Wheeler. Grant's political pain was coming to an end.

Wednesday, January 5, 1876

CITY ITEMS

Aurora Post, No. 26, G. A. R., at an adjourned meeting held on Thursday evening last elected the following officers for the ensuing term:

T.B. Coulter, S. C.; L.C. Porter, S. V. C.; A.C. Ferre, J. V. C.; W.H. Watson, Q. M.; M.M. Robbins, Surg.; J.F. Harral, O. D.; P.B. Page, O. G.; H.B. Douglas, Adjt.; Samuel Hitchcock, S. Maj.; D.M. Yager, Q. M. S.

The regular meetings of this Post occur on the second and fourth Friday evening of each month, at their hall in Miller & Coulter's block, corner of Broadway and Main street.

Saturday, January 22, 1876

AURORA POST, NO. 26, G. A. R.

Last week this organization of soldiers who served in defence of the stars and stripes during the late war for the preservation of the Union, decided to hold a social gathering of their comrades, their wives and friends, in the parlance of the order termed a "campfire," on Tuesday evening last. The time was short, but the committees selected to carry out the project worked with commendable energy, and to more fully insure the success of the enterprise, the assistance of their wives and lady friends who have ever manifested such self-sacrificing generosity when called upon to aid the soldier. A requisition was drawn upon the Quartermaster for "one day's rations" for the members of the Post. Cold baked beans, roast pig and "hardtack" were furnished in abundance, while the ladies were untiring and persistent in their foraging expeditions, securing a bountiful supply of substantials and delicacies. The pleasant hall occupied by the Post, in the third story of the Miller & Coulter block, was tastefully decorated – the walls lined with engravings of generals and military scenes, and a profusion of national flags – while suspended from the ceiling were the badges of the fifteen corps represented in the Post. Behind the seat of the Commander, at the head of the hall, was a portrait of George Washington, draped with the faded flag which the father of P.P. Filmore carried in the Revolutionary war one hundred years ago, and opposite the battle flag of the old 36th. A stand of muskets, with numerous sabers and swords scattered about, gave a decidedly military appearance, and an exquisite bouquet of flowers from Mr. Rees' greenhouse shed delicious fragrance throughout the room. Upon the floor below, a spacious hall had been converted into a banquet room, with ladies dressing rooms attached, and a kitchen in close proximity, presided over by that prince of caterers, R.W. Farrell. A profusion of silverware had been kindly loaned for the occasion by the Aurora Silver Plate Company, edibles were forthcoming in endless variety, and we are safe in saying that the banquet spread by the fair ladies upon this occasion has never been surpassed in Aurora,

everything in their domain was admirably arranged and charmingly managed.

The guests began to arrive at an early hour, and soon the hall and ante-room were completely filled with expectant ladies and gentlemen. At eight o'clock Sir Commander T.B. Coulter opened the Post in regular order, for the purpose of "lighting the campfire," and the public installation of the officers elect for the ensuing term.

"The Battle Cry of Freedom" was sung with much spirit by the quartette, composed of Dr. and Mrs. Robbins, J.F. Harral and Thomas Bexon, the audience joining in the chorus. The organ, at which Mrs. Robbins presided, was kindly furnished by comrade W.H. Watson.

The installation exercises were conducted by Adj't General Hilliard, Grand Commander of the Department of Illinois, in a most impressive manner – and at their close those not in the secret were greatly surprised when Comrade Dr. S.B. Hawley came forward and-----
-----lady friends of its members, a magnificent Turkey morocco Bible and a handsome regulation company flag.

In the course of his remarks, The Dr. took occasion to say that the installation which had just taken place had many references to and drew many of its principles – faith, hope and charity – from an ancient book. Seeing that this was so, our wives and friends had brought here for our use a beautiful copy, hoping that it might be taken as our guide in life and our hope in death.

Sir Commander T.B. Coulter stepped foreword and said that in behalf of Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., it gave him great pleasure to accept from the hands of the fair donors the Bible and flag, beautiful and appropriate gifts, and called upon Captain A.C. Little to respond on behalf of himself and the Post.

Capt. Little said he could hardly tell how it was that he was called upon to respond at this time. It could scarcely be on account of his deep piety or strong religious proclivities, for, judging by certain newspaper accounts, he was not very much noted for those eminent virtues; however, he was pleased to respond in behalf of the good old book. In these days of such high intellectual and scientific achievements, when men are getting so profoundly wise that they know nothing with certainty, it is fortunate for some of us at least that there is one book left which now as in the past refuses to yield to these intellectual and scientific innovations. He thought the Bible in many respects the most wonderful book known to the human race. In the first place, it was probably the oldest book in the world – not all of it, perhaps, but portions of it, and these had been written before Heroditus or Xenophon, before Plato dreamed and speculated, and before Homer sang. The poem called the Book of Job was probably the oldest written poem in the world. Again, it was wonderful because nearly one-fourth part of the ten or eleven hundred millions of human beings inhabit the earth to-day believe it is a sacred and inspired book. Again, it was more wonderful still because in it was found the only authoritative answer to the question which was elsewhere been struggling for solution in all the ages of the past, and which of all other questions lies nearest the great heart of humanity to-day – If a man die shall he live again? Will the apostles of philosophy or science answer this question? Ask Huxley, among his nomads: ask Tyndale, with his prayer-guages – Spencer, in all the vast sweep of his philosophies, or Charles Darwin, among his monkeys, and you get the silence of the grave for reply. He believed the old Bible and the old flag should always go together – the one representing our highest conceptions of religious life and freedom, and the other our highest conceptions of civil life and freedom. He thought were safe in the keeping of his brave comrades, where they would ever be cherished, together with the generous and appropriate kindness of the fair donors.

"Tenting on the old Camp Ground" was then sang by the quartette, all present joining in the chorus.

Comrade S.B. Hawley being called upon for a speech responded substantially as follows:

I am surprised, in the midst of the talent and learning I see around me, that I am called upon for the first speech – but a good soldier does his duty, and does it promptly, to the best of his ability, and with good will at the word of his commander. The patriotism which organized our noble support of the best Government given to men, has made its own record and no worthy act will be forgotten or lost. Science teaches us that a canon fired once, twice, thrice, and still it is perfection and beauty in all its strength; fired one hundred times or two hundred times, and still its strength remains apparently the same – fired two thousand times or three thousand times, and suddenly it bursts! It was not the last discharge alone that wrought the destruction; every concussion had worked to this result – each preceding discharge was necessary to finally break the firm structure; or if upon a solid rock we strike with a heavy sledge continuous blows, the first blow makes little or apparently no effect, but at length the rock crumbles to powder under the repetition of strokes. It was not the last blow which powdered the rock – the first was as necessary as the last to the final result and did as much. In both these results one blow or concussion did as much as another, and to a keener observation than we are now able to make each concussion would show a like proportionate effect. Again, if we look into history far older than the “oldest book,” down among the times marked by the coal measures, it is observed that a delicate fern grew to perfection, fell down in the mud upon the bottom of some pool over which layer after layer of carbon was deposited by the water, and there with its perfect impress recorded for all time, is shown to our imperfect observation the history of a plant. It is too much to believe that higher powers of comprehension than ours can read by the effects marked in these coal beds the complete and detailed history of the period? Are not these God’s record books? If then in material things every motion, every act makes its record, can we not believe that all the glorious, noble self-sacrificing patriotism which rallied in 1861 to uphold our flag and our Government has some where recorded its effect, visible to the all seeing eye. Our poor powers of comprehension cannot even to-day distinguish the wonderful effects among men of all the earth which are flowing out from the wonderful exhibition of patriotism and courage shown by a free people in defense of a government whose powers were wielded by the governed for the governed. But I am using time which can be better used by those I see around me, and will detain you no longer.

Comrade L.C. Porter was down for a story, and gave an amusing reminiscence of army life – after which all joined in singing “Red, White and Blue.”

Capt. Little being called upon for a speech, briefly responded in a pleasant vein, in which he facetiously alluded to his condition of single blessedness.

Hon. M.B. Castle, of Sandwich, had hoped to escape notice, but was doomed to disappointment and retaliated by convulsing the audience with his irresistible humor – his speech being interwoven with neatly worded compliments to the ladies, and prefaced with the remark that it was one of the proudest memories of his life that he too had been a soldier, and had served his country – in the capacity of a *sutler*. Mr. Little had advised the ladies that he was still unmarried. Now I don’t know much about the object of this gathering, but I take exception to making it an advertising agency for gentlemen inclined to matrimony. At the same time, looking at the ladies sitting before me, I cannot be surprised that any man of the well known susceptibility of the ex-Mayor should make known his sore need – nor, indeed, can I, a married man, refrain from saying were I he I should embrace the opportunity. Mr. Little has eulogized this beautiful Bible and flag just presented; Dr. Hawley has given a lecture on geology – and what remains for me?

Little – Talk politics.

Castle – Well, while I would make a political speech on such an occasion, this does lead me to ask of the results of your soldering have fulfilled your expectations? Within the past few days we have heard the eminent Representative from Georgia thanking God that he is again in his father's house, and intends to stay. He don't come as the prodigal son to eat the fatted calf, but in a boastful and arrogant spirit proposes to hereafter kill his own veal. Like the dissipated son of an eminent judge, returning home drunk one night his father said to him, "My son Henry, this thing can't go on. If you continue to get drunk, you or I must leave." "Well father," responded Henry, "*where* you going to do about it?" Should this thing continue, you gentlemen of the Grand Army will soon be turned out into the cold, and it becomes a grave question, in view of what you have done in the past for the honor of this flag, to forecast the future, and as good citizens and good soldiers strive to uphold the nation's honor in times of peace as you have done in the time of war.

Rev. Samuel Paine, pastor of the Galena Street M. E. Church, had been chosen to make the presentation of the Bible and flag, but did not arrive until after Dr. Hawlet had performed the task. In response to the call, the reverend gentleman said that he could greet the members of the Post as a Comrade, having been a soldier himself, and also formerly a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He then gave some very interesting reminiscence of his military career, commencing when a mere boy in the English army; his participation in the battles of the Crimea and at the storming of Malakoff and Redan, before Sebastopol. He referred to the incidents which led him to enter the Union Army in 1861, and gave some thrilling incidents of military life when commanding a battery of Maine Volunteers in the Army of the Potomac. He spoke of his strong attachment to the old comrades of the war, and thanked the Post for their courtesy in inviting him to their campfire. He closed his remarks by saying that while he still loved old England and her institutions, he loved the land of his adoption and its institutions more dearly. About all the English left of him was his "haich," and he expected that would always prove a hobstruction in his speech.

Comrade Jep. Vosburg had been detailed fore a story, and as a story teller proved an immense success, keeping the audience alternately shouting with laughter or struggling vainly to repress the sympathetic tear.

Col. Greusel, of the gallant 36th Regiment, followed. He was on his way to Michigan, at the invitation of the Governor, to attend a reunion of the surviving members of the Regiment with which he served in the Mexican war, and knew nothing of this gathering until he stepped of the train to take some of his old friends by the hand. His eye lighted up with pleasure as he noticed before him the battle flag of the 36th, bearing the record of its battles – and his reminiscence of the career of the regiment in camp and field were interesting and extremely amusing.

"Marching Through Georgia" was sung with much spirit, after which

General Hilliard was announced for a speech. His remarks were mainly confined to a careful explanation of the principles and objects of the Order. He said that by the constitution, politics were strictly excluded from the organization. Yet he did not know who had a better right to discuss politics than the soldier, and all things being equal, he thought it eminently proper that those who had fought to save the Union should stand shoulder to shoulder in promoting the interests of comrades in arms. He was much pleased with the evidences of the prosperity of Aurora Post, No. 26 and hoped to see its membership continue to increase.

All these speeches were brief, appropriate, frequently interrupted with hearty applause,

and so pleasant and enjoyable had been the exercises throughout that none had realized how rapidly the evening had slipped away until, at the close of Gen. Hilliard's remarks, the "long roll" sounded by Mr. Fred Harris summoned the company to supper. Many persons declined remaining longer, but one hundred and eighty guests did ample justice to the splendid collation beneath which the banquet table groaned – while the soldiers, at an adjoining rough table, partook of soldier's fare with a zest which can be better imagined than described.

At the conclusion of the repast, Mr. L.C. Porter read "The Chronicles of our Tribe, by Aminidab, the Scribe," a quaint and original production which excited much mirth. At length the "good nights" were spoken and some time after midnight all sought their homes, delighted with the pleasures of the evening.

Saturday, April 8, 1876 CITY ITEMS

The Opera House was filled to overflowing last evening with spectators who wished to see the famous play of the "Color Guard," and we have rarely witnessed a more decisive and universal expression of approval of any performance at that place of amusement. The play was brought on in an excellent manner and many of the scenes portrayed were true to life. The applause was frequent and long continued and we trust that even a better patronage will be given to the Color Guard than was given to the "Drummer Boy;" especially as this is regarded as better than even that most popular play, *Bridgeport (Ct.) Standard*.

The Color Guard will be presented at Coulter Opera House on Tuesday Evening next, by Aurora Post, No. 26, assisted by talented ladies and gentleman. Reserved seats may be secured at Watson's on Monday morning. The play will be repeated every evening during the week.

Wednesday, May 3, 1876

CARD OF THANKS

At a meeting of Aurora Post, No. 26, the G. A. R., held April 28, 1876, I was instructed by unanimous vote to convey the heartfelt thanks of every member of the Post to the following ladies and gentleman, who so kindly and so ably aided our organization in the production of the "Color Guard," viz: Misses Ella Chesley, Emma Battle, Flora Hough, Lou. Owen, and the ladies who so kindly assisted in the various tableaux. Also to Messrs. C.M. Brown, W.B. Hawkins, Ed. Gamwell, Thos. Burke, Alfred Sleep and G.F. Allen.

Respectfully,

Thomas B. Coulter
Post Commander

Saturday, May 13, 1876

DECORATION DAY ORDER OF EXERCISES AND LINE OF MARCH

The procession will form in front of the Court House, Tuesday, May 30, 1876, at 12 ½ o'clock p.m. *sharp*, in the following order:

FIRST DIVISION

Aurora Cornet Band, Aurora Light Guard, Aurora Commandery No. 22.

SECOND DIVISION

Martial Band Aurora Post No., 26 G. A. R., Ex-Soldiers and Sailors.

Wednesday, May 17, 1876 CITY ITEMS

John C. Hadlock, formerly a machinist in the locomotive department, but who has for some months past been suffering from some spinal affliction, died suddenly on Monday afternoon. The funeral will occur this afternoon from his late residence, No. 51 Spring Street, the service being in charge of his comrades of Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R. Mr. Hadlock was very esteemed by all who knew him, and his family have the sympathy of a large circle of friends. Mr. Hadlock was born in Black Rock, Erie County, N.Y., and was thirty-six years of age. He was a member of Taylor's Battery of Chicago, during the first years of the war, and was finally made a Lieutenant in the 2d U.S. Colored Artillery. At the close of the war he spent a couple of years on the plains, and located in Aurora in September 1867, having from that time until four months since been employed by the C. B. & Q., locomotive department. He was a brother-in-law of Mr. H.R. Torrey, now of Laporte, Ind., and leaves a wife and one child, a boy eight years of age, in comfortable circumstances.

Wednesday, May 31, 1876

DECORATION DAY IN AURORA

G. A. R., SIR KNIGHTS, AURORA LIGHT GUARDS AND CITIZENS
GENERALLY, TAKE PART IN THE EXERCISES

ORATION BY COMRADE PAINE

Yesterday was one of the most beautiful of the season. Except that it was a few degrees too warm, none more appropriate could have been chosen for the delightful service of decorating the graves of the fallen defenders of the Union with the first floral offerings of the year.

The day which is now a legal National holiday, was observed with more than usual care, though stores, shops and other places of business were not so generally closed as the occasion would seem to demand of the patriotic and grateful community. Flowers were contributed in large quantities – though the season is too backward for the desirable variety.

At one o'clock, the Court House bell tolled the summons to those who were to take part in the ceremonies. The day was naturally in charge of the Grand Army of the Republic, which mustered about thirty five members in the ranks, dressed in the regulation uniform of the order.

At their invitation, the Aurora Light Guards, mustering thirty-three rifles, were also present in the procession, making their first public parade in honor of the fallen braves, in whose footsteps they profess themselves willing to follow, if (which heaven forbid) their country has need of their services.

Aurora Commandery Knights Templars, some thirty strong, also appeared at the invitation of the Grand Army, and paid tribute to the patriot dead.

The procession, led by the Aurora Cornet Band, and with the martial band at the head of the Veterans, marched at about two o'clock. They first visited West Aurora Cemetery, where a quartette choir sang "Rest, Soldier, Rest," and prayer was offered by Rev. D.D. Hill, and the responsive service read: after which each mound and headstone over which fluttered the little flag, received its memorial of regard and love. While these ceremonies were in progress, a detail of twelve men proceeded to the Catholic Cemetery beyond, where prayer was offered by the Rev. Father Murphey; a hymn was sung, and the floral decoration laid.

The procession then passed through the city, over the dusty streets, to East Aurora cemetery. Here again the sad ceremonies were repeated, with prayer by Rev. W.C. Hopkins, - and a double quartette. In this cemetery lay the remains of Fred Vaughn of the Revolutionary war - and they were visited with peculiar reverence.

Again the procession moved upon its way to Spring Lake Cemetery - which it reached at about half past four. The cemetery was already filled with a large number of people and carriages - and the well trimmed plots bore evidence of kindly attention from the hands of the friends of the dead. Near the east gate the organizations formed in hollow square, and listened to prayer by Rev. N.A. Prentiss - then, after visiting the graves, and leaving their tributes, the people moved to a spot near Col. Miller's monument, where were held the special services.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

was in accordance with the ritual of the G. A. R., as follows:

Singing by the double quartette.

Prayer, by the Chaplain:

God of Battles, Father of all, amid these monuments of the dead we seek Thee with whom there is no death. Upon every eye to behold Him who changed the night of death into morning. In the depths of our heart we would hear the celestial word, "I am the resurrection and the life - he that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live." As comrade after comrade departs, and we march on with ranks broken, help us to be faithful unto Thee and to each other. We beseech Thee look in mercy on the widows and children of the deceased comrades, and with thine own tenderness console comfort those bereaved by the events which call us here; bless and save our country with the peace of freedom and righteousness, and through Thy great mercy may we all meet at last with joy before Thy throne in heaven, and to the great name shall be praise forever and ever.

Comrades - Amen.

Post Commander - Adjutant, for what purpose are we here to-day?

Adjutant - To pay our tribute of respect to the memory of our late comrades.

Commander - Have you a record of their services in the cause of our country?

Adjutant - Commander, I have.

The Adjutant here read a list of the soldiers buried in the different cemeteries, as follows, those marked with a * being without tomb stone.

WEST AURORA CEMETERY. Wm. S. Huff, Co. G, 44th Ill; M. Cooley Huff, A, 47th Ill; Thadeus Race, B. 18th U. S. Inf; Alanson Race, B. 156th Ill; Wm. Shies, 7th Ill; Seymour A. Crance, A, 52nd Ill; Joseph S. Smith, F, 127th Ill; Robt. Y. Anderson, E, 124th Ill; Wm. H. Anderson, E, 124th Ill; Capt. John B. Watkins, E, 89th Ill; John M. Mostow.---; *Wm. White. ---; Wm. W. Clegg, G, 58th Ill; *Robt. Linton, A, 4th Ill. Cav; Joy Tarble, band, 124th Ill; John H. Dodge, ---; * --- Young, ---; A.J. Babcock, ---; Joel J. Wilder, B, 36th Ill, and B, 156th Ill; Cyrus

W. Randall, E, 124th Ill; Wm. W. Wilder, H, 124th Ill; Sherman D. Towle, A, 52nd Ill; Geo. W. Meyers, H, 13th Ill; * --- Trask, --- .

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CEMETERY. *Patrick Lowry, B, 56th Ill; *Ames Manahan, B, 56th Ill; *Thomas Fitzgerald, H, 52nd Ill; Jas. Wade, E, 89th Ill; *Edward Cunningham, ---; *Thos. McKenna, G, 58th Ill; *Patrick McGraff, E, 89th Ill.

GERMAN CATHOLIC EAST SIDE. Peter Schlitz. Nicholas Didat.

SPRING LAKE CEMETERY. Silas Miller, Col. 36th Ill. Infantry; D.W. Young, Surgeon 36th Ill; Maj. E.A. Harkness, Mass. Regiment; J.B. Marlett, A Cavalry 36th; Robert Hazard (Burroughs); Perry Odell; H. Baker, H 124th; E. Dowey; J.D. Pierce, H, 13th; Joseph Burley, A, cavalry, 36th; H.J. Gushine, H, 52nd Ill; Albert Tucker; Thos. Walworth, --Scribner, J.C. Hadlock; H.A. Snell, B, 36th; Geo. White, E, 89th Ill; Wallace Baker, H, 124th.

AURORA CEMETERY. E.D. ---; Geo. Gardner, Capt. 13th Inf; R. Fleming, Capt. 16th Cav; A.P. Monat, Capt. 52nd Inf; W. Dennison, Capt. Iowa Regt; --- Coggsell; A. Moseley; Chas. Titsworth; Chas Otis, H, 124th; J.C. Goodwin, A 36th Cav.; F. Goodwin, A 36th Cav.; E.M. Emerson, 13th Inf.; Levi Morgan, H. 124th; W.H. Berry; J.E. Merrill; Fred Huff, 7th Infantry; W. Blakesly, B 36th; W.B. Aikin; R.A. Drain, B 36th; John Purdy; M.A. Fenton; Geo. Hollenbeck; G. Ross, 156th; T.M. Cray; J. Hoyt; and one unknown. Also Fred Vaughn, an old veteran of the Revolution.

(After calling the roll of the honored dead, three rolls were sounded upon the muffled drums.)

Commander – Their record is an honorable one, and as the memory of all faithful soldiers of the Republic should be cherished and their record preserved, I direct that it be placed in the archives of the Post for future reference.

Chaplain – What man is that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? If a man die, shall he live again?

Comrades – Jesus Christ said: I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And he that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Chaplain – Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.

Comrades – Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors.

Chaplain – They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more.

Comrades – Neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Chaplain – For the lamb which is in the midst of the thrown shall feed them and lead them into living fountains of water.

Comrades – And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Chaplain – There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.

Comrades – For the former things are passed away.

After a voluntary by the Choir, Comrade Samuel Paine, pastor of the Galena Street M. E. Church, delivered the following

ORATION

Comrades of the Grand Army, Ladies and Gentlemen: - I confess my utter inability in any language which I am capable of employing to do justice to the subject suggested by this solemn occasion. I feel that I am unworthy to be allowed to speak of the glory and worth of these heroic men, whose forms lie moldering side by side from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, from Atlanta

to the sea, from Cairo to the Gulf. The noble dead who stood between this nation and the nation's ruin. The supporters of our Government upon whose manhood and bravery depended the destinies of our country. But I thank God, comrades, that I was permitted to be a humble participator in those scenes, which their deeds have made immortal. Our thoughts to-day naturally revert to the scenes of the late war, when South Carolina, with an army of ten thousand men, made an attack upon Fort Sumpter, which was garrisoned by not over a hundred United States troops, and Governor Pickens boasted that South Carolina had humbled the stars and stripes for the first time in seventy years. We remember how at the call of the President of the United States a mighty citizen army sprang into existence in a few short weeks, animated by the deep love of country, which had slumbered beneath the platforms of party and commercial interests, and our cities and towns were converted into camps, and the nation trembled under the tread of one of the largest armies that the world had ever seen – an army composed of men from every position in life, and at whose roll call responses were heard from nearly all nations. I need not remind you to-day of the deeds of valor done; of the fields of victory won; of the sublimity of that four years struggle for right, justice and freedom. How that amid the blunders of Government, the incompetency of Generals, the ardor of our soldiers was never dampened; their faith in the ultimate triumph of the cause never weakened; ever and always strong and inflexible in their purpose, that however much they suffered, the Government should live. At our defeats, liberty-hating men everywhere rejoiced; in parliaments and senates they were hailed with joy, while poor, bleeding liberty looked on with tearful eyes and sent up prayers for our success. At last, under God, and the heroes of more than a hundred battlefields, we emerged from darkness into light, and a merry peal of liberty rang out upon our newly ransomed and regenerated republic. When the contest was ended, the nation came out of the struggle unconquered, in all its former beauty and majesty; with not a star or stripe erased or a state missing – bearing in its arms the lives and freedom of millions of new born people.

My mind to-day vividly recalls some of the scenes of that terrible struggle, in which I had an honor to participate. The forced march in 1861 from the Potomac to Port Royal; the campaign under Gen. Fremont in the Shenandoah Valley, in pursuit of Stonewall Jackson; the battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic; the battle of Cedar Mountain, under Pope; the fights at the fords of the Rappahannock; Thoroughfare Gap; the second battle of Bull Run, where we met the armies of Lee, Ewell, Longstreet and listened in vain for the friendly guns of McClellan's army, whom we helped in his retreat from the Peninsula, and were driven, because we lacked the food and ammunition to continue the fight; the battle of Chantilly where the gallant Stevens and Kearney fell; the march to and the battle of Antietam, when the Union army rolled back the tide of invasion across the Potomac. At Fredericksburg under Burnside, where 18,000 dead and wounded soldiers lay on the plain and in the city, the day after the battle – which like the charge of the 620 light horseman at Belaklava, was an unpardonable blunder. There passes before my mind to-day, while I remember these scenes, the forms of many loved comrades, whom I have seen fall with their faces to heaven and their feet to the foe. I remember the comrades who enlisted with me from the Pine Tree State, who never faltered or wavered, whether they followed the old flag in retreat or victory, but marched on ever in the full faith of the glorious consummation which came at last.

We are reminded to-day of the bulletins from every blood red battlefield, which sent sorrow and mourning into almost every household, and brought the sad tidings of those who died that we might live; of the three hundred thousand dead, whose lives went out in their country's battles – the bright names of the loved, the lost, the mourned; of those who suffered a living

death in Southern prisons, and those whose bones still lie whitening and unmarked in distant battlefields. As soldiers in the Union army, that stood in the struggle of life and death, amid the roar of artillery and the clash of arms, there is a tie between the comrade living and the comrade dead, that none but comrades can ever know.

Let us to-day strew flowers over the ashes of our comrades, lay garlands over their sacred dust. What we are doing here, our fellow soldiers are doing everywhere in our nation at the graves of our dead heroes. Let us never forget those who fell bravely fighting by our sides, nor those they left to feel and mourn their loss.

As a nation we hold a trust of mightiest significance. We must stand by the Constitution. We must stand by the laws of our country. We must stand by the rules of our country. We must stand by the re-union of our country. The Union of our States is the Palladium of our freedom, the spring of our blessings, the sheet anchor of our happiness. Let us contend for a free Government, a wise and paternal Government is essential to the prosperity of the nation; a free church; a free press; a free pulpit; an open Bible, submission to law, and reverence to authority.

Our country's great danger lies in the direction of political corruption and the indifference on the part of many of our citizens in regard to the elective franchise. The privilege of the ballot being bestowed upon us, we are under solemn obligation to wield it fearlessly and honestly, and put into offices of trust in the nation only men of purity and integrity, irrespective of party.

Europe feels the influences of our struggle to-day in every part of her agonized and struggling system. She sits on the crater of a social volcano, which may burst forth at any moment and bury deeper every vestige of kingly and priestly despotism than the ashes of lava of Vesuvius buried the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

If we had failed in our great struggle for the supremacy of our Government, if the Union had been divided, the United States would have fallen from a first class power to that of a third or fourth rate republic, with a contracted sea board and a defenseless border, liable to attack from every unfriendly power on the face of the globe as well as the seceded states. We must have changed our national policy, and instead of keeping a small army to do police duty on our frontiers, maintained a large and costly standing army like the European forces. Our commercial relations would have been endlessly complicated.

We have all the conditions essential to unparalleled national greatness. Among these are the vast extent of territory; variety in soil and climate; extensive sea coast and inland water communication; exhaustless wealth; a country extending from sea to sea, and from the lakes to the Gulf. If there is a nation on the face of the earth that is under special stress of obligation to serve God and endeavor to incorporate His will and wisdom into the national life, that is ours – for our history is all aflame with Divine superintendence and care. The providential hand of God was seen in the planting of this nation, and deliverance brought out for us in subsequent history. But let ignorance, corruption and avarice increase, and in spite of brave men on flood and field, of arts ever so perfect, commerce ever so flourishing, literature ever so exalted, all these things will be an ineffectual shield against calamity. If this grand nation, for which we fought, which can now bear the shock of all the earth and dash it back like foam, is made rotten at its base by sin, it will decline, and Icabod will be inscribed upon it – thy glory hath departed. Let us all over our common country, “with malice toward none, with charity to all,” but with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, so act in the present and teach our children to act in the future, that never again there shall be a free and enlightened American people divided against itself. Let us be magnanimous to those in the late war who fought against us. They are sons of a

common country, and however mistaken their cause, they were gallant soldiers and foemen worthy of our steel. The wild flowers bloom over the graves to-day where lie buried the Blue and the Gray.

The interest of civilization, the cause of liberty, the claims of religion, the welfare of the world, demand that we be bound together in the closest brotherhood. May our country ever be as we express it in song, "The Land of the Brave and the Home of the Free" – the moral Bethesda to which the oppressed and downtrodden of all lands may flee to find a refuge and a home and breathe the atmosphere of liberty and hope, is the prayer of an adopted citizen, who kept step to the music of liberty in the Grand Army of the Republic. The oration was listened to with the deepest attention and heartily and repeatedly applauded at its conclusion.

Another hymn was sung by the Choir, and the ceremonies closed as follows:

Commander – Senior Vice Commander, How should all men live?

S. V. C. – With trust in God, and in love for one another.

Commander – Junior Vice Commander, How should Comrades of the Grand Army live?

J. V. C. – Having on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to withstand in the evil day.

Commander – The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Comrades – We thank God, who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commander – May the Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, keep us by His gracious presence, amid the conflicts of our mortal life, and at last receive us into everlasting peace.

Comrades – Amen.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Sir Knights and the Aurora Light Guards were escorted to their respective halls by Aurora Post G. A. R. and the Aurora Cornet Band, the vast concourse of citizens slowly and reverently wended their way from Spring Lake, and the sleeping heroes were left "alone in their glory."

The vocalists who discoursed such excellent music at the various cemeteries were as follows: Quartette – Miss. Hattie Newman, Mrs. Slater, Mr. Henderson and Mr. John Wood. Double Quartette – 1st tenor, Messrs. Henderson and Stern; 2d tenor, Messrs. Bexon and Stenger; 1st bass, Mr. John Wood and Dr. Robbins; 2d bass, Messrs. Ives and Bugbee; soprano, Miss. Newman; alto, Mrs. Slater.

Saturday, June 3, 1876

CARD OF THANKS

GRAND ARMY HALL, Aurora, May 31, 1876. In behalf of the Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., we tender our sincere thanks to Aurora Commandery, No. 22, and Aurora Light Guards, for their kindly assistance in Decoration services over the graves of our dead comrades. Also to the ladies for arranging, and friends for furnishing flowers. To clergy and glee clubs, for their services, and those who kindly provided water on the route.

Rob't Miller,

A.C. Ferre,

L.C. Porter. Com.

Wednesday, July 12, 1876 CITY ITEMS

The regular meeting of the Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., occurs on Friday evening next, and it is hoped there will be a full attendance of members.

Saturday, August 12, 1876 CITY ITEMS

All members of the 124th Regiment of Ills. Vol. Inf., are requested to meet at Fitch House parlors, on Monday evening, 14th of Aug., at 8 o'clock, to make arrangements for holding a reunion on the 10th of September, 1876, at Aurora.

By Order of Committee.

Wednesday, August 30, 1876 CITY ITEMS

Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., has been invited to attend the annual reunion of the 36th Regiment at Yorkville, on Thursday, Sept. 21st, and will no doubt be there.

Wednesday, September 6, 1876 CITY ITEMS

Aurora Post No. 26, G. A. R., will hold a sociable on Friday evening next in connection with their regular meeting, at their rooms in the Miller & Coulter block, when every comrade is earnestly requested to be present, accompanied by his wife or lady friends.

Saturday, September 9, 1876 CITY ITEMS

Every Ex-soldier in the city will endeavor to meet the old 36th Regiment at Yorkville on Thursday, the 21st inst., in their annual re-union. The Aurora Light Guards, and Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R. will also be there.

This marks the first newspaper article identifying the Aurora Post as No. 20.

Wednesday, September 13, 1876 CITY ITEMS

The members of the Aurora Post No. 20, with their wives and lady friends, enjoyed a pleasant sociable at the G. A. R. rooms on Friday evening. The regular business of the Post was hurried through, while the ladies occupied a waiting room upon the second floor, after which they were escorted to the spacious and pleasant audience room, and several hours spent in social

intercourse. Refreshments were served, and reminiscence of camp life and battle field indulged in. A pleasant event of the evening was the presentation, by Comrade Samuel Paine, in behalf of the Post, to Adjutant Henry B. Douglas, of a handsome gold pen and pencil case, as a token of the esteem of his comrades and their appreciation of the admirable manner in which he had so long filled the duties of his responsible office. Mr. Douglas was taken completely by surprise and greatly embarrassed, but rallied presently, and in a few well chosen words expressed his gratification in being so agreeably assured of the good will of those whom he had endeavored to serve faithfully and well in the simple discharge of duty. It is the intention of the Post, we learn, to hold these social gatherings frequently.

Wednesday, September 20, 1876

RE-UNION OF THE 36th REGIMENT

The annual reunion of the survivors of the 36th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, takes place at Yorkville, on Thursday next. The people of that village have made extensive preparations to entertain all who may come – while an unusual number of survivors of the regiment have signified their intention to participate in the festivities. The principle address of the occasion was at first announced to be given by John A. Logan; but circumstances which he could not control, compelled him to send declination – and now Col. John S. Wilcox, of Elgin, takes his place. We all know the Col. to be an excellent speaker, as he was a good fighter, and the occasion will be essentially of little less interest then were the Senator there. We have no doubt the people of Yorkville will warmly welcome all the Aurora people who may be present as particular friends of the Regiment. We may here mention that Major Bennet will have a good supply of the splendid new history of the 36th Regiment at the re-union, and will be prepared to supply all who wish to procure copies of that valuable book. The Major has been to a very large expense in getting up this monument to the Regiment, and the boys should do all in their power to help him out, by a liberal movement for the disposal of the entire edition. Even then the author will be out his own time, labor and personal expense. An excursion train will start from this city to Yorkville, at 9:15 o'clock, Thursday morning; and returning, arrive at Aurora at 5:45 p.m. Tickets 40 cents, to be had at Watson's, or at the train.

Saturday, September 23, 1876

HISTORY OF THE 36th REGIMENT

HISTORY OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT of Illinois Volunteers, during the war of the rebellion, by L.G. Bennet and Wm. M. Haigh.

This is a fine octavo volume of eight hundred and eight pages, printed on finely tinted paper, with clear, handsome type. It is illustrated with ten fine steel engravings, portraits of Gens. Curtis, Siegel, Sheridan, Lytle and Thomas, Cols. Greusel, Miller and Olson, Chaplain Haigh and Major S.B. Sherer, each of whom were more or less connected with the Regiment. The work was written and compiled by Major L.G. Bennet, who went out as Corporal in Company E, aided by Rev. Wm. M. Haigh, who was chaplain for a part of the time of the

Regiment's service. The historical portion of the work is well done, though we must admit that the chaplain's portion seems to us rather long drawn out, and at times to partake of the nature of an autobiography. This however is no detriment to the work, except that the book is enlarged from the original design, 600 pages, to a volume of 808. The book was printed at the Beacon office, and bound in the Beacon bindery. It may not, therefore, behoove us to speak much of its mechanical execution – yet we do think it will not suffer materially by comparison with any other book of its class, and is certainly not surpassed by any heretofore issued in Illinois.

The work has been done at a very large expense to Mr. Bennet – and copies are sold to the members of the Regiment and their friends for \$3 in cloth, and \$4 in morocco, an exceedingly small price when the size of the book, and the large amount of work put upon it are considered. The price remains as it was fixed when the volume was intended to be of but 600 pages, while, as presented, its cost has been increased fully one third. The members and friends of the Regiment should take this into consideration, and make a united and generous effort to aid the author to speedily realize upon his investment.

Very many of our people remember that fifteen years ago yesterday the gallant old 36th Regiment passed through the streets of Aurora. They were then measurably holiday soldiers, with very little idea of the horrible realities of the war which was to end the lives of so many of them – and to consume three and four of the best years of the others. It was a holiday to all Aurora – but a terrible day of parting to many. This book contains the history of that magnificent company of eleven hundred men, and we cannot better give an idea of the interest which runs throughout the volume, than by making extracts here and there.

The start of the Regiment from Camp Hammond is thus outlined:

Tuesday, September 24th, the long expected and much wished for day of departure from Camp Hammond dawned. Before day the men were astir, the camp alive buzzing like a large bee hive. Hurrahs would break out from some unexpected quarter, which were followed by scattering hurrahs all over camp. Animation beamed from every countenance, and soon after sunrise people from the country came crowding into camp by the thousand. They came on foot, on horseback, and in every conceivable kind of vehicle from a lumber wagon to a chaise. Gaily dressed women, fair-faced country lasses, hardy countrymen, over dressed fops and substantial farmers, making up a “tremendous big crowd,” were on hand, rendering the scene animated and picturesque beyond description. A larger assemblage never before gathered on the banks of the glistening Fox; and never went soldier to fields of glory bearing kinder wishes for their welfare, or more heartfelt adieus at their departure. Eyes unused to weeping were dimmed with mistiness, and hearts throbbed heavily with painful thoughts as the order was given to strike tents, and in ten minutes the prairie which had been flecked with snowy canvas was littered with heaps of straw, old clothes, hats, bundles of rags, fire places, boards and ruined bunks.

At 4 p.m. the column was formed, and headed by the band, we bade adieu to Camp Hammond forever; marched to Aurora and embarked in a long train of passenger coaches which awaited us, and amidst the deafening shout of thousands the train moved away. Scarcely a sad face was seen in the regiment, and if flashing eyes and loud huzzahs were an index of the feeling within, all departed with joy and gladness. On the line of railroad our departure had been heralded in advance, and it seemed as if the whole population went out, lining the track to bid us God speed. Bonfires blazed, guns were fired, and the evening air was stirred with shouting as we passed swiftly through the villages which dotted the country. At Arlington, in Bureau County, where we stopped a few minutes for water, crowds of ladies flocked to the train to welcome and shake the hands of their gallant defenders. At Galesburg the citizens thronged the station, and

were profuse in complimenting the fine appearance of the men. A group of cavalrymen, with Major Barry in their midst, while standing on the platform at the depot with their overcoats and clean uniforms on, attracted the attention of a citizen, who remarked, while looking at the squad, "they have a fine looking set of field officers." Whether the Major alone appropriated the compliment, or regarded it as a drive at the officers, was not ascertained. We reached Quincy at 8 p.m., September 25th.

The regiment saw its first service in Missouri, and Major Bennet narrates incidents of the march as follows.

Straggling was not allowed, but all sorts of excuses were resorted to, to go to the wayside cabins for milk and "garden truck." What astonishing spasms of hunger or thirst attack soldiers on sight of an attractive farm house, and what sad stories of privation they have to tell when once they gain the ear of the proprietor or his family. A pretty close observer of all the phases of a soldier's life has stated that positively no soldier under such circumstances was ever known to have anything to eat for the two previous days, though his haversack may even then be crammed to corpulence with "hard tack."

And the pleas these mousing stragglers put in when caught with plunder are sublime in their audacity.

Major English, of the fourth Iowa, observed a soldier staggering along with a great swelling under his blanket – which, from every indication, he judged to be a dead pig – whom he hailed with:

"Hello, my man, where did you get that pig?"

"It isn't a pig, sir, its tomatoes, you don't know, sir, how hard it is to tell pigs from tomatoes in this blasted country."

The Major readjusted his spectacles, took another look, but refrained from pressing his enquiries further.

The influence of women upon the camp is shown in the following paragraphs:

We had now fairly settled down in camp and fully embarked in housekeeping, when the wives of Colonel Greusel, Capt. Pearce and Capt. Baldwin came and took up their abode with us, distributing rays of glorious sunshine, and reminding us of social life in America. The presence of these truly magnificent women was the cause of their husbands being subjects of envy all over the regiment. Never before had the men so fully appreciated value of a yard of calico – the shimmer of bright eyes, the sheen of a tress, or the flutter of a ribbon, as now. To men who for weeks had hardly seen a woman's face radiant with smiles and beaming with intelligence, the presence of these ladies awakened fresh memories of home and the well remembered associations of other days; kindled anew the love of wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts, and endeared every adjunct of femininity left behind. The roughest soldier in the ranks was chastened to propriety, behaved better, aye, and fought better, from the presence of true, loyal and lovely women among them. An influence of good pervaded the camp, from their being in it. Their visits to the hospital and ministrations to the suffering ones gave life and hope where else would have been despair and death.

Mrs. Greusel knew what it is to be the wife of a soldier, and the patient endurance of long months of separation, with the care of children on her hands, while the husband is away in his country's service. She had passed through it all while her husband was fighting the country's battles on the plains of Mexico. Truly the country owes much to its heroic daughters as well as to its brave sons.

Mrs. Pierce was a superb horsewoman, an easy, graceful rider, and flashed over the hills

and valleys like a ray of light, and often alone, as free and fearless as a trooper.

The Major thus brands to all future time the tyrant of the regiment:

A trooper belonging to Company B Cavalry, who had suffered for two whole months without a glass of whisky, nay, without so much as a smell of it, found means for getting out of camp and soon was drunk – drunk all over; he continued so for three days, and of course for that period was absent from roll-call. After sobering up he returned to camp, reported his absence and the cause of it to the Colonel, who reproved him sharply, but as this was his first offence he concluded not to punish him, making him promise, however, to keep sober in the future. On reporting to Capt. Smith for duty, that officer caused his immediate arrest, personally assisted in tying his hands, gagging him by passing a rope through his mouth, and then jerked the poor fellow about the Company quarters until his mouth and tongue were badly lacerated and bleeding; then, just for the fun of the thing, kicked him brutally as he lay helpless on the ground. This was too much for average human nature to endure, and the men interfered and rescued their comrade from further violence. Ascertaining the extent of his injuries, a simultaneous rush was made for the Captain, with the avowed intention of putting an eternal quietus to his kicking and gagging propensities. The uproar caused by these summary proceedings attracted the attention of the Officer of the Day, who called out the Camp guard for the Captains protection, but he had to leave camp and sought refuge in a house in the outskirts of the town where he lay concealed during the night and succeeding day. The next night he was secretly conducted to Dillon, a station six miles from Rolla, on the railroad, and when the next train passed he went with it to St. Louis. He was afterward cashiered and dismissed from the service. Such brutality might be appreciated among Comanche savages, but the army of the United States, particularly that branch if it to which by some unfortunate circumstances he had been attached, could very well dispense with his services. He was succeeded in the command of the company by Samuel B. Sherer, of Aurora.

The Union soldier was always an honorable man, who never lived off the country, though he was at times compelled to act in self defence as for instance:

A private is seen skulking through the brush on his way to camp, with a gun on one shoulder and a slaughtered sheep on the other. Being detected and obliged to account for so unmilitary an accoutrement, with as demure a countenance as he would assume at a funeral of a friend, he protests his innocence of any intentional wrong; that he was compelled to kill the sheep in self defence; that having had permission to leave camp “just to fill his canteen,” he was met by this pugilistic sheep, who, on seeing his federal uniform, charged upon him in great fury, and as one or the other had to die, he concluded it might just as well be the sheep; so very reluctantly he was compelled to shoot it. The absurdity of his plea very often enables him to get off without punishment, and proceeding to his quarters he divides his plunder among his comrades and feasts upon delicious mutton at the noon-day meal or at the camp-fire.

Does the following little incident of the march toward Pea Ridge have any local bearing:

While on the march in pursuit of Price down the “Telegraph road,” the main column passed through the little town of Cassville. Some of the passing throng broke into a drug store and appropriated such of its contents as their needs or inclinations suggested. One of the Sergeants of Company A Cavalry discovered a package of white powder, which he conceived to be saleratus, and at once confiscated it for the use of the Sergeant’s mess. Not being quite sure of the chemical properties of his plunder, he submitted the stuff to comrade Judd – who had at one time officiated as a druggist’s clerk – for his opinion. Judd pronounced it “saleratus, and no mistake.” That night the cavalry companies encamped on a hill near Sugar Creek, and though

tired, were jubilant over the prospect of raised cakes for supper, in place of the usual cold water “slap jacks.” The fires were soon fiercely blazing, the cakes mixed, and a liberal quantity of “saleratus” sprinkled in.

It was fun to cook pancakes in the army: A little flour, salt and water, a good fire, a long handled skillet, a little grease, and one is ready for business. Warm the pan, pour in the grease, douse in the dough, let it sizzle a while, then give it a shake, a twitch and a flop, and over it goes, just as easy as falling off a log – if one only knows how.

On this occasion the cakes were soon cooked, and the large hearted, generous Sergeants of Company A cheerfully shared their good fortune with Lieutenants Sherer, Ferre and Reynolds, who composed the officer’s mess. That was a delightful repast, heartily eaten and praised by nearly all. One or two of the boys, however, remarked the cakes did not appear much lighter than those made without saleratus. Supper over, the men composing the mess stood around the camp fire talking over the events of the day and prospects of the morrow, satisfied with their surroundings, and even jolly. In a few moments there was a lull in the conversation, the boys were less blithesome and more uncomfortable than usual; a deathly pallor was observed in the faces of some, which but a moment before were wreathed in smiles. Sergeant Snow was seen retreating into the woods, and Sergeant White stole silently away in another direction, followed soon after by Collins, Dynan, Sherer and the balance, and such another entertainment, consisting entirely of vomiting, was seldom ever gotten up on such short notice. Oh, the “hee-ups” and “hoo-ups,” the tears and groans of the sick crowd will very likely never be forgotten. It was the event of the campaign in the line of gastronomic achievements. It was good bye to supper and too much of the inner mechanism of the mortal corporosity. After a time “the show,” like all things else, had an end, and when the performers were restored to their usual equanimity, the question was anxiously asked, “What made those cakes rise at that particular time? And what made them rise so high? Could it be the *saleratus*? And if so, why? A quantity of the material was taken to Surgeon Young, for examination, who kindly informed the boys they had been raising their cakes with *tartar emetic*! Ever after Sergeant Judd was known in his company as “The Apothecary.”

(To Be Continued)

Saturday, September 23, 1876

TENTH ANNUAL REUNION
OF THE
FOX RIVER REGIMENT
THE VETERAN 36th ILLINOIS INFANTRY

Aurora will never lose a proud interest in this Regiment. Not only was it formed in our city, receiving the best officers of our citizens – but it carried with it much of the best blood of our community. The names of Greusel, Miller, Sherer, Jenks, Campbell, Young, etc., are familiar in every house – while the members of the Regiment themselves, now many of them middle aged and old men, property holders, all of them honored and respected, are scattered all through the community. The sound of its regimental names arouses interest, and no item concerning its history during war, or its honorable existence since that time, is allowed to fall unnoticed.

It is therefore, not at all surprising, that several hundred of our people visited Yorkville on the above occasion, Sept. 21st, 1876. With them went that gallant organization of young men, the Aurora Light Guards, some thirty strong, under command of Lieutenant Myron Stolp; the Aurora Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and numerous members, not only of the old 36th, but of other regiments which are proud of the most excellent reputation attained by the older organization, and went to enjoy the festivities incident to such a pleasant occasion.

As the excursion train drew up to the depot at Yorkville, the company was received by the Kendall Cornet Band and the Marshal of the day, Pierce Boyd, and escorted to Black's Grove, where platforms were erected, seats laid, and maybe best of all, preparations made for a feast such as can alone be provided when rich mother earth provides most bounteously for her favorite sons – the generous farmers of Kendall, and their fellows, the good people of Bristol and Yorkville.

While the thronging thousands were busy arranging themselves about the grounds, and the scores of ladies labored over blazing stoves, and around long tables which soon groaned under their burdens – tender scenes were noted. Here and there strong men fairly embraced each other, and bearded faces came in close proximity; hands were shaken and pet names exchanged, as tears rolled down faces once bronzed by the fierce suns of the south – but now cleared by the more peaceful walks of life, and some of them bleached by diseases incurred in their long marches or the deathly experiences of the camp. Here and there was a leg or an arm missing – or a withered limb, relic of bullets, shell and cannon ball upon the battle field. Most interesting of all was a silent group of twenty veterans, who early gathered about an object of deep interest, so closely that few beside them could catch a glimpse of the old battle flag as they carefully, tenderly, delicately took it from its wrappings – and then all pinned, and tied and gathered, swung what was left of it above the speaker's stand. Beside it hung, with brighter sheen, and whole folds, the new regimental flag, received after Franklin; which though tenderly cherished, carries with it less of reverence, less of love, than the tattered stripes which the boys carried from Camp Hammond through their severest travels.

At the grand stand, Hon. M.B. Castle acted as President of the Day, and among those who sat with him were the orator, Major Biddulph, several of the old men of Kendall County, Hon. Lewis Steward, Marshal Cornell, etc.

The exercises were introduced by music from the Kendall County Cornet Band, and by the glee club, composed of Dr. Robbins, P. Henderson, and F.M. Hobbs.

The divine blessings upon the services was invoked by Rev. Wm. Haigh, who for over two years was with the boys upon the field, and who labored in hospital and on the field after many battles, demonstrating his love for the Master, by his steady devotions to both the physical and moral condition of the men.

The welcome to the regiment was extended by Jeremiah Everts, the county clerk of Kendall, in well chosen, happily expressed, though somewhat extended remarks. Of these and of the following orations, we made copious notes, but they are so lengthy as to preclude any attempt at reproduction in our columns to-day; while some portions, especially the response, by J.L. Dryden, of Monmouth, were quite eloquent to be marred by any attempt at a synopsis. Mr. Dryden was introduced as one who carried in his arm, rebel lead received at Chickamauga; and as he spoke his left arm, shriveled and useless, hung by his side. He commenced, in slow measured, but wonderfully distinct tones, what the company expected to be a short, formal reply to Mr. Everts. But in a few moments the entire audience were entranced and for more than a half hour listened to one of the most brilliant addresses concerning the war and its incidents, to which

we have ever listened. It was eloquent above description – and his word picture of “The night before the Battle,” and of the dread field of Chickamauga, should have fitting preservation among the recorded eloquence of America. Although set down by the programme as simply a “response,” this was really the oration of the day.

The principle part had been allotted John A. Logan, but the meeting of the “Boys in Blue” in Indianapolis precluded his attendance, and at the very last minute Hon. John S. Wilcox, of Elgin, accepted an urgent invitation to make an address. The Col. had no time for preparation, and after the eloquent, soul stirring address of Comrade Dryden, was in an unpleasant position. Introduced by Mr. President Castle, Mr. Wilcox stated his position, and the circumstance attending his presence, and proceeded, after giving a running history of the Regiment’s campaigns, to state their place in the estimation of the people. It was to him and the veteran a joy unspeakable, that in this war they did their duty well – and the regiment was entitled to the nation’s homage and the gratitude of the people. “In the future millions will rise up and call you blessed forever more.”

Following these remarks, Lewis, of Ottawa, presented the history of the regiment, as published by Lieut. L.G. Bennett – and commended it to the attention of the Regiment and the people, principally by a narration of the intense interest with which he had read it.

The boys could not disperse for dinner without hearing from their old commander, who spoke to them words of old fellowship, and present cheer. Following this was the

LUXURIOUS DINNER,

provided by the ladies. Near a dozen long tables were just back of the speaker’s stand, covered with a very great abundance of the most tempting fare, and during the last portion of the somewhat lengthy proceedings at the stand, the tempting aroma of coffee, and the savory smell of meats detracted somewhat from the interest of speeches and songs. For more than an hour the vast company of two thousand soldiers and guests paid attention to these things, and waited upon by the fairest daughters of Kendall County, both heart and stomachs suffered awfully. But the veteran soldiers survived, and at about half past two repaired to the beautiful little Kendall County Court House to attend the

BUSINESS MEETING

The members of the regiment met at the Court House, and the room was well filled with the old veterans and their immediate friends. A record was made during the session, which showed the following members present:

Big Rock – W.H. Dugan, Joseph E. Way, J.D. Allison.

Plano – Lucien Hemmenway, Robert Fralick, J.W. Alston, S. Winans.

Douglas – A. Prickett.

Oswego – Gust. Voss, R.H. Gilmore, A.B. Wormley.

Pilot Centre – G. Gunnison.

Minoka – Thos. Welch.

Plattsville – Thos. Vernon.

Wayne – M.J. Hammond.

White Willow – Jas. A. Baker.

Leland – J.E. Moss.

Bartlett – H.P. Mann.

Sandwich – F.W. Sly, H. Harris.

Stock Yards – A.L. Patterson.

Ottawa – E.H. Steuart.

Newark – J.G. Vreeland, T. Johnson, Benj. Stephenson.
Monmouth – J.M. Trunbull, J.L. Dryden.
Lisbon – O.H. Thompson.
Center Town – J.G. Meecham.
Crystal Lake – Henry Wood, W.H. Beardsley.
St. Charles – J.P. Lenhart.
Moline – J.M. Lynden.
Mt. Pleasant, Ia. – N. Greusel.
Ottawa – E.N. Lewis, John A. Taylor.
Galesburgh – W.M. Haigh.
_____ Major Biddulph.
Sheridan – B. Thompson, S.W. Gates, John Thompson.
Seneca – C.M. Ralph.
Millbrook – J.S. Barber.
Millington – Geo. Neff, E.H. Young.
Yorkville – S. Balley, Thos. Titlow, L.G. Bennett, M.E. Cornell.
Somonauk – Wm. Coltrip.
Farmingham – J.L. Wilson.
Chicago – D.H. Henderson, Frank Walbury, C.W. Rhodes, S.B. Sherer.
Morris – O.H. Johnson, Owen Christopher, E. Johnson, W. Kearns, M.G. Yarnell, Jas.

Phelps.

Batavia – Ed. Mann.
Aurora – Fred O. White, J.F. Harral, C.H. Odekirk, Nic. Hettinger, W.E. Satterfield,
Samuel Hitchcock, C.J. Ayers, Chris. Zimmer, J.H. Carl, E. Todd, H.B. Douglass, A.C. Ferre,
Nic. Zimmers, John Hoyles, W.D. Hawkins, I.W. Rice, G.L. Dorr.
Little Rock – J.S. Hatch
Malta – Chas. Lorin.
Mendota – G.W. Hagadone.
Shabonna – T. Thompson.
DeKalb – E.R. Zellar.
Northville – Wm. Brunning, W.H. Curtis.
Jericho – Uriah Foster.
Elgin – Aleck. Mannahan, J.A. Hewitt, Geo. Sherman, Wm. Smalles, J.C. Dennison.

That the session might be lively and pleasant still full of the recollections of the old campaigns, Delos Hawkins was called upon for one of the old songs and gave “Old Shanty” with the spirit and the understanding – so thoroughly lively and life like that he was called back and further enhanced the fun of the occasion with some Dutch variations.

Major Biddulph was in the chair and J.C. Dennison held the Secretary’s pencil. The minutes of the last reunion at Aurora were read and approved.

The first business was the consideration of the Olson monument. At a previous meeting there was about one hundred dollars in the treasury for monument purposes. But no material additions had been made since. Major Biddulph stated that memorials had been prepared for the Boards of Supervisors of Kendall, Grundy, Warren and Kane counties, for an appropriation of one hundred dollars each to this fund. Kendall and Grundy had each appropriated \$100 contingent upon similar appropriations from Kane and Warren but nothing had been done by the latter. Lieut. Turnbull hoped Warren might yet contribute – but no one seemed able to speak for

Kane. On motion the committee having the matter in charge, were given more time. Treasurer Cornell reported on the fund as follows:

On hand at last meeting.....	\$103.40
Interest for the year.....	10.34
Received on subscription.....	5.50
Received old fund from Ami Newton.....	20.50
Total now on hand.....	\$139.74

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

was the next business in hand. This matter was given into the hands of Major. L.G. Bennett at the last annual meeting, and how well he did his work was attested by the pile of bulky volumes lying upon the table before the comrades. He had found the work stupendous but he had done it as well as he could. How well he had done it he left others to tell. The total cost of the 1500 volumes of 808 pages, including engraving, commissions on sales, assistance on compilation, etc., was \$4,479.50, and the entire prospective receipts, when every book is sold, and every cent collected, \$5,315.00. But thus far the outlook was not overly encouraging, as the cash receipts as yet had been but \$1,008.00. In substantiation the Major gave details which were not in place here, and added that in Yorkville and vicinity he had disposed of more than 200 volumes; none at Woodstock; not 20 at Elgin, and much less than 100 in Aurora, the home of the Regiment, where a very large number should be taken.

A lengthy and enthusiastic debate was had upon this subject, participated in by Uncle Martin Boomer, Sherman, Turnbull and others, during which every member present put his name to paper, to do his utmost to dispose of the edition. The regiment by their vote, a year since, induced Major Bennett to undertake the responsibility and labor of this work – the most enduring and valuable monument which could possibly be raised to the regiment – and it would be no less than a disgraceful shame to permit this crushing burden to remain on his shoulders. It was also the apparent resolution of the members, that every old soldier, his children and friends be urged to secure a volume, as a memorial of the war and of gallant services to the country.

During the discussion several of the speakers spoke of the very absorbed interest with which they read the volume – scarcely laying down to eat or sleep until they had finished its most exciting narrative. Probably the highest compliment was expressed by Col. John Wilcox, of Elgin, who said, he had carefully read both the famous Sherman war History and the History of the 36th. In a literary point of view, he regarded the latter fully equal to the first, while in vivid portraiture of events as they transpired, it was much superior. The mechanical execution of the 36th Book, in paper, type, ink, binding, was very much the superior of the two. He was very earnest in his commendations, and urged upon the veterans the pleasure and pride they should feel in pressing the book upon the attention of the public.

OBITUARIES

The deaths of several of the comrades were announced, and the Chairman was directed to appoint a Committee on Resolutions of respect, which he made as follows: Comrades Ferre, Haigh and Cornell. They reported the following:

That being informed to-day of the death, during the year, of Lieut. R.M. Denning, Co., G, an aid on General Sheridan's staff; Com. W. Gibson, Co., G; Thos. S. Bowen, Co., F, and Jas. B. Harkinson, of the Regimental Band. Therefore,

Resolved, That we desire to express our hearty appreciation of the bravery and fidelity of these comrades of the old 36th, and extend to their families and surviving friends our earnest

sympathy.

Resolved, That our regimental colors be draped in mourning for thirty days in honor of the deceased.

And the resolutions were ordered published in the papers of Yorkville, Aurora, Elgin, Woodstock, Monmouth and Ottawa.

Major Bennett introduced the subject of honorary membership of the Regiment. There are a large number of people who would like to have their names in honorable connection with the Regiment, and the treasury would be the better for their annual contributions. On his motion it was finally resolved that the fathers, brothers and sons of members of the Regiment be admitted as honorary members: -- also those who had been particularly prominent and active in the formation of companies and regiments.

The chairman announced that at that very moment, there was a grand convention of the

BOYS IN BLUE

assembled in Indianapolis; and on motion a committee was appointed to draft a telegraphic dispatch to them. Col. Greusel, in a few moments reported it substantially as follows:

“The 36th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers sends greetings, and cordially unites with them in sustaining as citizens the principles for which they fought as soldiers.” The question of the

NEXT REUNION

then came up. Com. Douglas suggested that as comparatively few members of the Regiment now attend the reunions, it might be well to have combined reunions of several regiments, and moved that the Secretary correspond with other Secretaries. The motion was not however adopted – the clause of the Constitution of the 127th Regiment, that reunions be held so long as two members survived, seeming to strike the popular chord in the assembly. A vote being taken as to the place of the next meeting, it resulted in 84 votes for Elgin, and 26 for Monmouth. The

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

was next in order. Notwithstanding efforts at declination, no opportunity was given, and amid general acclimation, both President Biddulph and Secretary Dennison were most enthusiastically and unanimously re-elected by the yeas. No further business being presented, Col. Greusel introduced

REV. SAMUEL PAINE

who made a pointed and appropriate speech, in which he alluded to his service in the army of the eastern states during the war, and the bonds of friendship which should always exist between the men of all arms of the service, as having suffered in a common cause. He concluded with the sentiment that we are coming out all right, and that he should stand with the “Boys in Blue,” resolved never to vote for any man who did not stand square by the Union in the time of its trial.

This sentiment was received with the most complete applause.

After the customary votes of thanks, etc., the business session was adjourned by singing “John Brown’s Body,” led by Delos Hawkins, followed by the ringing, swinging chorus which the boys used to shout among the echoing woods and hills of poor Dixie.

After the business meeting, about an hour remained until train time, which was most pleasantly spent in the interchange of ideas and reminiscences; and by the inspection of a drill by the Aurora Light Guard. At 5:05 a large portion of the company left Yorkville on the Aurora train, exceedingly well pleased with the Tenth Annual Reunion of the 36th Regiment, and the good people of Yorkville.

Wednesday, September 27, 1876 CITY ITEMS

It will be remembered that during last winter the G. A. R. Hall was burglarized, and the splendid Bible presented to Aurora Post by the ladies was stolen. No clue to the thief was ever obtained, but on Friday evening last the Post was agreeably surprised on being presented with another large and elegant Bible, by comrades Dr. Robbins and Dr. Ferre. These gentlemen conducted the excursion to Yorkville on Thursday last upon the occasion of the 36th reunion, and generally invested the profits in this handsome volume to replace the one stolen, and their thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated by every member of the Post.

Saturday, September 30, 187th

HISTORY OF THE 36TH REGIMENT

[We give below some further extracts from the History of the 36th Regiment. They will prove interesting reading – the more so as they record facts and incidents through which our own citizens passed. They give but a faint idea of the intensely interesting character in this valuable book, of which every house in Aurora should contain a copy. They may be had of Mr. Bennet's Aurora Canvasser, Kit. Baker, or at the Beacon Office.]

Among the incidents of the bloody battle of Pea Ridge is given the following:

A squad from Company B, when near the fence saw a mounted officer making his way through the brush and coming toward them. When near by, they fired, and the Confederate officer fell dead from his horse. The skirmishers sprang over the fence, and Peter Pelican secured the gold watch found upon the dead body of the officer. Another of the boys was in the act of securing his belt and pistols, when a volley was poured upon them, and they fled back to the field and assumed their position in the line of skirmishers. The officer whom they had shot proved to be the Confederate General, Ben. McCulloch.

And here we quote a thrilling incident of the battle of Pea Ridge:

Clear and shrill the bugles sounded the advance, and the squadrons crossed the field and entered the dense timber and underbrush on the north, which was crowded with masses of the foe, concealed from sight. A dash was made upon a force discovered in front; a portentous silence pervaded the thickets on the left, which masked the hosts preparing to spring upon our devoted band. On goes the charging column, not seeing, or at least unmindful, of the danger lurking near. Suddenly, like a blast from the infernal regions, out of the quiet thickets flashed volley after volley into the passing squadrons, while a body of mounted Confederates charged upon the flanks of our column of cavalry and broke it in two. Officers and gallant soldiers fell like leaves in autumn, their blood dying the woodland with its sanguinary hue. Horses and riders, in ever increasing numbers, thickly strewed the field, while every horse attached to the guns was killed. So sudden from a transition from a tilt on horseback, to the position of targets for rebel marksmen, concealed in the dense underbrush, against whose withering fire no effective resistance could be made, was anything but agreeable. For an instant the column paused in uncertainty; then suddenly from out the bloody covert swarmed thousands of Confederate soldiers, who overwhelmed both cavalry and artillery, and swept their disordered ranks from existence. The dismounted Federals dashed into the brush for safety and were met by the deadly

rifle, the uplifted tomahawk and flashing scalping knife, in the hands of savage Indians, who spared none that fell within their merciless grasp. Others threw away their arms, spurred their horses through the ranks of their enemies, and, plunging madly across the field in a disordered flight, imparted a sensation of terror to the infantry, which was just being formed in line along the northern boundary of the cornfield. The inspiring words of stern commands of officers dispelled the panic which was seizing them, as the terror stricken fugitives fled to the rear. Of these hundred men who entered that volcano of death, half were either killed outright, made prisoners, or left writhing in agony upon the field. In less than five minutes from the time they entered the timber with flaunting pennons, their ranks were broken, and a wild stream of frightened fugitives returned with headlong haste, and in dire confusion returned to the rear.

And here a picture of the ground after the battle:

The ground was thickly strewn with arms, knapsacks, cartridges, boxes, clothing, the carcasses of horses, and thousands of shot and shell. Go where you would, through field, wood, ravine or over mountain, the walk would be among the debris of battle and the dead, until the heart grew sick and faint with horror. Here was a lifeless trunk, the head of which had been blown entirely away; the limbs of some were torn from the bodies, while others were perforated with shot. So ended the career of hundreds, the beloved of many a sad and breaking heart, who were buried with no headstones to mark the place where rest their sleeping ashes.

And here's an incident which occurred among the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas:

While storm bound in one of these camps, an old man, bowed with the weight of years, accompanied with two buxom daughters, entered the camp on horseback, with the enquirey:

“Whar's the General?”

Being directed to headquarters the old man dismounted, and grasping the hand of General Curtis he thus addressed him:

“Gineral, I've rid twelve miles to see yer. I fit with old Jackson at Orleans, and it does my old eyes good to see yer follerin arter the bravest man that ever fout, an a holdin up the old flag as he did. My name's William J. Dotson, an I'm risin of eighty five years old, but I can give as genuine a hurraa for the kintry as when I was a youngster. We've had it mighty tough down there; them secession cusses hev stole mighty nigh all we've got, drat em, an they've been ravin an a tearing around right smart. They've threatened to shoot me, but as I'm already too old to hev any business above sod, I tell em to shoot and be dogond. They hung Jack, and they druv Sam away frum hum, but the garls are with me yit; and when the dogond secession skunks pull down the flag that I always keeps a waving from my cabin an set it flyin agin. But now I've seen you'ons I can go home and die contented.”

And thus the old patriarch beguiled a pleasant hour with the General in detailing his experiences with the “dogoned secesh.” The whole staff was impressed with the venerable appearance of the old man, and began to think that these rocks, hills and barren wastes might after all be worth fighting for, as long as such sterling patriots were left to cheer and bless our efforts.

After service in the immediate vicinity of the Mississippi, the 36th was sent to Cincinnati. The reception of the Regiment is narrated in the following graphic style:

The Brigade arrived at Cincinnati at two o'clock on the morning of the 11th. Debarking from the train, the column was formed and marched to the headquarters of General Wallace, which were in the upper stories of a centrally located business block. On arriving, Col. Greusel went up several flights of stairs to the General's room, in person reported his brigade, and asked for orders and quarters for his men. Gen. Wallace supposing him to be a new fledged brigadier

with a rabble of “squirrel hunters” at his heels, somewhat crustily directed him to quarter his men on the first vacant sidewalk he could find, and remain there until morning for orders.

This was rather rough – entirely unlike the kindly hospitalities of the “Hoosiers,” but the Colonel was too much of a soldier to ask questions or demur, and proceeded sullenly downstairs to obey orders. In fact, he was angry, and on gaining the street, where his tired and sleepy men were laying wearily about on boxes, sidewalks and curbstones, he thundered his orders in tones that rivaled the voice of a cannon. “Attention, Batallion! Shoulder Arms! Right Wheel! Right Shoulder Shift – Forward – Guide Right – March!” In all the turmoil and excitement of the times, the streets of Cincinnati had not reverberated orders so strictly military as those. Not one in a thousand had a voice so stentorian as Col. Greusel in those days. His orders were heard many blocks away, and the startled citizens flew to their windows and peered into the darkness, thinking, perhaps, Kirby Smith or “Old Nick” himself had surely come.

General Wallace was about as much astonished as the denizens of the city, and at once every officer and attachee about headquarters were at the windows gazing down upon the long line, every man in his place, marching with the regularity and precision of regulars. The General gave a hurried order, and an aid-de-camp came rushing down to the street, shouting, “Stop that Brigade – stop that Brigade!” The Colonel inquired, “What’s wanted now?” “Oh, sir, the General took you for Militia, who for the last week have nearly worried him to death. Halt your command and come upstairs. Gen. Wallace wishes to see you.” A halt was ordered; the general was profuse with his explanations and apologies, and directed the Colonel to send the troops, under another officer, to the City Market Hall, where the best the city afforded awaited them.

While marching through Kentucky, the 36th Regiment chanced to come in contact with one of that class of officers who seemed to think the rebellion should be subdued without injuring the rebels. The following incident with one General Gilbert, will be appreciated by every man who knew Col. Sile Miller:

A few springs and sparkling brooks were usually monopolized by Gen. Gilbert, who sent an aid in advance to select romantic spots near by, in which was pitched the General’s marquee, and a detachment of body guards posted to protect the sacred precincts, as well as the spring, from intrusion. Near the close of this sultry day the 36th, soiled with dust and famished with thirst, came up to a spring of clear, cold water, near which were located the headquarters of Gen. Gilbert. The men, acting upon the campaign maxim, “wherever and whenever you can secure a square meal or a drink of cold water, do so,” eagerly crowded around the spring, with the inevitable tin cup and canteen, quaffing great draughts of the refreshing beverage, to quench a thirst of eight or ten hours duration. A dapper little staff officer came up and ordered the boys away, to which, for a while, they paid no more attention than to the cackling of a hen, but persisting in his impertinence, a broad shouldered, ungainly private of Company B knocked him down with the butt of his gun – effectually silencing him for the time being. Thereupon Gen. Gilbert came out in person and reiterated the command, ordering Capt. Miller to move on with his regiment. The Capt. courteously but firmly remonstrated, telling the General “that his men had marched since before mid-day without water; that the heat was oppressive; that his men were suffering from thirst, and that the refusal of water under such circumstances showed a want of common humanity.” Gen. Gilbert was irritated at this manly protest and ordered his body guard to charge upon and drive the men away from the spring. Captain Miller, nothing daunted, directed his men to fix bayonets and run the first man through who should molest them, until they got what water they wanted. To be thus defied by a little wiry Yankee captain, was more than Kentucky dignity could stand, and addressing his body guard (a detachment of the 2d

Kentucky Cavalry) he said, "Ye men of Kentucky! Will you allow this insult to your General to go unrebuked and unpunished! If you are men, and have any regard for your honor as Kentuckians, you will instantly disperse this insolent mob, and arrest everyone who refuses compliance with orders." It was then Captain Miller's turn to talk, and turning to the men, he said, "Boys, massacre every mother's son of them that dares to lay a finger upon you, until your canteens are filled," and turning to the body guard and staff of the General, "if you, or any other Kentuckian, want to die on your own native soil, now is your chance to do so, for by the Great Eternal, my men are going to have all the water they want, before marching another foot. If you want to die, come on!" But they did not come on worth a cent, and General Gilbert returned chagrined to his tent, and the 36th remained masters of the situation.

Wednesday, October 4, 1876

CITY ITEMS

The Grand Army Boys have purchased a fine gold cane, and last evening went to Mr. T.B. Coulter's residence, where they presented it by the hands of Chaplain Paine. It was anticipated that Mr. and Mrs. Coulter would start for the mountains to-day, but Mr. Coulter's health is probably too feeble to permit the journey so soon.

Saturday, October 21, 1876

NOTICE TO SOLDIERS

All persons who enlisted in the volunteer service of the United States, between the 24th day of July and the 22d day of August, 1862, for the term of three years, and were honorably discharged from the army, are entitled to a County Bounty of \$60, from Kane County, Illinois, provided they have never received the said Bounty. Also provided they were duly accredited to Kane County, Illinois.

All persons who enlisted in the Volunteer services of the United States, between the 17th day of October, 1863, and the 10th day of March, 1864, for the period of three years and were duly accredited to Kane County, Illinois, and honorably discharged from said service, and who have not received any Bounty from said County are entitled to \$100 Bounty.

All persons who enlisted in the United States service on or after January 12th 1865, for one year, are entitled to \$100, two years \$200, three years \$300 Bounty, provided they are duly accredited to Kane County, Illinois, and have not received said Bounty, provided they were honorably discharges.

Applications made to the undersigned, stating the Company and Regiment in which the parties enlisted, date of enlistment (as near as may be), will meet prompt attention. Fees moderate.

John E. Clark
Geneva Illinois

Saturday, November 11, 1876

THE 36th REGIMENT

The history of the gallant regiment recently issued by Major L.G. Bennett, of Yorkville, from the Beacon presses, is a handsome octavo volume of eight hundred pages, the most interesting work of the kind we have seen since the close of the war, and graphically details the trials and struggles and glorious achievements of the brave boys in whom the people of this section evinced so deep an interest from the time they signed the muster rolls until the small remnant of battle-scarred veterans returned to us at the close of the war. The book is well worthy of perusal, and every person who had a friend or relative in the regiment should possess a copy. We continue our extracts from the work as follows:

The service provided by the cavalry in scouting escort, picket and other duties during this campaign was severe and at times extra hazardous. Being almost constantly in the saddle, men as well as horses were pretty much used up. Particularly was this the case in the advance upon Springfield, and subsequent pursuit of the enemy into Arkansas. The cavalry of the 36th shared in all the dangers, hardships and fatigue of the campaign; it was the first to enter Springfield and hurry the exit of the vanishing rear guard of Price's undisciplined and ragged knights of the shot-gun and chapparel. For a life of wild adventure, for example of fortitude and endurance in the storm or in sunshine, commend us to the cavalry arm of military service.

A little nocturnal adventure of Sergt. F.O. White, of Company A, with a squad of eight men, detailed from Companies A and B, might very appropriately be related here, to illustrate the miscellaneous, haphazard, night and day duty which the cavalry were liable at any time to be called upon to perform. News was wanted at Springfield as to the position of Jeff C. Davis' division, and what (if anything) was going on in front. Sergt. White was selected to head the detail in search of the desired information. Though nearly worn out with cold and fatigue, the men turned out uncomplainingly and faced the keen northwestern blast. The moon shone brightly, but the ground was white with snow and the night intensely cold. Davis's camp was off the main road and was missed by the Sergeant, who proceeded eight or nine miles and came up with a detachment of the 3d Illinois Cavalry in the extreme advance, which had struck the enemy's rear, and after a lively skirmish, captured a number of prisoners and wagons belonging to the rebel commissary train, and then halted to wait daylight before continuing the pursuit. The desired information having been obtained, Sergt. White returned to within a few miles of Springfield, and in accordance with orders, established a picket post near a cabin, where those off duty found shelter and rest; private Ingham, meanwhile being sent to Springfield with such news as had been gained.

Toward morning a vidette came hurriedly in and whispered that "detachment of secesh were in the hollow not far away." An examination revealed a body of twenty five horsemen, deployed as skirmishers, coming directly toward the house where the squad had been comfortably quartered. The horses were quickly mounted and then three of the men dashed out of the yard and broke for Springfield at a rate of speed which it was supposed their nearly fagged out steeds could never attain, followed by a scattered volley from the now fast approaching squadron. Escape being impracticable, Sergt. White formed the remainder of his squad for battle, determined, that if necessary, a fight should precede a foot race. The squadron proved to be federal troopers, instead of mounted "graybacks," and those who were in chase of the three flying 36th boys were, after considerable exertion, recalled. One a Dutchman, strongly insisted upon following up the adventure to the point of blood-letting, saying; "Why dhey no sthops ven I say hollit?" The detachment was from the 3d Illinois Cavalry; one of their number had been shot

while on picket, and these were looking for the assassins, but in their search came near massacring the squad from the 36th. A hard ride was necessary to reach Springfield in time to prevent the three fugitives from spreading a needless alarm through the camp.

In describing the sanguinary battle of Franklin, the gallantry of two Aurora boys in defence of the regimental flag:

A prominent feature of the charge and final expulsion of the enemy from the works, was the conspicuous position occupied by the regimental flag and the heroic devotion of the color bearers. In the wild dash from the position in reserve upon the forces thronging into the entrenchments, the flag of the 36th, ever in the front, was first born by Sergt. William R. Toll, of Company C, who fell severely wounded before attaining half the distance. Sergt. Christ. Zimmer, of Company B, snatching the flag from the grasp of his wounded comrade, rushed forward with it to the trenches; but while passing over the bullet scathed interval, the staff was splintered three several times, while its precious folds were rent in tatters by scores of hissing missiles. Zimmer was among the first to reach the works with the flag, and in the brief hand-to-hand encounter and carnage that succeeded, held it proudly aloft, waving defiance to the foe.

Observing the imminent danger which threatened the left of the line from the rebel force still holding a portion of the works, Zimmer sprang forward, shouting "Hurrah, boys; follow the flag to the left!" The inspiring words were scarcely uttered, when three bold rebel soldiers were observed upon the ramparts, aiming at the color bearer – the muzzles of their pieces nearly touching him as he hurried by. There was a crash – a blinding sheet of fire, and Zimmer fell, his bones shattered and blood pouring from gaping wounds. He was immediately taken to the rear and placed in an ambulance, and it was by his side that Col. Olson breathed his last.

Charles Sears of Company B, was the next custodian of the battle scarred relic, and right gallantly defended his sacred trust, never allowing it to go down before the storm fiercely beating against it. Where the lines were pressed the hardest; where bullets flew the thickest, there the regimental flag flaunted defiance to the foe. At last the staff was shot away, but seizing the shattered stump, in a moment more the red, white and blue was waving over the ramparts. A burly Rebel, reaching over the works, seized the splintered staff and endeavored to wrench it from the hands of its bearer. "No you don't!" said Sears, "unless you take me with it," and a brief contest for its possession ensued. A shot from other parties came to Charlie's aid, and he retained possession of the flag. Then cutting the remaining fragments from the staff, he placed them in his bosom, and running the gauntlet of fire, for some distance on his hands and knees, brought what remained of the sacred emblem safely from the field.

Col. Silas Miller had been wounded in the right arm and shoulder during the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, and removed to Nashville, where he expired a month later. The sad news of his death reached the regiment while lying in front of Atlanta, filling the hearts of his comrades with sorrow. The volume pays the following tribute to the memory of the gallant Colonel:

He aided much in raising the Fox River Regiment, and became Captain in Company B; was commissioned Major in November, 1862, and Colonel in March, 1863. He was with the regiment in all its expeditions; was present at the battles of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, Dallas and Kennesaw, And except at Pea Ridge, and a portion of the time at Stone River and Mission Ridge – when he led a part of the brigade – was in command of the regiment, which always gladly followed his lead. From the first, he gave himself to a careful study of military tactics, and was specially skillful in the command of skirmishers. His ability in this direction, and his gallantry in battle, frequently

called out the special commendation of his superior officers. At Stone River he was wounded and captured remaining nearly five months in prison. A day or two spent at home, on his way to rejoin his regiment, constituted the only respite he had while in the service. His patriotism was singularly pure and unselfish. Personal ambition and love of fame were lost in the higher principles of duty. On the 19th of June, being on the skirmish line and unsupported, he ordered the men who were taking the prisoners to the rear, to deliver them to the first staff officer they could find, and immediately return. They were delivered to Baird's Division, 14th Corps, whose right he joined. A General to whom the circumstance was mentioned, remonstrated with him, saying, "Baird's Division will get all the glory." "Glory General," said our gallant Colonel, "Is a mighty cheap thing with men, when I need men." His heart was with his regiment to the last. He was often moved to tears while speaking of the bravery of his men, and the suffering they endured so nobly, especially at Stone River and Chickamauga. When brought in wounded and laid upon the operating table for surgical examination, his first enquiry was after his men. Upon the Chaplain mentioning the number brought in, together with a few of their names, he gave way to his feelings, and as the tears rolled down his cheeks he said: "I have seen hundreds of those poor boys struck down, and I think it is my turn now." During his sickness, referring to this occasion, he said to his brother, "I suppose those surgeons thought me such a baby, that I cried from the pain of the operation. But," said he, "I didn't care for that. I was thinking of the old 36th. I thought of her as she was when we left home – over a thousand strong. I thought of her now, with scarcely enough men for a full company. I thought of the trials and privations which those dear boys had endured and must still endure, and it seemed to me they were doomed to annihilation. It was for them I cried." Their interests were constantly in his mind, and when delirious, he imagined himself at their head and leading them in battle: Few men of his years have had entrusted to them such weighty responsibilities, few men of twice his years have born such responsibility so nobly and so well. Among the many heroic spirits sacrificed for the salvation of our country, a front place in the ranks must be given to Col. Silas Miller.

In the dull routine of camp life, upon the weary march and amid the frightful crash and storm of battle, incidents of personal adventure and daring are frequent, and in connection with the battle of Kennesaw we take the liberty of clipping the following from this interesting work:

Sergeant Kelly, commanding Company A, saw, as he made his way through the thick brush, three men in an open space, whom he supposed to be ours, and advanced toward them, but becoming suspicious, he inquired their regiment. "80th Georgia," was the reply. As retreat was impossible, he boldly demanded their surrender, seizing the largest one by the collar. Two of them were disposed to yield, but the third shot at Kelly, who knocked the gun to one side so that the charge passed through his clothes, without injuring him. It was now his turn to surrender, which he did, and requested to be taken to the rear. But the Rebel who had just fired, proceeded to load again, with the avowed intention of shooting him. Seeing it was death anyway, Kelley broke for our lines – the shot fired after him grazing his head and stunning him for an instant; but he quickly rejoined his company, who, seeing him fall, had supposed him dead.

Company C was commanded that day by Sergt. Wilson, with orders to line on Company I. In charging through the brush, however, they got considerably in advance, and Wilson becoming anxious about the connections, gave the order, "Lie down." In passing down the line, Jacob Moss was shot directly from the right, and Wilson supposing it to come from some careless fellow in Company I, ran in that direction, when he caught sight of five Rebels, standing at a tree a few feet off, loading and firing. They called "surrender," but having always felt a greater fear of being taken prisoner than of being killed, after pausing an instant and seeing them

raise their muskets, he made a turn and escaped as if shot from a twelve pounder, the bullets clipping the brush about him. As he came near his men, he ordered, "Company C retreat," and going back about thirty rods, found Company I still in its place. This he thinks, was the worst scare he ever had and the boys said that his eyes were as big as saucers for an hour afterwards.

As Company D advanced through the thick brush, an order was heard, "Right and left forward," which proved to be from the Rebel side; but the lines being so near together, both obeyed, and were brought face to face, only their numbers were to ours three to one. Picking their men, they fired and then fell back a little way. Thor Thorson confronted an officer and four men. They called on him to surrender. "Not with a loaded gun," said he, and fired at the officer. Noticing as he ran that the men aimed low, he leaped up as they fired, escaping all the bullets but one, which wounded him in the thigh, but not so as to hinder his getting away. The officer was afterward found dead.

John C. Taylor was wounded in the shoulder, while attempting to carry Gaylord behind a tree. When he fell back, the Rebs did not come out of the brush, and soon our men rallied and drove them across the creek – part over a bridge and the rest through the mud and water. On the other side, Joe Whitman was in hot pursuit of a Reb, who drew him on to reinforcements. Now it was Joe's turn to run back, and as he jumped into the muddy stream, his U.S. plate was struck by a bullet, which doubled him up, taking away his breath. After lying in the mud awhile, his breath came again, and he scrambled out on the other side. He afterwards took pride in showing the black and blue spot and the battered plate which became his life preserver.

One Rebel Captain surrendered to Capt. Biddulph, of Company K, but very reluctantly gave up his sword, and tried to enter into a stipulation that it should be restored to him upon his being exchanged, giving as the reason, that he would not like to lose it as it was a present from his Southern sweetheart. It is very much to be feared that neither he or she ever saw that sword again. Sergt. Hogue, of the same Company, brought two stalwart Georgians in as prisoners, who had called on him to surrender. Other companies also had strange occurrences; making both our losses and our gains that day something to be long remembered.

Wednesday, November 15, 1876 CITY ITEMS

The "Color Guard" will certainly be reproduced during the winter, under the auspices of the Grand Army boys.

Saturday, November 18, 1876

HISTORY OF THE 36th REGIMENT

Continuing our selections from the most interesting volume recently published by Major L.G. Bennett, of Yorkville, we find the following tribute to the bravery of Iowa troops at the battle of Pea Ridge:

Col. Vandevere, with the 9th Iowa and Dubuque battery, occupied the road a little to the north of the Elk Horn Tavern. Here, hour after hour the battle raged furiously, the enemy constantly augmenting their attacking columns and plunging a tornado of shot from numerous batteries crowning the heights to the left and front. Here Price and Van Dorn in person watched

the progress of the conflict, and concentrated their heaviest efforts. The rattle of musketry was terrible and continuous; the air seemed full of lead, yet the cruel music of these missiles disturbed not the equanimity of our men. From every elevation on the circuit of hills rebel batteries rained their thunderbolts in a perfect deluge into our ranks or went shrieking like fiends over the heads of the men who bravely clung to their position. Backward and forward the battle raged as a temporary victory or defeat crowned the efforts of the opposing armies. Lieut. Col. Herron of the 9th Iowa, was wounded and taken prisoner. A strong rebel column forced its way up the road, and notwithstanding great gaps were made in their ranks, they charged upon the Dubuque battery and captured some of its guns. The balance were withdrawn and occupied another position, from whence they hurled defiance at the advancing foe. While the guns were being withdrawn, a caisson filled with ammunition was disabled and about being abandoned, when an artilleryman threw a burning quilt into the ammunition chest, which in a few minutes exploded in the midst of the enemy with a thundering crash, as though all the explosive elements of earth, and air were collected there. Bloody clothing and mutilated remains of men were tossed high in the air, and hung in gory shreds from the tree tops, or were scattered mangled and bleeding over the ground. It was reported that fifty men were either wounded or killed outright at this point.

The chronicler thus continues his description of the first day's struggle upon this bloody field:

When Col. Carr found he had the main Confederate army on his hands, he speedily notified Gen. Curtis of the fact and importuned him for reinforcements. Detachments not otherwise engaged were dispatched to his assistance, and even the General's body guard and light howitzers were hurried forward to assist in holding the enemy in check until reinforcements could be brought over from the left, where the contest had virtually ceased. Desperate charges were made, followed by hand to hand fighting at close range and with the bayonet, in which the enemy lost nearly all the ground he had won. Though temporarily defeated, they were speedily reinforced by regiment after regiment, and returned to the assault in overpowering numbers, threatening to surround and annihilate the handful of brave men who stubbornly contested their advance. Carr looked on his thinned Division with gloomy forebodings as he continued to fall back toward his camp of the morning. Messengers were hurrying from headquarters to the different Division Commanders for aid, but at that time Davis was too closely pressed to spare a single regiment or gun. Siegel, after the death of McCulloch, was confronted only by light detachments, but was fearful of another attack, and hesitated to weaken his line by sending troops to the right until peremptorily ordered to do so by General Curtis. Asboth, with the greater portion of his division, marched to Carr's assistance, arriving in time to participate in a charge in which the enemy was forced back a half mile to the Elk Horn, and much of the ground lost by Carr was recovered. It was a fierce conflict, in which both sides fought desperately for the mastery, and the losses sustained by each were severe. Among the wounded was Gen. Asboth, who, though severely hurt, remained upon the field in command of his division. At a later period, the conflict having ceased in the center, Jeff C. Davis sent the 2d Ohio battery to Carr's assistance, which rendered good service until darkness put an end to the conflict, this battery firing the last shot of the day.

For eleven hours, from nine o'clock in the morning until eight at night, the conflict raged on the right without interruption. From our position we could see nothing; a dense cloud of smoke enveloped the field, from whence rolled up to us the awful din of battle. Beneath that smoke enwrapped landscape we knew our brothers loyal and true, were fighting for the good

cause, but no lines of gray or blue uniformed men could be seen, or movements of troops, as the battle surged to and fro, and positions were either lost or won. Long after darkness had canopied the earth the bloody tournament continued; the flashing of guns as vivid as lightening, the deafening war reverberating among the hills, formed a panorama of sights and sounds never to be forgotten. The sun was sinking below the horizon when the 36th was ordered to the right to support the bleeding columns that were maintaining the desperate conflict. We marched to a cornfield contiguous to the enemy's position, and remained there until one o'clock in the morning. No fires were lighted, for we knew the enemy was near in unknown numbers, and the glimmer of the feeblest spire of flame might lead us on to destruction. We heard the tread of their sentries and the low hum of conversation but a few yards away, and subsequently learned that five Confederate regiments were bivouacked not twenty yards distant. The weary men lay down upon the damp ground, with no covering except the hazy sky, and slept soundly, though chilled by the frosty night air. On the left a glorious victory had been achieved. The right, though shattered and driven a half mile back from their position in the morning, were not disheartened, and with a few regiments to aid their stroke might be able to inflict a blow that would be fatal to rebel hopes of victory. But a few hundred yards intervened between the two armies as they lay down to rest, or made fresh preparations for renewing the struggle in the morning. The dead and many of the wounded were left where they fell. Some of the regiments were terribly reduced in numbers, and many in Carr's division, where the conflict had been more severe, were oppressed with doubts as to the final result. The night was rendered more somber by the pitiful braying of the mules and horses, which for twenty four hours had been without forage or water. Neither had the men tasted food or water since the early morning, and between hunger, cold and fatigue were not in exuberant spirits.

At midnight the division commanders assembled at the Commanding General's quarters, and reported the condition and strength of their respective commands, together with such opinions and advice as to future operations as their present condition and previous experience suggested. Carr and Asboth, in view of their thinned ranks and the rude treatment they had received, were filled with gloomy forebodings, while Davis, Siegel and Osterhause, whose losses had been small, were hopeful and confident. From the verbal reports of his subordinates, Gen. Curtis was able to grasp the whole situation, and believed that by a concentration of his lines and a combined effort of the whole army upon the heights about the Elk Horn, the contest would no longer be a doubtful one, but that victory would speedily result. In pursuance of this object all the troops were called in and new positions assigned which embraced a line of battle of less than half the extent of that of the preceding day.

Accordingly at one o'clock a.m. the order was passed in whispers to proceed to the telegraph road, and we silently left our position in the field, groping our way among the deadened cornstalks, clamoring over fences, meandering through woods, falling over logs, ascending steep hills and crossing ravines, until after an hour's painful marching we reached the road, near where a muddy rivulet trickled by. We rushed to the banks, and, lying prostrate upon the earth, quaffed great draughts of the precious beverage and found refreshment and vigor in its cooling waters, the whole brigade brightening up under its invigorating influence.

The weary troops having gained the new position assigned them, await the approach of daylight to resume the carnage, and their comrade indulges in bivouac reflections:

Soon little impromptu camp fires were blazing in the hollows; frying pans and bake kettles, borrowed from other commands, were brought into requisition, and a few hastily and half baked flap-jacks, made of flour and water, were the first morsels of food which had passed our

lips for nearly twenty-four hours. This in a measure appeased our ravenous hunger, after which a craving for rest was gratified by an hour's sleep upon the muddy ground. The damp, cold air, and a want of blankets and sufficient clothing, rendered this a most chilly and restless affair. This dumping down by the roadside is not suggestive of special comfort, but we were thoroughly tired out, and had reached a point where sleep, however uncomfortable, was a necessity.

No one removed his sword or separated himself from his gun. Horses stood saddled, ready for instant service. The mules continued their braying. Pickets stood with eyes and ears open, ready to give warning should a night attack be attempted. Such as could not readily close their eyes in sleep, looked up through the branching tree tops to the sky arching over all, and the stars moving calmly on their appointed way, and thought of the utter absurdity and wickedness of this game of war. Within an area of two square miles lay thirty-five thousand men; some stiff and stark, looking with visionless eyes up into the pitying heavens; some tossing in agony on hospital beds or lying maimed and bleeding under trees, while yet, other thousands were hugging in their sleep the weapons with which tomorrow they were to renew the work of death. Bound up with the lives and safety of these thousands was that of other thousands at the home firesides, and far beyond and over all the fate of our country. And here comes in the moral and patriotic elements of war, to which animal passions, strength and skill must be subservient. Looking at the subject in this light, no doubts disturb us as to our duty to stand up and fight it out to the bitter end; and notwithstanding our contempt and horror of war, we must, in view of all the mighty interests at stake, feel that we were in the right place on this blood stained battle field. With such thoughts crowding upon the brain, sleep comes at length, and another long day was over.

On the 23rd of September, the anniversary of the mustering in of the regiment, one hundred and twenty-seven men and one officer, whose three year term of service had expired were mustered out at Atlanta, Ga., the remainder of the regiment having reinlisted as veterans. The parting of comrades who together had faced so many dangers was a sad one, and one of them writes in his journal: "It was like leaving home to part with them, and I could not keep back the tears which persisted in flowing."

At the completion of the three years service, the losses in the regiment had been as follows; Killed in battle, 97; died of disease, 52; died of wounds, 74; discharged on account of wounds, 56; discharged on account of disease, 110; deserted, 28; transferred, 44; wounded in battle, 486; officers resigned, 31; mustered out in disgrace, 2; enlisted men promoted to commissions, 47.

We cannot refrain from quoting the following dashing exploit of Lieut. Hall and a small company of skirmishers, after the taking of Montgomery Hill, near Nashville:

Having secured the hill and Hood's advance line, Gen. Wood brought forward his batteries, advanced his skirmishers, and made preparations for carrying the second line of works. In the long, thin skirmish line in advance of the 4th Corps, were twenty-two members of the 36th with Lieut. Hall at their head. They had gained a comparatively sheltered position in a clump of timber not far from a three gun redoubt, situated in a projecting angle formed by a heavy stone wall, which answered the double purpose of a protection to the battery and as rifle-pits. When from appearances it was judged that a general movement of the whole line had commenced, Hall left the timber and advanced his little detachment along the Hillsboro Pike to a position at the right of the projecting salient, where the enemy had constructed an abates of rails, extending across the road, which had been used as a picket station. He was in plain sight and subjected to a heavy fire at short range. Abandoning the road, his party took refuge behind the wall to the right

of the Pike, and under its cover advanced along the edge of a field some distance beyond the Confederate battery. Smith's charge on the right was throwing the enemy into confusion. A general advance of the federal line in front increased their excitement, and little squads of panic stricken Rebels were filtering to the rear, and fleeing to the valley to the left of the projecting salient. All this Lieut. Hall took in at a glance, and he thus briefly addressed his men: "Now boys, is our time! I believe we can take that battery. The Johnnies are already more than half whipped. How many of you are ready to go in?" Not a man hesitated! In one solid body they rushed across the pike, scaled the wall in the rear of the guns, and in not the mildest terms or the politest language, the surrender of the battery was demanded. Without the firing of a gun or the slightest manifestation of resistance, the Rebels threw down their arms and surrendered. The battery was supported by the 20th Alabama Regiment, and its commander delivered his sword to Lieut. Hall, who retained possession of it and has it now, a highly prized trophy of his intrepidity and daring. Private Case, of Company E, secured the regimental flag, one of the finest in Hood's army. Intrusting it to a discharged soldier and former comrade for safe keeping, it was lost and no trace of it has since been obtained.

This brilliant dash resulted in the capture of one hundred and twenty prisoners, with their arms, besides the battery of three brass field pieces, with their caissons and ammunition. A man was placed over each gun, with instructions to hold them until they could be turned over and receipted for by the division commander or his representative. Meanwhile, the 4th Corps had reached the enemy's lines and stormed various portions of their works. A staff officer, of the rank of 2d Lieutenant, attached to the 3rd Division, entered the redoubt and briskly demanded the guns. "Not by a d—d sight," promptly responded Hall. "I am a staff officer, sir," was the lofty reply, "and you men had better be careful what you do." To this menace Hall replied, "I am a Lieutenant, sir, and bossing this job, and if you lay your hands upon these guns to take possession, I'll cleave you to the earth. To the 2d Division belongs the honor of their capture, and to General Elliot alone will I surrender them." Hall had been upon the picket line during the day and all the preceding night. In reaching the Confederate position he had forced his way through tangled thickets and briar patches; and crawled through the mud; a bullet had carried away a portion of his hat, through which his disheveled hair protruded; his cloths were badly torn; his face begrimed with powder and dirt, and altogether he was a sight to behold. With little about him but his indomitable pluck to prepossess one in his favor, no wonder the staff officer was deceived as to the rank of the person he so unceremoniously accosted, whose prompt reply and readiness to support his claim to the guns by arguments more potent than words did admit of further controversy. S.G. Dyer, E.S. Case and one other, whose name has been forgotten, remained with the guns until Gen. Elliot came up, and to him they were delivered and his receipt taken for them. In the general advance A.J. Smith's left flank became involved with Gen. Wood's right, and some of Smith's troops entering the redoubt soon after its capture, conflicting claims as to the honor of the fruits of victory arose. But abundant evidence as to whom the honor of this brilliant achievement rightfully belongs, is not wanting, and the truth of the statement here made must forever remain unchallenged.

Saturday, November 25, 1876

HISTORY OF THE 36th REGIMENT

The 23rd Corps having been swept away by Hood's impetuous onset in opening the battle of Franklin, Major Bennett's volume thus chronicles the gallantry of Col. Opdyke's brigade of reserves, of which the 36th formed a part, and the death of the lamented Col. Olson:

The charge and rout was but the work of a few minutes. The grand panorama of battle with all its sickening details could be traced with terrible distinctness by the men of the First Brigade who were in position to see it all. Another such charge and a whole line of works would be swept of defenders, and with the bridges in the hands of the enemy, not a man could escape. Events of such thrilling interest for an instant struck the beholders dumb. Only for an instant, however, for noble Opdyke sprang to the front, and waving his sword, shouted, "Up and at them men!" Just at that moment Gen. Stanley dashed up the left of the line, and with soul stirring enthusiasm urging the men forward to the rescue. The efforts of these officers were bravely seconded by the regimental commanders, and Col. Olson's orders rang out clear as the blast of a bugle, "Fall in 36th! Forward to the trenches!" The men throwing away bread and coffee sprang to their arms, and grasping their muskets, charged down upon the foe on the run.

We can imagine no more thrilling episode, then when these devoted veterans, with heads bent to the storm and with bayonets lowered, dashed through the spray of balls, and with cold steel charged home upon the multitudinous hosts swarming over and within the ramparts. They had scarcely eaten anything for twelve hours; they had marched and fought all the previous day and far into the night; on the retreat, as rear guard, they had run and fought incessantly, until from hunger and fatigue they were haggard and weak. Yet, when the hurried order came and the color bearer stepped to the front and held aloft the old, tattered banner, the noble fellows shouted their stirring war notes, and on the double quick cheered and charged upon the line of fire - right into the very jaws of death; and as the enemy stung to madness at the terrible onset, hurled line upon line of fresh troops upon them, they still fought, yielding not an inch until they had repelled the foe.

The officers of the 23rd Corps and the broken fragments of the brigades of Lane and Conrad, seeing that the 1st Brigade was holding the enemy at bay, flung themselves across the track of the retreating fugitives, and alternately threatened and entreated their men to rally and turn back to the support of Opdyke. Some were heard to say, "For shame, men! Can't you follow where the 36th can lead?" Hastily reforming, they rushed down to where the 1st Brigade was engaged, firing as they ran, and cooperated with Opdyke in beating the exultant enemy back and recovering the lost position and guns. Thank God the enemy was repulsed! Was badly beaten and forced back over the entrenchments with fearful slaughter, and with the loss of four hundred taken prisoners.

Col. Olson was everywhere among his men with words of cheer and encouragement, and utterly regardless of his own life and safety. Shortly after reaching the works he was struck by a musket ball, which entered his breast and passed through his body in the region of the heart. He fell instantly but in falling requested Lieut. Hall, of Company E, to take him to the rear. Assisted by Sergt. Yarnell, of Company G, they carried him to the shelter of a brick house standing near the works, when, perceiving that he was failing fast, the Lieutenant called to Captain Biddulph to attend to the regiment as the Colonel's wound was mortal. Yarnell wrenched a window shutter from the house, on which the bleeding body of their commander was placed and hurriedly borne to the rear, while musket balls and cannon shot were striking around them in fearful quantities.

Reaching the river they were none too soon to secure about the last vacant place in an ambulance, in which he was tenderly placed by the side of a wounded color bearer. Then, taking a last look of their dying chief, they hurried back to the trenches, resumed their position in the

line, and fought bravely to the end. The Colonel's life rapidly ebbed away, and in a half unconscious state he feebly whispered, "Oh help me Lord!" These were his last words, and then his heart was still. His noble spirit had taken its flight or that country where wars and battles are unknown. When brave Olson fell, a cold tremor thrilled along the line. At any other time than in the face of the enemy, and under a murderous fire, the men would have sat down and cried like children over his untimely fate. Brave, generous, earnest and faithful, none had stood by the men or been more true to country than he. Always present in the perils and hardships of the 36th, he had shared them all and won his way into the hearts and affections of the men, making a record of glory that will never be closed up or forgotten, though his mangled remains may moulder and lay hidden from sight in an unknown and unmarked grave. The name of Porter C. Olson will live forever, and be handed down along the imperishable ages, indissolubly linked with the fame of the immortal thirty sixth.

In his description of the storming of Hood's position at Nashville, we find the following example of personal heroism:

Among those of the 36th who had pushed their way to the front were Joseph Scofield and M.G. Yarnell, of Co. G, who took position behind a fallen tree. Though receiving marked attention from Rebel batteries and marksmen in front, yet by closely hugging the opposite side of the friendly log, they felt themselves tolerably secure. But a grapeshot passing under and through the accumulated rubbish, struck Scofield in the hip, inflicting a dangerous, and what at the time was supposed to be a mortal wound. Handing his trinkets and money to Yarnell, and giving directions in regard to their disposition in case he should not survive, he begged to be carried to the rear. Bullets were hissing like serpents in the air and smiting the earth as thickly as falling hailstones in a storm. The surroundings were neither safe nor pleasant, but knowing that his comrade must have immediate attention or bleed to death, Yarnell ran to the rear in the midst of flying shot that perforated his blanket and clothes, and somehow reached the reserve unharmed. On learning the critical condition of Scofield, Capt. Mossman, of Co. F, with as unselfish devotion as ever animated human being, without waiting for a lull in the firing, unmindful of everything but the sufferings of a wounded comrade, rushed across the bullet swept interval, and taking Scofield in his arms, brought him safely from the front. No one expected him to face that storm and return alive. A sigh of relief and murmur of applause involuntarily ran along the lines as he returned unharmed. Such acts of individual heroism ultimately have their reward, and when at a later period, a Major's leaves decked his manly shoulders, the soldiers he commanded felt they had been honorably won.

In the battle a large number of colored troops took an important part, and for the first time in the West competed with white soldiers and veterans with years of experience and discipline. They proved themselves magnificent soldiers, fought with determined bravery throughout, and no body of regulars could have been under better discipline or more easily handled. The Major compliments them very highly, and gives this incident of the pursuit of the Rebel army after its defeat:

The colored soldiers joined in the pursuit with as keen a zest as the most enthusiastic of the veterans. In passing a house near the road, a tall, lank and not altogether subdued Rebel was observed still in possession of his Enfield rifle and military accoutrements. A member of the 36th ordered him to throw it down and surrender, which he reluctantly proceeded to do. Just then a colored soldier came up on a full run, and with a broad grin on his face, indicating his satisfaction at the aspect of affairs. Approaching the 36th boy, he thus accosted him, "Dis am high ole fun. Aint we jess morn makin' dem Rebbils git? Say, sah, has yer enny caterges? I'me

plum out, spended dem in de complemens ob de season wid dem Rebbils.” He was directed to appropriate the contents of the cartridge box of the surrendered Confederate. Johnnie was slow in complying with the demand to deliver and looked daggers at the sable son of the South, muttering something that sounded like “d—d niggers.” Etheopia soon replenished his ammunition, and dashed on, enthusiastic and happy.

After driving the remnants of Hood’s army across the Tennessee River, the regiment went into winter quarters at Huntsville, Jan. 6th, 1865, and in June following were ordered from Nashville to New Orleans with the expectation of being immediately mustered out. However, when the 4th Corps was ordered to Texas for duty, the 36th Regiment, at the special request of General Sheridan, was left at New Orleans for headquarter and other special duty.

Though not the regular provost guard, yet in the delicate and sometimes responsible duty of arresting these arch Rebels, the 36th was always selected. The Rebel archives captured in the West were sent to Washington under a guard selected from the 36th. Paymasters with large amounts of money, often sent long distances, and to remote corners of the department, always felt safe if escorted and guarded by the 36th; or, when the peace and quiet of the city was threatened, the 36th was always called upon to suppress the disturbance.

In the performance of these and like duties, the summer months glided away. Autumn came with its golden glory, and with it the time for the final muster out of the regiment from a service to which for more than four years they had added bright luster. Before proceeding North, Col. Campbell received very flattering letters from his superior commanders, commendatory of himself and of the regiment which he commanded. We can give only extracts, as our space is limited.

Glorious Phil Sheridan wrote: “Before your departure for your home in the North, and your muster out of the service. I desire to express to you my thanks for the admirable manner in which you have conducted yourself as a soldier and a gentleman during the recent rebellion. I have known you personally since the earliest part of the war, and have always found you a faithful and patriotic public servant. You deserve not only my thanks but the thanks of your neighbors and country.

Gen. Sherman never paid a more deserving compliment then when he penned the following: “During the past four years, so eventful in the history of our beloved country, it has been my fortune to be associated with you and your gallant regiment. I know that the record made by you and your command is second to none in its devotion and loyalty to the cause for which you left your peaceful homes. The bloody fields of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and the Atlanta campaign, together with the closing battles in the West at Franklin and Nashville, have shed undying glory upon the scarred veterans of your regiment. When I look back upon the past, the forms of brave and gallant men and officers who laid down their lives freely upon the altar of their country, arise before me so vividly that it is with feelings of pride and sorrow that I recall their names. Col. Silas Miller and Lieut. Col. Porter C. Olson should be household names among the veterans of the 36th, at whose head they yielded up their lives whilst leading them to victory.

The regiment was mustered out of service at New Orleans, October 8th, 1865, and as soon as transportation could be obtained, it proceeded to Springfield, Illinois, and the men received their pay October 27th. Within the next succeeding two or three days the veteran survivors of an organization with a record of glory unsurpassed by none were heartily welcomed home by expectant friends, and then the record of the 36th Illinois Volunteers was closed.

The 36th Cavalry companies were upon detached duty nearly throughout, and at the battle

of Corinth Co. A was acting as General Rosecrans' escort, upon which occasion our friend H.B. Douglas, of this city, is thus referred to:

Several members of the company were mentioned by name in general orders for their coolness, efficiency and bravery; among others, private Henry B. Douglas, who was on detached service. We copy from the report: "It is due to private H.B. Douglas, of Company A, 36th Illinois Cavalry, who acted as my orderly, both in this battle and that of Iuka, to say that no man was exposed to more danger or exhibited more bravery than himself in the performance of his duties. The whole company was highly complimented by General Rosecrans both personally and in general orders. They were in the saddle almost constantly for ten days and nights. Their horses were worn out, but by the General's order, one hundred fresh ones were turned over to the company for their use.

About the last of October, Gen. Rosecrans was ordered to take command of the "Army of the Cumberland," superceding Buell, whose management of the campaign against Bragg had caused dissatisfaction. He tried hard to take his escort with him, even applying to the Secretary of War for permission to do so, but was refused. Company A had become very much attached to the General, were sorry at the separation, and the kind relations existing between them are among the pleasant memories of the war.

With this issue we conclude our extracts from Major Bennett's interesting and valuable work. It is an elegant octavo volume of over eight hundred pages, giving a complete history of the movements and gallant deeds of the regiment from the time of leaving Camp Hammond in 1861 until the return of the remnant of the battle scarred veterans in the fall of 1865. The volume is replete with interest, contains engravings of many regimental officers and prominent Generals under whom the 36th had the honor to serve, and should find a place in the household of every citizen who during those dark days of conflict watched with so much anxiety and pride the glorious career of the brave boys sent forth from our firesides in defence of the Union. Copies of the book may be obtained of L.G. Bennett, Yorkville; his canvasser in this city, or at the Beacon office. Bound in cloth, \$3 – in morocco, \$4.

Wednesday, December 6, 1876

ATTENTION! G.A.R.

The annual election of officers of Aurora Post No. 20, G.A.R., occurs Friday evening, Dec. 8th 1876. Every member of the Post is expected to be present.

H.B. Douglas
Adjutant.

Wednesday, December 13, 1876 CITY ITEMS

At the meeting of Aurora Post No., 20, G.A.R., held on Friday evening last, the following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year: T.B. Coulter, Commander; A.C. Ferre, S.V.; E. Perrigo, J.V.; W.H. Watson, Q.M.; M.M. Robbins, Surgeon; Rev Samuel Paine, Chaplain; T.R. Polglase, O. of D.; Thomas Athol, O. of G. The remainder of the officers are filled by appointment of the Commander, and present occupants will hold over, at least until Mr. Coulter's return from California. Delegates to the State Encampment were elected as follows: A.C. Ferre, M.M. Robbins and A.P. Vaughn; Alternates – J.F. Harrall, A.F. Wade and M.D. Yager.

Saturday, December 23, 1876

CITY ITEMS

The G.A.R. boys will again put the "Color Guard" upon the Opera House Boards on the evening of February 12th, with nearly the same cast of characters as last winter.

In 1877 the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic took place in Providence, Rhode Island on June 26th. John C. Robinson of New York was elected Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois, G. A. R. held its Encampment at Ottawa on January 18th with J.S. Reynolds of Chicago elected to Department Commander. Thomas B. Coulter of Aurora became the Senior Vice-Commander. Thomas B. Coulter was also the Commander of Aurora Post #20 from 1876 to 1880. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment Survivors Reunion was held in Elgin on September 27th with George G. Biddulph being elected President. The Soldiers Monument Association settled on a building instead of a monument and work was soon begun. The structure was a close copy of the Soldiers Memorial Building in Foxboro, Massachusetts recommended by Fred O. White who obtained plans from Lewis Pond Esq. Its cornerstone was laid on July 4th. A subscription book dated July 5th listed contributions in cash, labor and materials from the community. With the cornerstone laid, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Soldiers' Memorial Association increased their fund raising activities.

Finally, after Congress and the courts settled the disputes over the election results, Hayes, a veteran, and Wheeler were declared elected and assumed office in March.

Saturday, January 6, 1877

MEETINGS AND AMUSEMENTS

Tuesday eve., Jan. 16th- Campfire, G. A. R.

CITY ITEMS

The first rehearsal of the "Color Guard" was had last evening, at the G. A. R. rooms. Several changes have been made in the cast of characters from the former rendition.

Wednesday, January 9, 1877

ATTENTION ! G. A. R.

A regular meeting of Post No. 20, G. A. R., will be held at Post rooms, on Friday Jan. 12th, 1877, for the transaction of regular business, and installation of officers. All members are hereby notified to be present at 7 ½ o'clock sharp.

T.B. Coulter, Com'd.

H.B. Douglas, Adj't.

Wednesday, January 17, 1877 CITY ITEMS

No person who has been honored with an invitation from the G. A. R. boys to attend their camp fire this evening at the Opera House, should fail to be present, as it will be as unusually enjoyable affair throughout. Invitations must be presented at the door.

The rehearsals of the Color Guard are progressing satisfactorily, and it will be out upon the Opera House boards on the evening of February 12th, in even better shape than last year, by the G. A. R. boys, and the ladies and gentlemen who have kindly volunteered to assist them in its rendition.

In the State Encampment of the G. A. R. to be held in Ottawa to-morrow and Friday, the 18th and 19th, Aurora Post No. 20, will be represented by A.C. Ferre, M.M. Robins and A.P. Vaughn. Commander T.B. Coulter and W.H. Watson are members of the State Encampment and will also be present.

Saturday, January 20, 1877

THE CAMP FIRE

The members of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., invited a large number of friends to gather with them at their second annual Camp Fire, or social reunion, at Coulter Opera House, on Monday evening. Two hundred ladies and gentlemen responded and were right royally entertained. Two rows of tables enclosed three sides of the spacious hall, groaning beneath the bountiful array of substantials and delicacies prepared by the wives and daughters of the soldiers, and over three hundred persons did ample justice to the splendid collation. Having abandoned their wrappings in the cloak room below, the guests repaired to the gallery until all had assembled, when Commander T.B. Coulter welcomed them in behalf of the Post – the members of which, fifty or sixty in number, designated simply by the white regulation belt, occupied seats in the center of the main floor, and the exercises commenced with appropriate music by the choir composed of Messrs. Bowen, Strong, Woods, F. James, Mrs. Slater and Misses Bowen, Fitch and Newman – Mrs. J.J. McLallen presiding at the piano.

Comrade J.C. Sherwin being called upon, made one of his happiest little speeches, full of patriotism and respect for surviving comrades, and painfully interspersed with reminiscences of camp and field. In referring to the hardships and trials endured by the soldiers who had saved the nation, he took occasion to remark that if the glory minded individuals at present crying for war had shared the bitter experience of the men before him they would now be quiet and gentle as cooing doves. His remarks were frequently interrupted by bursts of laughter, and heartily applauded at their conclusion.

“Marching Through Georgia” was sung by Mr. Strong, the choir and some of the soldiers joining in the chorus, after which Comrade L.C. Porter read a descriptive poem in admirable style – and Miss Hattie Fitch sang “The Flowing Tide Comes In,” which was duly appreciated by all.

Comrade S.B. Hawley being summoned by the Commander, said he supposed the call upon him could be filled with a song, a story or a speech, at his own option, and was inclined to think that he could afford most amusement by a song. He told the story of the good old doctor who having prepared a fine rum punch for a patient concluded the man would be more benefited if it was taken by proxy, and quietly swallowed it himself. In like manner his song must be sung by proxy (laughter), and he detailed Prof. Hastings to fill the bill.

Prof. Hastings, from the gallery, expressed his pleasure at being present at the camp fire, and while regretting that he couldn't have taken part with the soldiers in their battles, still he considered that he was serving his country to good advantage during the late war, in teaching the young idea how to *shoot*. (laughter). He then sang “The Fine Old Irish Gentleman,” which elicited much laughter and applause.

Comrade Paine fully expected to have reached the camp fire on time, but though he had sufficient excuse for his tardiness. He recited the parable of the wedding feast, and said that though he hadn't been getting himself, he had been marrying someone else, and all other engagements must give way for the relief of parties afflicted with this singular disease. In his usual vein of pleasantry he rambled through personal experiences away back in school boy days when he, too, under the plea of singing, startled the natives with “horrid noises.” In the early Potomac campaign, the troops with which he served were not even favored with the “mixed vegetables” to which Comrade Sherwin had referred, and especially during Freemont's administration in Virginia they were compelled to subsist upon toasted hog. Everybody indulged in laughter when he told of the colored brother to whom had been assigned the task of piloting a

drove of swine beyond reach of the Yankees, but who brought the porkers directly into his camp, permitting the boys to lay in a stock of “toasted hog” for future contingencies. Since meeting with the comrades last he had wandered over some of the old battlefields of the Eastern army – Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, “on to Richmond,” and out to Chickahominy – but, while many of the old landmarks remained and this whole section is one vast sepulcher, the cemeteries did not contain one quarter of the men sacrificed in those sanguinary struggles. While in Richmond he attended a reunion of the Confederate army – heard the siege of Petersburg reviewed from a Southern standpoint – heard the familiar “rebel yell” when particular incidents were rehearsed – but was gratified to notice that these men cheered heartily when individual examples of Federal heroism were cited in connection with this siege. He was convinced that the brave men who suffered and fought upon both sides were comrades and desired peace, while only unprincipled politicians had any desire for war. The soldiers who had been through the trying ordeal wanted no more camp fires over which they must fight again. He had heard it said that some men had “as soon fight as eat,” and considered the remark extremely absurd. For his own part, he hadn’t; he was too much of an Englishman, and very much preferred to eat rather than fight (laughter) – but should it become necessary he was confident that the men who breasted the storm before would forsake home and loved ones at the tap of the drum and rally in defence of the old flag. Those same men were ready to fight again, but God forbid the necessity; yet if it must come the same Almighty power would carry them through in defence of the right. He never was in a fight that he did not wish himself a thousand miles away, and believed the men who talked so glibly about war would be very anxious to hire substitutes when the time came. Among campaigning incidents, and speaking of the well remembered propensity of Southern women to take advantage of their sex and display the wonderful length of their tongues, he mentioned one instance where the mistress of a plantation had expended much energy in abusing him while some of his men had slipped away, and, urged on by the pangs of hunger, had ransacked the establishment and found a quantity of choice bacon. The woman turned her head and noticing the soldiers lugging out their plunder, ended the interview with the startled exclamation – “Oh God – I’ve lost my bacon!” (Laughter). All were hungry, and after the tirade of abuse to which he had been subjected he never in his life so much enjoyed a roast of beef as he did the slice of bacon passed over to him upon this occasion. (Laughter). He had just commenced to preach when the war broke out, and upon starting out with his battery endeavored to keep up the usual religious ordinances, but he was once put in a very tight place by a Spanish cook of thieving propensities. The cook had stolen a pig, and when the meat was placed before the mess and he was called upon to ask the blessing he felt considerably embarrassed, knowing of the theft; it was a tight place – but he concluded that the Bible was adapted to all circumstances, and recalling Paul’s injunction, “Whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake,” *he blessed the pig!* (Applause and laughter.) He was glad to be with the comrades upon this occasion, and recited the objects of the organization – the keeping alive of the memories of the war, caring for the widows and orphans, and relieving the necessities of suffering comrades. He was thankful to be with them to-night, and admonished them to be good and true soldiers, that by-and-by they might meet around a camp fire where there would be no more parting. (Applause.)

Mr. Bowen sang “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground,” choir and soldiers joining in the chorus, after which the drum-major summoned the company to supper.

It was an exceedingly jolly company, the three hundred and fifty persons who gathered about the inviting tables, and the ladies who managed the banquet were untiring in their

attentions. Among the adornments of the tables at which the guests were seated was beautiful large bouquet of cut flowers from Mr. Loren F. Otis, and a couple more from Mr. Rees's Fourth Street greenhouses. In marked contrast with the elegant furnishings of these tables, however, were those assigned to the soldiers – rough boards, spread with tin plates, cups, etc., but liberally supplied with commissary stores, pork and beans and “hard tack” forming the basis. The celerity with which the boys stowed away the provender was simply astonishing to outsiders, but Johnny Hubbard seemed to excite the envy of all his comrades by his monstrous capacity of stomach and wonderful appetite. Even he was finally induced to retreat, however; the tables were hastily cleared away, the more sedate retiring to their homes, Pat. Howard's orchestra put in an appearance and the younger portion of the company spent two or three hours very pleasantly in dancing.

The check rooms were in charge of John Swadling and Mrs. Richardson; the affair was admirably managed throughout, and all present appeared to heartily enjoy the reception accorded them.

Saturday, January 20, 1877

CITY ITEMS

We find a lengthy notice of Bennett's History of the 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers in the “*Mail*,” a soldiers' paper. Published at Phelps, N.Y. We extract from it as follows:

Through the kindness of Mr. James Hydon, of Skeneateles, we have been privileged to examine this new tribute to the valor and patriotism of the western troops. It is neatly gotten up in point of typography, on tinted paper, and richly embellished by ten fine steel portraits, and comprises over eight hundred pages of matter, written in an attractive style of frankness, lively and clear, and sustaining a sprightliness of interest from the introduction to the end. It is decidedly a success, so far as the authors are concerned, they having discharged their onerous task with *par excellence*; the printers, likewise. All told it is a first class volume, and will not suffer by comparison with any of the many volumes heretofore issued, tributary to the Regimental deeds performed in the War of the Rebellion.

The book is not only especially interesting to the members of the 36th regiment, but equally so to all western troops, and in fact, no soldier would be likely to lay the book aside, should he get hold of it, until he had read every page of it.

Saturday, January 20, 1877

CITY ITEMS

A full rehearsal of all speaking parts in the Color Guard is called for Monday evening next, at the G. A. R. Hall, in the Miller & Coulter Block, at half past seven o'clock sharp.

At the State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in Ottawa, closing last evening, Gen. J.S. Reynolds, of Chicago, was elected State Commander; T.B. Coulter, of this city, Senior Vice Commander of the State; and A.M. Trumbull, of Ottawa, Junior Vice Commander; Surgeon, Dr. Mitchell, of Joliet; Chaplain, Rev. Samuel Paine, of Aurora.

Wednesday, January 24, 1877

CITY ITEMS

There was no feature about the recent gatherings of the G. A. R. at Ottawa that gave more unalloyed pleasure than the singing of the Chicago Madrigal Club, both at the meeting in the afternoon and at the concert in the evening. It was the finest singing we had had in Ottawa since the Alleghenians and Hutchinsons used to come around occasionally twenty years ago. When Miss Emma Baker sang "Whistle and I'll come to you, my lad," every fellow in the house whistled, and some of the more callow and susceptible were in actual danger. Miss Fanny Whitney, in some of her selections was irresistible, while as a quartette the singing of all was perfect. Should they ever visit Ottawa again they can rely on having a big house. – *Free Trader*.

Saturday, February 3, 1877

THE COLOR GUARD

The Grand Army boys feeling highly flattered by the liberal and remarkably generous patronage bestowed upon them a year ago, when, under the disadvantage of adverse weather and a first appearance, they presented the Color Guard to our citizens, have decided to reproduce the same, and in so doing offer an entertainment well worthy of public patronage, not only as a home entertainment but on its own merits. It will be presented this time with nearly the same cast, with the advantage of a much more thorough preparation than last year. If the Color Guard was a surprise as presented last spring, it will be much more a source of delight this season, so systematized have been the arrangements for its reproduction. Visitors in large numbers are expected from the towns adjoining, during the week, and efforts will be made to get up delegations from Batavia, Geneva, Rochelle, Sandwich, Plano and other places. It will be the event of the season, and the citizens of Aurora will wish the soldier boys all possible success in their undertaking. The object of the G. A. R. in again producing this thrilling military drama is for the benefit of their charity fund. Charlie Collins, as Peter Hygley the Dutch Recruit, is the acknowledged "King Bee" as a delineator of Dutch character.

Wednesday, February 7, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The Color Guard will be produced at the Opera House on Tuesday evening next, Feb. 13th, and each subsequent during the week, under the auspices of the Aurora Post, G. A. R. and for the benefit of their charity fund. None can fail to appreciate this military drama or be delighted with the superb tableaux, and we hope to see the house filled upon each occasion.

Wednesday, March 7, 1877

A CARD OF THANKS

Headquarters, Aurora Post

No. 20, G.A.R.

To Miss Ella Chesley, Sue Bean, Hattie Ware, Edith Cuner, Maggie Harris, Messrs. W.

Saturday, March 24, 1877

SOLDIER ! WILL YOU VOTE ?

If so, who for? For the man who left home, wife and babies, joined your ranks, and fought bravely by your side, under the old flag; or for one that remained peacefully at his fireside, and allowed his relatives, friends and neighbors to go to the front, but is now ready to stretch out his hand for the spoils? If for the first, vote for Perrigo, for Collector.

Soldier.

Saturday, April 14, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The reception at the Opera House on Thursday evening, to which Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Coulter invited the members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., and their wives, was attended by about seventy couples, who enjoyed a very delightful social reunion. The Opera House had been tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens and beautiful flowering plants, a score or more of card tables occupied the floor for the accommodation of those who desired to indulge in the various games, and the kind host and hostess were unremitting in endeavors to insure the happiness of their guests. Mrs. Coulter presided at the piano; Miss. Nellie Howard gave several examples of her skills as a violinist; Mrs. F.M. Annis, Miss. Mary Byron, and W.B. Hawkins favored the company with vocal selections, and Dr. E.B. Howell and Mr. Hawkins rendered a piano duet – all of which were duly appreciated and applauded. Previous to the serving of refreshments, Mr. L.C. Porter took occasion to say that for several months past, the chaplain of the Post had sadly neglected his duty, and while his comrades had delegated him to present Rev. S.D. Paine with a purse, he did not consider the chaplain entitled to it and should therefore take the liberty, in behalf of the Post, of handing the money over to Mrs. Paine. The amount of the donation was \$40. Mr. Paine being called for relieved his embarrassment by saying that it was quite unfair to expect him to do the work when another had received the pay, and intimated that Mrs. Paine was quite competent to do her own speech making. He did, however, sincerely thank his comrades for this unexpected expression of their regard, and promised to prove a better Chaplain in the future. The happy company dispersed about midnight, and every member of the Post will long cherish a pleasing recollection of the reception accorded them upon this occasion by their efficient Commander and his amiable wife.

Wednesday, April 18, 1877

CITY ITEMS

G. A. R. sociable on Friday evening, at the residence of Chaplain S.D. Paine, Galena Street – and every member of Aurora Post should endeavor to be present, accompanied by the ladies of his family.

Wednesday, April 25, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The G. A. R. sociable at the residence of Rev. S.D. Paine on Friday evening last was a delightfully pleasant gathering, the good Chaplain and his wife using their best efforts to insure the happiness to their numerous guests.

There should be a full attendance of the G. A. R. boys at the regular meeting of Aurora Post on Friday evening, as preliminary arrangements will be made for the observance of Decoration Day, and other business of importance transacted.

The May 1877 proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Aurora recorded:

Alderman Murphey from the special Committee to whom was referred the resolution in relation to the Memorial Building, presented report recommending the passage off the following resolution:

RESOLVED that permission is hereby granted to the Board of Managers of the Soldiers Monument Association of Aurora to excavate for and erect a memorial building to be for a public library and reading room on the City Hall lot, east of the City Hall building. The location of said building to be determined by a Committee from the Council, acting with said Board of Managers.

Saturday, May 19, 1877

CITY ITEMS

Aurora Post No. 20 G. A. R., through various committees, has completed necessary arrangements for the proper observance of Decoration Day in this city, and the programme of exercise will appear in our next issue. There will be a large demand for flowers upon that occasion, owing to the backwardness of the season, and all our citizens should interest themselves in seeing that the supply is ample. The oration, as heretofore stated, will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Thomas.

Wednesday, May 23, 1877

DECORATION DAY ORDER OF EXERCISES AND LINE OF MARCH

Line will form at 12:30 o'clock p.m. *sharp*, in front of Court House, Wednesday, May 30th, in the following order:

Aurora Light Guard Band, Aurora Light Guards, Aurora Post No. 20 G. A. R., ex-soldiers and sailors, Glee Clubs, Chaplains, Orator of the Day, Mayor and Common Council, Members of the Press, Citizens in carriages.

The line of march will be to West Aurora and Catholic Cemeteries where the exercises will consist of singing by the Glee Clubs, prayer by Chaplains Rev. D.D. Hill, Rev. Father Stack, and strewing of flowers on graves of soldiers. Procession will re-form, march to East Aurora and German Catholic cemeteries – Chaplain, Rev. Thos. Galt. After exercises at these cemeteries the line will re-form, moving to Spring Lake Cemetery – Chaplain Rev. N.A. Prentiss. The services of the day to conclude at this cemetery by the G. A. R. memorial service and oration by Rev. Dr. H.W. Thomas. It is requested that all wishing to join in the procession be at the Court House at

12:30 o'clock p.m., *prompt*.

All friends of the soldiers either in city or country willing to assist with flowers will oblige us by sending them to the City Hall, or notifying one of the committee early on the morning of the 30th.

Marshals – A.C. Graves, I.W. Rice, A.F. Wade; Music Committee – Dr. M.M. Robbins, F.D. James, T. Howard, J.A. Eagleston; Committee on Carriages – A.P. Vaughn, J.H. Blackmore, H.B. Douglas. Committees on Cemeteries – West Aurora, the Sexton and R.B. Gates; Catholic, the Sexton and M.J. Tarble; East Aurora, the Sexton and W.H. Scragg; German Catholic, J.H. Hubbard; Spring Lake, the Sexton and M.D. Yager.

Committee on Flowers		
C.B. Fisher,	A.P. Hatch,	Geo. L. Taylor,
Mrs. T.B. Coulter	Mrs. S.B. Hawley	
“ I.W. Rice	“ J.B. Chase	
“ A.K. Perry	“ E.C. Beardsley	
“ Dr. Robbins	“ R.W. Gates	
“ T.R. Polglase	“ Ira B. Copley	
“ J.F. Harral	“ Theo. Porter	
“ David Marsh	“ W. Knickerbocker	
“ A.H. Stickle	“ E. Bradish	
“ M.D. Yager	“ J.A. Egleston	
“ John Bigger	“ R.W. Farrall	
“ Wm. Gardner	“ J. Vosburg	
“ Geo. Hale	“ M.G. Davis	
“ J.H. Hubbard	“ Thos. Athow	
“ F.D. James	“ J.W. Kendall	
“ C.M. Ross	“ C.P. Dutton	
“ E. Perrigo	“ Dr. Ricker	
“ C.G. Ayers	“ G.L. Taylor	
“ Theo. Howard	“ L. Titsworth, Jr.	
“ John Walker	“ A.A. Veile	
“ J.S. Drake	“ J.M. Kennedy	
“ Sam'l Hitchcock	“ W.E. Carpenter	
“ Eb. Denny	“ J.R. Dyckman	

The Flower Committee are requested to meet at the Court Room on the morning of the 30th for the purpose of arranging flowers. A cordial invitation is extended to all ex-soldiers and sailors, and citizens to participate in the exercises of the day.

A.C. Ferre,
A.C. Graves
C.B. Fisher,
Committee of Arrangements

Wednesday, May 30, 1877

CITY ITEMS

G. A. R. members are requested to meet at their hall promptly at one o'clock this afternoon or before that hour if possible.

Rev. S.D. Paine, the Chaplain, has extended an invitation to the members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. to attend the Galena Street M. E. Church on Sunday morning next, accompanied by their wives upon which occasion he will address them in a military sermon. It is earnestly hoped that every member of the Post who can will be present.

Saturday, June 2, 1877

DECORATION DAY
EXERCISES AT THE VARIOUS CEMETERIES
ADDRESS BY REV. DR. THOMAS

The pleasing custom of decorating the graves of our soldier dead with bright spring flowers was observed in the usual manner on Wednesday afternoon last, under the management of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., our citizens generally taking part in the exercises. The threatened storm of the morning broke away about noon, after just sufficient rain had fallen to allay the dust and cool the atmosphere to a comfortable temperature; an abundance of flowers were forthcoming, notwithstanding anxious fears of scarcity, and were arranged in bouquets by a committee of ladies who made their headquarters at the Court Room. The programme as announced in the Beacon last week was carried out to the end without trouble or accident of any kind, a fact reflecting much credit upon Messrs. A.C. Ferre, A.C. Graves and C.B. Fisher, the Committee of Arrangements, the various sub-committees appointed by them, and the Marshals A.C. Graves, A.T. Judd and A.F. Wade. The procession was formed upon the Island, taking up the line of march about two o'clock, fifty members of the Grand Army of the Republic being escorted by Captain Vosburg's handsomely uniformed and well drilled company of Aurora Light Guards, with their splendid Cornet Band. They were followed by ex-soldiers and sailors not members of the Post, and a great number of carriages containing the orator of the day, clergymen of the various churches, city officials, glee club, members of the press and citizens generally. There was a very general suspension of business, and all along the route the streets were thronged with citizens wending their way to the different cemeteries to assist in doing honor to the memory of the men who died that we might live.

On reaching the West Aurora cemetery, the Light Guards stacked arms and assumed the role of spectators, while the veterans and citizens engaged in the usual exercises over the graves of the sleeping soldiers. Prayer was offered by Rev. D.D. Hill, and the quartette composed of Miss. Philbrick, Mrs. S.D. Paine, Prof. Hastings, and Dr. Robbins sang "Our Comrades," with much feeling. During the distribution of flowers, a detachment of men from the Post, accompanied by Rev. Father Stack, pastor of St. Mary's Church, and the quartette club, repaired to the Roman Catholic Cemetery, half a mile or more to the north, to visit other graves. And here, in addition to the usual ceremonies, Father Stack took occasion to address the soldiers and those assembled in a most appropriate and feeling manner, occupying about five minutes. He expressed his gratification in being thus permitted to unite in doing honor to the remains of those who had bravely rallied to the defence of the nation, and in his brief but timely remarks won the lasting regard of all present.

At the East Aurora Cemetery, prayer was offered by Rev. Thomas Galt, and a squad of men was detailed to visit the German Catholic Cemetery.

On the route to Spring Lake, the soldiers halted at the residence of McLellan, on Lincoln Avenue, to quench their thirst from the barrels of ice water kindly provided by that gentleman with his customary thoughtfulness. The last named cemetery was not reached until nearly five o'clock, and after an impressive prayer by Rev. N.A. Prentiss the large concourse of people assembled upon the west slope in the vicinity of Col. Miller's monument, where the memorial service in accordance with the ritual of the G. A. R. was held, during which, the Adjutant, H.B. Douglas, read the roll of comrades, buried in the several cemeteries, as follows:

West Aurora Cemetery

Wm. S. Huff	J.M. Mostow
M.C. Huff	Wm. White
T. Race	W.W. Clegg
A. Race	Robert Linton
Wm. Shles	Joy Tarble
S.A. Crance	----- Young
J.E. Smith	J.J. Wilder
J.H. Dodge	W.W. Wilder
A.J. Babcock	G.W. Myers
C.W. Randall	Daniel Kipp*
S.D. Towle	W.H. Anderson*
----- Trask	D.C. White*
R.Y. Anderson	M. Ferguson*
J.B. Watkins	N.L. Curtis*

Catholic Cemetery

P. Lowry	James Manahan
T. Fitzgerald	A. Hanly
Jas. Wade	E. Cunningham
T.W. McKenna	P. McGrath

German Catholic Cemetery

P. Shiltz	N. Didat
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East Aurora Cemetery

George Gardiner	N. Denniston
----- Coggswell	A. Moseley
R. Flemming	Chas. Titsworth
Charles Otis	J.G. Goodwin
E.M. Emmerson	F. Goodwin
Levi Morgan	J.E. Merrill
Unknown	Fred Hull
Wm. Blakesley	W.B. Aiken
A.P. Moffat	R.A. Drain
John Purdy	N.A. Fenton
Geo. Hollenbeck	G. Ross
T.M. Craig	J. Hoyt
F. Vaughan, Revolutionary Veteran	
W.H. Berry	Ira Warner*
Spring Lake Cemetery	
Silas Miller	I.B. Marlett
E.A. Harkness	P. Odell
Robert Hazzard	E. Dewey
H. Baker	J.D. Pierce
W. Baker	H.J. Gusline
Joseph Burley	Thomas Walworth
Alfred Tucker	J.C. Hadlock
----- Scribner	Geo. White
H.A. Snell	John Freelove*
A. Briggs	Wm. Ellis*
D.W. Young	E.L. Hunt*

The names marked with a * are of those who have died within the year, except D.C. White, whose grave has heretofore been missed.

Total, 87. Total last year, 78.

Commander T.B. Coulter then introduced Rev. Dr. Thomas, who addressed the assembly as follows:

Soldiers and Friends: It seems proper that something should be said in closing these tender and beautiful exercises, and yet it does not seem fitting that I should attempt any extended remarks at this late hour and after a service so long continued. I have followed this long procession with strange and mingled emotions. Some how it seemed to me as though we were all on a funeral march, and yet so many years have come in between us and the departure of the loved ones whose names have just been read, that none of us perhaps felt that immediate grief that we did when we followed them to their graves. I have felt, again, that we have witnessed something of the strength and devotion of a soldier's friendship. Probably there are no men in the world who are so closely and solidly bound together in their friendships as the comrades who have shared the labors, the hardships, the privations and the perils of war and of the battlefield. I have noticed that wherever the soldiers come together, there you find strong, honest attachments. I have been pleased, too, that all these citizens should witness the manifestation of your undying love for your comrades.

It seemed, again, that the nation would, by such a custom as this, testify its gratitude for what the soldiers have done for the republic. The nation seems unwilling to put away from its

memory the thought of what the soldiers did and what they suffered and of the many who perished that the country might live. And instead of this feeling of gratitude dying out, I am well convinced that with the coming years it will grow stronger and stronger. I am convinced that in the heat of battle and amid the excitements of war, we scarcely realized what grave interests were at stake, or appreciated the magnitude of the work that was accomplished. It will only be when in the quiet reflection of the years to come we shall review the deeds of our great war as they shall be recorded in history, that we shall see how much was achieved for good government, for liberty and humanity. It is a great thing that such a country as this should be saved. There never has been any fear for the safety of our country except from two sources. The first was from the interference of outside nations, and we long since outgrew the possibility of danger from that source. The other source was from internal revolution. This danger long menaced the country and was encountered at last in the rebellion. The nation was carried successfully through that struggle, and we now feel that the question of the Union of these States is settled. We know that there shall be but one flag over every part of this great land, and that we shall have a government that will combine the greatest liberty for each State with the greatest strength for all. For this great achievement humanity owes a debt of gratitude to the soldiers who sleep beneath the grass here to-day, to the soldiers who sleep in far distant graves, and to the living soldiers who gather to honor their memory.

Now, I feel, my friends, that however tender and beautiful and expressive these services are, held in the spring time, the season of hope, the time of bursting bud and opening flower, that you gather to scatter on these graves. I think that we are coming to feel that the nation needs a more substantial and lasting testimonial of the sufferings and services of the soldiers than these brief exercises. These cannot, in the nature of the case, be long perpetuated. These graves will in time be overgrown, and many of them perhaps lost to view. Year by year the number of surviving soldiers will grow less, till in twenty or thirty years only a few will be left to join in the procession. Thus, this ceremony of decoration cannot always last, and yet the sentiments of patriotism and gratitude demand that the memory of these men shall not die out from the earth. And it has occurred to me to-day that the most fitting thing that can be done, that which would best preserve the memory of the soldiers and what they did, that which would best conserve the place where we can all gather, would be to erect a soldier's memorial hall. There should be one in this city, and in every city of any considerable size throughout the land. Let it contain a tablet whereon the record of names read here to-day may be inscribed; and then let there be a book of reference, to which the visitor may turn from the tablet, and there learn the prominent facts in regard to those whose names are on the marble – the regiments to which they belonged, the battles and campaigns in which they were engaged, and other facts of that kind. On this tablet let the names of the soldiers who listen to me to-day be inscribed. Such a hall will beautify and adorn our city, and would be a grateful expression of the feelings of our people. The difficulty will be not how to raise enough money for such a purpose, but how to arrange it so that everyone may have a chance to contribute. It should not be limited by the contributions of a few wealthy men. Every child in the city, the widow of every soldier, and every soldier's orphan should have some share in the work. And what man or woman is there but would gladly help in such a cause? No man certainly unless he was an enemy of the flag when our country was in danger. Every sentiment of patriotism would be exalted by the mere presence of such a hall.

Let me say in conclusion that it has seemed to me to-day that in this service there is a connecting link between the dead and the living, not only a reaching back in our memories to those over whose graves we strew flowers, but some how a feeling that they are still interested in

the cause for which they lived and died; that we are still interested in it; and that while they no longer carry the flag, or march in the ranks, and may gather never more to the bugle call, yet

“On Fame’s eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,”

and while we honor their names here to-day,

“Glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead !”

Soldiers, friends, citizens, God bless you. I look with feelings almost of reverence of the men who have borne aloft the flag, who have stood the shock of battle, and who saved this country to humanity, saved it to liberty, and saved it to God.

The quartette club, soldiers and citizens then joined in singing “America,” and the services were at an end.

The Light Guard Band discoursed excellent music throughout the day, winning flattering compliments from the soldiers and citizens.

We should add that by a vote of the Post, the small flags by means of which the soldier’s graves are designated will be left standing throughout the year, and little boys and other visitors to the cemeteries are requested to leave them undisturbed.

Saturday, June 16, 1877

CITY ITEMS

A meeting of the “Ladies Auxiliary Monument Association” will be held in the City Council chamber this afternoon, at 4 o’clock, to reorganize and prepare to furnish refreshments for the “Corner Stone Ceremonies of Memorial Hall on the Fourth.” An earnest invitation is extended to all, and those not members of this organization. The ladies in this vicinity may expect to have an opportunity to help in this worthy enterprise.

Mrs. A. Merrill, Pres.

Mrs. Rev. S.T. Allen, Sec.

Saturday, June 23, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The following are the officers and committees elected for the ensuing year by the Ladies’ Auxiliary Soldiers’ Monument Association:

President – Mrs. A. Merrill.

Vice Presidents – Mrs. Chas. Wheaton, Mrs. A. Somarindyck, Mrs. J.R. Underwood.

Secretary – Mrs. S.T. Allen.

Treasurer – Mrs. W.P. West.

Executive Com. – Mrs. D.F. VanLiew, Chairman, Mrs. J.S. Hawley, Mrs. E.R. Allen, Mrs. Clark Wilder, Mrs. Geo. Hale, Mrs. Lucy Coulter, Mrs. L.W. Gray, Mrs. I.B. Copley, Mrs. O.B. Knickerbocker, Mrs. F.L. Bartlett, Mrs. Pierce Burton, Mrs. D.G. McNett, Mrs. Wilder Gates, Mrs. J. Mulvey.

Decorative and Table Com. – Misses Mattie Brady, Kittie Brady, Carrie Somarindyck, Nellie Somarindyck, Louise Hawley, Carrie Powell, Genevieve Hard, Lottie Motony, Mamie Keyes, Eva McCarty, Florence Cooley, Jennie Plum, Rena Titus, Annie Hoyt, Emma Bishop, Lulu Smith, Louise Hurd, Sue Loser, Emeline Knickerbocker, Lulu Howard, Mrs. T.B. Coulter, Mrs. Kate Slater, Mrs. A.C. Little, Mrs. Ed. Boyle, Mrs. J. Hood, Mrs. I.W. Rice, Mrs. Dr. Robbins, Mrs. T.N. Holder, Mrs. Frank Annis, Mrs. Eugene Canfield, Mrs. A.C. Ferre.

Everyone of these ladies, and any others who have the success of this enterprise at heart, are most earnestly requested to be at the Y.M.C.A. rooms next Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, June 27, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The members of Aurora Post G. A. R., have accepted an invitation to visit comrade H.B. Douglas at his residence just south of the city on Saturday evening next, and accompanied by their wives and daughters, will depart from Comrade Watson's store at 6:30 p.m. Those not having conveyances of their own should at once notify the committee, consisting of Comrades Robbins, Frank Harral and T.R. Polglase, that the necessary accommodations may be provided. It is hoped that every comrade will endeavor to accompany the party, and a very pleasant reunion may be expected.

Saturday, June 30, 1877

HISTORY OF THE THIRTY SIXTH

In a late number of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, Bennett's History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers receives the following flattering but none the less well deserved notice:

The late war was remarkable, alike for the presence upon the Union side of so many thousands of devoted patriots, and the absence during its progress and after its successful close of any of those decorations or marks of approval with which the armies of almost every other nation under the sun are rewarded. Kings and emperors decorate distinguished soldiers with crosses, orders, medals, and ribbons of every hue and degree of significance. Even the poorest private has his medals and his clasps. The republican soldier, after passing through campaigns which made him, in the opinion of Colonel Chesney, of the English Royal Engineers, a veteran of greater experience than any European army could boast, had nothing to show for his hard fought fields save his pride, his consciousness of having done his duty, perhaps an old uniform, a sword, a musket, or a well battered canteen. Medals of honor were certainly voted by Congress to certain distinguished officers, but the great bulk of the army, the obscure officer or man who had performed deeds of valor worthy Victoria and iron crosses by the score, settled down to his peaceful avocations and assumed his citizen's dress with as much sang froid as if he had never known what it was to be a hero. The great volunteer army which fought to preserve the Union and the flag was composed of many little families. Each company formed a community by itself. A general feeling of clannishness pervaded the regiment, a feeling extended even to the brigade

and division. In the majority of cases, more especially in the West, the members of a company were recruited from the same district. To each other they were Tom, and Ike, and Charley; they had visited or known of each other's families at home, and mutual kindness in the camp, during the march, and on the battle-field, united them together as brothers. It was natural, therefore, under all the circumstances, that the men who lived to survive the horrors of war and the glories of victory should wish to possess some substantial record of a time which could never be obliterated from their memories, a something which might be handed down to their grandchildren as a proud memento of a soldier's valor. The day will come when families will boast of an ancestor who carried the colors at Atlanta, or led the men to glory on the field of Chattanooga. The most sensible and useful for which this record could take was undoubtedly that of a history of individual regiments. The time has arrived when every regiment, great or small, which has served through the rebellion, should have its history, a book wherein deeds of daring may be recorded and the name of every soldier be handed down to fame. The history of the "Old Thirty-sixth," Illinois volunteers, which now claims our attention, is one of the best of its kind we have come across. The two gentlemen, whose names appear upon the title page, have executed their task in a way which leaves little to be desired. They have collected from all over the United States information of every kind bearing upon the regiment and its career, scraps and anecdotes, individual experiences, statistics, facts, and figures. They have sifted the whole, and woven it into a most agreeable and readable narrative. It tells of the early days at Camp Hammond, the pranks of the boys, the morning drills and the dress parades; of the "baptism of fire" at Pea Ridge; of the long marches through Kentucky and Tennessee, of the immortal fields of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Franklin and all the actions, skirmishes and expeditions in which the Thirty-sixth took part. The work is in every respect a creditable one, deserving a place by the chimney corner in the home, not only of every survivor of the gallant corps whose name it perpetuates, but in that of every patriot and patriot soldier in the West.

Saturday, June 30, 1877

CITY ITEMS

A large number of the Grand Army boys, with their wives and daughters, will visit the residence of H.B. Douglas this evening by invitation. Conveyances leave Watson's at 6:30.

Saturday, June 30, 1877

G. A. R. ATTENTION.

Members of the Aurora Post No. 20 G. A. R. will assemble at their hall at 9 a.m., July 4th, to take part in laying the corner stone of Memorial Hall. Let no one be absent.

T.B. Coulter, Commander.

H.B. Douglas, Adjutant.

Saturday, July 7, 1877

THE FOURTH

It seemed to be the general verdict that the Fourth of July was never more fittingly or appropriately celebrated in Aurora than on Wednesday last, and the Committee on Arrangements consisting of F.O. White, T.B. Coulter and H.B. Douglas, is entitled to great credit for the admirable manner in which the programme was carried out. Everything worked smoothly and pleasantly, and with the precision of clock work from the beginning to the end of the exercises, and though the streets were at times densely thronged, the long procession moved in perfect order, without a moment's delay, and without accident of any kind. The weather was all that could have been desired, and the attendance of strangers much greater than was anticipated since our neighbors in every direction were manifesting their patriotism and enterprise by home celebrations.

The procession formed on North Lake Street and moved at ten o'clock sharp, under command of H.B. Douglas as chief Marshal, the several divisions reaching the ground, countermarching into position and taking up the line of march without the slightest confusion or delay. The first division, under command of Capt. A.C. Graves, consisted of Aurora Light Guards Band; the Aurora Light Guards, forty rifles under command of Lieut. Myron Stolp; C.H. Hudson Fire Company, A.E. Barker foreman – the men handsomely uniformed, their steamer and hose cart nicely decorated with flags; the steamer and hose cart of Aurora Company No. 1, drawn by six horses, very tastefully decorated with flowers and flags – (for some mysterious reason the members of the company declined to turn out, and their places were filled by eleven volunteers from each of the other companies, under command of R.B. Long, assistant foreman of the hook and ladder Co.); they were followed by Holly Hose Co. with hose cart; Excelsior Co., with steamer and cart, and Eureka Hook and Ladder Co. with apparatus – the several machines being nicely decorated and drawn by splendid teams.

The second division was in charge of Hon. H.H. Evans, and consisted of the Aurora Cornet Band; Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., Commander T.B. Coulter with forty men; Father Murphey Temperance and benevolent Society, Michael Finn President with seventy-five men in their handsome regalia with elegant silk flags, the stars and stripes, and the national flag of Ireland displaying the "Sunburst" and the "Maid of Erin"; the Father Murphey Cadets, forty in number, Garret Quinn commanding, -- these two societies, headed by a carriage containing Rev. Father Stack, pastor of St. Mary's parish; the Germania Society, J.P. Pull, Marshal – forty men, the officers clothed in dark velvet regalia, gold trimmed, and the members in blue and silver regalia, and blue caps. Then came carriages containing the President of the day, Orator, Clergymen, the Mayor and Council, and officers of the Monument Association.

The third division, in charge of A.F. Wade, consisted of citizens in carriages.

The procession moved south on Lake to Galena Street, east to River, south to Downer Place and east to the City Hall grounds, upon which the Monumental Building is being erected. The island was densely thronged, as were also the bridges and adjoining streets with persons anxious to witness the laying of the corner stone, but excellent order was preserved and no confusion resulted. The assembly was called to order by Hon. W.H. Hawkins, president of the

day, when the Glee Club, composed of Miss. Fannie Quereau, Mrs. S.D. Paine, Prof. Hastings and Dr. Robbins, sang "Our Native Land," after which prayer was offered by Rev. N.A. Prentiss. Hon. L.D. Brady, President of the Monument Association, was then introduced, and addressed the assembly as follows:

We have met here on this Memorial Day, made sacred by the sacrifices our fathers endured in the cause of liberty, that we, as a people, might have a name and a place among the nations on earth. We have met to inaugurate, with becoming ceremony, the erection of a monument that will be as lasting as the ravages of time will permit, in honor of the heroes of a latter day, of the men who went out from among us, from our homes and our firesides, to defend the liberties our fathers had won. Thousands of these, our kinsmen sleep in unknown graves, -- at Ball's Bluff, at Pea Ridge, at Donaldson, at Shiloh, in the Wilderness, and on other hard fought battlefields. Though lost to earth and loving friends, may we not trust that they are here in spirit, rejoicing with us to-day.

Others, more fortunate, have returned to be honored by their countrymen for the countless sacrifices they have made in the cause of liberty and of right. We rejoice, at the presence here to-day of some of these brave men, to participate with us in the formal ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of "The Soldiers' Memorial Hall" in Aurora. We are glad to know that similar monuments, to the loyal men who were our shield and our defence during the dark days of the rebellion, are going up all over the loyal States, to stand, as perpetual reminders, to us, to our children, and the generations to come after, of what sacrifices these men had to make to conquer an unnatural and internecine war -- in the front of battle, in the face of bullets, in the horrors of Libby, of Andersonville, and other prisons, -- reeking with pestilence, disease and death, -- that we may remember that all this, and more, was endured for the integrity of our beloved Republic, that our glorious flag, the stars and stripes, might continue to wave its graceful folds over an undivided country, -- that these men gave the death blow to slavery, and made our nation not only free in name, but free, in fact, to all, to every nation, tongue, and people of whatever color.

We are also, on this occasion, to remember the brave and loyal women of our country who achieved so much for the health and comfort of our army in the fields, for the heroic sacrifices they made in camp and in hospital, for the tender and loving care they gave our sick and dying soldiers. God bless them.

We are also to remember the women of our own town. To them are we mostly indebted for the privilege of standing here to-day, on this national holiday, and proclaiming to you the purpose and object which animates us in inaugurating, at this time, this Memorial Hall. It was the women of Aurora who, with untiring industry, worked long and faithfully for the object which has caused us here to assemble, The building has been located, with a view best to accommodate the people, for a public library, in which every citizen is supposed to have an interest. By the help of these patriotic ladies, nearly one half the cost of the construction has been secured. We cannot doubt the people of Aurora will feel a commendable pride in this enterprise, so near to the hearts of all, and contribute, as they may be able, to complete the structure at an early day, that it may stand for what husbands, fathers, sons and brothers have done and suffered for the continued union of these States, and the honor and glory of our much loved Republic, to which royalty itself is now doing homage by lionizing the person of our nation's representative man, General U.S. Grant.

Then let these Monuments stand, as beacon lights, for all time -- "Meccas" where, as the years roll on, in the beautiful month of May, *on soldiers' day*, all may come, the laboring man,

the merchant, the matron, and the maid – all, bringing flowers and worshiping at these shrines. Let the people here renew their vows for liberty, and the perpetuity of our republican institutions, remembering ever that “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

The sealed copper box placed in the cavity of the corner stone is 10 by 12 inches by 6, and contains the following documents and relics, as enumerated by the President:

1. A description of Memorial Hall, its objects and intended uses, as given by the *Daily News* of May 3d, 1877.
2. History of the Monument Association and its Officers.
3. History of the Ladies' Monument Association and its officers, past and present.
4. Names of the Architect and Builders.
5. Directories of the City of Aurora containing an historical review of Aurora, together with the following organizations and societies and their officers: Aurora City Bible Society; Aurora Cornet Band; Aurora Library Association; The Aurora Lecture Association; Aurora Light Guards; Aurora Sharp Shooters; Aurora Turn Verin; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; C. B & Q. R. R. Co.; Cemeteries; Churches; City Court; City Officers, past and present; Fire Department; Germania Benevolent Society; Grand Army of the Republic; Jennings Seminary; Knights of Pythias; Masons; Odd Fellows; News Papers; Post Office; Public Schools; Sons of Albion; Sons of Temperance; Young Men's Christian Association; Women's Christian Association; Father Murphey Total Abstinence Society, together with a list of all the business houses, hotels, restaurants, physicians, lawyers and mechanics of all classes.
6. Copies of the Aurora Beacon, Aurora *Herald*, Aurora *Daily News*, and Aurora *Volksfreund*.
7. Six photographic views of the principle portions of Aurora, by D.C. Pratt
8. Programme and order of exercises for July 4th, 1877.
9. Specimen silver coins, presented by the Union National Bank.
10. History of the 8th Illinois Cavalry by Dr. A. Hard.
11. History of the 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry
12. Bible.

The ceremony of laying the stone having been completed by Mr. Brady, Mr. Hawkins made an earnest appeal to the citizens for funds with which to complete the building, and announced the remainder of the programme for the day. Three rousing cheers were then given for the flag of our country and three for the Monument Association, after which the procession was reformed and preceded to Lincoln Park, where a large concourse of people had already assembled to listen to the oration by Rev. S.D. Paine, pastor of the Galena Street M. E. Church. His remarks were listened to very attentively throughout and heartily applauded:

The Oration.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades of the late war: I am reminded to-day, as I stand here to address you, of the first time that I saw the flag of the United States on the 4th of July. It was over twenty years ago, and the flag was floating from the masthead of an American ship in the harbor of Gibraltar. Little did I think at that time, as with salvos of artillery and the cheers of our men as we steamed up the Mediterranean on our route to Constantinople, that before many years this great country, then at peace with all the world would in its own borders be rent and torn with fraternal strife. Little did I think at that time, that before many years this country would tremble under the tramp of the mightiest citizen army the world had ever seen; that it would pass through four years of bloody war; that its armies would number two

millions of men; that over two hundred battles would be fought on its soil; and that out of that struggle

The Nation Would Come In All Its Entirety And Integrity, bearing in its arms the lives and liberties of four millions of human beings. Least of all did I think that I myself should be a citizen of this republic; that I should voluntarily, in the country's emergency, transfer my allegiance from my country and my Queen to the United States and to Abraham Lincoln, and become one of the defenders of the Union. And little did I think that I should have the honor, on the 4th of July, 1877, to be the orator of the day in the city of Aurora on the memorable occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of Memorial Hall. I did not flatter myself that I am the first choice for speaker on this occasion. I saw some weeks ago, in one of our papers, that one of the ablest and most brilliant speakers in the Northwest was to be here this day. I knew that didn't mean me. But when they tried to get their eloquent speaker I presume they failed, and then fell back on me. [Laughter.] And I assure you I am proud of the honor. I am always ready for an emergency of this kind – ready at any time to say a word for my old comrades. [Applause.] I regard it as an honor to stand here and speak for those who stood between us and the nation's ruin in the crisis of our national history. [Cheers.] I am aware that sometimes we are charged as American citizens with being boastful and ostentatious in regard to our country and our privileges. We get together on the 4th of July, and talk about our high mountains, our great rivers, our immense resources, about our common schools, our open Bible, our universal suffrage, and we pride ourselves that we stand head and shoulders above all the other nations of the earth in these inestimable privileges. I do not blame our people for being proud of our country and its 101 years of national history. When we look back over the past, and think what a feeble thing this nation was in the beginning, coming out of the struggle with the mother country with three millions of English people and people of other nationalities, having struck a grand blow for liberty, and winning in the fight against one of the mightiest empires in the world; when we think that the three millions have swelled to more than forty millions; that the country, from a million square miles, has increased to a territory that contains more fertile and arable land than all Europe, stretching from ocean to ocean, from the Gulf to the lakes; when we think that our people are better educated than any people on the face of the earth – when we think of all this,

We Have Reason To Be Both Thankful And Proud.

I do not say that the American people are as highly educated as some people of other nations. There are a few in all the old countries who perhaps excel our best scholars. But nowhere is education so universally diffused among the masses as in the United States of America. There are nations like Germany, England and France that may excel us in the number of wealthy men, but there is no country on the face of the earth where the people at large are so comfortably situated as in the United States. If we had no other reason to be proud of our national history, have we not reason to look back with rejoicing upon the 101 years we have lived as a nation, independent and free. My friends, it seems to me that we have natural resources enough to make us proud. We have had, too, a grand army, an army that sprang into existence in 1861, when the nations of Europe taunted us with our cowardice, and said we dared not attempt to coerce the seceded States. We had no army then. Rebels had been in the government and they had sent the navy to foreign ports, and the army to the South, where it could be easily surrendered to the enemy. They had control of the treasury, and had stolen our money. Yet this nation of shopkeepers, as the French have sometimes sneeringly styled the British nation, this nation of peace loving citizens, when it was called to arms by

Abraham Lincoln, Of Imperishable Memory,

sent to the field all the men, and more than all, that the government called for. We had no money at the time, and many European nations said to us, "You cannot fight without money, and we will not lend you any." Then Mr. Chase, the Secretary of Treasury, called upon the people for \$8,000,000, and \$30,000,000 were instantly offered. And men from the college, men from the workshop, men from the plow, all inspired by a lofty patriotism, rushed into the Grand army that was called into existence, and bared themselves for the bloody struggle. We had talked of compromise until the fatal first blow was struck. We wanted peace if we could have it honorably. But when the boom of Sumpter's guns was heard, when the flag was assailed, the Democrat and Republican, Protestant and Catholic, native and adopted citizen, all rushed forward to uphold the glorious banner of our Union. [Applause.]

I do not want at this time to go back over all the events of the past. I would take too much time, and you are already familiar with them. You remember the dark hours of the later war. You remember the defeats our army suffered, and how we followed the flag day after day and night after night, as it was torn and rent with shot and shell. You remember how we were driven in the West and in the East, and you remember how our officers, especially in the army of the Potomac, were divided by jealousies and not cooperating heartily together. And when at last it seemed to be the conviction of the country as well as our martyred President that justice must be done before we could succeed, he drew his pen and signed that immortal proclamation that shall hand Abraham Lincoln down to the latest period of time as

The Greatest Historic Character

of the nineteenth century, if not of any century. [Great applause.]

I need not tell you how grandly this State of Illinois did in the time of our struggle. She furnished 260,000 men in her own regiments. She did not stop with furnishing her own quota. She furnished to Sherman's army alone forty-five regiments of infantry, besides cavalry and artillery. When someone said to Lincoln that Sherman was going to be defeated, he said, "No, it cannot be, there is a mighty sight of fight in a hundred thousand Western men." [Cheers.] I read an anecdote the other day that when, during the war, the women often remained at home alone and gathered the crops and cared for the families, while the men went out to fight, there was a father and four sons who drew lots to see which one should stay at home, and the old man drew the lot. The boys went to camp, and the very next day the father came in and said, "Mother and the girls have agreed to take care of the crops, and I am going to the front." While such things are possible, I have an infinite pity and contempt for the American who cannot rejoice in the 4th of July, that he lives in such a country and among such a people. [Applause.]

It used to be thought in this country, years ago, that the foreign population was an element of danger, and would be a standing menace to the republic in the critical hour of its history. But when the war broke out, citizens of foreign birth volunteered as rapidly as citizens of native birth. I was glad to see the grand flag of old Erin borne in our procession to-day. I was glad to see the Irish so well represented on this occasion.

A Noble Race Are The Irish,

a race that has given Spain a McDonald, to England a Wellington, to France a MacMahon, by whose side I fought in 1854 and 1855, at the assault of the Malakoff in the Crimea. To the United States the Irish have given general after general, Sheridan, Shields, and others, and thousands of brave Irish boys, whose bones now whiten every Southern State in the Union. I was glad to see Catholic and Protestant, German, Irish, English, and other nationalities here to-day. They did not feel like persecuting each other. Catholics and Protestants can be tolerant

toward each other when they have equal liberty to worship according to their own faith. They may have an affection for each other despite their religious differences.

It seems to me, my friends, that we have grand material resources to be proud of, but we have something better than that. If we had only a great country to excite our pride, India and China might surpass us in population. If we only had the brave hearts of our people to be proud of, some of the old countries of Europe might equal us. But we have a grand good government, free education, an open Bible, a free Christianity. We give to every man the right of suffrage. We give to every man all the freedom he could contentiously ask for. I want to plead to-day for, one of our institutions, the very palladium of our freedom, the sheet anchor of our hope and that is the common schools of the nation. [Cheers.] I want to plead for low schools and high schools, and for the college as well. I want it to be possible for every boy and girl, no matter what the condition of their parents, to attain the highest possible degree of culture. [Applause.] I want to tell you that

The Schools Are The Hope Of The Country.

If the republic be not built on a substratum of virtue and intelligence, it will go down, as other free nations have gone down.

And what of the result of our struggle? Was the victory worth fighting for? Eight hundred thousand lives were lost on both sides, and millions of treasure was expended. Is the result worth the cost? Yes, I say it was. Imagine what would have been our condition to-day had secession been triumphant. Why, before the war began, the country was already talking about a Southwestern confederacy, a Pacific confederacy. Even New York City had threatened to secede. That suggests what would have been our condition to-day had we failed in the contest. Ichabod would have been written upon us as a republic – your glory has departed. I say the blessings we fought for and won are worth all the sacrifices made. The absolutes of the world say that this government is an experiment, and will fail, as the republics of Greece and Rome and France have failed. They do not take into account the fact that the states of Greece were never united. When Xerxes invaded Greece, the states were disunited, and they did not oppose him with a united front. When the gallant Leonidas, with his three hundred, was fighting at Thermopylae, some of the states were sending messengers to Xerxes, and they led a portion of his army by another pass to overrun and destroy the republic of Greece. But we are a united people. The flag to-day floats over every State. Peace reigns within our borders. And I want to say here that I stand by and uphold President Rutherford B Hayes whose policy I believe is going to unite in fraternal concord all the sections of our country. [Applause.]

When I talk to you of what Illinois did in giving the country Lincoln to direct the destinies of the nation and her sons by the hundred thousand to fight its battles, I want also to tell you another thing that Illinois did in the crisis of our history. When our armies in the East were being driven back, and our generals were thwarting each other's plans, there came to us from the West a little general from Illinois, [cheers,] a man who had never lost a battle. He took command of our army, and said: "I will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." [Applause.] Grant may have made his mistakes as a statesman, but when those mistakes shall be forgotten, he will be remembered as the supreme general of the nineteenth century. [Renewed applause.]

Memorial Hall.

We have laid to-day the corner stone of this Memorial Hall, which is to commemorate the deeds of the soldiers who lie buried in our cemeteries. If I had time to call the roll of those soldiers, we should hear responses from the sons of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and

Germany, and from the sons of every State in the Union, from Catholic and Protestant, from Democrat and Republican. Can we afford to let the heroic deeds of these men be forgotten? The time may come when the hand of treason may be again lifted against the Union and the flag. Let us then keep alive the fires of patriotism by all the means within our power. Let this Memorial Hall be erected in the center of our city. We want in that hall tablets with the names of our soldiers and the battles in which they were engaged; and on the summit will be placed, I trust the figure of a private soldier, not a general, not a captain, but a private soldier, the real hero of the war. [Applause.] Put him there with his overcoat on, with his canteen and haversack on, and with some hardtack sticking out of his haversack. For that was often all we could get to eat. They have often laughed at me about my adventure with the pig. When I was in the army, I had just been converted. I used to have prayers in camp, and told the men that they could be Christians as well as soldiers. One day the men brought a pig into camp, taken without the usual form of requisition, and when the cook put it on the mess table, the officers looked at the Lieutenant who professed to be a Christian to see if he would ask a blessing on confiscated meat. But I was equal to the emergency, and quoted Paul, who says, "Eat that which is set before you, asking no questions for conscience' sake." [Great laughter.] We were living in an age on intense covetousness and the general lust of gain; and we want this Memorial Hall to remind us that there is something better to live for than the mere acquisition of wealth. The boys of to-day will in the future be the men upon whom the country must rely for counsel and defence in the hour of trial. Let this Memorial Hall teach them now the lesson of patriotism. I trust there will be no citizen who will with-hold his aid from this work. It is the only thing we can do for the noble dead. Some may object that it is not wise to perpetuate the remembrance of the war. My friends, that is not the purpose. It was not the soldiers who made the war.

The Politicians Made The War, And The Soldiers Fought It.

[Applause.] There are no more friendly men than the soldiers of the late opposing armies. The men who stood face to face in battle respect each other for courage, manhood, and the honest conviction that each side fought for what it believed was right. I was down at Richmond last fall, and met many confederate soldiers, and never received more generous treatment than I did from them. The day will yet come when we shall decorate alike the graves of the blue and the gray. We have one country, one flag, and one common destiny, and I pray that the arm of that man may be paralyzed who would tear a single stripe from our flag or strike one star from our glorious ensign. [Great applause.]

The Soldiers' Monument Association.

At a preliminary meeting the soldiers and citizens held in the Grand Jury Room on the evening of June 19th, 1869, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draft constitution and by-laws: O. Willson, F.O. White, A. Hard, J.C. Sherwin, A.C. Little, L.D. Brady and W.S. McMicken – and the document was adopted at a subsequent meeting, when officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, L.D. Brady; Secretary, F.O. White; Treasurer, Abner Hard. One of the first means adopted by the Association to raise funds for the erection of a Soldier's Monument was the charging of an admission fee of \$1, which entitled the person so paying to a handsome lithograph certificate of membership – and the total number of certificates issued was 346. The fund was gradually swelled by the proceeds of entertainments of various kinds. On December 17th, 1872, the Association was reorganized under the new State law, and became a chartered institution – the Board of Managers elect being, L.D. Brady, A. Hard, F.O. White, O. Willson, H.B. Douglas, J.C. Sherwin, A.C. Graves. At the last annual election the following officers were elected: L.D. Brady, President; T.B. Coulter, Treasurer; O.

Willson, Secretary; the remaining members of the Board being A. Hard, F.O. White, H.B. Douglas and A.C. Little – the Treasurer giving bonds of \$5,000 for the proper discharge of his duties. The funds have always been very carefully invested, and the accumulations of interest amount to about \$800. The Association this spring resumed its labors with a great deal of energy, and having decided upon the erection of a Memorial Building instead of a simple monument, the interest of our citizens generally was once more enlisted and the work will be pushed to speedy completion. At a meeting of the Board of Managers held at the Union National Bank yesterday afternoon, measures were taken to make an immediate and thorough canvas of the city, for subscriptions, and the list was started with the following donations; L.D. Brady, \$100; Mrs. J.R. Coulter, \$100; W.W. Bishop, \$100; and Alonzo George, \$100. It will cost \$4,000 to enclose the structure, and from \$2,000 to \$3,000 more to finish and furnish it, and the Association is sanguine that the requisite funds may be forthcoming to complete the building during the present season.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Monument Assoc'n was organized at the Fitch House by eighteen ladies of Aurora, October 19th, 1870, their object being thus set forth in the preamble of their constitution:

“Believing there is in the hearts of this people an earnest desire to commemorate the deeds of our soldiers, dead and living, who fought in the Great Rebellion for a united country, and whereas the Soldiers' Monument Association seem to need our assistance, therefore, *Resolved* That we, ladies of Aurora and vicinity, form ourselves into an association to act in conjunction with said Monument Association, for purpose by them set forth.”

The first officers of the Association elected were: Mrs. Merrill, President; Mrs. T. Stickle, Vice President; Mrs. S.T. Allen, Secretary, and Mrs. Clark Wilder, Treasurer – The Executive Committee being composed of Mrs. Sibley, Mrs. E.D. Huntoon, Mrs. Copley, Mrs. D.P. Gray and Mrs. Fishburn. They at once set themselves about devising means for increasing the monument fund, and their first enterprise was an oyster supper given at the Fitch House in November. This was followed by an Old Folks' Concert, by other suppers, and a series of weekly entertainments held in City Hall during the winter following, attended with varying success.

The original members of the Association were Mesdames Merrill, T. Stickle, Clark Wilder, S.T. Allen, E.D. Huntoon, Sibley, Wilson, D.P. Gray, I.B. Copley, E.A. Pollock, S.B. Hawley, Brown, Haskell, W.B. Allen, A.C. Rand, W. Colby, C. Sedgwick, C.J. Pfrangle, B.E. Dennison, J.D. Race, Jane Powell, A.E. Powell, B.F. Parks, P. Flinn, J. Aucutt, Ann Hagarty, R. McMicken, Wealtha Randall, and Misses Saunders, Van Vleet, and Anna Gray.

They continued to hold regular meetings until November 1st, 1871, when their energies were turned into a new channel by the demands of our destitute citizens, and the passage of the following:

Resolved: That the work of the ladies of this Association be devoted in part to our home poor for the coming three months.

On June 16th, 1877, in pursuance of a call through the city papers, the ladies convened in the Council Chamber, and re-organized the Association by the election of the following officers for the ensuing year; President, Mrs. Merrill; Vice Presidents, Mrs. A. Somarindyck, Mrs. Chas. Wheaton, and Mrs. J.R. Underwood; Mrs. S.T. Allen, Secretary; Mrs. W.P. West, Treasurer; Executive Committee, Mesdames J.S. Hawley, E.R. Allen, Geo. Hale, D.F. Van Liew, Clark Wilder, Lucy Coulter, L.W. Gray, I.B. Copley, O.B. Knickerbocker, F.L. Bartlett, Pierce Burton, D.G. McNett, Wilder Gates and J. Mulvey.

Their labors had been temporarily abandoned in consequence of the stringency of money matters, but they had by no means lost sight of the objects of their organization, and the manner in which they managed their affairs on the Fourth is convincing proof that they have lost none of their old time energy and perseverance. We may add in this connection that of the \$2,600 new in the treasury of the Monument, fully one half has been raised through the efforts of The Ladies' Auxiliary Soldiers' Monument Association.

The Building

The structure is to be built of the best limestone from the quarry of Karl & Berthold, the work to be of the class known as Rock-faced Ashlar, with cut stone trimmings, executed by Mr. L.H. Waterhouse, of this city, under the careful personal supervision of the architect, Mr. Joseph Mulvey. The shape is octagonal, the largest diameter being forty-six feet. The basement will be eight foot in the clear, and contain the heating apparatus and storage room for fuel, etc. In the principal story the distance from floor to lowest point of ceiling will be fifteen feet, and to the highest point of roof will be thirty-six feet and terminate in a octagon, above which will be a base six feet in height, upon which it is designed to place a bronze military statue. The four corners of the building will be furnished with gables, the ridge of which will extend back and terminate near the center base above mentioned – the ridge being furnished with iron cresting and finials.

The wood work will be done by Mr. C.T. Douglas, a sufficient guarantee that it shall be all that could be desired.

The interior of the building will be finished in the best style, the walls to handsomely frescoed, and the windows of stained glass – surrounded by shelving for a public library, the space above the shelving being devoted to statues, tablets, pictures, relics of the war, etc. A railing will surround the entire arcade, three feet from the shelving, the centre being supplied with tables, chairs, etc., for the accommodation of visitors.

Dinner.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Monument Association had been very energetic in arranging a dinner for the occasion, their tables being spread in the basement of the Universalist Church, and laden with an abundance of tempting viands. The price of tickets was placed at thirty-five cents, and a large force of attractive ladies were kept very busily employed throughout the afternoon in satisfying the appetites of their hungry visitors. The great bulk of the provisions consumed was generously donated by our citizens, and the entire net proceeds are dedicated to the monument fund. The affair was admirably managed, and too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the noble women who devoted their time and best energies in this laudable undertaking. They also occupied the Silver Plate Factory store, and until nearly midnight dispensed ice cream and lemonade. At this point Mrs. A.C. Little and Mrs. J. Mulvey were in charge ably assisted by Misses Kittie and Mattie Brady, Anna Hoyte, Lettie Monteny, Nellie Somarindyck, Florence Cooley, Jennie Thompson, Louise Hawley and Rena Titus. A refreshment stand was also erected in Lincoln Park, where Mrs. A. Somarindyck was assisted by Mrs. Porter, Misses Van Winkle, McCarty, V. Hard, and Gussie Somarindyck. At the church, the various tables were in charge of the following ladies: 1st table – Mrs. T.B. Coulter, Mrs. I. Rice, Misses Eva McCarty, Carrie Powell, Geneve Hard, Cornelia and Ella Mattice, and Theo. Ruggles; 2^d table – Mrs. Septa Slosson, assisted by Mrs. A.A. Velie and Miss Freeman; 3rd table – Mrs. Bristol, Mrs. Dr. Higgins, Misses Jessie Loomis, Celia Butler, Lillie Miles, Lizzie Hoyte and Jessie Reader; 4th table – Mrs. R.W. Gates assisted by Misses Slaker, Howard and Kennedy; 5th table – Mrs. James Slater, assisted by Miss Louie Smith, Jennie and Katie Brown and Lulu Conant, of Rockford; 6th

table – Mrs. M. Tabor, Mrs. E.W. Hoyte, Kittie and May Hoyte and Ida Tabor; 7th table – Mrs. D.G. McNett, assisted by Mrs. Ed. Boyle, Misses Copley, Emma Bishop, Ella and Emma Knickerbocker; 8th table – Mrs. F.O. White and Misses Prescott, Fannie Randall, May and Eva Todd; 9th table – Mrs. S.B. Hawley and Mrs. J.A. Eggleston, Misses Hawley, Childs of Dundee, and Ward,; 10th table – Mrs. O.B. Knickerbocker and Misses Graves, Mostow, Dickenson and Saterfield; 11th table – Mrs. Dr. Robbins, Misses Tyler, Hopps, Jones, Alshuler and McFarland; 12th table – Mrs. H.B. Douglas, Misses Rice, Douglas, Rockway, Carpenter and Pease.

The general supervision of the dinner was vested in Mrs. D.F. VanLiew, and Mrs. George Hale, and no better selection for that most responsible position could have been made. And in their laborious task they were ably seconded by Mrs. A. Merrill, the President of the Association. Their presence and watchful care over every detail insured the undertaking a splendid success.

A Surprise

was in store for the firemen, who were marched from the park to the Eureka truck house and invited to seat themselves to an elegant repast prepared by their lady friends. They needed no second bidding, and did full justice to the viands urged upon them in such profusion to the fair ones in waiting. The table was about sixty feet in length (fairly groaning beneath the weight of substantial and delicacies of the season), and accommodated all of the department with the exception of the Fire and Water Committee, Chief Engineer, and Eureka Company, who came for later though no less flattering attentions. This surprise dinner was the result of a happy thought occurring to Mrs. Wm. E. Reed only on Saturday evening last. She took into confidence Mrs. J.H. Hubbard, Mrs. J.H. Long, Mrs. M.D. Yager, Mrs. T.R. Polglase, Mrs. R.B. Long, Mr. and Mrs. A. Covert, Mrs. Theo. Roderick, Mrs. J.H. Bigger, Mrs. J.J. Quackenbush, together with the Misses Roscoe and Morris, by all of whom she was ably assisted to the close of the programme. The ladies desire us to return their grateful thanks to citizens who so promptly aided the enterprise by liberal donations and other equally acceptable encouragement. Mrs. Reed and her assistants are entitled to the warmest corner in the heart of every fireman so handsomely entertained by them upon this occasion.

(1877 S17) (1877 I17-18)

Wednesday, July 11, 1877

CITY ITEMS

A lawn party will be given Friday evening, July 13th, at Mrs. Metzner's on north Lake Street, for the benefit of the Memorial Building fund. There will be good music in attendance, a fine platform for dancing, and excellent refreshments served. A most cordial invitation is extended to everybody.

Mrs. T.B. Coulter,
Mrs. S.T. Allen,
Miss. Mattie Brady,
Com.

The Ladies Auxiliary Monument Association have added the handsome sum of \$295.02 to the Memorial Building fund, as the net results of their united efforts on the Fourth.

The Ladies of the Auxiliary Monument Association in charge of refreshments at the Silver Plate Building on the Fourth, desire us to return their sincere thanks to the following persons for generous courtesies upon that occasion: To J.G. Stolp, for free use of the Silver Plate Factory store; to F.B. Rice, for the large number of dishes required – and to the Aurora Silver Plate Company for kindly loaning them all the silverware needed. But for generosity thus displayed by scores of our citizens the laborious undertaking of the ladies on the Fourth must have proven a failure instead of swelling the monumental fund to the extent of nearly \$300.

Saturday, July 14, 1877

CITY ITEMS

Col. Greusel, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, dropped in upon his Aurora friends on Monday last, on his way home from a very pleasant re-union of the veterans of the Mexican War at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Cincinnati, Ohio. He remained here only until Tuesday.

Wednesday, July 20, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The solicitors for funds to complete the Memorial Building inform us that they have now \$2,500 on their books. Our people are giving with liberality to this noble work, and if the spirit is sustained, the committee will be able to finish the building, and present it to our citizens for use, at an early day.

(1877 S05-16)

Saturday, July 28, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The G. A. R. boys of Aurora Post held a meeting at their Hall on Thursday evening, and voted unanimously to tender their services to the Mayor for the preservation of law and order in the city. And when the meeting adjourned, the old veterans at once set about getting their arms in readiness, manufacturing cartridges and otherwise preparing for business.

The ladies of the Monument Association gave a most pleasant lawn sociable on Wednesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. S.T. Allen, Pierce Street. The Light Guard Band and a portion of the company went up on the steamboat, while hacks and busses were run at regular intervals from the Fitch House. It became necessary to seek refuge in the house several times, in consequence of slight showers, but a very enjoyable evening was spent by all present.

Saturday, August 4, 1877

CITY ITEMS

Many members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. had made arrangements to attend the semi-annual encampment at Crystal Lake week after next, and will experience disappointment in consequence of the following:

Headquarters Dep't Of Illinois,
Grand Army of the Republic
Chicago, July 30, 1877.

(Circular Order No. 4.)

The semi-annual Encampment announced in Circular No. 3, to be held at Crystal Lake, August 14th to 17th, will not convene.

The discords that have prevailed throughout the State, and the fact that many of the Posts of the Department have been under arms for the past six days, assisting in restoring order, render it inexpedient to have our semi-annual Encampment this year.

This is to be regretted, as many of our comrades throughout the Department were making extensive preparations to attend.

T.R. Reynolds
Commander

Henry D. Field,
Ass't. Adj't. Gen'l.

Saturday, August 11, 1877

CITY ITEMS

We learn the Ladies Auxiliary Monument Association have made arrangements to accompany the Washington County picnic to Steward's Grove, the last of the month. The ladies will have charge of the refreshments, the train, and other matters from which money is to be made. As the net proceeds go to the Memorial Building fund, we hope the attendance will be large, and the money freely made.

Wednesday, August 15, 1877

CITY ITEMS

As usual, the sociable to which the ladies of the Monument Association on Friday evening last invited their friends, at the residence of Mayor Bartlett, was most enjoyable and very largely attended. These sociables are always admirably managed, and nothing is ever left undone which, in their estimation, could add to the interest or pleasure of the occasion – and in handsomely entertaining their guests on Friday evening, they were ably seconded by His Honor, Mayor Bartlett, and his estimable “better half.” During the evening some of the intimate friends of Dr. Bartlett, through A.J. Hopkins, presented the gentleman with a finely executed oil portrait of himself which was accepted in a few brief and appropriate remarks. The next sociable of the Association will be held at the residence of Hon. L.D. Brady some evening next week.

The financial department of the Washington County picnic at Steward's Park, Plano, will

be under the management of the ladies of the Monument Association, and they are sparing no pains to render the event one of the most delightful affairs of the season. Everyone who possibly can should abandon the cares of business and spend the day with them at the pleasant resort, thus helping to swell our Monumental Building fund.

Wednesday, August 22, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The lawn sociable by the Ladies Auxiliary S. M. A. at L.D. Brady's comes off tomorrow, (Thursday) evening, instead of Friday, as previously announced, to which members of all social societies, as well as the public are invited. Don't forget it. They regret that a misunderstanding in arrangements has compelled them to defer the contemplated excursion with the Washington County picnic. Having failed in this, they propose soon to have an excursion and picnic in the interest of "The Ladies Monument Association," to which all friends of the enterprise are invited.

At a meeting of the L. A. S. M. A., held last evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved – That we drop the Washington County picnic on account of failure to secure privilege for refreshments on such grounds at Plano, and that the officers of that society be immediately informed of the change.

Mrs. S.T. Allen, Sec.

We understand that the ladies of the Association propose to shortly hold a picnic, full particulars of which will be announced in due season.

Saturday, August 25, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The ladies of the Auxiliary Monument Association held a splendid "sociable," on Saturday evening last, at the residence of Hon. L.D. Brady, on north Lincoln Avenue, and we are pleased to chronicle the fact that this social gathering was by far the most successful event of the season, in that direction. The Aurora Light Guards were there in full uniform; their splendid brass band was there, and discoursed choicest music at frequent intervals – the elite of the city (perhaps we should quote our juvenile friend Dick, and say "society people,") was there, and everybody seemed to have a most enjoyable time. These lawn sociables in the interest of the Monumental Building Fund will be continued during the season, and the ladies who are laboring so earnestly in this matter will endeavor to make each succeeding one as pleasant and satisfactory as that of Saturday evening last.

Saturday, September 1, 1877

CITY ITEMS

The tenth annual re-union of the gallant 52d Ill. Regiment will be held at Elgin on Wednesday, Sept. 12th, one week from next Wednesday, and will be attended by a number of old veterans residing in Aurora and vicinity.

Saturday, September 8, 1877

REUNION OF THE 8th ILL. CAVALRY

The annual reunion of the 8th Regiment Ill. Cavalry will take place at the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., on the 18th of September (the present month). Arrangements are being made for a full meeting, and a good time is anticipated. Business meeting at 1 o'clock p.m., dinner at 2 p.m. Let there be a good attendance.

Hard

Sec'y of 8th Ill. Cavalry Association.
Aurora, Ill., Sept. 1st, 1877

Wednesday, September 11, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The eleventh annual reunion of the thirty-sixth Regiment Ill. Infantry occurs at Elgin on Thursday September 27th.

D.C. Pratt our veteran photographer has a superb collection of pictures on exhibition this week at the Kendall County fair.

Saturday, September 29, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The eleventh annual reunion of the Thirty Sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers took place at Elgin on the 27th. A few over a hundred of the old veterans answered the summons, and were royally entertained by the patriotic people of Elgin. Mendelssohn Hall, where the general exercises were held, and the bounteous dinner spread, was richly decorated with autumn leaves and evergreens. Upon either side wall were grouped the names of the battles in which the Regiment had distinguished itself. In the rear of the hall, in beautiful leaves, was the legend "Eleventh Annual re-Union - 1861 - 1877," and over the stage, "We do not forget our fallen Comrades." The most touching was in front of the rostrum, where, under a tablet of leaves, upon which was worked "In Memory" in beautiful white flowers, was hung a photograph of Col. Miller. Much credit for the unusually beautiful decorations was due Mr. A.W. Kinney.

In this pleasant room, a genial, beautiful address of welcome was made by Hon. E.C. Lovell, Mayor of the city, -- and was responded to in plain, hearty honest earnest words by A.H. Barry, first Major of the Regiment. Col. Greusel also addressed in few hearty words. John L. Dryden, of whose eloquence the boys had a taste last year at Yorkville, was announced to make the address, but was unable to be present. His place was filled by Hon. John S. Wilcox, who made an extempore effort, running somewhat to politics.

The acting officers of the day were Capt. M.B. Baldwin, Pres't; L.M. Kelly, Marshal; and Rev. Messrs. Woodruff and Dickenson, Chaplains.

After the formal exercises, the boys were invited to just the best feast ever spread before them at a reunion; quite falling in love, at least with the great culinary ability of the ladies of Elgin, -- losing memory of the starving and suffering of the battlefield in the delights of the day.

The business meeting of the Regiment was held at the City Hall. Eighty-two men answered the roll call. The old officers were re-elected as follows:

G.G. Biddulph,	President
J.C. Dennison,	Secretary
M.E. Cornell,	Treasurer

Mr. Dennison vigorously declined a re-election, but had performed the exacting and thankless duties of his office so well that the boys were unwilling to excuse him.

Treasurer Cornell reported that the Olson Monument fund now amounted to \$205.86, having been increased during the last year by \$50.15, the net proceeds of a lecture given in Yorkville by Hon. Schuyler Colfax. The committee in charge of raising the monument was continued. The future sales of Bennett's History was also discussed, and measures taken to further relieve the Major of the burden which he is bearing for the Regiment.

Monmouth was designated as the place of meeting next year.

Music for the occasion was furnished by a glee club in charge of Prof. Carl Zoberbier.

Among the officers present were Cols. Greusel and Wilcox, Majors Sherer, Biddulph, Barry and Sherman. We also note the following from Aurora, as among those participating in the re-union: C.G. Ayers, H.B. Douglas, J.A. Hath, Jos. Ingham, C.H. Odekirk, C.W. Rhodes and F.O. White.

(1877 P19-20)

Wednesday, October 10, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. occurs on Friday evening next, and every member is especially requested to be present. At a special meeting on Monday evening the cast of characters was made for the "Drummer Boy," and this intensely thrilling military drama will be put upon the Coulter Opera House boards on Monday evening, Nov. 5th, in elegant shape.

Saturday, October 27, 1877 CITY ITEMS

"The Drummer Boy of Shiloh," an intensely thrilling military drama, will be placed upon the Opera House boards on Monday evening, Nov. 5th, under the auspices of the G. A. R. Some seventy-five people appear in the cast, and the play is said to be greatly superior to the "Color Guard," which met with so great favor last season.

Wednesday, October 31, 1877 CITY ITEMS

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R. is now composed of just one hundred veteran soldiers of the late war.

Saturday, November 3, 1877

ATTENTION G. A. R. !

Every member of Post No. 20 is hereby notified to be at the Opera House this Saturday evening, Nov. 3, 1877, at 7 ½ o'clock *sharp*. Per order.

T.B. Coulter, P.C.

Wednesday, November 7, 1877 CITY ITEMS

“The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,” as placed upon the Coulter Opera House boards on Monday evening, under the auspices of the G. A. R., and under the immediate personal direction of the author, Mr. S.J. Muscroft, gives even more complete satisfaction than the “Color Guard,” which proved so great a success last winter. Everybody who has witnessed the play is delighted, and we can at this writing do no better than to fully endorse the following, from the Lancaster, (Pa.) *Express*:

This fine military allegory as presented by our home talent under the direction of S.J. Muscroft, the author, on Monday and Tuesday nights, was heartily received by a large and appreciative audience on both occasions. It is full of thrilling and startling scenes, all of which are balanced by some of the finest tableaux ever put on the stage. To speak of the acting of each player would occupy too much space, even though we had time to write it. But it was all good, splendid, much better than at the majority of so called “dramatic troupes” that visit our city. Mr. Muscroft as Mark Howard is beyond criticism. Mr. Nail as Uncle Joe is simply immense. When he calls on Johnny to “press me, John, oh press me,” the house gives way and comes down with tremendous applause. The whole play is a complete success. It is just what our people want, it warms up the old patriotic blood that still runs through the veins of the north.

The play will be repeated every evening during the present week, and no man, woman or child in the city should fail to see it – especially since the proceeds are to be devoted to the placing of an appropriate bronze statue upon the top of our new Memorial Hall.

Wednesday, November 14, 1877 CITY ITEMS

We learn that the G. A. R. boys cleared about \$400 from the presentation of “The Drummer BOY” last week – while, with more propitious weather for the first four nights, the amount would probably have been doubled. The bronze statue which they propose to place upon the summit of the Memorial Hall will cost \$800, and the members of the Post are already in consultation as to the most desirable means of securing the necessary balance.

Wednesday, November 21, 1877 CITY ITEMS

Ladies Memorial Monument Association gave a sociable and oyster supper at the Fitch House Wednesday evening, Nov. 21st, 1877. All invited.

Wednesday, November 28, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., this afternoon for the first time follow to their last resting place the remains of a member of this Post. The members will meet at their hall at 1 o'clock p.m., sharp.

The funeral services of Dr. S.B. Hawley will take place at the New England Congregational Church at 2 o'clock p.m., this day. Rev. Hopkins will conduct the services, assisted by Revs. Hill, Galt and Paine. The Grand Army will have charge of the exercises after the service at the church.

The G. A. R. boys and their dramatic friends have in rehearsal another play, which will shortly be presented at Coulter's Opera House.

Saturday, December 1, 1877 CITY ITEMS

Among those present on Wednesday in attendance at the funeral of Dr. S.B. Hawley, we noticed Col. Greusel, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and Major S.B. Sherer, of Chicago.

Wednesday, December 5, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The Monument Association intend to complete Memorial Hall during the winter, and will shortly hold a meeting to ascertain the exact amount of funds yet needed for the work. The stained windows are very beautiful as viewed from the interior, representing a variety of military emblems designed especially for the structure.

Saturday, December 8, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The annual election of officers of Aurora Post, G. A. R., occurs on Friday evening of next week, Dec. 14th, when every member should try to be present.

Wednesday, December 12, 1877

G. A. R., ATTENTION !

The annual election of officers of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., Dept. of Illinois, will take place at their Hall, Friday evening December 14th, 1877. Every member is expected to be present.

H.B. Douglas, Adjutant.

CITY ITEMS

The G. A. R. boys have decided to give another dramatic entertainment at Coulter Opera House on Tuesday evening next, Dec. 18th. They will be assisted by the best local dramatic talent, and a rousing programme will be presented.

Wednesday, December 16, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The annual election of officers for the ensuing year in Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., was held last evening, with the following result: Commander, T.B. Coulter; Senior Vice Commander, T.R. Polglase; Junior Vice Commander, J.B. Chase; Quartermaster, A.P. Vaughn; Surgeon, M.M. Robbins; Officer of the Day, C. Zimmers; Officer of the Guard, Thos. Athow; Chaplain, S.D. Paine. H.B. Douglas was re-appointed as Adjutant. Delegates to the Department Encampment, to be held January 16th, 17th and 18th (probably in Aurora), H.B. Douglas, M.M. Robbins, L.C. Porter and Thos. Bexon; alternates C.D. Fisher, ---- Judd, M. Perrigo and John Walker.

Saturday, December 19, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The dramatic entertainment given last evening by the G. A. R. Club was a splendid success in every respect, except financially, and was greatly enjoyed by all present. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, however, the attendance was slim, and the receipts not sufficient to cover expenses, consequently the Club have consented to repeat the entertainment of Saturday evening. The cast in each play was excellent and every part was well sustained, while the orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. M.F. Stickle, received many compliments. Secure your seat for Saturday evening and let the house be filled, as the proceeds go to the "Statue fund."

Saturday, December 29, 1877 CITY ITEMS

The Grand Army boys propose to give a "camp fire" sociable about January 14th, and the gentlemen having the matter in charge – Dr. M.M. Robbins, C.B. Fisher and T.R. Polgase – would like to have members of the Post report by Monday evening next upon the condition of the commissariat.

In 1878 The Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment was held in Springfield, Illinois on June 4th. John C. Robinson was again elected Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois also held their Encampment in Springfield on January 17th and T.B. Coulter was elected Department Commander. His interests would be split between responsibilities at the local Post as well as the State level. The Memorial Building was dedicated on July 4th and fund raising continued to complete the landscaping of the grounds. Even as the Building neared its completion the Aurora Post was outgrowing its facilities in the Miller & Coulter Block. T.B. Coulter, the landlord prepared new accommodations in another location where the space was again adequate. Aurora Post No. 20 was formally incorporated in January. The 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment Survivors held their reunion in Monmouth on September 26th, but the affair was marred with tragedy

Saturday, January 5, 1878

CITY NEWS

The members of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., will hold their annual campfire on Thursday evening, Jan. 10th, at Coulter Opera House. The Committee of Arrangements consists of Dr. M.M. Robbins, C.B. Fisher and T.B. Polglase, and the occasion promises to be even more enjoyable than any camp-fire yet given by the G. A. R. boys.

Saturday, January 12, 1878

CITY NEWS

The annual; camp-fire of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., was held at the Opera House on Thursday, and of course proved a very pleasant affair. About sixty members of the Post were present with their wives and daughters, together with quite a number of outside friends. The programme consisted with an address of welcome by Commander Coulter; vocal music by Mrs. Paine and others; readings by Comrade L.C. Porter and Mrs. T.B. Coulter; an interesting reminiscence of army life by Comrade C. Zimmers; choice musical selections admirably rendered by the "Idle Hour Club," consisting of J.M. Conway, 1st violin; C.F. Beaupre, 2d; L. Treeman, cello; Thos. McMicken, flute; C.C. Hackney, basso; S.T. Wilcox, cornet, and Jake Plain, pianist – closing with a neat little speech by Chaplain Paine, one of his happiest efforts. Then followed refreshments, consisting simply of coffee, sandwiches and cake. In this connection we shall mention that in the Post a few weeks since there was a difference of opinion expressed as to the manner in which this social reunion should be conducted, Johnny Hubbard promptly stating that he "didn't want any camp-fire unless he could have baked beans." Accordingly, during Mr. Paine's remarks he summoned Comrade Hubbard to his side, and upon the appearance of that hungry individual, formally presented him with a can of genuine baked beans, and the mirth which followed can better be imagined than described. The evening passed pleasantly away in social converse, and at a later hour some of the younger people for a short time indulged in dancing.

Wednesday, January 16, 1878

CITY NEWS

Chaplain S.D. Paine and Comrade L.C. Porter went to Springfield last night to attend the G. A. R. State Encampment.

Saturday, January 19, 1878

CITY NEWS

At the twelfth annual State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on Wednesday last, in Springfield, there was an unusually large attendance, the delegates from Aurora Post being T.B. Coulter, Rev. S.D. Paine, S. Hitchcock, L.C. Porter, John Walker and W.H. Watson. Necessary business was speedily transacted, and the reunion of veterans was very pleasant and satisfactory throughout. The officers elect for the ensuing year are: T.B. Coulter, of Aurora, Department Commander; E.D. Swain, of Chicago, Senior V. C.; C.W. Pavey, of Mount Vernon, Junior V. C.; L.C. Mitchell, M. D., of Joliet, Medical Director; Rev. S.D. Paine, of Aurora, Chaplain.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., has just received a charter of incorporation under the State law. This Post has a membership of one hundred of the old veterans of the late war, and is one of the most successful organizations of the kind in the West.

Saturday, February 2, 1878

CITY NEWS

The frescoing of the Memorial Building is progressing finely under the brush of Mr. Isadore Leins, and when completed will present an elegant and tasteful appearance. Mr. Colwell has also nearly finished the book cases and interior carpenter work.

The G. A. R. Dramatic Club has made arrangements to put upon the Opera House Boards on the evenings of March 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th, the popular military drama entitled "The Dutch Recruit," the proceeds of which will be devoted to the Memorial Fund.
(1878C01-4)

Wednesday, February 6, 1878

CITY NEWS

The regular meeting of the Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., occurs on Friday evening next, when a full attendance of members is desired.

Saturday, February 9, 1878

SOLDIERS, ATTENTION.

The Memorial Building in this city is now ready to receive the marble Tablets, and it has been decided by the Board of Managers to place the following classes of names upon said tablets:

1st – The names of all soldiers who are buried in the Aurora cemeteries.

2nd – The names of all soldiers who enlisted from Aurora or its immediate vicinity, who were killed in battle or died in hospitals or in prison or on the march, also those who were reported as missing and have never been accounted for.

3rd – The names of all soldiers who enlisted from Aurora or its immediate vicinity, and who are *now living* in Aurora or vicinity.

4th – The names of all soldiers belonging to the Aurora Soldier's Monument Association.

5th – The names of all the members of the Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R.

6th – The names of all husbands or sons or brothers of any of the members of the Aurora Ladies Auxiliary Monument Association who were in the army and who are now living in Aurora or vicinity, or are covered by classes one and two as above.

The names only will be placed on the tablets and a record book will be kept in the building, containing each soldier's history as fully as it can be obtained.

Every soldier to whom the above applies, or *their friends*, will see that the following information is promptly furnished: Full name, when and where born, when enlisted, rank, company, regiment, any subsequent enlistments or transfers, promotions, when discharged, engagements participated in, wounds received, any special act of bravery, heroism, privation or merit; if captured, how, when and where, and where imprisoned, and any other information that they may wish placed in the record book.

The Board of Managers wish the photograph, where obtainable, of the soldier to accompany the name, and these will also be kept in the Memorial Building. Also the soldier's autograph (either written by himself before his death, or a copy of it made from one that his friends may have in their possession), written across the front side of the picture just below the bust.

Suitable blanks may be had of the undersigned to whom all communications must be addressed.

Respond promptly or you may be too late to have the names carved on the marble.

H.B. Douglas, Aurora, Ill.

(1878D04) (1878D06-10)

This notice appeared in the Beacon on a weekly basis through April 17th.

Wednesday, February 20, 1878

CITY NEWS

Messrs. Miller & Coulter have been allowed something over three hundred dollars of insurance for damage occasioned by the fire of Friday evening last. Expenditures rendered necessary upon the building in consequence will amount to at least \$500. In the G. A. R. rooms the carpets were removed from the floors and nothing was injured, while the studios of M. Woodruff and C.M. Brown were equally fortunate. Upon the first floor, a portion of the goods in the 9 cent store were damaged to the amount of \$200, but fully covered by insurance.

Wednesday, February 27, 1878 CITY NEWS

The rehearsal of "The Dutch Recruit," is progressing finely, and this thrilling military drama will be presented at Coulter Opera House on the evenings of March 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th, by Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., in aid of the fund for the purchase of the bronze statue to surmount the Memorial Building.

Saturday, March 2, 1878 CITY ITEMS

Mr. J.H. Long is artistically graining the interior of the Monumental Building.

Wednesday, March 6, 1878 CITY NEWS

The membership of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., has reached one hundred and six, and that organization is now agitating the question of more commodious quarters for their business sessions. A full attendance of members uncomfortably crowds the hall now occupied in Miller & Coulter's block and immediate steps must be taken to secure more room either there or elsewhere.

Wednesday, March 13, 1878 CITY NEWS

At Coulter Opera House this evening will be presented the "Dutch Recruit," a most thrilling allegory of the late war, under the auspices of Aurora Post, G. A. R. The cast is admirable, embracing the best of our home talent, and Mr. J.T. Vegiard, the author of the drama, a comedian of rare merit, appears in the leading role; the tableaux are superb, and the various military scenes will be rendered by the veteran soldiers of the Post; the play abounds in fun, and is replete with interest from beginning to end, forming one of the most thoroughly enjoyable

entertainments of the season. It will be repeated on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and should be witnessed by every one of our citizens, particularly since the proceeds are devoted to the completion of the Memorial Building. Admission, 35 cents; reserved seats, 50 cents – to be secured at Watson's. Doors open at 7 o'clock, to commence promptly at 8 o'clock.

Saturday, March 16, 1878

“THE DUTCH RECRUIT”

Again last evening Coulter Opera House was thronged with a highly delighted audience, and the rendition of this charming military drama was admirable throughout. Everything worked with a smoothness and precision very seldom witnessed in the dramatic efforts of amateur companies reflecting great credit upon every lady and gentleman concerned. True, quite a number who appear in the cast have frequently delighted us heretofore in amateur entertainments, but others trod the boards for the first time Wednesday evening last, and their remarkable success is a source of general satisfaction. Mr. J.T. Vegiard, the author of the drama, and who appears in the leading role, is heartily pleased with their proficiency, and assures us that we may well take pride in our home talent.

The play itself is by far the best of its kind that has ever been produced in Aurora, and is full of thrilling interests from beginning to end, the tableaux alone are worth the price of admission, while Mr. J.T. Vegiard is immensely funny in his character of “Dietrick Vonderspeck,” and keeps the audience in the greatest good humor throughout by his quaint drolleries. During the brief time spent among us he has won a warm place in the hearts of his comrades of Aurora Post, as well as of our citizens generally, and we shall hope to welcome him again to Aurora some time in the future.

The character of “Maude St Leon” was charmingly rendered by Mrs. E.F. Thayer, who for this purpose kindly deferred her departure for her home in Boston, at the earnest solicitation of the Post, and who has been greeted by hearty applause upon each appearance. Miss Florence Cooley, as “Mrs. St Leon,” did excellently well, notwithstanding the fact that this was the first time she had appeared upon the boards, and proves a valuable acquisition to our home dramatic talent. Miss Lizzie Huntington has a fine conception of the character of “Laura Duncan,” which she has played from night to night with a great acceptability, and her audiences have not failed to express their appreciation of her efforts. L.C. Porter appears as “Col. St. Leon,” doing the character full justice. Robert Burke is a young man of rare ability, and in his rendition of “Harry St. Leon” is assured that he has lost none of his well deserved popularity before the Aurora audience. Thos. Polglase is perfectly at home in the role of “Frank Duncan,” and never fails to receive a flattering reception in any character he attempts. Thos. Bexon, though without the experience of the two last named gentlemen, has a good appreciation of the character of “John Harker,” and plays the part well. John Zimmers brings down the house in the role of “Uncle Ned.” And is a host in himself. Dave Quackenbush as “Teddy O'Conner” is immense. John Walker, Chris Zimmers and J.H. Blackmore, are excellent in their several military characters, as also M.D. Yager in the role of “Chas. White.” Minor parts are well sustained by J.H. Hubbard, F.D. James, Ben. Chambers, M.C. Davis, A.B. Culver and others, and the music furnished by Stickle's orchestra is first class.

Aurora Post is entitled to the thanks of the community for so excellent an entertainment,

and for the satisfactory manner in which it has been managed throughout. The "Dutch Recruit" will be presented this evening for the last time, and every seat in the Opera House should be filled – more especially since the proceeds are devoted to the completion of our beautiful Memorial Hall, in which all have so deep an interest. Secure reserved seats early, at Watson's.

Wednesday, March 20, 1878 CITY NEWS

The gentleman who, one or two years since, during the play of the "Color Guard" or "Drummer Boy," borrowed the belts from a cavalry saber in the G. A. R. rooms or the dressing room of the Coulter Opera House, will confer a favor by returning the same to C.M. Ross, at the Beacon office.

Wednesday, March 30, 1878 CITY NEWS

The increasing membership of Aurora Post, G. A. R. renders it necessary to secure more commodious quarters, and Messrs. Miller & Coulter are consequently overhauling and remodeling their old hall in the third story of what is known as the Stenger Block, corner of Broadway and Main Street. The new hall will be 36x40 feet in size, and fitted up in handsome style.

Wednesday, April 3, 1878 CITY NEWS

State Commander T.B. Coulter, accompanied by comrades John B. Chase Thos. Bexon and Plum. Page, of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., visited Galesburg on Thursday last, on invitation of the Post in that city, to witness the opening of their new Grand Army Hall. The visitors were handsomely entertained by their brother veterans, and recall with great satisfaction the courteous attentions of mine host Brownell, of that popular Caravansary known as the Union Hotel.

Wednesday, April 17, 1878 CITY NEWS

Work is progressing rapidly upon the new hall of Post 20, G. A. R., but the premises were in such condition that the Post on Friday evening last held their regular meeting in Odd Fellows Hall, over E.W. Trask's jewelry store.

Wednesday, April 27, 1878 CITY NEWS

Post 20, G. A. R., met again last evening at Odd Fellows Hall. Their own hall will be fully completed before the next regular meeting.

Wednesday, May 8, 1878

CITY NEWS

Regular meeting of Post 20, G. A. R., Friday evening at Odd Fellows Hall – their own new hall not yet being completed.

The roof of the Memorial Building is being nicely painted and the statue ordered by the Grand Army boys will shortly be ready to place in position.

A Committee from Post No. 20, G. A. R., has been appointed to make all arrangements for the proper observance of Decoration Day, full particulars of which will be announced as soon as their plans are completed.

Wednesday, May 15, 1878

CITY NEWS

Another old landmark has been ruthlessly destroyed. In preparing for improvements upon the Memorial Hall grounds, someone yesterday caused the large willow tree at the end of the east bridge to be cut down, an act which is generally regretted. It was very appropriate, even ornamental, where it stood, and very many will miss its grateful shade.

Saturday, May 18, 1878

DECORATION DAY

Decoration Day will be observed in this city as usual, on Thursday, May 30th. The committee who was appointed by the G. A. R., to perfect arrangements has completed its work, and it is as follows:

The procession will form at 12:30 o'clock p.m. in front of the City Hall in the following order.

Chief Marshal Douglas,
Band,
Light Guard,
Assistant Marshal Wade,
Aurora Post G. A. R., No. 20,
Ex-soldiers and sailors,
Glee Club,
Chaplains,
Assistant Marshal Judd,
Orator of the Day,
Mayor and Common Council,
Members of the press,
Citizens in carriages,

Assistant Marshal Bennett.

The line of march will be west to River Street, north on River to Galena Street, west on Galena to Lake Street, north on Lake to the West Aurora Cemetery, where the exercises will consist of: Singing by the Glee Club, prayer by Rev. Mr. Galt and strewing of flowers on the graves of soldiers. During these exercises a detachment will be sent to the Catholic Cemetery, where similar services will be held, with Father Stack as chaplain. On returning they will join the main body and march to East Aurora Cemetery. The same exercise as above will take place here, Rev. Mr. Jackson offering the prayer. The procession will then reform and march to Spring Lake. The graves will be strewed with flowers, Rev Mr. Jutkins will offer up prayer, the Glee Club will sing and the Rev. Mr. Bronson will deliver the oration.

The ceremonies of the day will conclude with the memorial services of the Grand Army.

It is requested that all wishing to join in the procession be at the Court House at 12:30 p.m. sharp.

All friends of the soldiers either in city or country who have flowers and are willing to assist on this day by giving them, will oblige by sending them to the City Hall, or notify one of the committee where they may be found on the morning of the 30th.

A cordial invitation is extended to all Ex-soldiers, sailors and citizens to join with us in the exercises of the day. The officers of the day and committee are as follows:

Chief Marshal – H.B. Douglas

Assistant Marshals – H.A. Judd, A.F. Wade and L.G.Bennett of Yorkville.

Committee on Martial Music – Jno. B. Chase, Fred O. White, and George Taylor.

Committee on Carriages – J.H. Blackmore, J.S. Drake and C.B. Fisher.

Committee on Flowers – A.P. Hatch, Eb. Denney, A.D. Bunnell, and the wives and daughters of every member of the Post and other friends who would like to honor the brave dead.

Committee on Cemeteries

Spring Lake, M.W. Page and Sexton.

East Aurora, J.F. Harral and Sexton.

German Catholic, J.H. Hubbard and Sexton.

West Aurora, A.C. Graves and Sexton.

Catholic, M.J. Tarble and Sexton.

Saturday, May 25, 1878

CITY NEWS

L.G. Bennett, M.E. Cornell, R.W. Willett and J.R. Marshal, of Yorkville attended the meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. last evening; Also A.N. Merrill, of Batavia.

Wednesday, May 29, 1878

CITY NEWS

Rev. S.D. Paine, chaplain of the two military organizations, will deliver a memorial discourse on Sunday morning next, at the Galena Street M. E. church, upon which occasion Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., and the Aurora Light Guards will be present.

Saturday, June 1, 1878

DECORATION DAY

Notwithstanding the heavy rains of the two previous days, the weather on Thursday was all that could have been desired – delightfully cool and pleasant, with the dust effectually laid, and not sufficient mud remaining to interfere with the movements of the procession. At an early hour in the morning, large numbers of visitors commenced arriving from the country, and by noon the streets were thronged with people. Though most of the stores remained open, many other business establishments, The Silver Plate Factory, Post Office and public schools were closed in honor of the day, and the interest of our citizens in the pleasing service of strewing flowers over the graves of our soldier dead seemed unabated. Owing to the backwardness of the season, there was a scarcity of flowers, but the energy of the ladies effectually overcame the difficulty, and a much greater supply than could have been anticipated was secured.

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., who took part in the exercises, represented over fifty regiments hailing from twelve different States, all of which did valiant service during the war for the preservation of the Union as follows:

51st, 123^d, 81st, 28th, 60th, 54th, 116th New York Infantry; 1st New York Light Artillery; 2^d New York Mounted Rifles; 22^d, 10th, 57th, 2^d, 4th, 50th Massachusetts Infantry; 2^d Massachusetts Artillery; 11th New Hampshire Infantry; 11th, 128th and 143rd Pennsylvania Inf.; 2^d Maine Artillery; 2^d Connecticut Inf.; 14th and 30th Ohio Inf.; 29th, 80th and 14th Indiana Inf.; 3^d and 8th Vermont Inf.; 2^d and 21st Kentucky Inf.; 1st Louisiana Engineer Corps; U. S. General Hospital; Engineer Regt. of the West; 6th and 18th U. S. Inf.; U. S. Navy; 36th, 15th, 52^d, 124th, 89th, 7th, 17th, 156th, 72^d, 141st, 23^d, 127th, 58th and 13th Illinois Inf.; 4th and 36th Illinois Cavalry, and 2^d Illinois Artillery.

About 2 o'clock the veterans of the G. A. R., about eighty in number, under command of T.R. Polglase, acting lieutenant, were escorted to the Court House by forty men of the Aurora Light Guard, under command of Lieut. Fahnstock, headed by the Light Guard Band. Capt. T.B. Coulter was present, but being senior officer of both organizations, marched with the G. A. R. At the Court House the men were supplied with flowers, which had been arranged in suitable bouquets during the morning, and the procession took up the line of march in the following order: Chief Marshal, H.B. Douglas; Light Guard Band; Light Guard, Co. D, 3^d Reg't I. N. G.; Assistant Marshal, A.F. Wade; Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.; ex-soldiers and sailors; carriages containing the Glee Club and Chaplains; Assistant Marshal, A.T. Judd; carriages containing the Orator of the Day, Mayor and Common Council, and citizens. The procession was very lengthy, but thanks to careful management of the Marshals, assisted by City Marshal Gates, it moved through crowded streets without delay, and without the occurrence of a single accident.

Arriving at West Aurora Cemetery, "Victory" was sung by the Glee Club, led by Mr. E.C. Bowen, Rev. Thos. Galt engaged in prayer, and the band played a solemn dirge while the old soldiers sought out the graves of their sleeping comrades and reverently covered them over with flowers. In this cemetery are deposited the remains of the late Dr. S.B. Hawley, the only soldier buried by Post No. 20 during the past year. It will be remembered that in the fall of 1861

Dr. Hawley was commissioned as Assistant Surgeon of the 36th Illinois Infantry; a year afterward he became Surgeon of the 35th Ill. Inf., and was subsequently made a division Surgeon of the Army of the Cumberland. Taken prisoner, in company with his surgical staff, he languished in Libby Prison for several months, and upon his exchange enjoyed a very brief vacation at home – the only furlough he permitted himself while in the service of the country. His death occurred on the 26th of November last, and the deep sorrow of his comrades and citizens generally over his loss is yet fresh in the memory of all. His grave upon this occasion was decorated with a beautiful design 16 inches by 3 feet 6 inches in size, executed by J.F. Harral, consisting of a bed of moss, in the centre of which, wrought in white syringe blossoms, the words “Comrade Hawley,” – and as the soldiers approached the spot, each man lifted his hat in recognition of the sorrowing family of their comrade gathered at his grave.

At this point twelve men had been detailed to visit the Irish Catholic Cemetery, a mile to the north, but owing to some unforeseen event, Rev. Father Stack failed to put in an appearance, and no provision had been made to fill his place as chaplain. The remainder of the service was performed, however, the Glee Club rendering the “Chorus of Priests.”

On the way back, the procession halted upon invitation of the ladies of the Red Ribbon Club, who thoughtfully furnished the soldiers with a liberal supply of excellent lemonade.

At the East Aurora Cemetery the grounds were thronged with visitors, and the usual services occurred, prayer being offered by Rev. J.L. Jackson and the vocalists singing “Decoration Day,” and from here a detail was sent to the German Catholic Cemetery.

In passing down Lincoln Avenue, a supply of pure cold water was found conveniently placed in front of the residences of E.L. Brown and J.J. McLallen, furnished from the fountain in the first named gentleman’s lawn, and the soldiers halted to imbibe – the G. A. R. giving three cheers for Messrs. Brown and McLallen as they resumed their march.

Having left Lincoln Avenue by North Avenue, Spring Lake Cemetery was entered from Broadway – a slight change from the original programme, and the graves were decorated previous to other ceremonies. The soldiers finally halted near the Lincoln Avenue entrance, where the closing exercises were opened with the singing of “Warrior’s Rest.” Prayer was offered by Elder Jutkins, followed by “Praise of the Soldier,” by the Glee Club – after which came the impressive “memorial service” of the Grand Army of the Republic, during which the Adjutant of Post No. 20, H.B. Douglas read the “roll of honor,” the names of some ninety comrades quietly sleeping in the cemeteries of Aurora.

West Aurora Cemetery

Wm. S. Huff	J.M. Mostow
M.C. Huff	Wm. White
T. Race	W.W. Clegg
A. Race	Robert Linton
Wm. Shies	Joy Tarble
S.A. Crance	---- Young
J.E. Smith	J.J. Wilder
J.H. Dodge	W.W. Wilder
A.J. Babcock	G.W. Myers
C.W. Randal	Daniel Kipp
S.D. Towle	W.H. Anderson

----- Trask
R.Y. Anderson
J.B. Watkins
S.B. Hawley

D.C. White
M. Furguson
N.L. Curtis

Catholic Cemetery

P. Lowry
T. Fitzgerald
Jas. Wade
T.W. McKenna

James Manahan
A. Hanly
E. Cunningham
P. McGrath

German Catholic Cemetery

P. Shiltz

N. Didat

East Aurora Cemetery

George Gardner

N. Denniston

---- Coggswell
R. Flemming
Charles Otis
E.M. Emmerson
Levi Morgan
Unknown
Wm. Blakesley
A.P. Moffat
John Purdy
Geo. Hollenbeck
T.M. Craig
W.H. Berry
F. Vaughan, Revolutionary Veteran

A. Moseley
Chas. Titsworth
J.G. Goodwin
F. Goodwin
J.E. Merrill
Fred Hoff
W.B. Aiken
R.A. Drain
N.A. Fenton
G. Ross
J. Hoyt
Ira Warner

Spring Lake Cemetery

Silas Miller
E.A. Harkness
Robert Hazzard
H. Baker
W. Baker
Joseph Burley
Alfred Tucker
---- Schribner
H.A. Snell
A. Briggs
D.W. Young

I.B. Marlett
P. Odell
E. Dewey
J.D. Pierce
H.J. Gusline
Thomas Walworth
J.C. Hadlock
Geo. White
John Freelove
Wm. Ellis
E.L. Hunt

An immense concourse of people had gathered at Spring Lake, and though the hour was late all lingered to the oration to be delivered by Rev. E.H. Bronson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city. And well were they repaid, for, though brief, it was one of the most eloquent and entirely appropriate to which we have ever had the pleasure of listening upon such an occasion. The Reverend gentleman took for his theme the "Patriotic Language of Flowers," and his remarks were as follows:

The speech has been omitted. There was no specific reference to Aurora or her soldiers, but it can be viewed in the subject number of the Beacon.

At the conclusion of the memorial service, the Light Guards were escorted back to their armory with the usual courtesies.

The Light Guard Band, under the leadership of Mr. Frank Barry, rendered excellent music throughout the afternoon, and received many well merited compliments.

The committee inaugurated a marked improvement upon the occasion securing the services of an excellent Glee Club of male voices, in place of the usual quartette, which has always proved too light for the open air in the large assembly usually present. The triple quartette forming the Glee Club was composed of the following well known vocalists: First tenor – Frank Robinson, Prof. L.M. Hastings and H.L. Tubbs; second tenor – F.O. White, H.P. Stenger and Thos. Bexon; first bass – E.C. Bowen, Gus. A. Fauth and Chas. G. Pierce; second bass – F.D. James, W.L. Tidd and J.N. Woods. Their selections were most appropriate and the members of the club are entitled to much credit for the excellent manner in which each piece was rendered. On the route from one cemetery to the other they also sang many patriotic and other popular songs, to the great delight of hundreds of spectators lining the various streets.

Saturday, June 1, 1878

CITY NEWS

There will be a memorial service at the Galena Street M. E. Church next Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The Aurora Post of the G. A. R., and the Light Guards will be present in uniform. The appropriate sermon will be preached by the Chaplain, Rev. S.D. Paine. Members of the Apollo Club will furnish the music. The A. L. G. and G. A. R. will meet at their armories at 10 a.m. sharp.

Saturday, June 8, 1878

CITY NEWS

The members of Post No. 20, G. A. R., are requested to meet at their hall at ten o'clock sharp tomorrow morning (should the day be pleasant) to attend services at the Galena Street M. E. Church.

Wednesday, June 12, 1878

CITY NEWS

The bronze statue of the Memorial Building, contributed by Post No. 20, G. A. R., was received yesterday. It is about eight feet in height, weighs 600 pounds and cost \$700.

Some members of the G. A. R. went down to Montgomery on Sunday afternoon to attend the funeral of Charles Lillie, a member of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, who died on Friday last of consumption. Mr. Lillie was at the time in the employ of Mr. Fred Schaub of this city, quite well known here, and respected as a hard working and industrious man. The disease of which he died was contracted in the army and for a year past had confined him to his home. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. S.D. Paine, of the Galena Street M. E. Church.

The Memorial Society held a meeting yesterday afternoon, to arrange for the proposed dedication of the Memorial Building on the Fourth. Dr. Bartlett was made President of the Day and Henry B. Douglas Chief Marshal. At Memorial Hall an address will be made by Dr. A. Hard and Rev. Mr. Paine act as Chairman. At the park the oration of the day will be delivered by John C. Sherwin, and Rev. Miss Chapin will act as Chaplain. Invitations to participate in the exercises are extended to the Mayor and Council, Fire Department, Grand Army, Light Guard, and all civic societies of the city.
(1878D01)

Saturday, June 29, 1878

CITY NEWS

On Wednesday evening twenty-eight members of Aurora Post, No. 20, went to Batavia and organized a post of the G. A. R. The new Post, which had forty-three members, is numbered 48, but has not yet been named. It is expected the membership will be increased to seventy-five at least. After adjournment, the boys were invited to partake of a most tempting banquet, spread by the ladies of Batavia, who did all in their power to render the occasion thoroughly enjoyable. The following are the officers elect of the new organization; W.B. Spain, Com.; Jas. Miller, S. V.; C.A. Palmer, J. V.; Theo. Wood, Q. M.; C.A. Bucher, Surgeon; D.M. Maxon, Chaplain; S.A. Wolcott, Adjt.; Jas. M. Miller, O. D.; Gib. Young, O. G.; J.T. McMasters, S. M.; E.C. Davey, Q. M. S.

Wednesday, July 3, 1878

CITY NEWS

On the Fourth the Ladies Monument Association make their last appeal to a generous people, in aid of the cause of the soldier. It is now more than fifteen years since the Soldier's Aid Society was organized, of which this is an outgrowth, and they wish to finish the work on the Fourth by raising sufficient money to embellish the grounds about the Memorial Building in a befitting manner. The profits of the dinner in the basement of the Universalist Church will be devoted to this purpose, also those from the stand in the park. Patronize them this last time – above all things, however they will give you a delightful dinner – the worth of your money seasoned with the idea of patriotism.

Tickets, 35 cents each, to be had of canvassers or at the door. All uniformed societies, coming in a body, will be charged but 25 cents each. Ice cream and luncheon will also be served by the same ladies as last year on the corner of Main Street and Broadway, late Chicago Cheap Store.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., and their friends, will picnic at Steward's Park, Plano, on Thursday, July 11th. Music, dancing, croquet, boating, base ball and fun generally. Fall in, everybody, and see how old soldiers can enjoy themselves with their wives and babies when "off duty." Trains leave east depot at 9:30 a.m., and arrive at 5:15 p.m. Fare for round trip, 50 cts. for adults; children, 25 cts. Between ages of 10 to 15 years; under ten, free, if accompanied by parents. Tickets to be had at Watson's or of members of the Post.

Wednesday, July 3, 1878

FOURTH OF JULY !
GRAND CELEBRATION IN AURORA !
ORDER OF EXERCISES

President of the Day, Hon. F.L. Bartlett.

The procession will form on North Lake Street, the right resting on Cedar Street, at 10 a.m. sharp. Henry B. Douglas, Chief Marshal.

First Division – Capt. A.C. Graves, Assistant Marshal. Mounted police, Light Guard Band, Aurora Light Guards, Co. B, 6th Batallion, Chicago; Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Second Division – A.F. Wade, Assistant Marshal. Mayor and Common Council. Entire Fire Department of the city.

Third Division – Con. O’Neil, Assistant Marshal. Orators and Chaplains, Father Murphy T. A. & B. Association, Red Ribbon Club.

Fourth Division – A.T. Judd, Assistant Marshal, Other Civic Societies; Aurora Post No. 20, Grand Army of the Republic; Batavia Post No. 48, G. A. R.

Fifth Division – Chris. Zimmers, Assistant Marshal. Citizens in carriages.

The commanding officers are requested to have their organizations in the places assigned, and be ready to march at 10 a.m.

Line of march: South on Lake to Galena, east to River Street, south to Downer Place, east to Memorial Building.

Memorial Building

Order of exercises. Song by the Glee Club; Prayer by Rev. S.D. Paine. Presentation of deed of the city hall lot, by J.G. Stolp, Esq., to Hon. C.C. Earle, Mayor of the city of Aurora. Unveiling of the bronze statue, and firing of cannon. Dedicatory address by Dr. A. Hard, Vice President Soldier’s Monument Association.

Procession will reform, move east to Broadway, north to Main Street, and east to Lincoln Park.

Lincoln Park

Order of exercises. Music by Band; Song by Glee Club; Prayer by Rev. Miss A.J. Chapin; Song by the Glee Club; and oration by John C. Sherwin, Esq. – Public dinner in basement Universalist Church.

Saturday, July 6, 1878

THE FOURTH IN AURORA
Dedication of Soldiers Memorial Building
Address by Dr. Hard, Oration by J.C. Sherwin
Splendid Procession, Grand Fireman’s Tournament,
And the Largest Assembly Seen in this City for Many Years.

Business was entirely suspended on Thursday, and our people one and all gave themselves up to the celebration of the glorious Fourth. Grave fears were entertained during the

early hours of the morning that rain would interfere with the exercises, but this anxiety proved needless, for though clouds overhung the sky during the entire day, preventing the discomfort of a July sun, the weather was all that could have been desired. Strangers flocked into the city at an early hour, the streets soon becoming thronged with vehicles of every description and every incoming train added its quota to the mass of humanity.

The committee having the exercise in charge consisted of T. B. Coulter, F. O. White, H. B. Douglas, J. B. Chase, Thos. Bexon and A. P. Hatch. These gentlemen had perfected their arrangements with great care, and the admirable smoothness with which their plans were carried out to the end entitled them to the thanks of the community.

The procession formed on North Lake Street at ten o'clock under command of H. B. Douglas, Chief Marshal, moving south on Lake to Galena, east to River, south to Downer Place and east to Memorial Building, the following order:

First Division – Capt. A. C. Graves, Assistant Marshal, Mounted Police, Light Guard Band, Aurora Light Guards, under Capt. Coulter, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, under command of John Corbett and Henry Quinneven. This latter organization turned out over fifty men, clothed in their splendid green and silver regalia – their Kossuth hats having a green and gold band and heavy white plume – their fine appearance exciting general admiration.

Second Division – A. F. Wade, Assistant Marshal, Company B. 6th Battalion, of Chicago – a fine body of forty-five men under command of Capt. Wagner – the Mayor and Common Council to carriages, and the Aurora Fire Department, under Chief Engineer Reed and Assistant Egermann, the Department presented a fine appearance, every Company being full; the men nicely uniformed and their apparatus (drawn by teams) in excellent condition. They marched in the following order: C.B. & Q. steamer and company, and hose cart; Hook & Ladder Company and apparatus; No. 1 steamer Company and hose cart, the engine nicely decorated with flowers and evergreens.

Third Division – C. O'Niell, Assistant Marshal, Orators and Chaplains in carriages; Father Murphey Total Abstinence and Benevolent Association, about sixty men, clad in beautiful regalia of green and gold, their hats bearing heavy green plumes. They were under command of Mr. James H. Clancey, and received many compliments upon their fine appearance. They were followed by a deputation from the Aurora Red Ribbon Club, headed by President A. G. McDole.

Fourth Division – A. T. Judd, Assistant Marshal, Aurora Post No. 20, G.A.R. and Batavia Post, No. 48, G.A.R., headed by a martial band.

Fifth Division – Chris Zimmer, Assistant Marshal, a long line of citizens in carriages.

The island was densely packed while the streets leading thereto as well. The windows and adjacent house tops, were also thronged with people; but the greatest good order prevailed, and thanks to the watchfulness of the Marshals, not a single accident occurred. A temporary platform had been erected at the northwest corner of the Memorial Building, from which Honorable F. L. Bartlett, President of the day, called the assembly to order, and in a few brief remarks opened the exercises. He said the United States Government had spent \$2,000,000,000 and sacrificed 500,000 lives for the preservation of the Union; the money we could afford to spare, but not the lives, and it was right that we should raise monuments to the memory of the noble dead. It was right that Aurora should be the first to erect so grand a monumental building to perpetuate the names and deeds of her soldiers – and eminently right and proper that the soldiers of The Grand Army of the Republic should place upon its summit this splendid statue of one of their own number. His remarks were full of patriotic devotion, and concluded with the hope that we should all return to our homes more than ever determined to defend and sustain a

country where the people ruled.

The Apollo Club then sang “Star Spangled Banner,” and Rev. S. D. Paine engaged in prayer, after which Joseph G. Stolp Esq., through his daughter, Miss. Cleora Stolp, presented to Mayor Earle, for the city of Aurora, a deed of the land upon which the Memorial Building stands. In behalf of the city, Mayor Earle in appropriate words thanked the generous donor, and hoped that he would be spared to celebrate the Fourth of July with his fellow citizens upon this ground. The bronze statue was then unveiled, amid the booming of cannon, and at the call of the Mayor three rousing cheers were given for the Ladies’ Monument Association, and the band played Star Spangled Banner. The President of the day then introduced Colonel Greusel, as the first man who enlisted in Aurora, and he was greeted with three hearty cheers from his old comrades and friends. The Fire Department then gave three cheers for J. G. Stolp, Esq., when Dr. A. Hard, of this city, was introduced, and delivered the following address, which was listened to with close attention, and heartily applauded:

Ladies, Comrades and Fellow Citizens – It has become a well established custom in these United States to celebrate annually upon the Fourth of July the birth of American liberty. The child from the time it is able to lisp the names of its playmates, is taught to look forward to each returning anniversary with joyful expectations scarcely equaled by the coming of a circus or menagerie. The enthusiasm increases with returning years, until the man realizes that he celebrates the birth of a free nation, born at the cost of the bloodshed and toil of his honored forefathers during a war of seven long years, almost without a parallel in the history of the world, and actually without a parallel in the triumph of freedom over oppression. When the freemen of this nation fail to commemorate this day, when they cease to recount the deeds of noble daring, the sufferings and sacrifices of their fathers in the many battles and campaigns of the revolution and to rehearse the ever remarkable Declaration of Independence, then will begin the nation’s decline or transformation from freedom to despotism. But they will not cease to honor the day or the cause we celebrate. One hundred and two years have rolled their ample rounds since the immortal principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence were promulgated and the crowds of intelligent freemen, glowing with the fire of enthusiasm, which throng our streets and thoroughfares to-day, attest the fact that this city adds luster to the achievements of those we honor.

But we meet not only to celebrate this day and our victory over oppression; another occasion bids us come together, and it is fitting that we make the Fourth of July the day for this double celebration. Scarcely eighty-five years had passed from the date of the declaration of American independence, when internal strife stirred this nation from centre to circumference. As domestic strife is more intolerable than that among neighbors, so insurrection is more dangerous to the prosperity of a nation than war with foreign powers. The rebellion begun in 1861 tried every nerve and sinew of this nation. I need not remind you of the feelings which the first gun fired at Fort Sumter aroused in every loyal heart – neither, with what alacrity the ranks were filled at the call for volunteers for three months nor how, a little later, when the bloody battle of Bull Run had demonstrated that we had a foe to meet worthy of our steel, men flocked around the stars and stripes, glorious emblem of liberty! The 7th and 13th Regts. Ills. Vol. were filled largely from this and adjoining towns, then followed the 36th and 52d, and the 8th Ill. Cavalry Regt’s, all encamped in this country at one and the same time. What memories fill our minds as we recall with unerring mental vision the stirring and heartrending scenes in which many of you were actors. Those who did not shoulder the musket or draw the saber, parted with

fathers, husbands, brothers, sons or lovers dearer to them than life itself. Gladly would these have shared the fate of those they loved, could they have followed them to the field of honor. Then followed call after call for more volunteers and at every call and all the time, the quota assigned to northern Illinois was filled to repletion. All who risked their lives to defend their country well knew that many would be the trials and sufferings to which they would be exposed, and that a large percentage would lay down their lives on the field of battle, or lingering in camps, the hospitals or in rebel prisons, worn by disease or pain, and sufferings greater than humanity could endure, would yield up their lives for their country among strangers or enemies – while others a little more fortunate would return home to die among those they loved, and for whose sake they had given their lives. All this I say, was well understood before their departure for the field, yet forward they marched in the face of this gloomy picture – and this was if possible more than realized. The remnants of regiments that returned at the close of the war proclaim the truthfulness of the picture I have drawn. What family but mourns the loss of one of their number?

To commemorate the labors, the trials and the sacrifices of these noble men, to keep ever before the generations that will rise up and enjoy the freedom for which these patriots risked and lost their lives, an association was formed in Aurora for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument which should perpetuate the memory of our heroes. It was organized on the 28th day of June 1869. The ladies organized an auxiliary association, and by giving entertainments and holding festivals raised money and put it in the common treasury – the money was loaned and the interest swelled the sum total. Year after year this fund increased under the management of the founders and the credit of those entrusted with its care, be it said, not a farthing of principal or interest has ever been lost or squandered. In April, 1877, believing the association had sufficient funds to commence work upon the monument, and that at no time could it be erected for less money, it was resolved to lay the foundation and ask those who felt an interest in its completion to aid by their subscriptions. There arose the question, what kind of a monument shall be erected? For ages past, even before prehistoric times, it has been customary to perpetuate the success of armies by inscriptions on tablets or columns of stone, and on the most enduring substances known to the race. The hieroglyphics found in Egypt and in the excavations of cities buried for ages beneath the earth of whose existence nearly all knowledge had been lost, and of others the existence of which was not known until revealed by excavation or accident, are now being translated, and in many instances successfully to that what transpired among men in those distant ages is being made known, and the knowledge of mankind is being enriched by the rude records thus preserved. In later and more enlightened times the practice of erecting monuments to preserve the memories of persons and events has been continued. The Column Vendome in Paris, so ruthlessly despoiled by the Commune at the close of the Franco – Prussian war, is a striking example of such a structure. Our country perhaps has been less given to the erection of monuments than the older countries of Europe, Asia and Africa and yet it is not without such mementos. The Bunker Hill monument in Massachusetts and the Washington and Battle monuments in Baltimore are examples of such structures. The monuments answer the purpose for which they were erected – they keep in lively recollection and point to the times, the lives, the scenes, the battles, and the victories won by brave men.

I say the question arose, shall we erect a like structure, a gorgeous pile of marble pointing heavenward, on its summit place a statue and on its walls inscribe the names we would perpetuate? Neighboring cities have done so, and they are ornaments to their towns and a credit to the donors. Or shall we dare to change the order of our doing and erect an edifice which will

not only do honor to the fallen heroes, but be a place of resort for the living, the repository of learning, the abode of science, and keep on enduring tablets the names and the records of those whose memories we cherish? This was resolved upon. Accordingly, by the aid of friends at home and abroad, this Monumental Building was planned and one year ago today the corner stone was laid in your presence. I confess it is not without feelings of pride and satisfaction that we are able to say, that in one brief year this edifice, with all its appurtenances, has been completed. Its main audience room is fitted with proper cases for a library of 2,500 volumes, and its capacity can be doubled at any future time when needed. On the cases are busts of Generals Taylor, Grant, Sheridan and Mulligan, also those of Webster, Clay, Douglas and Shakespeare. The walls are frescoed in the highest style of modern art, and on the four sides are battle scenes of every arm of the services. The portraits of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, Generals Washington and Thomas and Admiral Farragut also adorn the walls. The basement is well arranged, and in it stands a furnace capable of warming the building in any weather, and the hall is lighted with gas, the central chandelier of which would be an ornament to any mansion.

The building stands on ground donated to the city of Aurora by the original proprietor of this island, our honored citizen, Joseph G. Stolp. Thus far the plan of its originators has been carried out. It was built by the united efforts of soldiers, citizens, and above all, the ladies – they looked upon the work and pronounced it good. A platform has been prepared upon the apex of the building for a statue – what should it be, and who should place it there? With one accord it was agreed that this monument was not erected to immortalize the memory of any one person: though officers were necessary to conduct the war, they did not save the Union: the private soldiers deserve the credit and the glory alike with the commanders, and a private soldier in statue should adorn the edifice. As the untied labors of soldiers, citizens and ladies had constructed the monument, what more fitting than that the soldiers should crown the edifice with a statue of one of their own number? The Aurora Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of soldiers, undertook to erect the statue, and I am proud to direct your attention to the result of their labors. There it stands, complete in all its appointments, well proportioned and enduring. May it stand there through sunshine and storm, calm and tempest, day and night, summer and winter, to remind not only the present but future generations what the living soldier actually endured to perpetuate the Union of States and the liberty of all, of whatsoever name or nationality, or station in life or religious belief: At the same time, may it prove a terror to evil doers reminding them of what citizens are transferred into to defend the rights and preserve the peace of society.

This Monumental Building will preserve within its walls, engraven on marble tablets the names of the men from this section of country, and those from other parts who have settled among us, who volunteered to defend the perpetuity of our Union and transmit it unimpaired to posterity. Though some of them are living today, and are permitted to join in this commemorative service; yet soon the last one will be enrolled among the dead, and to posterity will be left the responsibility of preserving this monument and these records. There will also be kept here a record book in which may be found a brief sketch of the part each soldier performed during the war. But this is not all. This edifice has been erected for the benefit of the living for all future time. It was designed and is finished for a public library, where for ages to come the old, the young, the rich and the poor may come and be enriched at the fountain of knowledge contained within its walls. As wisdom is better than riches, so this edifice containing the wisdom of all past ages, open and free to all to come and partake, we trust will be of greater value to the

present and future generations than all the gold and material wealth stored in the rocks of the everlasting mountains.

Having been successful in the completion of this enterprise, we feel profoundly thankful to the Almighty God for His fostering care over all our doings, and who has prospered us even to this very hour; and may those to whose care it may in future be committed never permit it to be used to revile His name nor to despise His authority.

The procession then reformed and proceeded, by way of Broadway and Main Streets, to Lincoln Park, where several thousand persons had already assembled. After music by the band, prayer was offered by Rev. Miss Chapin; "America" was sung by the Apollo Club, when John C. Sherwin, Esq., was introduced, and delivered an eloquent oration, which will be found on our fourth page.

THE MEMORIAL BUILDING

The structure is of the best limestone from the quarry of Karl & Berthold, the work of the class known as Rock-faced Ashlar, with cut stone trimmings, executed by Mr. L. H. Waterhouse, of this city under the careful personal supervision of the architect, Mr. Joseph Mulvey. The shape is octagonal, the largest diameter being forty-six feet. The basement is eight feet in the clear, with solid cement floor, ample room for storage of fuel, and for heating purposes contains a splendid New Pearl, self-feeding furnace of the Lawson patent, set up by F. B. Rice. In the principal story, the distance from floor to lowest point of ceiling is fifteen feet, and to the highest point twenty-eight. The highest point of the roof is thirty-six feet, and terminates in an octagon, above which is a base six feet in height, upon which stands the bronze statue presented by Aurora Post No. 20, G.A.R. This statue which is remarkably perfect in every particular, is eight feet in height, weighs six hundred pounds, cost \$700, and represents an infantry soldier on guard. The four corners of the building are furnished with gables, the ridges of which extends back and terminates near the centre base above mentioned – the ridge being furnished with iron cresting and finials.

The building is approached by a cut stone walk and massive steps, and entered through double doors of black walnut with maple panels, the inner door, however, containing a large French plate cut glass panel, bearing the United States coat of arms, above which is the inscription; "Memorial Building." The floor is of hard maple, oiled, and the remaining woodwork of light oak. The room is lighted by seven beautiful stained glass windows, each of which bears military or naval emblems – while for evening use a superb 12-light gas chandelier is suspended from the centre of the dome. Twelve large glass frame book cases are ranged around the walls, with capacity for 2,500 volumes, while this capacity can be doubled when necessity demands it – and above the book cases are life sized busts of Generals Taylor, Grant, Sheridan and Mulligan, together with Webster, Clay, Douglas and Shakespeare.

The furniture of the room is from Denny Bro's establishment, is remarkably appropriate, and very substantial and beautiful. It consists of two large reading tables and a desk for the records, constructed of ash, with black walnut trimmings, of new design, and finished in oil. The chairs are of heavy maple, with perforated black walnut seat.

Upon the desk reposes a large black book – manufactured in the Beacon bindery, and presented by Knickerbocker & Hodder – in which is to be recorded a brief sketch of each soldier's military experience. It is an eight quire medium book, linen paper, with handsomely

ruled border around each page, and marginal lines. It has a finally printed title page, and is bound in full genuine Russian leather and extra heavy back; panel sides, with large shield inlaid in centre of each cover, and at each corner a star is sunk and inlaid. The book is elegantly finished, with just enough gold to look neat.

The entire work of the building was executed by Mr. O. B. Colwell, of this city, in first-class in every respect and all that could have been desired.

THE FRESCOING

The painting and frescoing was executed by Samuel Hitchcock, the frescoing being from designs by Rev. Isadore Leins – the portraits and other pictures being painted by Mr. Leins. The frescoing is in the highest style of the art, and is very elaborate and beautiful. Our hurried description will give but a faint idea of its attractiveness – the interior of the building must be seen to be appreciated.

In the north alcove, over the entrance, appears a portrait of Washington, surrounded by half furled national flags resting upon a central shield. In the foreground is the American eagle, with quiver and arrow in his talons, standing upon a pile of muskets and cannon of the revolutionary period; in the distance, upon either hand, banners bearing the inscriptions, “First in War,” “First in Peace” – shipping upon the right side denotes Commerce, while upon the left Agriculture is represented by heads of grain and the various fruits of the country. In a panel upon the right side of the alcove is a life size painting of “America,” clothed in a mantle which gracefully falls from the right shoulder, and standing upon a globe, emblematic of Rising Empire. One hand holding a wreath of laurel rests upon a shield, while the other rests upon a hilt of a sheathed sword, and upon the base the motto, “*E Pluribus Unum.*” In the opposite panel a figure representing “Peace” is clad in a flowing robe of bright colors, holding in one hand the “olive branch,” and in the other a emblem representing commerce – surrounded with a profusion of the products of the country.

The south alcove, opposite the entrance, is devoted to the portrait of President Lincoln, set amid high-furled national flags. On either side pyramids of books represent the Constitution of the United States and the Laws of Nations; from that upon the right depending a scroll bearing the inscription, “Proclamation of Emancipation” with the broken shackles and whip beneath – and from that upon the left a scroll with the immortal sentence uttered by the martyred President, “With charity for all and malice toward none,” the pen and inkstand appearing below. Beneath appear a pair of clasped hands, with the inscription, “The Union forever.” In the arch above this alcove are two panels, in one of which are suspended the scales of justice, and in the other the pen and sword are crossed.

The west alcove contains a portrait of General Thomas, with U. S. flags similar to the others, and beneath a couple of muskets crossed denote the Army. In the panel to the right is a stack of muskets, from the bayonets of which hang a cartridge box, belt and canteen, and upon the ground repose a drum, knapsack and roll of blankets. The other panel is relieved with a cannon and rammer, cavalry guidon and saber.

A portrait of Admiral Farragut occupies the east alcove in similar settings of flags with naval sword and telescope crossed. In the left panel appears a vessel’s mast, union jack and sail unfurled – also a mortar and shells. The right panel contains a mast with a streaming pennant, sail lowered, anchor and capstan.

Under the sides of the roof, in the arches rising from the main walls, are painted thrilling battle scenes, representing engagements by the four respective branches of the service, and in different parts of the country. On the north side is a cavalry engagement in the southwest, in which a trooper in his encounter with a rebel color-bearer has captured the flag and is bearing it aloft in triumph as his saber is passed through the breast of the enemy. Shell is bursting beneath the chargers, and upon the blue field of the rebel colors is seen the "Lone Star of Texas." On the south the scene is that of an artillery engagement at Lookout Mountain. On the west is portrayed the naval battle between the U. S. gunboat "Monitor" and the rebel ram "Merrimac" in Hampton Roads. The scene on the east side represents an infantry engagement at the battle of Gettysburg. In the distance the troops are hotly engaged, while in the foreground the infantry reserves are hastening forward in solid columns. On the sides of the arches over the alcoves are twelve field corps flags, with their respective badges, from which the soldier will readily distinguish his own.

THE TABLETS

Eight in number, of beautiful Italian marble, were designed and carved by Messrs. Stickle & Fritz, of Aurora Marble Works, and reflect much credit upon those well known artists, The lettering and carving upon each being gilded with gold. Four of these tablets are set into the wall upon either side of the entrance – the two larger ones, which are each three feet four inches by eight feet in size, each contain one hundred and twenty-nine names of soldiers who volunteered from this section or have since taken up their residence among us. The names run in alphabetical order, and upon each slab are arranged in three columns. Above the names upon one of these tablets, appear a couple of crossed swords, entwined by a wreath of laurel – upon the other is a U. S. helmet, surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel.

The two small tablets are respectively two feet three inches by seven feet three inches in size. Upon one of these, an open scroll is surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel and below, the inscription "To the Unknown Dead" – the body of the stone being left blank. The remaining slab is yet entirely blank, but the design intended for the upper portion represents a single flower, the poppy, indicating sleep, with butterflies upon the wing, emblematic of the Resurrection.

Upon the south side of the room another tablet, two feet seven by six feet six, contains eighty-four names similarly carved and gilded – a total of three hundred and forty-two. Above this slab are three smaller tablets, the central, two feet six by three feet four inches in size, lettered as follows: "Memorial building, created by Soldiers' Monument Association of Aurora, Illinois, A. D. 1877-78." The others are each one foot six by two feet eight inches in size, and respectively contain the following inscriptions: "Ladies Monumental Association of Aurora, Ill., contributed \$1,959.06 toward the erection of the building." "Bronze statue furnished by Aurora Post No. 20, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic."

The elegant carving upon the tablets was handsomely gilded by Mr. H. M. Ellsworth of the C. B. & Q. paint department.

Messrs. Stickle & Fritz also thoughtfully placed in the centre of the room for this occasion their magnificent marble statue of the Recording Angel, with pen in hand, apparently in the act of inscribing upon the pages of an open volume the names of our fallen heroes. It is an exquisite work of art, proved a most appropriate centre piece, and should permanently adorn this beautiful edifice.

THE NEW G.A.R. HALL

The furnishings of which had just been completed, was virtually thrown open for the first time, and of course was recognized as headquarters during the day for the members of Batavia post and other soldiers in attendance. In this connection, a few words in reference to our local organization will not be out of place.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G.A.R., was organized in June, 1976, with a charter membership of twenty-three. It has steadily grown in size and importance, however, until now its muster roll contains the names of over one hundred and twenty veterans who "rallied round the flag" in the hour of danger, and bared their breasts to the storm. These men occupy every calling in civil life, many of our most prominent and influential citizens being found among their number, and they represent some eighty regiments and other military organizations, hailing from nearly every northern State, while every man of them took part in the most sanguinary engagements of the late war. The organization is purely of a social and benevolent character – to preserve the memories of camp and bivouac and battle field, to care for sick and afflicted comrades, to shield and protect the widows and orphans of those who have fallen, and if need be to rally once again for the preservation of the Union they have helped to save. To these objects they confine themselves exclusively, under no circumstances permitting politics or religion to interfere with their social and business intercourse – consequently, their Post is at all times a model of harmony and good feelings, and as an organization, is honored with the respect and esteem of the community.

Increasing numbers who have rendered their former quarters in the Miller & Coulter Block far too small for their accommodation, those gentlemen at once kindly set about remodeling the upper portion of that structure, and converting the west end into just such a hall as the soldiers desired; and this they did at heavy attention to details which entitles them to the hearty thanks of the Post. To the Trustees of the organization, Comrades T. B. Coulter, T. R. Polglase and John B. Chase, was then confided the onerous task of furnishing the new hall and that result convinces us that selection was most judicious.

The new hall is by far the neatest and handsomest in the city, and was greatly admired yesterday by all who visited it. It is thirty-two by forty feet in size, with ceilings sixteen feet in height, the wood work finished in oak, the walls covered with beautifully tinted fresco paper, and a handsome fresco center piece in the ceiling – while four large windows on the north and five on the west afford ample light. The floor is covered with a heavy ingrain carpet of new and handsome pattern and the entire furniture of the room is of original unique design.

The Commander's station at the head of the hall, raised upon a platform six inches in height, represents a section of a fort with three cannon protruding from the embrasure being painted to resemble masonry. To his right the Adjutant has his quarters, with the simple field accommodations of actual service – his desk being only a pine board projective at right angles from and supported by a rude telegraph pole representing signal station. Above the wires, the pole is surmounted by a perch, upon which rests a carrier pigeon after its flight. At the left of the Commander, the accommodations of the Quartermaster again recall actual campaign life, his table hastily improvised upon a pile of army stores. Three barrels, lettered respectively U.S. sugar, vinegar and molasses, for the centre of a pyramid of boxes supposed to contain U.S. bacon, tea, coffee and ammunitions, surmounted by the inevitable box of U.S. hard tack marked

“B.C. 19.”

The senior Vice Commander’s station, at the foot of the hall, is supported by a couple of brass field pieces, with a conical pile of cannon balls in the centre.

The station of the Chaplain, supported by a cross, with human skulls piled beneath, a branch of laurel and a furled flag crossed in the centre.

The alter is composed of a large brass drum, which surrounds the centre column resting upon four mortars and four large shells.

The centre column is entwined with the American flag, and supports a solid brass chandelier of very beautiful design, and something entirely new – and with which the side gas brackets correspond in style and finish.

The hall is furnished with large and comfortable 9-spindle arm chairs, the handsomest and most substantial in the city. The walls are decorated with a limited number of appropriate pictures, among which we have noticed a group consisting of Mrs. Thayre, Miss. Lizzie Huntington, Miss. Florence Cooley and Mr. Robert Burke, the young people who so kindly aided the Post in the recent presentation of the Dutch Recruit. The photograph was taken by Mr. Arcouet, handsomely framed and presented by him. Above the pictures, crossed at regular intervals, also appear flags bearing the various corps’ badges, twenty-four in all.

The two ante-rooms, fourteen by eighteen feet in size, are also nicely carpeted and well furnished.

THE LADIES MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

Spread a splendid dinner in the basement of The Universalist Church, and were generously patronized. The Military companies, the Fire Department and hundreds of others dined with them, but we have been unable to learn the amount of their receipts.

FIREMEN’S TOURNAMENT

Hundreds of people gathered upon the island in the afternoon to witness the contest between steam fire engines.....

THE MILITARY

During the afternoon “Our Ten” from the Aurora Light Guards, under the command of Capt. A.L. Hurd, gave a very nice exhibition drill in front of the City Hall, doing themselves much credit and being heartily applauded.

Company B, 6th Battalion, of Chicago, followed delighting a large crowd of spectators by the splendid precision of their evolutions. In addition to their military proficiency, the members of this company proved themselves cultivated gentlemen, and during their brief stay among us made many warm friends who will hope to see them again in Aurora upon some future occasion. In the evening twenty-four of their number marched to the front of the City Hall by Capt. Wagner, and gave a fancy exhibition drill which was remarkably fine and elicited hearty applause.

(1878D02,D05,D11,D15)

The oration by John C. Sherwin has been omitted. Its text dealt with a history of war and did not make any specific references to the community of Aurora or the soldiers she offered up. Its text can be found on

page four of the above *Beacon* issue.

Saturday, July 6, 1878

CITY NEWS

Fred O. White is confident that 6,000 persons visited the Memorial Building on Thursday afternoon.

Memorial Hall will be open this evening from 7 to 9:30 o'clock for the accommodation of our citizens who desire to view it by gaslight.

Remember that the G. A. R. picnic at Steward's Park, Plano occurs on Thursday next.

Wednesday, July 10, 1878

CITY NEWS

All persons intending to go to Plano tomorrow with the G. A. R., will confer a favor by purchasing their tickets this morning, that the Committee of Management may be able to judge how many coaches will be required.

Saturday, July 13, 1878

CITY NEWS

Put. Howard furnished good music on Thursday at the G. A. R. picnic, and despite the heat many persons spent most of the day in dancing.

The G. A. R. boys cleared \$35 or \$40 from their Plano picnic last Thursday.

Saturday, July 20, 1878

CITY NEWS

D.C. Pratt has just taken a splendid photograph view of the Memorial Building, copies of which may be obtained at his gallery.

Saturday, August 10, 1878

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post G. A. R., will picnic at Comrade H.B. Douglas' place on Tuesday next, Aug. 13th, in the afternoon and evening. Conveyances will leave the store of Chase & Budlong at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., to convey all comrades and their wives. Comrades wishing to attend will leave word with Comrade Chase, on or before Monday evening.

Wednesday, August 14, 1878

CITY NEWS

Quite a large number of Grand Army boys, with their wives and families, picnicked at Comrade Douglas' farm, just south of the city, yesterday afternoon and last evening, and of course had a rousing good time.

Saturday, August 18, 1878

CITY NEWS

Work has been resumed upon the improvement of the Memorial Hall grounds, and we understand will be continued without cessation until completed. To properly complete the grading, it was found necessary to raise the stone curbing of the basement windows and stairways upon the east side of the Court House some sixteen inches, and that work is now in progress.

The Memorial Building will be open for visitors Saturday evening. Persons who have not visited the interior of the building should improve these weekly opportunities to inspect this little gem of a library room. As in the near future our people may be called upon to invest some taxes in a library to be placed in that room, the tax payers should become familiar with the idea, so as to have an intelligent opinion when called upon to express it.

The soldier's reunion at Amboy, Ill., on Wednesday and Thursday, September 11 and 12, will probably be the largest encampment of veterans that has assembled together in the Northwest since the close of the war. It is expected that camp accommodations for 1,500 men will be provided. President Hayes, Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Shields, Lippincott, Colonel Coates, Gov. Cullom, ex-Gov. Palmer and others have been specially invited. General Logan will also be present and will address the boys.

Wednesday, August 21, 1878

CITY NEWS

The annual re-union of the Thirty-sixth Regiment will this year be held at Monmouth on September 26th.

It is quite probable that a considerable number of the G. A. R. boys, from this city, will attend the grand military re-union at Amboy on the 11th and 12th of September. The old veterans will go into camp and anticipate a rousing good time, and among the exercises will be a grand sham battle, during which a fort mounting six and twelve pound guns will be stormed, and infantry and artillery engaged. The oration is to be delivered by Gen. Logan, and other prominent officers will be present. Ample arrangements will be made for the accommodation of visitors, and it is proposed that Aurora Post will run an excursion train upon the occasion that all friends who desire may accompany them. They will decide upon that matter on Friday evening, after which all particulars will be given.

Wednesday, August 28, 1878

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys will run an excursion train to Amboy on Sept. 12th, to the grand military re-union, full particulars of which will probably be announced on Saturday.

Saturday, September 7, 1878

CITY NEWS

A special meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will be held this evening at their hall, to make arrangements for attending the great military re-union at Amboy on Wednesday and Thursday next. A full attendance of members is requested. By order of T.B. Coulter, Commander.

The inimitable Charley Collins, Dutch comedian, will be here some time this fall to introduce a new play under the auspices of Post No. 20, G. A. R. The dates have not yet been fixed.

The regular meeting of Aurora Lodge No. 124, A. O. U. W., occurs at G. A. R. Hall on Monday evening, when a full attendance of members is desirable.

Saturday, September 7, 1878

REUNION OF THE 124th ILLINOIS

Hennepin, Ill., Sept. 2nd, 1878

The annual re-union of the 124th Reg. Ill. Vol. Infantry, will be held at the Tremont House, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 10th, 1878.

The committee have so arranged that members of the regiment, their families and friends, can be accommodated at greatly reduced rates. Business of importance connected with the publication of our regimental history will be brought before the meeting, and it is hoped we may have a full attendance. Take advantage of excursion rates to the Exposition, low rates at Tremont House, and let us reunite.

P.B. Durley, Sec.

Wednesday, September 11, 1878

CITY NEWS

The excursion train for the grand military re-union at Amboy, leaves this city at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning – fare for the round trip only \$2. A large number of the veterans of the late war take part in a sham battle to-morrow afternoon, each arm of the service, infantry, cavalry and artillery, being engaged.

The twelfth annual re-union of the 36th Regiment occurs at Monmouth, September 26th. Quite a number of the old veterans from this city and vicinity will be present.

Saturday, September 28, 1878

TWELFTH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 36th
REGT. AT MONMOUTH, SEPT. 26, '78

The members of this gallant old regiment to the number of seventy of the surviving comrades met at Monmouth on Thursday and had a grand good time.

Maj. W.G. Bond acted as Marshal and President, and was ably assisted in his efforts by Col. J.M. Turnbull and other citizens. Among the more noted guests were Gen. John A. Logan, who delivered two rousing addresses in the afternoon and evening to a hall crowded to its utmost capacity; Col. N. Greusel; Col. S.B. Sherer; Col. J.M. Turnbull, and Maj. Biddulph were in attendance. We also noticed among the boys W.H. Chamberlain, who came all the way from New York to attend the reunion; Comrade Shedd, from Kansas, and E.E. Lloyd, Sergt. of Police from Chicago. From Aurora, we noticed Sam. Hitchcock, Chas. G. Ayers and wife, Chris. Zimmers and wife, G.L. Dorr, and others. From Yorkville, Maj. J.G. Bennett, M.E. Cornell, Mr. Hobbs and others.

The regimental meeting was held as soon as the train from the West arrived. Badges were given out, and then a adjournment was made to the Park, where a splendid address of welcome was delivered by the Rev. Harry Taylor, and responded to in behalf of the Regiment by J.L. Dryden, Esq., in a most happy manner. Two songs were sung by the Monmouth Glee Club, assisted by H. Boutwell, Esq., and Jno. Rickey.

The dinner was served in a hall, and was such a dinner as would be a credit to the ladies of any town, and gladden the heart of even a well fed soldier.

After dinner the regimental meeting was again called to order. The Treasurer of the Olson Monument fund reported the sum of \$252.19 on hand. An appeal was made to help lift the burden of unsold histories from the shoulders of Comrade Bennett, and about twenty of them were sold.

The following resolutions of respect were reported by a committee appointed, and adopted by the comrades present:

Whereas "The Long Roll" has sounded from the silent shore calling our beloved comrades, Sidney B. Hawley and Peter Little, to a higher and better service; and

Whereas Day by day our ranks are becoming thinner, while over there the lines come wonderfully near to us as they lengthen, so near that we can almost see the faces that have gone before; and

Whereas we have learned to honor the names of the departed for their many virtues; therefore
Resolved – That we bow before Him who "giveth and taketh away," and while we acknowledge His goodness to us, we sincerely mourn the loss of our departed comrades Hawley and Little.

Resolved – That we tender to the families of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy, and in the name of the dead we ask for them the kind consideration of the living.

Resolved – That the Regimental colors be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the families of the deceased, and that they be published in the

papers of Warren, Kendall and Kane Counties.

Lieut. Wm. Hall was elected President of the regiment for the ensuing year, M.E. Cornell Treasurer, and F.O. White Secretary.

A terrible accident during the day has made Emmitt Green a cripple for life. Mr. Green is a member of Kirk's Battery from Kirkwood, which was present at the reunion. While forcing a cartridge into the cannon, it was prematurely discharged. The ramrod was shattered into a thousand fragments, and his hands were so mutilated that one arm was amputated half way to the elbow, and the other hand had but one finger and a thumb left, and they may yet have to come off. Collections were taken up, and over one hundred dollars raised for the benefit of the poor sufferer.

During Logan's meeting in the evening a cry of fire was raised, and the audience of twelve hundred started for the doors. The fire was some little distance from the Opera House, but a panic had seized the people, and although the cooler hands shouted "sit down!" "there is no danger!" "sit down!" they continued to rush towards the stairway, which was crowded with men, women, children and mothers with babes in their arms. At length someone shouted "sing a song!" and Boutwell and Rickey stepped to the front of the stage and sang "Unfurl The Glorious Banner." In a moment the noise was hushed, the struggle at the doors ceased, and those standing in the hall became seated, and those who had gone out returned. In five minutes the song was finished, and the General went on with his speech. If we ever have a panic in our Opera House, don't forget to call for music. Its effect is wonderful.

(1878D12-13) (1878D14)

Saturday, October 19, 1878

CITY NEWS

The members of Post 20, G. A. R., and their wives, held one of their pleasant sociables last evening, at their hall.

Wednesday, October 23, 1878

CITY NEWS

Charley Collins, the popular Dutch comedian, will be here on Wednesday next, to witness the rehearsal of his new military drama, "North and South," by the G. A. R. dramatic club. The play will be presented at the Opera House Nov. 12-16th, under the auspices of Aurora Post, with Mr. Collins in the leading role.

Saturday, November 12, 1878

CITY NEWS

Mr. J.G. Steele, author of "North and South," the military drama shortly to be presented by the G. A. R. boys, with Charlie Collins in the leading role, reached Aurora on Thursday, and is highly pleased with the cast made. He stopped here to be present at one or two rehearsals, and says all are well up in their parts, and have an excellent conception of their respective roles. Next week Steele and Collins play in Rockford, and the week following in this city.

Wednesday, November 16, 1878 CITY NEWS

Merrill's Light Guard Band Orchestra will furnish the music for the G. A. R. entertainment next week – the military drama of "North and South," in which Charley Collins and J.G. Steele appear.

All old soldiers who are to take part in the rendition of the drama of "North and South" next week, are requested to meet Chris. Zimmers this evening at half past seven o'clock at the Light Guard Armory, for drill.

Next week comes the G. A. R. entertainment, commencing Tuesday evening and closing on Saturday evening, the 16th inst. The military drama of "North and South" is superior to anything of the kind yet presented here; Charley Collins and J.G. Steele appear in the leading roles, and will be supported by a powerful cast. Admission 35 cents; reserved seats 50 cents.

Saturday, November 23, 1878 CITY NEWS

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., cleared \$350 from the dramatic entertainments given by them last week at Coulter Opera House, and there are still a few tickets to be accounted for.

Wednesday, November 27, 1878 CITY NEWS

The members of Post 20, G. A. R., and their friends will indulge in a Thanksgiving sociable to-morrow (Thursday) evening at Grand Army Hall, and of course have a good time.

Resolutions adopted by Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., Friday evening, November 22nd, 1878:

Resolved – That the thanks of the Post are due and are hereby rendered to the Misses Lizzie Huntington and Louise Hawthorne, and to Messrs. Robert Burke, T.J. Parker, Oscar Bates, and John Zimmers, for the valuable assistance which they rendered to the performance of the play entitled "North and South." Also our thanks are due, and we tender them to those of the Apollo Club who so kindly gave their services for the occasion, and we wish the Club success in their efforts to improve the quality of vocal music in Aurora.

Saturday, November 30, 1878 CITY NEWS

Fred White has had as much to do with the erection of the Memorial Hall in this city as anyone, and he naturally takes pride in being able to pen such notices as the following, which appears in one of his late letters to the *Rochelle Register*:

Col. L.B. Drury, of the *Northwestern Lumberman* writes thusly to Col. Vosburg, of this city: "Please send me a description of the origin, construction and architectural plan of your most

admirable Memorial Hall – the Walhalla and Westminster Abbey of the city of the dawn – the grandest little building in the world.”

Col. Greusel of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, arrived Wednesday afternoon, to spend Thanksgiving with his daughter, Mrs. John White.

The annual election of officers of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., occurs on Friday evening, Dec. 13th, when every member should endeavor to be present. Delegates to the State Encampment will also be chosen at the same time.

Saturday, December 14, 1878 CITY NEWS

A special meeting of the Aurora Post, G. A. R., was held Wednesday evening, for the purpose of initiating into the Order Mr. W.F. Grove, of Little Rock, Arkansas. He was then given a transfer card, and authorized by Department Commander Coulter, to organize a Post of the G. A. R., at Little Rock, which will report to this department. Commander Coulter was to have gone down there during the summer to organize this Post, but was deterred by the presence of yellow fever, and has since been prevented by sickness. Mr. Grove departed on Thursday for his home. The Department of Illinois has also a Post in successful operation at Nashville, Tenn.

At a regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., held last evening the following comrades were elected as officers for the ensuing year: Commander, H.B. Douglas (by acclamation); Senior Vice Com., T.R. Polglase; Junior Vice Com., A.T. Judd; Quartermaster, A.P. Vaughn (by acclamation); Surgeon, M.M. Robbins; Chaplain, L.G. Bennett; Officer of the Day, John Walker; Officer of the Guard, Thos. Athow. The following were also elected as delegates to the State Encampment: J.B. Chase, Jep. Vosburg, T.R. Polglase, L.G. Bennett and M.D. Yager. Alternates – A.C. Ferre, J.M. Conway, P.B. Page, M.M. Robbins and J.H. Smith.

Though T.B. Coulter was reported as Commander for four consecutive terms the election of H. (A) B. Douglas to Commander for 1879 raises some questions.

