

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

TAKEN FROM

THE AURORA BEACON NEWS

1879 - 1886

PART TWO

Compiled and Transcribed by
Paul Trautt

In 1879 The Grand Army of the Republic held its National Encampment at Albany, New York on June 17th. William Earnshaw, of Ohio was elected Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois held its Encampment in Galesburg, Illinois on January 12th. Edgar Swain, of Chicago became the Department Commander. The Aurora Post elected Commander Henry B. Douglas and continued to occupy the old Headquarters at Main and Broadway. The 36th held their 13th re-union at Sandwich, Illinois. William H.

Hall was elected President. In August, Aurora would host the Second Annual Soldiers of the Northwest Reunion. Twenty-five thousand comrades, veterans and visitors converged on the town where prominent politicians and war heroes viewed the "sham battle" and thumped their chests with patriotic ardor.

Wednesday, January 1, 1879

CITY NEWS

At the last general re-union of the Grand Army of the Republic for Northern Illinois, (or for the north-west) held at Amboy, Major L.C. Porter, of this city, was made President, and W.H. Watson, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of Col. Kilgore, of Sterling; Haskell, of Amboy; Bowen, of Mendota; Beardsley, of Rock Island; Swain, of Chicago; and Lieut. Rich, of Galesburg. This Committee has been called to meet at Galesburg, on Tuesday, January 28th, at 7 o'clock p.m., to make arrangements as to the time and place at which the general re-union of 1879 will take place.

Wednesday, January 15, 1879

CITY NEWS

The officers elect of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., were duly installed on Friday last.

(1879-COULTER, DOUGLAS, FREEMAN, DENNEY)

Saturday, January 18, 1879

The funeral of Thomas Bexon occurred Thursday afternoon, and was largely attended by sympathizing citizens, and the city flag displayed at half-mast from the top of the court house. Every company of the fire department, including the car shop company, turned out with full ranks, wearing their uniform, caps, belts and badges; the Sons of Albion were also in full force, and some seventy members present from Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., with martial music -- while the Aurora Cornet Band lead the sad procession, and the rear was brought up by thirty or forty carriages. On moving from the house to the church, the engine house of Excelsior Co. No. 2, on Anderson Street, of which Mr. Bexon was Engineer, was passed. The front of the building which was tastefully draped in mourning, and above the entrance appeared the words, "Gone, but not forgotten" -- the engine, standing in the doorway, was also heavily draped, while in front stood two members of the company, uncovered, and each man in the procession also uncovered in passing the house.

The Episcopal service was conducted at Trinity Church in a most impressive manner by the Rector, Rev. W.H. Moore, but no sermon preached. The centre of the edifice was reserved for those accompanying the remains, but the building was thronged to its utmost capacity, while several hundred persons made no attempt to enter. At the conclusion of the services, the procession slowly wended its way to Spring Lake Cemetery, where the Episcopal burial service

was read, appropriate music was sung by the choir, and the usual services of the G. A. R. followed, Department Commander T.B. Coulter officiating as chaplain.

The city officials, members of the various organizations to which he belonged, and citizens generally, manifest sincere sorrow over the untimely fate of Mr. Bexon, and sympathy for the bereaved widow and orphans.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Fire Department, held at Engine House No. 2, Jan. 15th, 1879, a committee consisting of Benj. Chambers, M. Hassett and S.M. Gardner, were appointed to draft resolutions of regret in respect to the memory of Thomas Bexon, and they presented the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst our brother fireman and fellow member, Thomas Bexon.

Resolved--That we as a department, have lost a good and efficient member, and society has lost a friend of which we sincerely feel our loss.

Resolved--That we as a fire department tender our heartfelt sympathies and kind regards to his wife and children in their loss of a fond husband and loving father.

Resolved--That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the widow of our late brother fireman.

Resolved--That these resolutions be published in our city papers, and that a copy be sent to each company in this department.

At a meeting of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., held on Tuesday evening, to make arrangements for the funeral of Comrade Thomas Bexon, the following preamble and resolutions were passed:

Whereas--It having pleased our Supreme Commander to order from our ranks, to the ranks above, our beloved Comrade Thomas Bexon, therefore

Resolved--That we as soldiers submit to his divine command.

Resolved--That to the widow and children of our late comrade we tender our heartfelt sympathy and condolence, believing that when the last long roll is called, Comrade Thomas Bexon, as a true soldier will be found in the front ranks.

Resolved--That in memory of our deceased comrade, our hall and flag be draped in mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved--That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the widow of our late comrade.

Resolved--That these resolutions be published in our city papers and spread upon the minutes of our Post.

Wednesday, January 22, 1879

CITY NEWS

Appointive officers for the ensuing year in Post 20 G. A. R., have been selected by Commander H.B. Douglas, as follows: Adjutant, Chris. Zimmers; Sergeant Major, A.P. Hatch; Quartermaster Sergeant, John Swadling; Drum Major, A.B. Culver; Janitor, S. Winchester.

Arrangements are nearly completed and a first class entertainment will shortly be announced, under the auspices of the G. A. R., for the benefit of the family of the late Thomas

Bexon, accidentally killed last week. Assuredly, no urging will be required to insure a prompt and generous response from every citizen of Aurora, when poor Tom's sorrowing wife and fatherless little ones are in need of assistance.

Saturday, January 25, 1879

CITY NEWS

Quite a number of old soldiers will visit Galesburg next Wednesday, to attend the State Encampment of the G. A. R.

Saturday, February 1, 1879

CITY NEWS

A party of G. A. R. delegates and their friends who left Aurora at noon on Tuesday to attend the Thirteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of Illinois, held at Galesburg Wednesday, reached home at five o'clock, Thursday morning, and report having had an exceedingly pleasant time. The attendance was large, and weather all that could be desired. The streets along the route of the procession were handsomely decorated, and at the Opera House Mayor Stewart welcomed the comrades in an eloquent address, which was appropriately responded to by Gen. O.L. Mann, of Chicago, the edifice being thronged with the elite of the city. Subsequently the Encampment convened at G. A. R. Hall and organized for the transaction of business, and in the afternoon officers of the Department for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Gen. E.D. Swain, of Chicago, Commander; Gen. Pavey, Mount Vernon, S. V. Com'r; Dr. Lambert, Galesburg, J. V. Com'r; M.M. Robbins, Aurora, Surgeon; Rev. J.V. Miller, Batavia, Chaplain; Council of Administration, Captain Lawler, of Rockford, Col. Reece, Springfield; Capt. Vosburg, Aurora; Jack Stevens, Chicago; Gen. J.L. Torrence, Chicago. Gen. O.L. Mann and Gen. Torrence, of Chicago, were elected delegates to the National Encampment--with L.C. Porter, of Aurora, and Judson Graves, as alternates.

A resolution was introduced by Gen. Hilliard, and adopted, asking the Legislature to set apart the 1st day of May as a national holiday. Resolutions were also passed, authorizing the use of a portion of the money on hand to further the interests of the Order; thanking the railroads for courtesies extended; allowing all Past Commanders of Posts all privileges; and providing that hereafter all suspensions or expulsions shall be immediately reported to headquarters.

This Order was reported in prosperous condition, and there had been an aggregate gain in membership in the Department during the year of ninety-eight. There had been expended during the year for charity (yellow fever alone) \$336.20, leaving a balance of \$520 in the treasury.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the people of Galesburg and vicinity for the hospitable manner in which the soldiers had been entertained -- and also a vote of thanks to the retiring officers. The Encampment then adjourned to meet in one year at Aurora.

At the Opera House, Wednesday evening, a grand reception was tendered to Governor Cullom and prominent military personages, followed by a concert and ball.

It is proposed to hold next summer, a grand re-union of the soldiers of the Northwest, and at Amboy last summer the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements; L.C. Porter and W.H. Watson, of Aurora; Col. Swain, Chicago; Col. Haskell, Amboy; Col. Beardsley, Rock Island; Col. Bowen, Mendota; Col. Kilgore, Sterling; and Lieut. Rich, of Galesburg. This committee met at the Union Hotel in Galesburg, Tuesday

evening, and decided to invite proposals from all towns and cities in the State, as to what they will do in regard to grounds, donations, etc., by way of inducement -- said proposals to be sent to L.C. Porter, chairman of committee, at Aurora, and to be opened on the first day of May next.

Wednesday, February 5, 1879

CITY NEWS

T.B. Coulter is making a tour of South States in the hope of improving his health. He has been a great sufferer from Asthma during the past few months.

Saturday, February 8, 1879

CITY NEWS

We understand that Col. Swain, Department Commander of the G. A. R., has appointed W.H. Watson, of this city, as Quartermaster of the Department. Mr. Watson served in the same capacity last year, under Commander T.B. Coulter.

The next Annual Encampment of the G. A. R. is to be held in Chicago -- Not Aurora, as erroneously announces heretofore.

Invitations are out for the first annual party to be given by Batavia Post No. 48, G. A. R., on Friday evening, Feb. 21st, at the Pavilion, Batavia. The floor managers are Clark Wood, G.W. Young and Ed. McAllister. Music will be furnished by Cole & Melcalf's full band, and the tickets are placed at \$1, with supper extra. Many old soldiers from Aurora intend being present, by way of encouragement to the new Post.

Wednesday, February 12, 1879

CITY NEWS

T.B. Coulter reached home on Saturday evening from New Orleans. He was only gone ten or twelve days, and found rainy, disagreeable weather in Louisiana, but believes himself materially benefited by the trip.

Wednesday, February 26, 1879

CITY NEWS

Regular meeting of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., on Friday evening next, at their hall, corner of Broadway and Main Street.

We have been shown Mrs. Thos. Bexon's receipt for \$320.30, the proceeds of the play recently presented at the Opera House for her benefit, by the Aurora Dramatic Association, under the auspices of the G. A. R., Sons of Albion and Aurora Fire Department.

It will be remembered that at the Grand Military Re-union held at Amboy last September, the "Soldiers Reunion Association of the Northwest" was organized, and into its hands was placed the authority to provide for future reunions. L.C. Porter, of this city, was made chairman of the Executive Committee, and W.H. Watson, also of Aurora, Secretary and Treasurer -- and at a meeting of this committee held in Galesburg last month it was unanimously decided that the association hold its second annual encampment during the coming summer; that a circular be issued setting forth the facts, and that the encampment be held at the place which proposed the greatest inducements, in grounds, buildings, enclosures, and money to pay the necessary expenses: that such circular be properly distributed, and that the Executive Committee, meet in Aurora, Ill., May 1st, 1879, and proceed to open such proposals, and decide when and where the next encampment will be held. In accordance with such decision, the committee have just issued their circular to the Mayor, citizens and Union soldiers of every city in the Northwest, inviting sealed proposals, to be addressed to L.C. Porter, Chairman.

From the general interest and sympathy manifested in the assembly at Amboy last summer, the forthcoming reunion it is expected, will cause one of the largest gatherings of people ever seen in Illinois, and prompt and energetic measures should be adopted to secure if possible the holding of the same in this City. The committee have reason to believe that from 5,000 to 10,000 soldiers and militia will be present, including the First Regiment, I. N. G., and that not less than 40,000 people will be present at one time, many of whom will remain two or more days. The encampment will continue about three days, and will cost no less than \$3,000, for rations, guns, ammunition, buildings, erections of earthworks, etc. At Amboy, the cost of the first reunion was \$2,430.10, and it was estimated that 35,000 people were present the last day. Aurora is conveniently located, easy to access in all directions for a gathering of this magnitude - why shall we not make strenuous exertions to secure it! The proposals are to be opened on May 1st, and it is high time someone was moving in the matter.

Saturday, March 1, 1879

CITY NEWS

Col. Swain, of Chicago, Dept. Commander of the G. A. R., accompanied by Adjutant Koch, was in this city Tuesday evening, when ex-Commander T.B. Coulter turned over to him all the Department property and the money remaining in the treasury.

MEMORIAL BUILDING

To the Members of the Soldier's Monument
Association and the Citizens of Aurora

After a lapse of over nine years since your organization came into existence, its object -- a memorial for the soldiers of Aurora and vicinity -- has been accomplished, in the erection of MEMORIAL BUILDING, and we beg leave to present the following report, in relation to the receipts and expenditures in the erection and furnishing of said building:

Treasurer T.B. Coulter received from ex-Treasurer Dr. A. Hard, in

Cash and notes		\$2,163.54
Interest on notes		485.94
Donation from 36th Reunion		50.41
Membership fees		14.00
Ladies' Monument Association in 1878		529.17
Rent on Park Fourth July		5.00
L.D. Brady	Cash	100.00
Mrs. Lucy Coulter	"	100.00
W.W. Bishop	"	100.00
Alonzo George	"	100.00
Travis Phillips	"	110.00
Lewis Steward	"	100.00
Henry H. Evans	"	125.00
T.B. Coulter	"	50.00
Fred O. White	"	50.00
G.A. Pfrangle	"	50.00
Ira B. Copley	"	50.00
Daniel Volentine	"	50.00
Perry & Powell	"	50.00
Mervin Tabor	"	50.00
Wm. B. Allen	"	50.00
John Plain	"	50.00
W.H. Hawkins	"	50.00
A. Somarindyck	"	50.00
Thomas E. Hill	"	50.00
J.G. Stolp	"	50.00
Henry B. Douglas	"	25.00
Abner Hard	"	25.00
O. Willson	"	25.00
Jos. Rising	"	25.00
Wm. P. West	"	25.00
Peleg Young	"	25.00
Wm. H. Ruste	"	25.00
N.R.Hobbs	"	25.00
W.A. Tanner	"	25.00
F.L. Bartlett	"	25.00
Isaac Morgan	"	25.00
George Meredith	"	25.00
Chas. Kennedy	"	25.00
D.G. Lake	"	25.00
J.O. Curry	"	25.00
Charles Anning	"	25.00
W. Lawrence	"	25.00
Wm. McMickin	"	25.00

Jacob Miller	“	25.00
L.R. Bringham	“	25.00
Wm. Gardner	“	25.00
Walter Shoemaker	“	25.00
E.R. Allen	“	25.00
W.S. Beaupre	“	25.00
A.M. Beaupre	“	25.00
F.B. Rice	“	25.00
N. Goldsmith	“	25.00
J.H. Thompson	“	25.00
M.N. Norris	“	25.00
Miller & Pease	“	25.00
John S. Hawley	“	25.00
John F. Thorwarth	“	25.00
E.W. Trask	“	25.00
S.W. Thacher	“	25.00
F.L. Pond	“	25.00
Karl & Berthold	“	25.00
Samuel Hitchcock	“	25.00
Chas. Weeks	“	25.00
A.C. Graves	“	25.00
John C. Sherwin	“	25.00
A.C. Little	“	25.00
Judd & Hatch	“	25.00
W.F. Dickinson	“	25.00
J.K. LeBarron	“	25.00
Hanna Bros.	“	25.00
D.C. Winslow	“	25.00
Mix & Plum	“	25.00
P.Y. Bliss	“	25.00
Hoyt Bros. Mfg. Co.	“	25.00
H.C. Paddock	“	25.00
C.P. Dutton	“	25.00
C.C. Earle	“	25.00
Saml. McCarty	“	15.00
Titus & Marshall	“	15.00
A.J. Hopkins	“	15.00
D.W. Hurd	“	15.00
N.C. Simmons	“	15.00
Ezekel Mighell	“	10.00
J.J. McLallen	“	10.00
Ashel Judd	“	10.00
W.B. Powell	“	10.00
L.M.Hastings	“	10.00
E.C. Beardsley	“	10.00
Mrs. Philenna Randel	“	5.00

E.B. Howell	“	5.00
Isadore Leins	“	5.00
T.H. Clark	“	5.00
E.E. Hewett	“	5.00
Post No. 20, G. A. R., Bronze Statue		648.24
Denny Bros., one dozen chairs		24.00
Knickerbocker & Hodder, Record Book and printing		55.00
I.M. Howell, lumber		15.00
I.S. Stephens, lime		15.00
A.T. Judd & Co., lath		12.00
Hill and Harvey, doors		12.00
Allen & Corsair, moldings		10.00
John Lawson, gas pipe		10.00
C.B. Colwell, designs in windows		12.00
Powell & Barrett, lumber		8.00
Chris. Solfisburg, lime		4.50
Rising & Kendall, nails		8.71
Stickle & Fritz, labor and materials		155.00
Green Barley, work		7.33
Geo. W. Daily, “		7.00
Joseph Slaker, “		3.50
Theo. Howard, “		8.50
M.J. Tarble, “		7.00
G.W. Slate, “		7.00
Frank Westover,”		3.50
Fred Westover, “		4.50
A.F. Wade, “		4.50
C.J. Pfrangle, “		5.00
Pierce Burton & Co., work		25.00
Slegm'd & Hawkins, work		<u>25.00</u>
	Total receipt	\$7,487.54

The cost of the building and other expenses are as follows:

L.H. Waterhouse, stone work	\$3,078.50
L.H. Waterhouse, plastering	59.50
Isaac Edwards, stone work	11.00
S.S. Hawks, lathing	11.19
Sundry parties, plastering	89.50
Theo. Howard, mason work	28.00
C.B. Colwell, carpenter work and material	1,967.38
Sundry parties	299.79
Sundry parties, hardware	71.68
Sundry parties, furnace and setting	244.95
John Lawson, gas fitting and chandelier	116.54
Sundry parties, painting, frescoing, etc.	371.50

Stickle & Fritz, marble	512.62
Sundry parties, gilding	50.25
Misch Bros., plate glass for door	26.06
Sundry parties, furniture	113.34
Nichols & Co., plaster busts	31.91
J. Mulvey, architect	100.00
Sundry parties, coal, gas and labor	44.74
Dedicatory expense Fourth July	36.65
G. A. R. bronze statue	648.94
Sundry parties, book, blanks and printing	114.00
Cash on hand	<u>40.00</u>
Total Amount	\$7,487.54

As will be seen by the foregoing report, the entire expense of the work has been met, and there is a cash balance of forty dollars remaining in the Treasurer's hands.

T.B. Coulter
H.B. Douglas
Fred O. White
Building Committee.

The membership of the old and new Associations number three hundred and seventy-five.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Association has been a great assistance to us, and has contributed in cash and interest \$1,959.08 towards the enterprise, besides almost \$150 which they made on the 4th of July last, and still have on hand.

Three hundred and forty two names are engraved upon the marble tablets, each of which will be found upon the Soldiers' Record Book, together with the military history of the same.

The building is now ready to be used for a "Free Public Library and Reading Room," one of the objects of its construction, and the Monument Association stands ready to turn it over to any organization which the citizens of Aurora may designate to receive it for that purpose.

In conclusion, we desire, in behalf of the Association, to return our most sincere thanks to

THE PRESS OF THE CITY

Which has ever stood ready to encourage and assist us. To

THE COMMON COUNCIL

Which has granted every favor we have asked. To

THE LADIES' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

Which has proved a grand auxiliary in the work, and which, by its determined efforts, has enabled us to complete the building free from debt. And to the generous

CITIZENS OF AURORA AND VICINITY

Whose liberal contributions have come to us almost without effort; whose kind forbearance have followed us at every step, and whose words of encouragement have made our duties most pleasant to perform.

Finally, we are pleased to state that in all the transactions of loaning money, contract for building, &c., &c., since the first organization, the Association have never met with a loss to the value of *one cent*.

L.D. Brady, President

O. Willson, Secretary

Fred O. White
H.B. Douglas
T.B. Coulter
A.C. Little
A. Hard

Board of Managers.

(1879-P01,P02)

Wednesday, March 5, 1879

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., will hold their fifth annual campfire at Coulter Opera House on Wednesday evening next, March 12th. Members of the Post can obtain tickets for the same by calling at Comrade J.B. Chase's store *after* Wednesday, March 5th.

(1879-YAGER,BEXON)

Dept. Commander Swain and staff have been invited to attend the G. A. R. campfire at the Opera House on Wednesday evening next.

Saturday, March 8, 1879

CITY NEWS

All who have been honored with invitations to attend the annual camp fire to be held by Aurora Post, G. A. R., on Wednesday evening next at Coulter Opera House, should be sure to put in an appearance, as a most enjoyable time may be anticipated.

Wednesday, March 12, 1879

CITY NEWS

The members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., hold their annual camp-fire this evening at Coulter Opera House, and all who have been honored with invitations will receive a cordial welcome and pass a very pleasant evening in the society of the veterans and their lady friends.

Saturday, March 15, 1879

G. A. R.

Post No. 20 gave their fourth annual camp-fire at Coulter Opera House on Wednesday evening last. At about eight o'clock the old veterans with their friends began to arrive, and before nine o'clock full five hundred were waiting for the opening exercises, which commenced with a song of welcome by some of the Apollo Club which was well received by the audience. The next was to have been an address of welcome by Comrade J.C. Sherwin, Congressman elect from this district, but owing to the extra session of Congress the comrade was unable to be present.

Commander Douglas, after a few words of welcome, called upon Prof. Lowry, of Batavia, for a song, with which the audience were so well pleased that he again took his seat at the organ and sang a temperance song.

Department Commander Swain was then introduced, and commenced by saying that it was not necessary to state the objects of this association to an Aurora audience. The Colonel's remarks were forcible and well received.

Comrade Vosburg followed with a laughable account of how he married off old Aunt Sally, a colored auntie that had attached herself to his command. The story was well told and some of the points well taken, particularly the one referring to the commissioned officers.

At the close of the Colonel's story, Prof. Hudson rendered with fine effect, "Gen. Scott and the old Veteran." After which Chaplain Bennett read from "personal reminiscences of the Indian war," which was highly entertaining.

The Misses Vaughn then sang, "As I dream of the city I have not seen," and in response to a encore, gave "Larboard Watch."

The Apollos were then called for and sang, "A health to the bravest we pledge."

The speech of the evening or the one that stirred the hearts of the old soldiers and caused the blood to tingle in their veins was given by ex-Mayor Bartlett. It was short, sharp and decisive, and was received with rounds of applause by the old veterans.

After the speech Prof. Lowry came again to the front with character delineations and songs. Then came the drum taps calling all to the tables which withstood a first and even a second charge before they were cleared. At the soldiers' table which was made of rough boards without cover and garnished with tin cups, plates and spoons, the fun was fast and furious. Comrade Hubbard planted himself in close proximity to a pig roasted whole, which graced the center of this table, and with that delicacy of appetite for which Johnny is noted staid with that pig as long as there was pork left, closing with a pot of beans which vanished like dew before a morning sun. Tom Athow spurted along for a while trying to keep even with Hubbard, but was forced to succumb.

Supper over, an alarm was given at the stage entrance and a party of foragers put in an appearance, bringing live chickens, bags of apples and other truck, Comrade Wade with a live crow, which seemed to give him considerable trouble, the party causing a good deal of fun and laughter,

Comrade Howard's string band soon set the feet of those wishing to dance in lively motion, and it was past two o'clock ere the Opera House was deserted by the revelers, and the fourth annual camp-fire of Post 20 was a thing of the past.

A committee from Post 20, G. A. R., consisting of J.F. Harral, Mark Tarble and A.P. Hatch, has been appointed to find and locate all unmarked graves of soldiers buried in the cemeteries of Aurora, that each may be designated by a tombstone, in accordance with an act of Congress providing for the same.

Saturday, April 12, 1879

CITY NEWS

Dr. M.L. Ross, of Quincy, on Tuesday evening last, at Grand Army Hall, in this city, organized a promising lodge of the Independent Order of Mutual Aid, and the following gentlemen having been elected officers for the ensuing term were duly installed: Past President, A.C. Ferre; Pres., J.H. Pease; Vice Pres., A.C. Hathorn; Sec., I.B. Tripp; F. Sec., J.E. Vaughn; Treas., E.M. Alexander; Chaplain, Geo. Greaves; Con., G.W. Bartholomew; I. G., G.L. Smith; O. G., L.W. Smith; Trustees, A.B. Culver, L.J. Allen and A.P. Vaughn.

Wednesday, April 30, 1879

CITY NEWS

Major Bennett, of Yorkville, was up yesterday to attend the funeral of C.G. Metzner, officiating as chaplain of Aurora Post, G, A. R.

Some twenty of the G. A. R. boys and their wives, called upon Comrade M.M. Robbins and wife last Thursday evening at their residence on Fourth street, and spent a few hours very pleasantly. The doctor and Mrs. Robbins were taken completely by surprise, and still more astonished when the unceremonious visitors presented them with a handsome settee as an expression of their regard.

Saturday, May 3, 1879

CITY NEWS

Col. Swain, of Chicago, Department Commander of the G. A.R., spent Thursday with old friends and comrades in this city.

Wednesday, May 7, 1879

CITY NEWS

The committee from Post 20, G. A. R., having the matter in charge, are progressing with their arrangements for the proper observance of Decoration Day in this city. They mediate various changes from the usual routine of exercises which we think will be a material improvement, full particulars of which will shortly be given.

Wednesday, May 14, 1879

DECORATION DAY.

The members of Post 20, G. A. R., will meet at their hall Friday, May 30th, at one o'clock p.m., and march to the Court House, where they will divide into two detachments. 1st detachment under the command of S. V. Commander T.R. Polglase, will march to East Aurora and Spring Lake cemeteries, Chaplains, Rev. W.A. Smith and Rev. C.E. Tucker. Second detachment, under command of J. V. Commander A.T. Judd, will march to Catholic and West Aurora cemeteries. Chaplains, Rev. Father Stack and Rev. D.D. Hill.

After the exercise at these cemeteries, the detachments will unite at the Court House, and the procession, under command of Post Commander H.B. Douglas, will form in the following order; Martial Band, Aurora Light Guards, Post No. 20, G. A. R., ex-Soldiers and Sailors, Orator of the Day, Mayor and Council, members of the press and citizens. The line of march will be east to Broadway, north to Main street, east to Lincoln Park, where the beautiful and impressive memorial service of the G. A. R., with vocal music by Professor Stein's Chorus, and an oration by Hon. J.L. Dryden, of Monmouth, Ills., will conclude the exercises of the day.

All ex-Soldiers, Sailors and citizens are invited to join with us.

Friends of the soldiers, who will aid us with flowers, can leave them at the Court room on the morning of the 30th.

H.H. Watson,
A.C. Ferre,
A.F. Wade
Committee of Arrangements.

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., has a membership of one hundred thirty veteran soldiers, and a number of additional applications for membership are now under consideration.

Saturday, May 17, 1879

THE GREAT RE-UNION.

The Executive Committee of the re-union of the veteran soldiers of the Northwest consists of Mayor W.W. Bishop, Fred O. White, L.O. Hill, Joseph Reising and H.B. Douglas, and the articles of organization provide that they shall have general supervision of all the affairs of the re-union; shall appoint all sub-committees and settle any disputes which may arise between the members of such committees; and shall make such plans as are necessary to carry out the objects of the organization. This committee met on Tuesday and appointed their sub-committees, as follows:

Finance Committee,-- L.O. Hill, Joseph Reising, E.B. Mix and J.J. McLallen, The duties assigned to this committee are to appoint one of their number as Treasurer, and to collect all moneys, audit and pay all bills. They made Mr. J.J. McLallen Secretary and Treasurer.

Committee on Ordinance, Arms and Ammunition,-- Fred O. White, H.B. Douglas and H.H. Evans, who shall provide such arms, ammunition, etc., as are needed; shall have them in charge and see that they are returned.

Committee on Fortification,-- A.F. Wade, Geo. Wilder and Con. O'Niell. It will be the duty of this committee to make plats of ground for the use of commanding officers; to supervise the building of the fort and see that the approaches thereto are in proper order.

Committee on Transportation and Organization of Companies.-- A.C. Ferre, M.M. Robbins and G.A. Pfrangle. This committee shall make rates with the Railroad Companies, shall receive reports from all visiting organizations and assign them to quarters.

Committee on Invitation, Reception and Hotel Accommodations,-- Hon. W.W. Bishop, Hon. F.L. Bartlett and N. Goldsmith. The title indicates the onerous duties assigned to these gentlemen.

Committee on Music and Decorations,-- H.A. Judd, J.F. Harral and Holmes Miller, who shall provide vocal and instrumental music and shall see that streets, buildings and grounds are properly decorated with flags, etc.

Committee on Grounds,-- O.N. Shedd, J.H. Pease and W.H. Watson, who shall arrange for such grounds as are necessary, and grant privileges for the same; procure straw, put barracks in proper shape, and see that suitable accommodations for water are provided.

Committee on Police,-- A.C. Graves, R.B. Gates and James Battle, who are instructed to call upon the Council for what police are needed and also to decide what guards are necessary and call upon the military commanders to furnish the same.

Committee on Advertising and Supplies,-- J.B. Chase, R.W. Corbett and J.H. Hodder. This committee shall attend to the details of advertising; shall furnish tickets of admission and badges for soldiers, and shall make arrangements to supply soldiers with rations in accordance with agreement.

The selections are admirable in each case, and the gentlemen thus honored will at once enter upon their duties with an energy and perseverance that cannot fail to render the grand undertaking a splendid success.

Wednesday, May 28, 1879

CITY NEWS

A special meeting of the Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., is called for this evening and every member should be present.

At a regular meeting of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from our ranks Private Carl G. Metzner, of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry: and,

Whereas, His "armless Sleeve" was an emblem of his sufferings and sacrifices which, though he is dead, yet speak to us -- therefore be it

Resolved, That we bow in humble submission to the will of "Him who giveth and who taketh away," feeling that our brave and crippled comrade has been called to a higher post of honor.

Resolved, That we will cherish his memory with affection, and that we extend to the widow and the fatherless child our heartfelt sympathy in the sorrow which overshadows them.

Resolved, That the colors of this Post be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the widow, also furnished to the city papers for publication and spread upon the minutes of our Post.

Fred. O. White,
M.D. Yager,
J.F. Harral,
Com.

A company of old soldiers is about to be organized for the grand re-union to be held in this city in August. It will be made up mainly from members of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., though any ex-soldiers outside the G. A. R. who may be so inclined are cordially invited to unite with them in the organization. Names may be left with J.B. Chase, at Chase & Budlong's store, with number of company and regiment in which the person served. The committee having the matter in charge will shortly give notice when and where a meeting will be held. The company will be organized for three days service during the grand re-union of the old soldiers of the Northwest, and all officers will be elected as though for permanent service. Hand in your names lively to Mr. Chase, and let's have a company of which Aurora may feel proud.

It is earnestly hoped that every member of Aurora Post and all other ex-soldiers, will turn out on Friday next, May 30th, and assist in the decoration of soldiers graves. As the battalion will be divided into two detachments, the line of march of each will be but half the distance heretofore accomplished by the whole, and will not prove very laborious. All ex-soldiers and sailors are invited to meet at the Post G. A. R. Hall at one o'clock sharp, when they will proceed to the City Hall, and after being supplied with flowers form two detachments and respectively march to the cemeteries of the east and west side. Again uniting upon the island, they will proceed to Lincoln Park, where the memorial exercises will be held and an oration delivered by Hon. J.L. Dryden, of Monmouth. All citizens are invited to join in these exercises, and all donations of flowers will be thankfully received.

There will be a special meeting of the Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., Thursday, tomorrow evening, May 29th, for the transaction of important business. A full attendance of members is desired, and all persons whose application for membership has been accepted are requested to be present for muster.

By order of Commander
Chris. Zimmer, Adj.

The members of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., have accepted an invitation from Rev. Mr. Tucker to attend services at the Universalist Church on Sunday morning next. And we should add that at the last meeting of the Post these surviving veterans decided by vote to hereafter attend religious services in a body at some church upon the Sunday next succeeding Decoration

Day, in each year. The idea of such memorial service was inaugurated by Comrade Paine (at that time chaplain of the Post and pastor of the Galena Street M. E. Church, but now a resident of Jacksonville, Florida,) a couple of years since and it is eminently fitting and proper that they should thus assemble once in the year and unite in devotional exercises. Their ranks are rapidly thinning; every spring they scatter bright flowers over the new made graves of sleeping comrades who marched with them but the year before, and as the number of these gallant boys gradually dwindles away this memorial service will from year to year assume increased solemnity and impressiveness until we shall have laid away beneath the sod the last of the heroes of 1861-5.

Saturday, May 31, 1879

DECORATION DAY !
The Painfully Pleasant Ceremonies !
The Gallant Dead Whose Graves were Decorated.
A SPLENDID ORATION.

Since the 30th of May was made Decoration Day, none pleasanter has dawned and passed than yesterday. It was pleasantly clear, and the sun not oppressive. Early in the morning the city flag was placed half mast, and other flags in the city becomingly displayed; people thronged to the city in teams and by train; while hundreds visited Memorial Building, and dwelt upon the sad records there.

Soon after one, the Grand Army assembled, about seventy-five strong, more we think than have been present at any of these annual services. After leaving the Hall they divided -- one portion visiting the east side grounds, and another those on the west side of the Fox. At the west side cemetery Rev. M.E. Cady officiated as Chaplain in absence of Rev. Mr. Hill, originally assigned to that office -- while at the Catholic Cemetery the decorations were laid without other ceremony, in absence of Rev. Mr. Stack. On the east side Rev. W.A. Smith officiated at Aurora Cemetery, and Rev. C.F. Tucker at Spring Lake.

At the conclusion of these ceremonies the detachments met on the island, where also the Light Guards, in full company, under Capt. Vosburgh, had rendezvoused, to perform escort duty for the veterans. Led by the Jericho and Aurora Martial Bands, and escorted by the Light Guards, the Grand Army, accompanied by an immense crowd of people, then proceeded to Lincoln Park, where the following exercises were listened to:

Singing by Stein's musical chorus.

The responsive services of the Grand Army of the Republic, led by the Post Commander, Henry B. Douglas, acting chaplain Fred O. White, and the members of the Post.

A very fine oration by John L. Dryden, of Monmouth, a member of the old 36th Regiment, and a most delightful speaker. It was greeted with much applause, and highly appreciated.

(speech omitted)

All things considered, yesterday was probably the pleasantest and most complete Decoration Day conducted by our Post, and the Grand Army men are grateful to those who so generously and heartily aided them in their sad memorial duties.

The names of the soldiers whose graves were thus reverently visited by surviving comrades were as follows:

EAST AURORA CEMETERY.

George Gardener, Coggswell,	N. Denniston,
R. Flemming,	A. Moseley,
Charles Otis,	Chas. Titsworth,
E.M. Emmerson,	J.G. Goodwin,
Levi Morgan,	F. Goodwin,
Unknown,	J.E. Merrill,
Wm. Blakesley,	Fred Hoff,
A.P. Moffat,	W.B. Aiken,
John Purdy,	R.A. Drain,
Geo. Hollenbeck,	N.A. Fenton,
T.M. Craig,	G. Ross,
W.H. Berry,	J. Hoyt,
F. Vaughn, Revolutionary Veteran.	Ira Warner,

SPRING LAKE CEMETERY.

Silas Miller,	L.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, Scribner,	J.C. Hadlock,
H.A. Snell	Geo. White
A. Briggs,	John Freeloove.
D.W. Young,	Wm. Ellis,
Thos. Bexon,	E.L. Hunt,
Chas. E. Austin,	Carl G. Metzner,
	Chas. Clare,

GERMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

P. Schlitz,	N. Didat.
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CATHOLIC CEMETERY

P. Lowry,	James Manahan,
T. Fitzgerald,	A. Hanly,
Jas. Wade,	P. McGrath,
T.W. McKenna,	E. Cunningham,
James McGuire.	

WEST AURORA CEMETERY.

Wm. S. Huff,	J.M. Mostow,
M.C. Huff,	Wm. White,
T. Race,	W.W. Cleg,
A. Race,	Robert Linton,
Wm. Shies,	Joy Tarble,
S.A. Crance,	Young,

J.E. Smith,
J.H. Dodge,
A.J. Babcock,
C.W. Randal,
S.D. Towle,
Trask,
R.Y. Anderson,
J.B. Watkins,
S.B. Hawley,
Wm. Ford,
Anson Davis,
O. Curtis.

J.J. Wilder,
W.W. Wilder,
G.W. Myers,
Daniel Kipp,
W.H. Anderson,
D.C. White,
M. Furgeson,
N.L. Curtis,
F.E. Reynolda,
J.E. Vaughn,
Geo. Damuth,

All old soldiers willing to join a company for three days' service during the great military reunion to be held in this city in August, are requested to leave name and number of their regiment with John B. Chase, at Chase & Budlong's store. It is not essential that they should be members of the G. A. R., but only men who have seen service are desired. All officers will be elected, and due notice of time and place of meeting will be given. Hand in your names at once, as the committee have much business on their hands and time is pressing.

Wednesday, June 4, 1879

CITY NEWS

At a meeting of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., held May 30, 1879, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered to Professor Stein and his chorus for the kind and valuable service rendered on Memorial Day in furnishing most excellent vocal music. *Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Professor, and each of the city papers for publication.

Saturday, June 7, 1879

THE REUNION.

For some days past there has been a disagreement between the managers of the Reunion and the Fair Ground people, over the compensation to be paid for the use of the grounds. This we are glad to say has been amicably settled, and the price, \$500, agreed on. We are indebted to the *News* for the proceedings of the State Committee meeting held in Chicago on Thursday. A majority of the committee was present:

On motion, it was decided to invite Gen. M.M. Force, of Cincinnati; Gen. Bragg, of Wis.; Gen. Benj. F. Butler, of Mass.; Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana; ex-Gov. Beveridge, Gens. Richard Oglesby, J.M. Palmer and John Farnsworth, of Illinois; Gen. Black, of Champaign; Gen. A.A. Ducat, Gen. J. Hamilton, Gen. W.E. Strong and Gen. Ben. Harrison, of Indiana. State Commander Swain was instructed to invite the members of the Grand National Encampment of the G. A. R., which meets in Albany, N.Y., next week. An invitation was also extended to Gen. Torrence, requesting him to invite the militia of the Northern Illinois District

that is under his command, to be present for inspection and drill. Also an invitation of the same kind to Generals Reese and Peavy, commanders of the central and southern divisions of the State militia. State Commander Swain was also instructed to invite every G. A. R. Post in the State to be present, and he to take command of the same.

The letters of acceptance from General Logan, Gov. Collum and Gen. Hudson were read. The committee also concluded to telegraph General Grant immediately upon his arrival in San Francisco, requesting the presence of himself and party. A.C. Ferre was appointed Post Adjutant with power to hire a clerk; after which the meeting adjourned.

Saturday, June 11, 1879

CITY NEWS

The lads composing the G. A. R., drum corps were out on the streets Monday evening for practice.

Gen. Sam Sherer, of Chicago, on Monday sent out a beautiful hat rack for the Memorial Building. It is constructed of iron, an artistic combination of guns and bayonets, belts and cartridge boxes, cavalry sabres and dress swords, surmounted by the National flag. It corresponds admirably with the superb emblematical decorations of the building, and is a most appropriate donation for which the community will feel duly grateful to the gallant general.
(1879-R01, R02)

Saturday, June 14, 1879

CITY NEWS

On Friday evening next, June 20th, a meeting will be held at the G. A. R. Hall, in the Miller & Coulter block, for the purpose of organizing a company of old soldiers for service during the three days of the reunion of the old soldiers of the Northwest. It is very desirable that all who have signed the muster roll of said company, or would like to do so, be present on that occasion, as the officers of the company are to be elected. Only old soldiers are wanted, but it is not necessary that they should be members of the G. A. R., and those who are not will be just as cordially welcomed. The company should contain one hundred men, and quite a number are yet needed. Names may be left with G.S. Chase, at the C. B. & Q. baggage room, or with John B. Chase, at Chase & Budlong's drug store -- and every man should try to be present at the G. A. R. Hall on Friday evening next, at 8 o'clock.

An order just issued by the Commander of the Department of Illinois of the Grand Army of the Republic, subdivides the Department into fourteen districts of which the State of Indiana, (recently assigned to this Department) is made the Fourteenth District. The second District comprises the counties of Kendall, DuPage, Kane and McHenry, and Comrade Fred O. White, of this city, has been appointed Inspector of this District, a position for which he is admirably fitted.

Wednesday, June 18, 1879

CITY NEWS

The "Spring Lake Cemetery Association" yesterday generously deeded to Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., a large and beautiful lot in that cemetery, in which to deposit the remains of those comrades who, like poor Charley Seibold, have no friends or relatives here to provide for them a suitable place of interment. The lot is pleasantly located near the verge of the east bluff, and not far from the north side of the grounds.

All who have signed the muster roll of that military company, for three days service during the great reunion to be held in this city in August, and all old soldiers who would like to join said company, are requested to meet at Grand Army Hall, in Miller & Coulter's block, on Friday evening next at eight o'clock sharp, as the company will then be organized and officers elected. In the meantime, names may be left with John B. Chase, or at the baggage room with G.S. Chase.

Charley Seibold died very suddenly of heart disease, about four o'clock Monday afternoon, at Grampp's boarding house, south of LaSalle and New York streets. His comrades of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., are in charge of the remains (as he had no relatives in this country), and will deposit them in Spring Lake Cemetery at two o'clock this afternoon, with appropriate ceremonies.

Saturday, June 21, 1879

CITY NEWS

The Reunion committee on grounds and privileges will hold a meeting at W.H. Watson's store next Wednesday night, from 7 to 9 o'clock for the purpose of letting privileges of the grounds during the reunion. Restaurant keepers, cigar manufacturers, etc., will do well to take notice. The committee meeting may be attended, or persons may send in sealed proposals to any member of the committee, O.N. Shedd, W.H. Watson, J.H. Pease and T.B. Coulter.

Adj. Gen. Hilliard has issued special order No. 39, accepting the resignation of Brig. Gen. and Chief of Cavalry Samuel B. Sherer, tendered April 19th. The order states that the acceptance of this resignation has been delayed because the Commander-In-Chief was desirous of retaining the General's services to the last moment, and expresses regret at the necessity which compels this step. Gen. Sherer has served faithfully for four years, having filled the grades of Major, Lieut. Col. 1st Regiment, Colonel, Brigadier General and Chief of Cavalry on the Governor's staff.

The Reunion finance committee commenced collecting the subscriptions promised by our citizens, and promptness in handing over the same when called upon will greatly expedite matters, and aid in making the undertaking a brilliant success.

At a meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., June 18th, 1879, the following resolutions of respect were adopted:

WHEREAS, Our Supreme Commander, has ordered from our ranks our late comrade, Charles Seibold.

Resolved, That Aurora Post, Grand Army of the Republic, has lost from its ranks one whose honorable wounds show a good record as a brave, true and faithful soldier; also that Comrade Seibold was a kind and genial companion and an honest man.

Resolved, That our flag and hall be draped in mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the father of our deceased comrade, and published in the newspapers of this city.

A.C. Ferre,
A.T. Judd,
John Walker,

Com.

Wednesday, June 25, 1879

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. excursion to Wedron on Tuesday Next, July 1st, will be one of the pleasantest trips imaginable, as LaBelle Park embraces greater attractions than any picnic grounds in this part of the State. It is thirty-five miles distant from Aurora, and fare for the round trip is placed at one dollar.

Saturday, June 28, 1879

CITY NEWS

At the regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., last evening, there was present a party of visitors consisting of eighteen comrades from Batavia Post, who were cordially received -- and upon the wall over the Commander's seat, wrought in large letters of evergreen, appeared the words "Welcome Batavia." The visitors seemed pleased with their reception, and charmed with the beautiful hall and its chaste and elegant furnishing and decorations.

There were also present Comrade L.G. Bennett, of Yorkville, chaplain of Aurora Post, and Comrade T.R. Polglase, of Sandwich, whose resignation as Senior Vice Commander of the Post reluctantly accepted in consequence of his removal from Aurora.

About one hundred members of the Post were in attendance, five new members were initiated, and the names of five new candidates for initiation were received. The total membership is something like one hundred and fifty.

During the evening Past Commander T.B. Coulter presented the Post with a fine portrait of himself, handsomely framed, stating in explanation that he did not know as he should ever have the privilege of meeting with them again. He was about to go to Pennsylvania, his old home, and if his wife and himself were suited with the surroundings, should remain; but he desired to continue his connection with Aurora Post, and when finally mustered out, wanted his portrait hung upon its walls beside the other departed comrades. In behalf of the Post, Commander H.B. Douglas fittingly responded, accepting the timely gift, and the portrait was at once suspended above the Commander's quarters.

At the conclusion of business a delegation of some forty ladies connected with the Post were introduced, in behalf of whom Mrs. G.S. Case, in brief but well chosen words, presented the Post with a magnificent silken flag handsomely mounted, and bearing upon its face in golden letters the emblem, "G. A. R., Post No. 20, Aurora." When the applause had sufficiently subsided, Comrade Douglas in most appropriate language accepted in behalf of the Post this superb token of the esteem of their fair donors, pledging them that the members of Post 20 would sacredly guard every star and stripe of the beautiful flag, and protect every seam and stitch from ever being sullied by dishonor. He also took occasion to recall the unfaltering loyalty and devotion of the ladies at all times and under all circumstances since the outbreak of the rebellion, and to thank them for the many kindly attentions and generous assistance accorded by them in all undertakings of the Post. The response was one of Mr. Douglas' happiest impromptu efforts, and we regret that we are unable to reproduce it.

At its conclusion an abundance of Northam's choicest ice cream was served and an hour very pleasantly spent in social intercourse.

(1879-POLGLASE,ZIMMER)

Saturday, June 28, 1879

THE GREAT RE-UNION
Of the Soldiers of the Northwest
To be Held in Aurora August 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1879

The following timely information in reference to the grand military gathering shortly to be held in this city, will be of interest to all:

ADVANCE CIRCULAR

The Soldiers Reunion Association of the Northwest was organized on Sept. 12th 1878, at Amboy Illinois. For many years Regimental Reunions had grown less in attendance and interest, because their surviving officers and soldiers had so scattered along the lines of industrial pursuits, even to remote States, that it seemed to rally a sufficient number to make such Reunions worthy of attendance; yet everywhere seemed prevalent among Union Soldiers the same desire to meet comrades who had shared the same camp-fires, endured the same fatigues, and fought for the old flag over the same ramparts. They believed that decimated Division and Corp Commands were as endeared to each other by mutual bravery and sacrifice in the same battles, as though the same Regimental colors had floated over them.

With these ideas various meetings were held to adopt necessary means to secure a general attendance at the FIRST REUNION OF UNION SOLDIERS, without regard to the Regiments or Commands in which they served, or the states in which they enlisted. Posters and circulars were distributed, giving details so far as could be decided, and announcing there would be a two hours' engagement between infantry, cavalry and artillery, earthworks constructed etc., that the soldier boys would go into a regular military camp, be supplied with usual "army rations," etc.

Muster rolls were sent out for the enrollment of veterans who would attend, and the Boys in Blue responded nobly. The hearts of the people beat with renewed patriotism as they read and

thought of the long line of scattered veterans who had saved this nation in its darkest hours, and who would answer that “assembly” call.

The greatest promises were more than realized when veterans from EIGHTY-NINE DIFFERENT REGIMENTS fell into line at the First General Reunion and 2000 soldiers bivouacked about the same camp-fires, telling over again the unwritten scenes of a score of battles in which they had fought and suffered -- when 35000 people met face to face, and were thrilled with the excitement of their first sight of a battle, though lacking the missiles of death and terror of blood.

It was an immense success, and none enjoyed the occasion more than old comrades who had not met since “Johnny came marching home” to receive the thanks of a grateful people.

At the first Reunion the “SOLDIERS REUNION ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST” was permanently organized, and the following Executive Committee was elected for the ensuing year:

Col. L.C. Porter, President,	Aurora.
Maj. W.H. Watson, Sec. & Treas.	Aurora.
Col. W.H. Haskell.	Amboy.
Col. W.M. Kilgore.	Sterling.
Col. J.M. Beardsley.	Rock Island.
Col. Ed. D. Swaine.	Chicago.
Col. E.A. Bowen.	Mendota.
Lieut. J. Richardson.	Galesburg.

and into the hands of this Committee and its successors was placed the duty and authority to provide for future Re-unions.

CAMPAIGN OF 1879

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held in Galesburg, Jan. 28th, it was decided to hold the

SECOND ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

this summer; that a circular be issued stating necessary facts, and addressed to various places in the Northwest, and that this years’ Reunion should be held at the locality offering the greatest inducements. May 1st the Committee met in Aurora, and on opening and examining the various proposals, it was decided that Aurora was entitled to the encampment, and that it should be held on their fair grounds near that city, on Wed., Thurs., Frid., Aug. 20, 21 & 22.

The local Executive Committee was at once chosen by the citizens of Aurora, consisting of Mayor, W.W. Bishop, F.O. White, L.O. Hill and H.B. Douglass, and the work of details commenced by the selection of the necessary committees, on Finance; Ordinance, Arms and Ammunition; Fortifications; Transportation and Organization of Companies; Invitation, Reception and Hotels; Music and Decorations; Grounds; Police; Advertising and Supplies.

AS A RAILROAD CENTRE

Aurora has few equals: trains arrive and depart nearly every hour of the day and night.

THE FAIR GROUNDS

are within twelve minutes walk; have six macadamized streets leading thereto, and there will be ample means of conveyance. The grounds engaged for this encampment contain about one hundred and fifty acres, and are well shaded by numerous groves; green sward and clean lawns extend on all sides, and accommodations for the safe keeping and feed of thousands of teams have been made. Artesian water is on the grounds in unlimited supply, and drinking places will be properly distributed. Amphitheater seats are already built sufficient to accommodate 6000

people, and more are to be erected -- from these can be plainly seen the adjacent fields where the Union forces will make their advance on the earthworks thrown up on the Fair Grounds, occupied by "Rebs," and mounting four to six guns. Not less than 4000 veterans, and militia are expected to take part in this "sham battle."

Hotels are ample and good, and with the bed halls to be fitted up, will accommodate all who wish to remain over night, and reasonable fare is guaranteed.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS

will be provided, in several halls, for the entertainment of visitors who remain over night. A full PROGRAMME of exercises cannot be announced at this early date, but will be published in due time. It will contain daily drills, company and battalion, and addresses from eminent speakers. The I. N. G. under command of Gen. Torrence, Gen. Reese, and Gen. Peavy, have been invited to make their Annual Encampment on this occasion, and it is expected they will do guard duty and show the perfection and advantages of their new tactics, and take part in sham battle. All G. A. R. Posts in the State invited.

Among the distinguished military men who have been invited are Gen's. Phil. Sheridan, Jno. A Logan, Richard J. Oglesby, Jno. F. Farnsworth, Gen. Bragg, of Wis., Ben. F. Butler, of Mass., Gen's. Chas. Black, J. Hamilton, A.C. Ducat, M.F. Force, Wm. E. Strong, Ben. Harrison, Ex-Gov. Beveridge, Jno. M. Palmer and Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Gen. Sigel, Gen. Henderson, Adj't. Gen. Hilliard and others. Should General Grant return to America in time to reach the Reunion he will be invited.

RAILROADS

The C. B. & Q., I. C., and C. & N. W., roads will sell tickets at one and one fifth fare for round trip, and the C. & I., for one fare the round trip. Other roads will give reductions, and the terms and conditions of all transportation will be more fully announced as necessary. It is expected the C. B. & Q. will grant excursion rates to companies or G. A. R. Posts who may wish to run excursion trains.

ADMISSION

will be free to all organized companies or soldiers who will report on muster rolls, and a badge furnished them for 75 cents, which will entitle them to rations and quarters for the three days encampment. Others will be charged a 10 cent admission fee. Soldiers, in each locality, are requested to select one or more of their number as Recruiting Officers, -- they will report at an early day to Capt. A.C. Ferre, Post Adj't, Aurora Ill., for muster rolls giving all necessary information.

By order of Executive Com.

Per T.B. Coulter, Pres.

vice L.C. Porter, removed from State.

W.H. Watson, Sec.

(Will Editors please note regularly)

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys and their friends picnic on Tuesday next, July 1st, at Wedron, one of the most delightful spots in the State, fare for the round trip is placed at one dollar.

Tickets for the G. A. R. excursion to Wedron next Tuesday can be obtained at Watson's, Chase & Budlong's, or of members of the Post. Wedron is on the Fox River Road, 36 miles from Aurora, between Dayton and Serena, and the fare for the round trip \$1. Train leaves here at 9:30 a.m., and returning reaches Aurora at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2, 1879

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. excursion to Wedron yesterday was but slimly attended -- one coach sufficing for the entire party. The date was unfortunate, but those who went enjoyed themselves very much.

Old soldiers should remember that a large number of recruits are still wanted in that military company formed for service during the three days of the Re-union. The company meets Saturday evening next at the G. A. R. Hall. Fall in, and let us have a company creditable to Aurora.

Saturday, July 12, 1879

FOR THE REUNION

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned, Committee on Supplies, until Wednesday evening, July 16th, for feeding of from three to five thousand soldiers the three days of the reunion, August 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1879. The food to consist of U. S. Army rations, viz: Beef or pork, bread, beans, potatoes, coffee or tea, vinegar, salt, pepper, butter, sugar, milk and pickles. All must be well cooked and put on table in good order. Whoever takes contract will be given privilege of eating house free. Particulars on application to

John B. Chase,

R.W. Corbett,

A.P. Vaughn,

Com. on Supplies

(1879-I02)

Wednesday, July 16, 1879

CITY NEWS

On Friday evening last Comrade John B. Chase was unanimously elected Senior Vice Commander of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., to succeed Comrade T.R. Polglase, resigned.

(1879-CHASE,WADE)

Wednesday, July 23, 1879

CITY NEWS

Fred O. White, while in Chicago Monday, met General Phil. Sheridan and Senator John A. Logan, both of whom promised him that they would certainly be here during the grand military reunion next month.

An old soldier named Sofield brought up in this city Monday, and sought the assistance of his comrades here to enable him to reach his home in Kirkwood, Ill. The man was partially paralyzed, entirely disabled, and a fit subject, indeed, for charitable attention. He had been down to Pennsylvania to have his pension papers properly made out and forwarded, and on his way back was compelled to remain some time at the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, Ohio. Having recovered sufficiently to resume his journey, he found himself stranded here and his money exhausted -- but some of the G. A. R. boys interested Supt. Alexander in his case, secured a pass, and sent the poor fellow along home to the wife and child so anxiously awaiting his arrival.

Saturday, July 26, 1879

CITY NEWS

Five new members were initiated into Aurora Post, G. A. R., last evening. Several are taken in at every meeting, and the membership is creeping up to two hundred very fast.

In July 1873, Dr. Willson (and wife) and other soldiers took possession of a deserted residence on Court Square in Vicksburg, Mississippi. In examining their quarters the Dr. noticed that a shell from our gunboats had knocked a hole through one side of the room he occupied, damaging a picture there suspended. Closer investigation showed the picture to be the well known large steel engraving of "The First Prayer in Congress," and the singular circumstance of this particular picture so injured being thus discovered after the rebel owners of the establishment had fled the city impressed him as so remarkable that he sawed through the frame, and rolling up the picture placed it in his trunk to preserve as a relic of the struggle in which he helped to save the Union. We are pleased to record the fact that this picture, so valuable from historic associations, is now numbered among the treasures of our beautiful Memorial Hall, the Dr. and Mrs. Willson having thoughtfully presented it to the Association a few days since, after having had it handsomely framed.

Wednesday, July 30, 1879

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, G. A. R. have hired the Memorial Hall for three nights of the military reunion and engaged the Waverly Minstrels to play for them. The troupe commenced their rehearsal last evening, and we are assured they will give first class entertainments. They are now fully up to the average and contemplate many new attractions for this occasion. The excellent Joe Merrill Orchestra Company will furnish music each evening.

Thirty members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., went to Geneva Monday evening to assist in mustering a new Post in that place. There were also present twenty-five members from

the Batavia Post, and twenty-five from the Elgin Post -- and quite a number of ladies accompanied those from Batavia and Aurora. The meeting was held in the court house, Comrade T.B. Coulter, of this city, officiating as mustering officer, having been detailed for that purpose by Dept. Commander Swayne.

The new Post is styled, "George Spaulding Post, No. 60," has a membership of twenty-three comrades, and the following officers were duly installed: Joel L. Coe, Commander; Charles Archer, S. V. C.; Robert Long, jr. J. V. C.; J.W. Poore, Q. M.; Ben Burton, Adjt.; E.E. Curtis, O. D.; A.L. Nickerson, O. G.; W.H. Downing, Chaplain; Joe Kessler, Q. M. Sergt.; Wm. Derrick, Sergt. Major.

On the adjournment of the Post, the comrades repaired to the Grand Jury room and did ample justice to the tempting repast so thoughtfully prepared by the ladies, and an hour or more was pleasantly spent in social intercourse.

Saturday, August 2, 1879

The Reunion Committee have let the victualing contract to the firm of Hayward & Blair. It was fortunate that the bid of these gentlemen was such that it could be accepted by the committee. They are men of large means, have many facilities on hand, and are possessed of the capacity and energy to carry out what they propose.

The rations they oblige themselves to furnish are composed of salt pork, beef, beans, potatoes, soft bread, hard tack, coffee, tea, sugar, milk, pickles, vinegar, salt, and pepper: the tableware will be of tin and they will furnish table capacity for 2000 persons at one sitting. The contractors propose to make these articles first-class, and to put them upon the tables with other attractions in such a manner that thousands besides the soldiers will take their meals at their buildings. The old soldiers badge procured of the committee, entitles the wearer to meals -- and others will be furnished for twenty-five cents.

One of the large buildings to the north side of the grounds, 24x175 feet, has been assigned to Messrs. H. & B. for store house, cooking rooms, etc., and the committee are now arranging to have placed upon the south, and connected with this, buildings for tables, which shall be 80 feet wide, and 220 feet long. Across the middle of these will run an alley twenty feet wide, from each side of which will extend ten tables, one hundred feet long, each of which will seat one hundred persons, or 2000 in all. To wait upon these, over one hundred young men and women will be engaged -- and other preparations be made accordingly. Some idea of the extent of these may be inferred, when it is necessary to prepare at least twenty barrels of coffee for 5000 men. The firm have already prepared to have from eighty to one hundred of cattle upon their farms, for use on this occasion. It is impossible for any Aurora bakeries to supply the demand for bread, even were there no extra local demand, and arrangements will be made for cars to bring supplies from Chicago every night.

If the weather is pleasant Messrs. Hayward & Blair will have a big contract on hand, but they will fill it to the satisfaction of all, and none who visit us need have any fears that the eatables will fall short. They will be ready to give 10,000 men their meals a day.

Post Adjutant A.C. Ferre informs us that he has issued one hundred and six muster rolls for companies organizing in every direction to attend the Great Reunion to be held in this city this month. Aside from these quite a number of Posts of the G. A. R. will send companies.

Saturday, August 2, 1879

At their meeting Tuesday evening various committees reported the following as an approximate of Reunion expenses:

Rent of grounds	\$500.00
Ordinance, arms and ammunition	993.30
Fortifications	50.00
Post Adjutant	30.00
Reception and hotel accommodation	225.00
Music and decoration	500.00
Improvement of grounds	400.00
Police	150.00
Supplies	1,825.25
Total	<u>\$4,750.55</u>

The committee on privileges expect to realize \$2,500.00, while the finance committee, leaving \$1,350 to be taken at the gate. In several cases their estimates are doubtless much to low.

The G. A. R. of Rockford, attended by the Forest City Band, will visit this city during the Reunion, and take part in the sham battle.

Wednesday, August 6, 1879

CITY NEWS

The Council on Monday evening accepted the proposition of the Ladies' Monument Association to donate a handsome fountain for Memorial Hall grounds, and the City Hall committee has been instructed to place the same in position and erect a suitable tank in rear of the Court House to supply it with water. It will be in running order before the Reunion.

Saturday, August 9, 1879

CITY NEWS

The Reunion of the 52nd Ill. Vol. Inf'y Association will be held at Aurora, Ill., August 21st.

Wednesday, August 13, 1879

THE GRAND REUNION

One week from to-day commences in this city the second annual reunion of the old soldiers of the Northwest, and several thousands of our surviving veterans, the heroes of a hundred hard fought battle fields, have signified their intention of being present, upon that occasion. The First Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, and many scattering companies of the State militia will also be here; and many thousands of visitors are coming from all points of the compass to witness the grand military display.

In point of numbers this gathering will throw far into the shade any previous assembly of people held in Aurora, and the arrangements made for the entertainment of our guests are upon a stupendous scale. The various committees have displayed commendable energy and zeal in attending to the duties assigned them, and their efforts have been cordially seconded by our citizens generally. Much yet remains to be done, but all are working with a will and everything seems to promise that the affair will prove a grand success, gratifying and enjoyable to our visitors and creditable to Aurora.

The committee on invitations have reserved twenty rooms at the Fitch House for invited guests, and quarters have been secured for others in the residences of prominent citizens.

So far as feeding the multitude is concerned, it would seem that the preparations are ample. Upon the fair grounds the monster dining halls will accommodate many thousands, while down town nearly an equal number can be handsomely served at the hotels, restaurants and churches.

At the Fitch House, Mr. Bushee can seat a hundred and twenty-five persons in his dining rooms, and will keep them open day and night, having secured an extra force of cooks and waiters for that purpose. To-day he is setting up an immense new Simonds range in his kitchen, and will be able to feed at least a thousand persons daily. He will also be able to lodge from three to four hundred, and is utilizing his spacious halls and corridors by putting up two hundred extra berths of comfortable dimensions.

The spacious Tremont House has recently been overhauled and handsomely refitted, and was never before in so fine condition throughout. The dining room will seat one hundred persons and will be run day and night. In addition of the ordinary capacity of this house, Mr. Harris has been fortunate in securing the second and third floors of the Hackney block, just across Main street -- and these nice suits of rooms have just been repainted and repaired. In these he is putting new beds and cots, all of which are supplied with new mattresses and bedding.

At the Empire House, Mr. Bisbey's dining room will seat thirty-six persons, and will be run day and night, with relays of first class cooks and attentive waiters. Mr. Bisbey has also occupied the third floor of the Terry block opposite, and furnished these rooms as sleeping apartments. Both the hotel and these rooms have just been refitted and put into pleasant and attractive shape. He will be able to lodge one hundred and fifty people.

At the Huntoon House, Mr. Smith can comfortably lodge two hundred persons and stable one hundred horses, and says he will be fully prepared to feed all who come. The Huntoon House has also but recently been overhauled throughout and repainted.

Mr. Marshall of the City Hotel, has made no extra provisions, the dimensions of his house not permitting of it, but will endeavor to feed all who call upon him.

At the Red Ribbon dining rooms, Merrill & Knobloch will be prepared to feed 1,000 daily, their dining rooms having a seating capacity of 100. They will also be able to lodge 100 persons.

Mrs. Cook, also on the island, is having an additional dining room erected and will be able to seat 150 persons and will keep open day and night.

Mr. Northam, at his Fox street dining rooms can seat 75 persons, and will feed all that come day or night.

Morgan Hughes, at 14 North Broadway, has seating capacity for forty, and will keep open day and night.

The ladies of the Universalist church will convert the basement of that edifice into a dining hall, laying plates for two hundred guests, and be in constant attendance day and evening.

The basement of the new Baptist church, on West Park Place will be similarly occupied, and the ladies of that denomination will be untiring in their attendance upon hungry visitors.

Several vacant stores are also being fitted up as dining rooms by Mr. Frank Thatcher and other parties whose names we failed to learn.

The proprietors of the various meat markets have provided a large amount of extra stock for the occasion, and the supply of provisions of every description is apparently unlimited.

The Reunion committee intend closing up the old fair ground ticket offices, and also the main entrances from the south front, and will make other entrances in suitable places. There will be several ticket offices at the grounds. Tickets will also be on sale down town.

On the afternoon of Friday of next week, the day of the sham battle, it will be well as a precaution for persons coming from Naperville and that direction, who usually enter the city by way of New York street, to turn north at Amos Vaughn's, and come in by Claim street. The road south of the fair grounds will be occupied, more or less by troops, and the cannonade and musketry will render it a dangerous locality for teams -- and the road will be closed to them for the time being.

Saturday, August 16, 1879

CITY NEWS

Felix LaBaume, Esq., Commander of Lyons Post, G. A. R., of Chicago, and President of the Andersonville Survivors' Association, is in the city and is stopping with his Father-in-law, I.M. Howell. The Association and the Post will attend the Reunion in full force. Mr. LaBaume will establish headquarters for the Association during the Reunion at the lumber offices of I.M. Howell.

The Reunion committee was notified yesterday by the officers of the State that "Old Abe," the famous war eagle of the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment, will reach here next Wednesday in charge of his keeper.

The beautiful hall of Post 20, G. A. R., will be thrown open during the three days of the Reunion next week, as headquarters for members of the order and other veteran soldiers from abroad, and a committee from the Post will be in attendance to extend all courtesies.

The fountain for Memorial Hall grounds is expected to arrive to-day, and Alderman Phillips, who has the matter in charge, expects to have it in running order by Wednesday

morning. The feed tank is of quarter inch iron, and its capacity is over one hundred barrels. The frame twenty-five feet in height, is now being built in rear of the City Hall building.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP DICK YATES,
POST AT AURORA, ILL.,
August 15th, 1879.

General Order No. 1.

Having been assigned as Post Commander for the Second Annual Reunion, the following officers are hereby announced as the Post Staff:

Chief of Staff -- Capt. T.G. Lawler, Rockford, Ill.
Adj't Gen'l -- Capt. A.C. Ferre, Aurora, Ill.
Asst. A. A. Gen'l -- Major Geo. G. Biddulph, Millington, Ill.
Acting A. A. G. -- Capt. J.E. Lytle, Mendota, Ill.
Inspector Gen'l -- Majr John J. Healey, Chicago, Ill.
Com. Sub. -- Capt. J.B. Chase, Aurora, Ill.
Asst. Com. Sub. -- Capt. John McQueen, Elgin, Ill.
A. D. C. -- Major D. Welter, Chicago, Ill.
A. D. C. -- Capt. L.E. Porter, Racine, Wis.
A. D. C. -- Lieut. A.L. Strang, Omaha, Neb.
Ord. Officer -- Capt. H.B. Douglas, Aurora, Ill.
Asst. Ord. Officer -- Lieut. J.H. Hubbard, Aurora, Ill.
Mustering Officer -- Capt. G.V. Johnson, Kirkwood, Ill.
Engineer Officer -- Lieut. J.D. Calahan, Streator, Ill.
Surgeon -- Major A. Hard, Aurora, Ill.
Chaplain -- Samuel D. Paine, Aurora, Ill.
Ordinance Sergt. -- Edgar B. Street, Aurora, Ill.
Hospital Steward -- J.C. Dennison, Eaglewood, Ill.
Buglar -- Thomas Meredith, Batavia, Ill.

The staff will, if practicable, report mounted, at Post Headquarters, Wednesday morning, August 20th, where badges designating rank will be furnished. Officers not restricted as to uniforms.

By Order

Gen. S.B. Sherer, Post Comd'r.

A.C. Ferre, Capt. and Adj't.

Veteran Post G. A. R., Elgin, will leave on Wednesday next by wagons for Aurora to attend the great Reunion of the Soldiers of the Northwest. The Post will have twenty-five men in uniform the first day, and probably forty-five after that. Twelve applications for membership were received on Tuesday last, and these recruits will be mustered in at the next meeting Tuesday evening. The Post will endeavor to have a Martial band go with it. A new and lively interest has been awakened among the old soldiers here, and the Post will become the stronger for the reunion. A beautiful flag -- the American Jack -- has lately been procured by the Post,

and will be carried to Aurora next week. Such flags are very rare, and this will probably be the only one at Aurora.

Elgin Advocate

The ladies of the Memorial Association will serve ice cream and other refreshments at Memorial Hall every day and evening during the reunion -- and donations of cake will be thankfully received by them for that purpose.

“Old Abe,” the famous war eagle of the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment, reached this city last evening in charge of his keeper. The feathered veteran was carefully housed last night in the female department of Marshal Gates’ Hotel.

Grand Army Boys have secured the Ward & West Minstrels to play every night during the Reunion. They play in the City Hall on the island. To avoid the rush tickets can be secured at Chase & Budlong’s, good for one night. Admission, 50 cents.

It is earnestly hoped that every member of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., who can possibly spare that length of time, will be on hand to turn out in the general review at ten o’clock Friday morning. The belts will be found at Commander H.B. Douglas’ headquarters in the old Floral Hall. Members of the Post are requested to report at 9:30 a.m., at the G. A. R. booth, near the south end of the covered amphitheatre. Some forty members of the Post belong to the Logan Guards, and will of course remain with that company; but all others not absolutely otherwise engaged should make it a point to report promptly with the Post.

SOLDIERS, ATTENTION!

At Gilbert’s Jewelry store, on the island, opposite the Post Office, will be found a neat and appropriate Reunion badge, which every soldier should have as a fitting memento of the occasion.

Saturday, August 23, 1879

REUNION

The Soldiers of the Northwest in Camp
370 Regiments Represented
75,000 People Present
Speeches and Incidents of the Occasion

The men who defended our Union against the assaults of the rebels of 1861 are growing gray bearded and gray headed. Eighteen years, with the hardships of four years of campaigning, have aged even those who were young and vigorous in 1861, while they have borne more heavily upon the men who enlisted when middle aged. Like the Cincinnati of post revolutionary

times, these veterans have, throughout the northern states, and especially in the newer and more vigorous commonwealths of the north west, formed themselves into "Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic," an organization for mutual benefit, and to keep alive a thoroughly patriotic spirit.

Regimental societies are also formed, and annual meetings of these associations had are of a particularly fraternal and touching character. But by the scattering of time these assemblies become smaller and smaller, until it is found that death by disease has thinned the survivors as death by the sword and bullet did in the war, and but few are spared to surround the festal boards at such re-unions.

It is not unlikely that because regimental re-unions were losing the interest which numbers alone can give, and were becoming occasions for brooding retrospect rather than joyful greetings, a grand Annual Re-union of ALL the Union Soldiers in a section of the North-west was suggested, and the first held last year at Amboy. It was in a measure spontaneous, but it was very largely attended, most pleasing in its results, and the first of a series, of which Aurora this week has had the honor to entertain the second.

At Amboy official record was made by representatives of eighty-nine regiments. It was estimated that forty thousand people were in attendance at the same time.

Aurora has always been noted for the honor it has delighted to confer upon soldiers. From the days when the old 36th gathered at Camp Hammond, until now, when the veterans have been received under triumphal arches, and with every mark of respect the city has been able to put forth, Aurora has been foremost in her efforts to recognize the citizen soldiery. One of the most pleasing and enduring monuments of this fact is the Soldiers Memorial Hall, now standing next the Court House -- a monument both to the dead and the living, which the municipality will always preserve, and in the future render more and more interesting and valuable.

How she welcomed the veterans at the
Second Grand Re-union,

our reporters tell below:

The Decorations

were upon a much more extensive and elaborate scale than ever before attempted in Aurora, and when our citizens once got interested in the work, the number of flags and quantity of bunting they managed to shake out was marvelous. About the hardest working men in the city for a couple of weeks were the members of the committee on decorations -- Messrs. Henry A. Judd, J.F. Harral and Holmes Miller -- and they may well feel proud of the final result of their labors.

The bridges and principle streets were spanned by beautiful arches of evergreen, ten in number, tastefully ornamented in flags, bunting and appropriate mottoes. The stars and stripes floated from every flag-staff in the city, while many flags of larger size were suspended from ropes stretched across the streets; whole blocks of buildings were draped in colors from cornice to sidewalk, and thousands of smaller flags fluttered in the breeze from every available point, presenting a most brilliant appearance -- though the grandeur of the scene was generally enhanced when illuminated in the evening by gas and the addition of innumerable Chinese lanterns.

A magnificent double arch at the corner of River street and Downer Place, erected by C.B. Colwell and Russ Richardson, elicited general admiration and frequent compliments. Its height was thirty-four feet, and springing from the four corners of the street its span was seventy-six feet six inches, while at each corner a smaller arch spanned the sidewalk.

The arches over the center of the bridges were flanked by smaller ones over the sidewalk -- that on the west bridge bearing the motto, "Honor to the Soldier," and that on the east bridge,

“Honor to the Boys in Blue.” On Fox street, opposite Northam’s, another handsome arch bore the motto, “Honor the Brave.” Upon an arch nearly opposite the Beacon office appeared the legend, “We will Stand by You and Yours”; upon the north Broadway arch, “Our Country’s Defenders”; on the Main street arch, “One Country -- One Flag”; on the New York street arch, between LaSalle street and Lincoln avenue, “Second Annual Reunion -- Welcome All.” From the center of the beautiful arch at the corner of New York street and Broadway, depended a large heart, trimmed with flowers and evergreen, above which appeared the single word, “Welcome !” a simple device but wonderfully suggestive of patriotic feeling, and one upon which the dimmed eye of the veteran soldier who staked all for his country loved to linger.

Upon the island the City Hall building was handsomely decorated under the personal supervision of Mayor Bishop, and the personal interest manifested by him in this matter is duly appreciated by the community. Festoons of red, white and blue extended from the windows on front and sides; the tower and portico were draped, and above the arches of the portico was suspended a large banner bearing the motto, “Our National Heroes -- God Bless Them !” -- an invocation in which the citizens of Aurora most reverently unite. Over the entrance to Marshall Gates’ office was the motto, “We Will Stand by You and Yours.”

Memorial Hall was tastefully festooned with evergreen, and the ladies of the Monument Association added to the attractiveness of the interior by draping the busts and chandelier with red, white and blue; the book cases and desks were wreathed with green leaves; garlands of smilax, mosses and simple flowers entwined the “Recording Angel” in the center of the room -- while each window sill and the tables contained bouquets of beautiful flowers.

Between Masonic Hall and the City Hall, a large flag floated over the street, while the fronts of the Silver Plate Factory, the stores of O.D. Powell, F.B. Rice, the Harold office and the Red Ribbon rooms were all tastefully decorated. The front of J.G. Stolp’s store was rendered especially attractive by an artistic display of red, white and blue flannels, yarns and blankets of his own manufacture -- one of the blankets having the word “Reunion” neatly wrought in the fabric.

On River street the decoration was general and very pleasing from the City Hotel north to Galena street -- the most noticeable being that of the Hanna Bros. The front of their four stores was festooned with bunting from the lofty cornice to the top of the show windows, and the interior of the dry goods department was very attractive. Between the stores and that of D.W. Hurd a large National flag was also suspended over the street. The stores of D.C. Winslow, D.W. Hurd, Wm. McMicken, D. Volentine, Morgan & Davis, N.R. Hobbs, Loser & Egerman, Reisling & Simmons and others were more or less elegantly decorated, the most labor being expended by Loser & Egermann, who used seventy-two flags in the decoration of a sort of evergreen canopy, the front of which bore a shield with the word, “Welcome.” Phillips Bros. windows were filled with a rare collection of Smith’s flowering plants.

Anning’s store building, near the bridge, was profusely enveloped in bunting, the arrangement of which was very pretty and much admired. A fine stuffed eagle with a shield bearing the motto, “Shall auld Acquaintance be forgot,” attracted much attention.

On Downer Place, White & Todd found time to beautify the front of their lumber office and render the new sign still more attractive -- though Henry Judd labored so long and faithfully upon the general display, as chairman of the decorations committee, that he almost failed to reach his agricultural warehouse.

A flag was displayed from every window of the Fitch House, the porch canopied with bunting, and the pillars entwined with red, white and blue, while Northam, Mrs. Hawley, Phil

Schickler, Mrs. Ferre, the *News* office, Morris & Smith and others contributed largely to the attractiveness of the street.

On Broadway, between Fox street and the central arch flags were suspended across the street, the center one being new and purchased by Mr. Trask expressly for the occasion. The windows of the Opera House contained flags and in the interior of the German-American Bank a large number of the flags of both nations were artistically intermingled.

From Fox street to New York street on Broadway, there was a generous display of bunting by nearly every business house, prominent among which were the Denny Bros. building, Chase & Budlong, BEACON building, etc., the stores of Reeves & Son, Somarindyek & Co., Miller & Sencenbaugh, J.O.Mason & Co., Jacob Miller and two or three others being especially attractive.

On Main street the Tremont and Empire Houses were very prettily decorated with evergreens and flags, and the store fronts of Hawley & Otis, Pierpont & Battle, the "Florida Bazaar" and others covered with red, white and blue.

The Centre School building displayed flags from every window and the corners of the lofty tower.

The several engine houses were very neatly decorated by the firemen, and the good taste of the boys frequently complimented by those interested in an examination of the fire apparatus of the city.

The decoration of the G. A. R. Hall was done under the supervision of comrade Samuel Hitchcock, and the exterior of the building was perhaps the most attractive on Broadway. In heavy folds and festoons of the National flag upon a large banner appeared the words "Grand Army of the Republic," and the motto of the Order, "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," and another elegant colored banner displayed "G. A. R. Post No. 20." A large number of smaller flags helped to render the display quite imposing.

Upon the top of the passenger depot a large flag floated from a new flag-staff, and the building displayed numerous other flags from windows and gables, while a number of the passenger engines were tastefully decorated.

Very many of the private residences of the city were elegantly decorated with flags, streamers, chinese lanterns, etc.

WEDNESDAY

At an early hour Wednesday morning strangers commenced flocking into the city, the work of the decorations was still in progress and everybody busy. Old soldiers came by every train, in squads and companies, being met at the depot and escorted to the old "stone shop," on the West Side, by an excellent martial band. This shop was occupied as an armory for the time being, though Ordinance officer H.B. Douglas removed his headquarters to Camp Dick Yates at noon on Thursday. Having reported here and been furnished with badges and arms they at once proceeded to camp, where the day was devoted entirely to the work of organization. Aside from regular mustered companies and Posts of the G. A. R., several hundred stragglers, the survivors of almost as many different regiments were registered at Post Adjutant Ferre's headquarters and subsequently formed into companies, and regiments of almost every State in the Union were represented. Several thousand persons visited the grounds during the day and watched the preliminaries of the grand encampment with much interest. In the evening General O.L. Mann issued his first general order as follows:

Having been assigned to the command of the Military Department of the Northwest, I hereby announce the following officers as my staff, who will immediately report for duty:

John R. Floyd, Brigadier General and Chief of Staff.
B.F. Campbell, Brigadier and Adjutant General.
E.F.C. Klokke, Quartermaster General.
Dr. L.L. Mitchell, Surgeon General.
E.A. Filkins, Paymaster General.
J. Leander Bauder, Colonel and Inspector General.
S.W. Munn, Colonel and Judge Advocate General.
William Vocke, Colonel and Provost Marshall General.
F.B. Marshall, Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.
Lon B. Drury, Colonel and Chief of Artillery.
H.H. Evans, Colonel and Assistant Quartermaster, in charge of railroad transportation.
E.F. Gale, Colonel and Chief of Cavalry.
J.R. Fitch, Major and Chief of Signal Service.
M.F. Tarble, Major and Military Secretary.
E.A. Helm, Major and Aide de Camp.
William H. Reed, Major and Chief of Engineers.
John Stephens, Chief of Commissary.
F.O. White, Captain and Ordinance Officer.
Arthur Erby, Major and Aide de Camp.
James J. Healy, Major and Aide de Camp.
J.B. Sine, Major and Aide de Camp.
H.S. Dietrichs, Captain and Aide de Camp.
Elliot Durand, Captain and Aide de Camp.
L.D. Conde, Major in charge of captured prisoners.
H.A. Judd, Captain and Aide de Camp.
Fred Filbert, Captain and Aide de Camp.
Henry Wagar, Lieutenant and Chief Bugler.

II. Headquarters at Camp Dick Yates, near Aurora, Ill. until further orders.

III. General H. Hilliard, General J.T. Torrence and Colonel E.I. Swain will continue in their respective commands.

IV. Brigadier General S.B. Sherer will continue in command of Camp Dick Yates, and will take charge of, and under the direction of the General Commanding, assign to their respective commands, all the troops that report to him.

By order of

O.L. Mann, General Commanding.

B.F. Campbell, Adjutant General.

The following is a list of organized companies and Posts reporting to Post Adjutant Ferre, and the regiments represented by the veterans of each of such organizations as nearly as they could be obtained by our reporter:

WILL COUNTY VETERANS, OF JOLIET

Capt. Jas. Miller; 1st Lieut., Henry Benner, with 56 men. Regiments represented: Illinois -- 20th, 39th, 132nd, 153rd, 109th, 20th, 64th, 113th, 118th, 50th, 64th Infantry; 9th, 4th, 10th, 17th Cavalry; and the 2nd, 1st Artillery; Pennsylvania -- 5th Vet. Reserve Corps. 142nd,

48th, 145th Infantry. 1st Michigan Sharp Shooters; 15th N. Y. Inf.; 1st Ohio Artillery; 41st Ohio Inf.; 5th Mass. Cavalry.

STREATOR COMPANY

E.E. Bale, Captain; U.S. Painter, 1st Lieut. with 93 men. Regiments represented: 104th, 20th, 36th, 52nd, 53rd, 44th, 48th, 76th, 11th, 129th, 64th, 89th, 58th, 46th, 89th, 26th, 7th, 85th, 86th, 91st, 141st, 67th, 65th, 90th, 31st, 30th, 42nd, 55th, 26th, 57th, 138th Infantry; 15th, 11th, 8th Illinois Cavalry; 1st Illinois Artillery, and Henshaw's Battery. 1st and 16th Iowa Inf.; 16th and 30th New York Inf.; 7th, 37th, 32nd Massachusetts Inf.; 42nd, 194th, 197th Pennsylvania Inf.; and 4th Cavalry; 4th Ohio Artillery, 32nd and 76th Inf., and 5th Cavalry; 26th Michigan Inf.; 40th Missouri Inf.; 3rd U. S. Inf. James Arthur, a veteran of the war of 1812 was also a member of this company.

ENGLEWOOD POST G. A. R.

J.S. Foster, Commander, with 28 men representing the following organizations; 1st Wis. Artillery; Chicago Board of Trade Battery; 28th N. Y. Inf.; 1st Maryland Inf.; 7th Kansas Cavalry; 1st Maine Artillery; 2nd Michigan Inf.; 17th and 8th Colored Inf.; 8th U. S. Inf.; 123rd, 8th and 193rd N. Y. Inf.; 4th Ind. Artillery; 127th, 36th and 25th Illinois Inf., and 11th Cavalry; 2nd, 17th and 23rd Mass. Inf.; Mass. Heavy Artillery; and 106th Pennsylvania.

OREGON POST G. A. R.

R.A. Austin, Commander, with 17 men representing the 23rd, 64th, 46th, 74th and 92nd Illinois Inf., and 8th Cavalry; 1st Maryland Inf.; 1st Iowa Inf.; 79th and 13th New York Inf., and U. S. Navy.

SHERIDAN COMPANY

D. Robinson, Captain, with 18 men, representing 129th, 141st, 104th, 172nd, 36th, 11th and 10th Illinois Inf. and 1st Artillery; 8th N. H. Art.; 1st N. Y. Engineers; 1st Missouri Artillery, and 48th Indiana Infantry.

LAMONT COMPANY

J.S. Lee, Captain; T.J. Houston, 1st Lieut.; J.M. Harrington, 2nd Lieut., with 50 men representing organizations; 58th, 59th, 39th, 44th, 147th, 88th, 138th, 100th, 62nd, 39th, 55th, 13th and 30th Illinois Infantry; 8th, 9th and 12th Ill. Cavalry; 22nd N. Y. Inf.; 39th Ohio Inf.; 7th Ind. Inf.; Chicago Mer. Battery.

MARSEILLES COMPANY

J.W. Preston, Captain; M. Wilson, 1st Lieut.; Henry Jennings, 2nd Lieut., with 18 men representing 36th, 53rd, 104th, 26th, 88th, 127th, 13th and 37th Ill. Inf., and 13th Ill. Cavalry; 113th U. S. Colored Inf.; 4th Wisconsin Cavalry; 7th Ohio and 70th Inf.; 8th Wisconsin Inf.; 8th Missouri Inf.; and 1st Ill. Artillery.

ROCKFORD COMPANY

T.G. Lawler, Captain, with 61 men representing 146th, 45th, 55th, 74th, 9th, 52nd, 19th, 147th, 105th, 44th, 90th, 60th, 11th, 8th, 25th and 92nd Ill. Inf., 17th, 11th, 12th and 8th Ill. Cavalry; 28th Connecticut Inf.; U. S. Navy; 26th and 48th Wisconsin Inf.; 4th Michigan Cavalry; 125th and 179th N. Y. Inf.; 7th U. S. Inf.; 46th Indiana Inf., and 16th Colored Inf.; 1st Cavalry; 7th Vt. Inf.

OSWEGO COMPANY

C.C. Duffy, Captain; T.J. Carpenter, 1st Lieut.; Edward Mann, 2nd Lieut., with 45 men representing the 36th, 20th, 7th, 105th, 127th, 132nd, 58th, 57th, 13th, 27th, 46th, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 14th Illinois Inf.; 4th and 3rd Illinois Cavalry, and 1st Illinois Light Artillery; 25th Michigan Inf.; 50th Pennsylvania Inf.; 4th Wisconsin; 85th and 14th New York Inf.; 168th Ohio Inf., and U. S. Pioneer Corps.

PONTIAC

sent a squad of five men representing the 77th, 24th, 19th, 20th and 129th Illinois Infantry.

ELMIRA POST G. A. R.

sent a detachment of twelve men, representing the 19th, 65th, 77th, 47th and 112th Illinois Infantry.

GENEVA COMPANY

E.S. Wilcox, Captain; H. Slater, 1st Lieut.; R. Williams, 2nd Lieut., with 28 men, representing the 52nd, 15th, 105th, 152nd, 95th, and 89th Illinois Infantry; 17th, 8th, 15th and 11th Ill. Cavalry. 1st Michigan Engineers; 5th Kansas Inf.; 3rd N. Y. Cavalry; 11th, 131st, and 88th Pennsylvania Inf.; 1st Colorado Cavalry; 3rd U. S. Infantry.

AMBOY POST G. A. R.

sent a detachment of 8 men, representing the 75th and 89th Illinois Infantry and 7th Cavalry; 142nd N. Y. Inf.; 12th U. S. Colored Inf.; 18th N. Y. Inf.

YORKVILLE COMPANY

J.B. Moulton, Captain; B.F. Harrington, 1st Lieut.; Dow Shibley, 2nd Lieut., with 42 men representing 36th, 127th, 69th, 53rd, 124th, 13th, 15th, 146th, 17th, 147th, 64th, 28th Illinois Infantry; 12th Ill. Cavalry; 6th and 11th Michigan Infantry; 1st New York Artillery; 27th Maine Inf.; 3rd N. Y. Inf.; 1st Wisconsin Cavalry; 2nd Ill. Artillery.

TERRA HAUTE, IND., G. A. R.

Delegation of 18 men, representing the 11th, 31st, 43rd and 85th Indiana Infantry; 1st U. S. V. Engineers; 32nd Ill. Inf.; 9th Bat. and 16th Ohio Infantry; 11th Indiana Cavalry; 4th Missouri Infantry; and 12th U. S. Colored Infantry.

PLAINFIELD COMPANY

R.B. Graves, Captain; F.R. Fraser, 1st Lieut.; J.W. Pennington, 2nd Lieut., with 24 men representing the 46th, 100th and 13th Illinois Infantry; 13th, 9th and 8th Illinois Cavalry, 2nd and 3rd Ill. Light Artillery; 1st U. S. Engineers; 29th and 125th Ohio Inf., and 3rd Cavalry; 7th Michigan Infantry.

ELGIN POST G. A. R.

sent a detachment of 29 men representing 127th, 153rd, 36th, 113th, 141st, 55th, 52nd, 58th and 15th Illinois Infantry; 3rd Michigan Inf.; 1st Connecticut Cavalry, and 117th New York Infantry.

RICHMOND COMPANY

Captain M.M. Clothier, reported 40 men representing 5th, 95th, 52nd, 36th, 96th, 55th and 15th Illinois Infantry; 8th and 17th Illinois Cavalry; 4th and 40th Wisconsin Infantry; 4th and 46th Ohio Infantry, and 31st Massachusetts Infantry.

PLANO COMPANY

W.H. Hall, Captain; J.S. Hatch, 1st Lieut.; H.N. Kennedy, with 50 men, representing the 37th, 127th, 88th, 36th, 10th, 105th, 89th, 64th, 57th, 13th, 23rd, 78th, 124th, 33rd, 46th,

58th Illinois Infantry; 4th and 10th Ill. Cavalry; 1st Missouri Cavalry; 188th, 104th and 81st Pennsylvania; 20th Wisconsin Inf.; 27th Massachusetts Inf.; 1st Kentucky and 9th Michigan Cavalry; 2nd Minnesota Inf.; 21st Iowa Inf.; 9th and 2nd and 100th N. Y. Inf.; 19th U. S. Inf.; 4th New Hampshire Inf.; 20th Maine Inf.

24TH ILL. VETERAN ASS'N OF CHICAGO

reported 26 men, survivors of the 24th Illinois Infantry.

COMPANY C, 6TH I. N. G.

Captain W.E. Bridge reported 20 men.

THE LOGAN GUARDS

of Aurora, Captain John Walker; G.S. Case, 1st Lieut., J.A. Carey, 2nd Lieut., reported 34 men, representing the 52nd, 89th, 124th, 141st, 156th, 36th, 93rd, 15th, 127th Infantry; 110th and 123rd N. Y. Inf.; 1st N. Y. Dragoons; 17th U. S. Inf.; 24th Michigan Inf.; 133rd Penn. Inf.; 1st R. I. Light Artillery; 3rd N. Y. Artillery; 7th Mo. Inf.; 8th Vermont Inf.; 31st Maine Inf.; 16th Heavy Artillery; 1st Louisiana Engineers; 2nd Indiana Cavalry.

BATAVIA POST G. A. R.

reported 39 men representing the 124th, 89th, 132nd, 17th, 52nd, 72nd, 10th, 156th, 90th, 8th, 141st, 42nd, 153rd and 56th Illinois Inf., and Taylor's Battery, Chicago; 13th and 18th Wisconsin Inf.; 8th and 126th N. Y., 2nd Penn., 12th and 44th Ind., 179th Ohio Infantry, 8th Ill. Cavalry.

EARLVILLE

sent 15 veterans of the 129th, 141st, 104th, 72nd, 36th, 11th and 104th Illinois inf.; 1st Ill. Artillery; 8th N. H. Vet. Bat.; 1st N. Y. Dragoons; 1st Missouri Lt. Artillery; 10th Indiana and 14th N. Y. Infantry.

OTTAWA

sent 16 veterans of the 8th, 53rd, 104th, 12th, 127th and 47th Ill. Inf.; 4th Ill. Cavalry; 1st N. Y. Artillery; Cogswell's Battery.

THE DEER PARK

delegation consisted of 12 men of the 55th, 104th, 57th, 26th, 129th, 32nd Illinois Inf.; 1st Ill. Artillery and Henshaw's Battery; 1st Ky. Inf.

OTTAWA

sent 27 men from 11th, 72nd, 104th, 50th and 64th Ill. Inf.; 1st Ill. Artillery; 3rd Ohio, 14th and 3rd Ill. Cavalry; Cogswell's Indiana Battery; 28th and 71st N. Y. Infantry.

PALATINE COMPANY

Captain L.P. Card; 1st Lieut. F.J. Filbert; 2nd Lieut. J.T. Sleeper, with 70 men, representing 113th, 132nd, 41st, and 149th Inf.; 8th Connecticut Inf., and the 38th Wisconsin Cavalry.

PAW PAW COMPANY

Capt. John Harding; 1st Lieut. E.H. Kingary; 2nd Lieut. M.J. Somers, and 83 men of the 15th, 23rd, 46th, 105th, 75th, 57th, 127th and 115th Ill. Inf.; 7th and 4th Ill. Cavalry; 210th and 152nd Pa. Inf.; 3rd U. S. Inf.; Cogswell's Battery.

MAGNOLIA COMPANY

Captain, B.F. Baker; 1st Lieut. S.W. Cook; 2nd Lieut. John Roberts, with 26 men of the 77th, 8th, 20th, 65th, 104th, 86th, 141st, 86th, 61st, 113th Ill. Inf.; 3rd U. S. Artillery; 4th, 11th and 14th Ill. Cavalry; 75th and 104th Pa. Inf., and 22nd Pa. Cavalry; 22nd Ohio Infantry.

PROPHETSTOWN COMPANY

Captain John F. Reynolds; 1st Lieut. A.H. Reynolds, with 36 veterans of the 34th, 75th, 13th, 112th, 93rd, 75th, 140th, 14th and 58th Ill. Inf.; 9th, 17th and 12th Ill. Cavalry; 2nd Vermont, 9th Iowa, 81st Ky., 114th N. Y., and 8th Kansas Infantry.

KIRKWOOD COMPANY

Capt. J.B. McGraw; 1st Lieut. J.C. Hogue; 2nd Lieut. R.D. Irvine, with 68 men of the 84th, 36th, 59th, 10th, 83rd, 91st, 42nd, 50th, 17th, 14th, 138th, 16th, 30th, 34th, 28th, 59th, 11th, 119th and 8th Ill. Infantry; 11th and 16th Ill. Cavalry; 40th Missouri; 32nd and 31st Ohio Infantry.

SANDWICH COMPANY

Capt. F.A. Munson; 1st Lieut. F.B. Mosher; 2nd Lieut. H. Hennis -- reported 82 men. And these men represented the 10th, 36th, 138th, 105th, 127th, 141st, 104th, 152nd, 15th, 140th, 13th, 39th, 156th, 89th, 64th and 23rd Illinois Infantry; 15th, 36th, 9th, 12th, 8th and 17th Ill. Cavalry; 115th, 123rd, 126th and 23rd N. Y. Inf., and the 8th N. Y. Cavalry; 7th Cavalry and 10th Massachusetts Artillery; 19th Maine, 20th Connecticut, 29th U. S. Colored, 38th Ohio, 29th Wisconsin, 7th Colorado, 74th Indiana, 2nd Minnesota, 7th Indiana, 128th and 15th Pennsylvania Infantry.

VETERANS OF THE 19TH REGIMENT

showed men from 19th, 90th, 13th and 23rd Ill. Infantry.

BATTERY C., 1ST ILL. ARTILLERY, JOLIET.

Major Mansfield Young, Commander; 1st Lieut. Stephen D. DeLong; 2nd Lieut. Frank R. Johnson, reported 41 men.

GEO. H. THOMAS' POST, G. A. R., CHICAGO

representing 80th, 32nd, 105th, 51st, 108th and 52nd Illinois Infantry; 3rd Wisconsin Artillery; 4th Michigan and 4th Vermont Cavalry; 179th and 4th Minnesota, 13th Wisconsin, 49th N. Y. and 75th Ohio Infantry; U. S. Navy, and 10th N. Y. Artillery.

WATERMAN

sent 22 men from the 105th, 52nd, 127th and 10th Illinois Infantry; 4th and 8th Illinois Cavalry; 186th New York Infantry and the 11th Vermont Artillery.

WILMINGTON COMPANY

Capt. E.P. Smith reported 19 men from the 100th, 39th and 36th Ill. Infantry.

THURSDAY

At sunrise the sharp report of the morning gun roused the old veterans from slumber, and they at once dropped into the regular routine of camp life as naturally as though all these peaceful years since 65' were but the fantasy of a pleasant dream. All turned out when the five o'clock reveille, promptly responding to the six o'clock breakfast call, and doing full justice to the really excellent bill of fare spread before them by Messrs. Hayward & Blair in their monster dining hall. And just here we may mention that during the three days encampment we heard no word of complaint in reference to the commissary department so admirably managed by these gentlemen. In quantity, quality and variety the rations were all that could have been desired, and very much superior to those furnished in actual service. Compliments were freely expressed, and general satisfaction apparent.

Guard mounting in regular order occurred at eight o'clock; company and battalion drill was engaged in, and some rifle practice, while every hour added to the throng of visitors, and fresh detachments of troops arrived by every train -- and their constant tramp to and fro, and the sound of martial music in every direction giving the camp a really warlike aspect. The drilling

by some of the old soldiers was remarkably fine, when it is considered how many years they have been out of practice, and many of them were proficient in either Scott's, Casey's or Upton's tactics.

General T.J. Henderson having been assigned to the command of the "rebel troops" in the approaching sham battle, by general order announced his staff as follows:

Colonel Harry M. Trimble, Chief of Staff.

James M. Fisher, Aide de Camp.

Captain Alexander Branelson, Aide de Camp.

Lieutenant P.J. Richardson, Chief of Ordinance and Aide de Camp.

Captain A.F. Wade, Quartermaster and Aide de Camp.

Among the arrivals of the early morning was the Joliet Battery of four guns, which marched over, encamping late the night before down town. They fired a salute at seven o'clock from the common near the Young School, and then resumed their march to camp.

A little after 11 o'clock Gov. Cullom, Gen. Logan, and Ex-Governor Beveridge arrived, and as it was past the time advertised, they were escorted immediately to the platform. By mistake the soldiers were ordered back after they had reached the place, and on presenting themselves at the entrance to the covered amphitheatre were surprised to find that a charge was made for seats. It was soon rumored through the crowd that the amphitheatres had all been sold to private parties who were taking advantage of the circumstances to charge enormous prices for seats. The facts were these: The committee of arrangements had determined to make a nominal charge of ten cents to assist in paying the expenses of the occasion. They deemed this no more than just after they had secured reduced rates over the railroads, had provided board and seventy-five cents for three days, and given the soldiers the other privileges of the grounds free of charge. While the door keepers were trying to keep the crowd out of the amphitheatre, Major Healy, of Chicago, rode up and announced that General Logan would not speak unless the seats were free. After a moment he returned and announced that the General would speak in the grove unless the seats were made free, and ordered the door keepers to get out of the way and let the people in. By this time all was confusion and the time was rapidly passing away. Soon, Senator Munn ascended the grand stand and announced that the addresses by Gov. Cullom, Mr. Sherwin and Gen. Logan would be given in the grove at one o'clock.

A meeting of the committee with Gen. Mann was held immediately, in the interest of harmony.

AFTERNOON

At one o'clock in the afternoon a national salute of one hundred guns was fired, and during the afternoon a competitive drill between veteran organizations was one of the principal features, the prize being an elegant silk flag of regulation size, which was carried off by the survivors of the 19th Illinois Regiment, under command of Lieut. Thos. M. Beatty. They were heartily applauded by comrades and visitors, and evinced commendable pride over the victory. In the rifle contest for the possession of the beautiful silver cup offered by E.W. Trask, of this city, only two teams entered, owing to the shortness of time and the difficulty of getting suitable rifles -- the George H. Thomas Post, No. 5, G. A. R., of Chicago, and the Batavia Post No. 40. The cup was won by the former team, scoring nine points ahead and making 130 points out of a possible 175!

A little after one o'clock, General Mann called the meeting to order and introduced Governor Cullom, who proceeded to read his address from manuscript.

(address has been omitted)

The band played "The Star Spangled Banner," and the Gen. Mann introduced Honorable J.C. Sherwin, who responded to Gov. Cullom's remarks.

(response has been omitted)

General Logan was then introduced amid loud cheers, and acclamations of delight.

(address has been omitted)

The boys gave him three cheers and a "tiger," and the audience repaired to the amphitheatre to witness the competitive drill.

The dress parade Thursday evening was very fine, about five thousand troops appearing in line. They were duly inspected by General Mann and staff, Gen. Sherer and staff and Gen. Swain and staff, and their evolutions were highly creditable.

Several excellent brass bands and a number of fine drum corps were on the grounds, while in some of the organizations very creditable glee clubs were formed, and until a late hour all gave themselves up to hilarity and seemed determined to enjoy the occasion to its fullest extent. Reminiscences of the march, the camp and the battlefield in the olden time when soldiering was a stern reality, were also in order; and as of yore the wilder spirits once more victimized their more staid comrades with practical jokes innumerable. One event of the night was especially amusing. It will be remembered that at the Amboy Reunion last year Chaplain S.D. Paine was court-martialed for the larceny of a chicken, the abducted fowl having been found in his quarters, wrapped up in a copy of the *Christian Advocate*. Upon this occasion Col. E.D. Swain was arrested by a special patrol and brought before a court-martial upon a charge of larceny -- a live alligator belonging to Chaplain Paine having been found in his tent. The Colonel denied the alligation and claimed that he could "whip the alligator," but was nevertheless sentenced to be shot at sunrise next morning. About this time the officers' quarters were suddenly assaulted by a band of about one hundred and fifty "guerrillas," who captured Gen. Mann and his officers of the court-martial and carried them bodily outside the lines. The order for the court-martial was issued by Gen. Mann, commanding the "Union Forces," but the post being under the control of Gen. Sherer, the trial should have been ordered by that officer -- hence the raid for the rescue of the prisoner. The alarm being sounded, however, and the "Union Forces" speedily rallied, the liveliest kind of a skirmish for half an hour with blank cartridges in the dark ensued, resulting in the rescue of Gen. Mann and the repulse of the guerrillas -- and at sunrise yesterday morning General Swain secured a new lease on life by a liberal distribution of cigars.

FRIDAY MORNING

Shortly after daylight strangers commenced swarming into the city over every thoroughfare, and at an early hour all the principal streets were filled with vehicles of every description, and a vast mass of humanity intent only upon reaching the camp as soon as possible, and thousands were compelled to walk to the grounds, the steady stream of omnibuses, hacks and wagons constantly rushing back and forth not being nearly sufficient for their accommodation. All the regular and many extra trains over each of the roads were crowded almost to suffocation, and brought about as many passengers upon the platforms and tops of the cars as inside, and among them were many additional hundreds of soldiers.

At nine o'clock Lieut. Gen. Sheridan and a large number of distinguished visitors arrived from Chicago. The General was received by Honorable F.L. Bartlett and escorted to the Fitch House. Soon after came the Rockford Post, G. A. R., uniformed and under arms, the First Regiment, I. N. G., a detachment of dismounted cavalry of the First Cavalry I. N. G., The Union Veteran Club, and several Posts of the G. A. R., from Chicago and elsewhere.

About 11 o'clock these troops paraded the principal streets of the city under the command of Col. Leander Bauder -- the veterans to the number of over one thousand escorting General Sheridan and party in carriages, and eight companies of the First Regiment bringing up the rear. There were in the procession a detachment of the Nineteenth Regiment, Rockford, Whittier, Custer and other posts of the G. A. R., the Union Veteran Club, a detachment of cavalry, the Forest City Band from Rockford, and several other fine bands and drum corps from Chicago and Downers Grove. The evolutions of the First Regiment were very fine, and the processions as a whole was the most imposing seen on our streets for years. All along the route the gallant Phil. Sheridan was heartily welcomed and gracefully acknowledged from time to time the enthusiasm of the people who thronged the streets, windows and house tops.

The procession gradually wended its way to the camp, followed by the thousands of late arrivals and the tardy ones who had lingered to catch a glance at "Little Phil.," the hero of "Winchester" and a hundred other bloody fields, and in another hour the streets were emptied of the surging mass of humanity.

By general order in the morning, Gen. Swain organized his forces of the G. A. R. for the sham battle as follows: First, Nevins' Post No. 1, Rockford; Post 20, Aurora; William Jackson Post 37, Elmira, and Post 48, Batavia are hereby organized into a battalion to be known as the First Battalion, G. A. R. Second, Whittier, Post No. 7, Chicago; Veteran Post 49, Elgin; Post 45, Galesburg; and Dan McCook's Post 53, Elmwood will form the Second Battalion G. A. R.

Early the crowd began to press through the gates. The great expectation was to see General Sheridan. About nine o'clock the artillery moved around to the northwest gate, where Logan entered Thursday. "He's coming," is on every lip -- then a rush to see him only to return disappointed. One, two and three hours go by and still

SHERIDAN IS ONLY A MILE AWAY

At last, while all eyes are looking toward the northwest, and a large crowd has gathered at the gate to meet him, his carriage enters the west gate, and he arrives at headquarters before his presence is scarcely known. "That's him in the second carriage; the man with the big front teeth. I know him; I've seen him a thousand times," said a voice. The crowd gathered round, and the stylish Adjutant of the 26th Illinois Militia came near being taken for a great General. But he is tall, and Phil. short; he is Scotch, and Phil. is Irish; He is adjutant Robbins, and Phil. is Lieut. General Sheridan.

The grand review of the veterans and militia took place a little after 12 o'clock.

AFTERNOON

About 2 o'clock the people began to take seats in the amphitheatre to witness the closing scenes.

Fife-Major Coolidge is seen purchasing a bottle of "pop" to wet his fife in the absence of water. While waiting for the dignitaries to arrive, Conchshell Reynolds, of Chicago, and a drunken red faced man alternate in speeches from the judges stand. At 3 o'clock a band begins to play.

Ex-Governor Beveridge calls the audience to order. He reads the following from inscription on a drum he holds in his hand: "Presented to R.H. Hendershot, by the *Tribune Co.* for gallant service on the field of battle on the Rappahannock, and calls upon him for a specimen of his skill. This is given, and another in response to an encore.

The Ex-Governor is then loudly called for, and in response he spoke as follows:

(response has been omitted)

General Hurlbut was then called for, and stepping forward commenced to speak, but the appearance of General Sheridan awoke such applause that he had to desist. The Judges stand was cleared of its occupants and Gen. Sheridan and others of the invited guests took possession.

SHAM BATTLE

At 3:45 o'clock the First Regiment, Commanded by Lieut. Col. Knox, appeared at the left and took position of Fort Wade and the rifle pits to the right of it. They represent the rebels to-day. They were immediately followed by the Grand Army of the Republic, with two pieces of artillery, under the command of Col. Swain, and took possession of the Naperville road to the right. At the same time General Hilliard, with the veterans and militia, take possession of the woods on the left, the Union line facing west. Gen. O.L. Mann commands the Union forces, and Gen. T.J. Henderson the rebels.

Crowds of people are gathered around, and on the roof of the house to the east on the Naperville road, about three-fourths of a mile distant. The woods back of Gen. Hilliard's command are full of people. The trees in the fair ground to the left of the fort clear around to the amphitheatre are swaying with a burden of men and boys. Watson's amphitheatre is running full; so are the others. The fence around the race track is occupied also. The centre of the field is well filled. Orderlies are seen hurrying people from the space between the opposing forces. And at twenty minutes past four Hilliard sends out a line of skirmishers toward the fort. This is responded to by a canon shot, and a charge by mounted guerillas. A charge from a portion of the Union line on the east sends them flying back. They rally and charge again, with the same result. The veterans on the left move forward and lie down. Hilliard's cannon let loose upon the fort, the crack of the rifle comes faster and faster. Swain's cannon open up on the right. Hilliard's skirmishers move forward. His veterans come forward in double quick. The Rebels open fire and they are brought to a halt. The guerillas are seen skirmishing again on the left. A flag of truce appears at the fort, and for a moment the firing ceases. It is but a ruse on the part of the rebels, for they open fire again with greater energy. Gen. Hilliard's men on the left begin to retreat and Swain lets loose on the right. Hilliard's artillery come rushing to the front and commence firing again. The action has become general. There is a charge of the Union forces, cheering and the rebels run. The stars and bars begin to come down. But, up they go again! the rebels have retaken the fort. Swain comes moving up on the right. Volleys from the Grand Army come so simultaneous that they seem like the roll of a drum. An old army officer cries out, "That sounds natural." Swain's men have driven the rebels out of the rifle pits. It is almost a hand to hand conflict around the fort. The stars and stripes are inside. The rebels are prisoners. But the rebel flag won't come down, the hands that drew it up last broke the rope. A Union soldier starts up the staff, but soon comes down. The rebels are whipped, but the flag "holds the fort." At eleven minutes to five, all is over.

"Twas a sham battle. Well that it was so. Would that all battles were shams, except those that are for home and native land. The surgeons had use for their hospital tent and bandages. In the fight on the skirmish line a gun was so carelessly near to a man's face as to blow away a part of his cheek. It is a wonder that more were not hurt. Civilians have seen an animated picture of battle. May they never see it in reality.

A most happy and judicious selection by the State Executive Committee was that of Gen. S.B. Sherer, of Chicago, as Post Commander, and that gallant officer was ably assisted throughout the encampment by the following staff:

Chief of Staff -- Capt. T.G. Lawler, Rockford, Ill.

Adj't Gen'l. -- Capt. A.C. Ferre, Aurora, Ill.

Asst. A. A. Gen'l. -- Major Geo. G. Biddulph, Millington, Ill.
 Acting A. A. G. -- Capt. J.E.J. Lytle, Mendota, Ill.
 Q. M. -- Capt. B.F. Nourse, Chicago, Ill.
 A. Q. M. -- Capt. T.R. Polglase, Sandwich, Ill.
 Inspector Gen'l. -- Major John J. Healy, Chicago, Ill.
 Com. Sub. -- Capt. J.B. Chase, Aurora, Ill.
 Asst. Com. Sib. -- Capt. John McQueen, Elgin, Ill.
 A. D. C. -- Major D. Welter, Chicago, Ill.
 A. D. C. -- Capt. L.C. Porter, Racine, Wis.
 A, D. C. -- Capt. H.B. Douglas, Aurora, Ill.
 Ord. Officer -- Lieut. J.H. Hubbard, Aurora, Ill.
 Mustering Officer -- Capt. G.V. Johnson, Kirkwood, Ill.
 Provost Marshall -- Capt. A.C. Graves, Aurora, Ill.
 Engineer Officer -- Lieut. J.D. Calahan, Streator, Ill.
 Surgeon -- Lieut. Col. A. Hard, Aurora, Ill.
 Chaplain -- Samuel D. Paine, Jacksonville, Florida
 Ordinance Sergt. -- Edgar B. Street, Aurora, Ill.
 Hospital Steward -- J.C. Dennison, Englewood, Ill.
 Buglar -- Thos. Meredith, Batavia, Ill.

THE COMMITTEES

Our report would be incomplete without a list of the various committees by whom the multifarious details have been so faithfully carried out, and through whose combined exertions this Second Annual Reunion has been made a splendid success. The gentlemen composing them have labored with untiring zeal from the time they were assigned to duty, often in the face of most trying discouragement, and great credit is due to one and all for the gratifying results achieved.

The State Executive Committee appointed at Amboy last year consists of Col. T.B. Coulter, of this city, President; L.C. Porter, now in Racine, Wis, Vice President; Major W.H. Watson, Aurora, Secretary and Treasurer; Col. W.H. Haskell, Amboy, Col. W.M. Kilgore, Sterling, Col. J.M. Beardsley, Rock Island, Col. E.D. Swain, Chicago, Col. E.A. Bowen, Mendota and Lieut. J. Richardson, of Galesburg.

This committee met in Aurora the 1st of April, and having decided to hold the Second Annual Reunion in this city, the following committees were selected to carry out details, and the admirable manner in which their duties have been performed is not only creditable to themselves but a source of satisfaction to all concerned.

Executive Committee -- W.W. Bishop, Fred O. White, L.O. Hill, Joseph Reising, and H.B. Douglas.

Finance Committee -- L.O. Hill, Joseph Reising, the Hon. C.C. Earle (Treasurer), and J.J. McLallen (Secretary).

Committee on Ordinance, Arms and Ammunition -- Fred O. White, H.B. Douglas and the Hon. H.H. Evans.

Committee on Fortifications -- A.F. Wade, George Wilder and Con. O'Neill.

Committee on Transportation and Organization of Companies -- A.C. Ferre, M.M. Robbins, G.A. Pfrangle and C. Zimmers.

Committee on Invitation, Reception and Hotel Accommodation -- The Hon. W.W. Bishop, the Hon. F.L. Bartlett and N. Goldsmith.

Committee on Music and Decorations -- H.A. Judd, J.F. Harral and Holmes Miller.

Committee on Grounds -- O.N. Shedd, J.H. Pease, W.H. Watson and T.B. Coulter.

Committee on Police -- A.C. Graves, R.B. Gates and James Battle.

Committee on Advertising and Supplies -- J.B. Chase, R.W. Corbett and A.P. Vaughn.

The above committees constituted a committee of the whole with Mayor W.W. Bishop as the President and R.W. Corbett as Secretary, and held regular weekly meetings for consultation.

THE SOLDIERS REUNION ASSOCIATION

Held their annual meeting yesterday, Col. T.R. Coulter, of this city, presiding, and W.H. Watson officiating as Secretary, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President -- Col. E.D. Swain, Chicago.

Vice President -- First, Major W.H. Watson, Aurora; Second, Colonel Elliot, of Princeton.

Treasurer -- Col. T.R. Coulter, Aurora.

Secretary -- Col. J.T. Foster, Englewood.

The following named represents the several counties, two from each county:

Knox -- Lieutenant Richardson, Dr. L.S. Lambert.

Will -- James G. Wood, W. Dougal.

Cook -- General O.L. Mann, Captain John Stephens.

Lee -- Captain Bartlett, Captain W.S. Frost.

Boone -- General S.A. Hurlbut, Major Charles Loop.

Woodford -- Lieutenant C.C. Weber, Lieutenant G.W. Horner.

DeKalb -- General R.F. Dutton, Captain J.M. Burst.

DuPage -- Corporal Walter Wood, M. Wismeuthal.

Lake -- Captain Partridge.

Henderson -- Major Maxel, Private Harvard.

Stephenson -- General Smith, D. Atkins.

Sangamon -- Gen. H. Hilliard, Captain Horace Chopin.

Iroquois -- Captain Alex A.C.G. Cuser, Alex Whitehall.

Macoupin -- Gen. J.R. Rinecker, Colonel Roulett.

Livingston -- Captain J.B. Parson, Captain B.E. Robinson.

McHenry -- Colonel J.M. Souther, M.S. Joslyn.

Whiteside -- Colonel Kilgore, Captain A.S. Rounds.

Kane -- Captain H.B. Douglass, Captain A.C. Ferre.

Jo Davies -- General U.S. Grant.

Ogle -- Captain F. Marsh, Captain John Mosts.

Warren -- Captain R. Irwin, Private S.C. Grover.

Carroll -- Major M.R.A. Hauks, Major Adam Nase.

Winnebago -- Captain J.B. Lawler.

Bureau -- General T.J. Henderson.

Jeferson -- General Pavey, Colonel Taylor.

Rock Island -- J.M. Beardsley, Major Havenstack.

Hancock -- Colonel Morrison.

Marion -- Gen. J. Martin, Captain Leats.

Kendall -- L.G. Bennett, Captain Hemenway.

LaSalle -- C.E. Bales, B.F. Hitt.

Among the veteran visitors to Aurora was Mr. Felix LeBaume, of Chicago, one of the survivors of Andersonville, and a member of the New York Regiment No. 39, which enlisted as the "Garabaldi Body Guards." Among the relics Mr. LeBaume showed us were; the bit of lead pencil, furnished with an extempore iron handle, with which he wrote a sketch of Andersonville, a copy of which is in the G. A. R. room. The pencil, inferior as it was, was worth \$10 in Andersonville. A specimen of coarse ground corn meal, a pint of which composed a man's bread ration for twenty-four hours. Years have certainly changed its appearance, but it is bad enough in all conscience now. An iron spoon which he had inherited from prisoners who had died before him. One end was sharpened as a sort of knife.
(1879-ROBBINS,HUBBARD)

Wednesday, August 27, 1879

Had it been "a grand Reunion" in Mississippi or South Carolina, the flags of those commonwealths would have been profusely displayed, and the star spangled banner been relegated to comparative obscurity. But in the great Reunion just closed in this city, flags of the Union only floated to the breeze, and the arms and flag of Illinois was no where seen. Our people are quite as proud of this noble empire State of the west as any people can be of their homes, but not one in ten thousand knows what her flag is. They are wide hearted, noble minded, and owe and acknowledge allegiance to the one flag of a great nation.

Memorial Hall was visited by admiring thousands during the reunion, and drew many encomiums upon the patriotism and good taste of its projectors and builders. A number of both exterior and interior views were disposed of by Miss. Florence Cooley and other members of the Ladies Association, the profits of which were to go toward the balance due upon the fountain.

Capt. A.C. Ferre, who officiated as Post Adjutant last week, is entitled to much credit for kindly and thoughtful courtesies shown the press. His private tent was given up to the reporters, who were furnished with table and chairs, and throughout the Reunion, he and his able assistant, Capt. W.B. Spain, were untiring in their efforts to afford representatives of the press every facility in their power.

At the headquarters of Post Adjutant A.C. Ferre, during the Reunion last week, there were registered the names of 703 soldiers, representing 209 different regiments, from nineteen different States and the regular army. And these were simply stragglers, whose names appeared on none of the muster rolls, but who were subsequently organized into companies. The regiments represented by these 703 men were as follows:

Illinois -- 105th, 52nd, 36th, 144th, 71st, 96th, 146th, 95th, 141st, 77th, 116th, 102nd, 100th, 89th, 84th, 12th, 75th, 42nd, 88th, 53rd, 64th, 25th, 124th, 16th, 46th, 33rd, 15th, 32nd, 115th, 47th, 26th, 129th, 75th, 127th, 58th, 93rd, 125th, 13th, 39th, 92nd, 156th, 14th, 30th, 37th, 132nd, 46th, 55th, 104th, 17th, 86th, 56th, 82nd, 75th, 138th, 11th, 116th, 45th, 57th, 19th, 24th,

145th, 140th, 23rd, 91st, 134th, 65th, 18th, 151st, 137th, 147th, 87th, 20th, 22nd, 131st, 112th, 101st, 78th, 103rd, 9th, 90th, 72nd, 7th, 79th, 139th, and 97th Infantry; 1st, 7th, 9th, 5th, 12th, 5th, 15th, 8th, 36th, 13th, 10th, and 2nd Cavalry; 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mercantile Battery, Bolton's Battery, Artillery -- 103.

New York -- 40th, 122nd, 13th, 7th, 111th, 1st, 33rd, 22nd, 24th, 76th, 108th, 154th, 14th, 6th, and 16th Infantry; 2nd, 12th, 16th, 18th, 20th and 22nd Cavalry; 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 9th Artillery --25.

Pennsylvania -- 54th, 76th, 98th, 112th, 124th, 137th, 111th, 141st, 45th, 31st and 28th Infantry; 5th and 14th Cavalry; 1st Artillery --14.

Ohio -- 33rd, 70th, 40th, 29th, 4th, 80th, 121st, 35th and 72nd Infantry; 5th and 6th Cavalry; 1st and 8th Artillery -- 13.

Wisconsin -- 7th, 29th, 13th, 19th, 8th, 10th and 28th Infantry; 1st Cavalry -- 8.

Iowa -- 12th, 31st, 8th, 41st and 47th Infantry; 5th Cavalry --6.

Michigan -- 7th, 28th 1st and 8th Infantry; 2nd and 6th Artillery -- 6.

Indiana -- 11th, 9th, 12th and 48th Infantry; 4th Cavalry -- 5.

Maine -- 1st and 11th Infantry; 1st, 2nd and 9th Artillery -- 5.

Massachusetts - 4th and 34th Infantry; 2nd Cavalry and Battery E. Artillery -- 4.

Missouri -- 11th and 8th Infantry, and 7th Cavalry --3.

Vermont -- 8th and 6th Infantry -- 2.

New Jersey -- 3rd and 9th Infantry -- 2.

Rhode Island -- 14th Infantry and 1st Cavalry -- 2.

New Hampshire, 12th Inf.; California, 8th Inf.; Minnesota, 10th Inf.; Kansas, 7th Inf.; Tennessee, 4th Inf. -- 5.

From the regular U. S. Army the 15th, 19th, 3rd and 6th Infantry, and 4th Cavalry were represented; also the 48th Colored Infantry, and several vessels of the Navy.

There were registered two veterans of the war of 1812 -- A. Tyler, of-----, and James Arthur, of Earlville; while John Rogers, of Batavia, served in the Florida war, the Mexican war, and the war with the South.

Aside from these 2,106 names appeared upon the muster rolls; The Chicago Veteran Club of 400 men and a number of large Posts of the G. A. R. were without muster rolls, and it is estimated that fully 2,000 men were thus unregistered. It is quite probable that every regiment that ever left Illinois was represented, and fully 5,000 veterans took part in the Second Annual Reunion.

Saturday, August 30, 1879

CITY NEWS

The fourteenth annual reunion of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry will be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, in Chicago, on Thursday, Sept. 18th.

Wednesday, September 10, 1879

CITY NEWS

Hon. J.C. Sherwin delivers the oration at the annual reunion of the 36th Regiment, which occurs at Sandwich on the 25th inst.

Saturday, September 13, 1879

CITY NEWS

At the last meeting of the Reunion Committee a \$20 gold piece was unanimously voted to Gen. S.B. Sherer, of Chicago, to cover the expenses incurred by that gentleman while so ably discharging the duties of Commander of the Post during the Reunion. In characteristic letter to Secretary Corbett, Gen. Sherer gracefully declined to accept the donation personally, but trusts the committee will approve of his investment of the amount for the benefit of the Memorial Hall Association. In a postscript he adds that he ordered five bound volumes of *Harpers Weekly* to be sent to Memorial Hall library, for years 1861, '62, '63, '64 and '65 -- covering the period of the war. The citizens of Aurora will duly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the gallant donor in making this generous and appropriate selection.

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., will attend divine services at Galena Street M. E. Church, to-morrow, Sunday, September 14th. Preaching by their old Chaplain, Rev. S.D. Payne.

Wednesday, September 17, 1879

CITY NEWS

Upon invitation of Rev. S.D. Paine who once more occupied his old pulpit at the Galena Street M. E. Church last Sunday, a large detachment of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., attended services at that church in a body, to listen to another sermon from their former Chaplain. The speaker delivered an eloquent and interesting discourse from Romans, 1st chapter, 15th and 16th verses:

So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth -- to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Saturday, September 27, 1879

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH ILL. VETERANS.

Sandwich puts all previous Meetings in the shade -- Splendid Day -- Splendid Attendance -- Splendid Speeches -- A Grand Dinner -- Guests present and Officers elected for the ensuing year.

Never in the history of all our reunions have we had a more beautiful day than last Thursday, when the members of the old 36th gathered together to spend a few hours in social greeting in the city of Sandwich. Sandwich is a pleasant town, and while her buildings are perhaps not large as are those in some other places, she can boast of as large hearted citizens as any city on the continent. When the proper time arrived, Col. J.B. Geddis, Chief Marshall and Capt. Will. H. Hall, Assistant, had the soldiers and their wives fall into line and marched the column to the Congregational Church, where an outdoor platform had been built and temporary seats constructed for the accommodation of speakers and hearers.

The exercises were opened by a prayer, after which Hon. J.M. Hummel, President of the Day, extended the freedom of the city to his guests in a short speech, which in its oddities and originality was characteristic of the man.

In a few well chosen and patriotic words E.G. Coe delivered the address of welcome, and J.L. Dryden followed in what should have been a response, but what proved to be quite an elaborate oration, full of thought, fervor and expression of loyalty.

Hon. John C. Sherwin came next with an oration, and like all of his efforts it was a credit to his manliness, showed good reasoning powers, reached the hearts of his hearers, and was worthy of the occasion.

The exercises were interspersed with good music by the City band, and the various speakers were greeted, and frequently interrupted with applause.

After the exercises were over, the procession was reformed and marched to Union Hall, where the guests sat down to the finest dinner ever set before the organization in any place to which they have been invited thus far in the history of the regiment. This is saying a great deal; but is the testimony of everyone who was there.

The Town Hall is the best building in the city. The audience room is very pleasant, and the tables were simply superb. There was a profusion of flowers, glass and silver were in abundance, luscious fruits, and every delicacy that one could ask for, besides all the substantial. The cheers which were given for the Sandwich ladies came from the heart of every soldier.

After the first table was through, Mayor Hummel read the toasts and called for responses as follows:

“The President of the United States.” Response by Hon. J.C. Sherwin.

“Our Flag.” Response by J.I. Montgomery.

“Memory of A. Lincoln.” Response by J.C. Dennison.

“The Thirty Sixth Regiment.” Col. N. Greusel.

“The Field and Staff.” Response by Fred O. White.

“The Rank and File.” Response by L.G. Bennett.

“Gen. George H. Thomas and Army of the Cumberland.” Response by J.L. Dryden.

“Soldier of foreign birth who defended their adopted country.” Response by Rev. G.H. Robertson.

“The absent Ones.” Capt. J.M. Trumbull.

“Our Fallen Comrades.” Johnson Harvey.

“The Union Women of America.” Dr. Wm. Goodfellow.

The tables were now cleared and the members of the 36th Regiment went to the headquarters to transact regimental business. President Will. H. Hall called the meeting to order, and eighty-two members of the old regiment reported. Col. Campbell has had possession of the original colors of the regiment for several years, brought them here from Dacotah, and on motion they were turned over to F.O. White, Chris. Zimmer and Mrs. D.W. Young as a committee to deposit them in Memorial Building in Aurora.

On motion of J.F. Harral, a vote of thanks was tendered the officers of the C. B. & Q. for reduced fares, and on motion a like vote was passed to the citizens of Sandwich for their hospitality.

Several deaths were reported and the following resolutions were passed by a rising vote: WHEREAS, Since our last annual meeting our late comrades, Gustavus Voss, J.D. Allison, L.F. Ticknor and Geo. W. Wood have been detailed by The Great Commander above to a higher and better service. Therefore be it

Resolved -- That we bow in humble submission to the Divine Command which has deprived us of the fellowship and society of our beloved comrades.

Resolved -- That we tender to the relatives and friends of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Resolved -- That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the families and published in local papers where they reside.

L.G. Bennett,
J.L. Dryden,
H.B. Douglas, Com.

M.E. Cornell, Esq., Treasurer of the Olson Monument Fund, reported that he had a	
Balance on hand in 1878 of	\$252.19
Received from members and interest	30.89
“ “ W.H. Hall, Plano	<u>38.45</u>
Total	\$321.53

The following comrades were appointed as committee on Badges; G.L. Hagadone, A.C. Ferre and J.C. Dennison.

M.E. Cornell, L.G. Bennett and I.F. Hemmingway were appointed as a committee to confer with the Board of Supervisors of Kendall County and solicit an appropriation, which added to the amount on hand of the Olson Fund, shall be used in the erection of a soldiers' monument in the public square in Yorkville.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year: Captain W.H. Hall, President; M.E. Cornell, Treasurer; and Fred O. White, Secretary.

W.H. Chamberlain and wife came all the way from New York City to attend the reunion. Col. N. Greusel and wife, Gen. S.B. Sherer, Hon. J.R. Marshall, of the Kendall County *Record*, E.E. Lloyd, Lieut. of Police, Chicago, Rev. S.D. Paine, Hon. H.H. Evans and wife, Maj. L.G. Bennett, W.P. West and wife, Capt. J.M. Trumbull, W.M. Bradshaw, J.C. Dennison, and many other honored guests were present.

The Reunion was a success in every particular. Especial credit is due to Hon. J.M. Hummel, Col. J.B. Geddis, Hon. M.B. Castle, J.C. Taylor, John Culver, Johnson Harvey, J.P. Adams, Wm. H. Hall, Mr. Bloodgood of the *Free Press*, and many other ladies and gentlemen who spared neither labor nor pains to provide for and entertain their visitors.

The next Reunion will be held at Chrystal (Crystal) Lake in September, 1880.
(1879-I01)

F.O. White on Wednesday received five volumes of *Harpers Weekly*, covering the entire period of the war, thoughtfully donated by Gen. S.B. Sherer, of Chicago, as the nucleus of a library for the Memorial Hall building. It is a most appropriate and timely gift and one which will be highly appreciated by all interested.

Saturday, October 4, 1879

CITY NEWS

The Logan Guards loaned their blouses to the Batavia Post G. A. R., for their military drama last week, and are delighted with the excellent shape in which they were returned. All were nicely brushed and neatly folded, and reached the owners in even better condition than when they left. One of the boys who carelessly left a one dollar note in the breast pocket of his blouse was gratified and surprised to find the money still undisturbed though the garment had been in use every night for a week in Batavia.

Wednesday, October 22, 1879

THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE

The following circular letter explains itself:

Headquarters Society of the Army
of the Tennessee,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 1, 1879

To the members of the society of the Army of the Tennessee:

The thirteenth annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee will be held in Chicago, Ill., on Wednesday and Thursday, November 12 and 13, 1879.

Our first Commander, General U.S. Grant, will be with us.

The annual address will be delivered by General W.Q. Gresllam.

All arrangements for the meeting will be under the charge and direction of the following;

Local Executive Committee -- John A. Logan, Chairman; Capt. John T. McAuley, Secretary.

Finance -- General John Mason Loomis, Chairman.

Invitation -- General Wm. E. Strong, Chairman.

Reception -- General A.L. Chetlain, Chairman.

Music -- Colonel Wm. L. Barnum, Chairman.

Banquet -- Lieutenant R.S. Tuthill, Chairman.

Halls -- General J.S. Reynolds, Chairman.

Decoration -- Captain Martin Beem, Chairman.

Printing -- Major J.A. Fitch, Chairman.

Entertainments -- Lieutenant G.L. Paddock, Chairman.

Marshals -- Captain John C. Neely, Chairman.

Transportation -- General J. Stockton, Chairman.

Who will give due and timely notice of the details of their arrangements.

Officers who have, at any time, served in the Army or Department of the Tennessee are, by our constitution, entitled to membership, and are respectfully requested to attend.

Members of kindred societies are cordially invited to participate.

W.T. Sherman, President

L.M. Dayton, Rec. Secretary

A. Hickenlooper, Cor. Sec.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Saturday, October 25, 1879

FINAL SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to call, a meeting of the Reunion committee was held Tuesday evening at the Council chamber, to make a final disposition of the funds remaining on hand. Mayor Bishop occupied the chair, and there were present Joseph Rising, L.O. Hill, F.O. White, C.C. Earle, H.B. Douglas, A.C. Ferre, J.J. McLallen, G.A. Pfangle, T.B. Coulter, Dr. Robbins, A.F. Wade, Dr. F.L. Bartlett, W.S. Beaupre, C. O'Niell, Chris. Zimmers, O.N. Shedd, H.A. Judd, Holmes Miller, W.H. Watson, Frank Harral, James Battle, A.C. Graves, R.W. Corbett, J.B. Chase, A.P. Vaughn, and R.B. Gates. Those absent were George Wilder, H.H. Evans and John Pease.

On the request being made by the chairman that all who were not members should retire, R.P. Goodwin stated that he was there as an attorney to present the claim of Rev. Mr. Hubbard, who had a leg broken by the falling of a stand on the second day of the Reunion. Mr. Goodwin declined to submit the claim in writing as requested, but stated that he had been retained by Mr. Hubbard. It had been the intention to set apart a handsome sum for Mr. Hubbard, but this information that they were to be forced to pay a claim for damages, when the gentleman was injured while occupying a position to which he was not entitled, and from which he had been several times ordered, was received with bad grace and entirely changed the feeling.

The Committee on Ordinance, Arms and Ammunition presented a report showing the expenditure of \$935.73. The report of the finance committee showed the total receipts from all sources to be \$8,588.34, and the expenditures \$5,157.84 -- leaving a net balance of \$3,430.50.

W.H. Watson moved that the sum of \$100 be donated to Rev. Mr. Hubbard, and \$50 to Frank Rising, for injuries sustained -- and also \$40 to Mr. Campbell for care of Mr. Hubbard; but all present voted nay, with the exception of Messrs. Watson and Miller. And when the propriety of engaging an attorney was broached the members refused to acknowledge any responsibility in the matter, the body not being an incorporated society.

On motion of A.C. Ferre, the sum of \$500 was set aside as a contingent fund, to be used in future donations, or as the committee hereafter see fit.

On motion of J.B. Chase, the sum of \$25 was appropriated to the State Committee of the Reunion Association.

F.O. White moved that the sum of \$1,800 be set apart for a free public library to be placed in Memorial Hall.

In amendment, A.C. Ferre moved that the sum be made \$1,000.

Mr. Rising moved, in amendment to the amendment, that the amount be made \$1,500 -- which was lost by the following vote: Ayes -- Bishop, Bartlett, Rising, Judd, Hill, O'Niell, Pfangle, White and Corbett --10. Nays -- Beaupre, Coulter, Chase, Ferre, Vaughn, Robbins, Graves, Wade, Miller, Earle, Douglas, Shedd, Zimmers, Harral, Gates and Watson -- 16.

The amendment setting apart \$1,000 for a free public library, then prevailed.

The following resolution was presented by H.B. Douglas, who moved its passage:

Resolved, That the balance of the net proceeds of the Reunion held at Aurora, Ill., August 20, 21 and 22, 1879, be turned over to Aurora Post No. 20, Department of Illinois, G. A. R., to be used in their charitable and decoration day fund.

The proposition was strongly opposed by Messrs. Bishop, Hill and others, who considered it selfish that the G. A. R. should wish to take the lion's share because a majority of the committee were members of that Order, and gentlemen who had been mainly instrumental in

securing donations had promised citizens so donating that if any money was made the amount donated should go to a public library.

On the contrary, it was urged in support of the resolution that the gathering was a reunion of old soldiers, whose principal object was to aid disabled soldiers and care for and protect the widows and orphans of deceased comrades, it seemed most fitting and proper that, after setting aside the \$1,000 as a nucleus for a free public library, the surplus remaining should go to the G. A. R. benevolent fund. The statement that a majority of the committee were G. A. R. men was scarcely correct, since Mr. White was one of the strongest advocates for an additional library appropriation, and without him there were but twelve G. A. R. voters out of twenty-seven present.

Mr. Rising presented a communication from the Light Guards, asking that an appropriation be made to help them out of debt -- and moved that the sum of \$200 be presented to them.

Mr. Coulter, the former Captain of the Light Guards, said that when he left the company, it was out of debt; but it was now on its last legs, the members were quarreling among themselves, and it would do no good to help them out of debt.

Mr. Rising's motion was lost by the following vote; Ayes -- Messrs. Earle, Pfrangle, Rising, Battle, Miller, Judd, O'Niell and Corbett -- 8. Nays -- Messrs. Chase, Beaupre, Bartlett, Coulter, Graves, Vaughn, Gates, Robbins, Ferre, Shedd, Zimmers, Wade, Harral, Hill, Douglas, White, Watson and Bishop -- 18.

Mr. Douglas' resolution was then passed by the following vote; Ayes -- Rising, Bartlett, Graves, Chase, Gates, Vaughn, Miller, Judd, Robbins, Ferre, Coulter, Zimmers, Harral, Wade, O'Niell, White, Douglas, Pfrangle, Battle, Watson, Bishop and Corbett -- 22. Nays -- Earle, Shedd and Hill; and the balance, \$1,904.50 turned over to Aurora Post. To this will also be added a small amount yet to be realized from the sale of cartridges.

On motion of A.P. Vaughn, the beautiful silk flag left from the Reunion was presented to the Monument Association, to be placed in Memorial Hall.

On motion, the committee then adjourned, to meet on call of the chairman.

We were much in favor of the donation of \$2,000 of the surplus moneys from the Soldiers' Reunion in this city to the public library scheme. It would have aided very materially in an enterprise which is for the benefit of all our people -- and doubtless would have hastened its opening one or two years. The appropriation of \$1,000 will be very useful in time -- but really leaves the enterprise where it was.

The committee are all responsible men, and doubtless did what conscience and sense dictated to be for the best, and we must submit, however, much we disagree with their decision. The majority rules -- though it may err, all the same.

Wednesday, October 29, 1879

CITY NEWS

Too bad that the *News* was disappointed by the non appearance of the Logan Guards Monday evening. That organization is composed of old soldiers, mainly members of Aurora

Post G. A. R., not officered by Hawkins or Corbett, and happily its movements are not controlled by the *News*.

The meeting of the G. A. R., last night was one of the largest every held since the organization of the Post; but it was not the most harmonious ever held by any means. It was quite spirited and some of the dissatisfied ones were not afraid to speak out and tell how they felt.

There is one thing plainly shown by the dissatisfaction at the G. A. R. meeting last night, and that is that the clique that have been pushing themselves to the front in that organization must step back or many of the substantial members will step down and out. This change is inevitable. -- *Daily News of Saturday*.

The above statements are utterly without foundation in fact. The attendance of members at the meeting of the Post last Friday evening was not unusually large. It was perfectly harmonious, and the business of the evening was transacted with the same good order and good sense that always prevails in that body. The money voted to the Post by the Reunion Committee was accepted, and a resolution at once passed setting aside the sum of \$400 as a charity, to be used in settling with Rev. Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Rising for injuries sustained at the Reunion -- though the Post will not be forced into considering itself responsible or liable in either case. The animus of the *News* is too apparent to require comment, and we need only add that all its efforts to create dissension in the ranks of the G. A. R. will prove futile.

When Aurora Post, of the G. A. R. transacts any business of especial importance to this community, the Adjutant may be instructed to inform the *NEWS* of such action, but it's extremely doubtful. Until he is however, the *News* will continue to guess just as near the truth as it did yesterday.

Saturday, November 1, 1879 CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, G. A. R., will visit Chicago to take part in the reception of General Grant.

Saturday, November 8, 1879 CITY NEWS

All members of Aurora Post G. A. R., No. 20, wishing to attend the Grant reception in Chicago on the 12th inst., will leave their names at Chase & Budlong's store by Tuesday evening.

Chris Zimmers,
Post Adjutant.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will go to Chicago, Wednesday morning next, accompanied by a band of music, to take part in the reception of General Grant. They will leave this city by the 6:45 a.m. train, and have invited their comrades of the Batavia and Geneva Posts

to accompany them. Elsewhere Adjutant Zimmers requests all members of the Aurora Post intending to go to leave their names at Chase & Budlong's store before Tuesday evening -- and it is very desirable that all who can shall go.

Wednesday, November 12, 1879 CITY NEWS

A large detachment of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., left for Chicago by the 6:45 train this morning, to take part in the reception of General Grant in that city.

Saturday, November 15, 1879 *LODGES AND SOCIETIES*

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R. -- Meets 2d and 4th Fridays of each month, in G. A. R. Hall, Corner Broadway and Main street. H.B. Douglas, Com., Chris. Zimmers, Adj't.

Wednesday, November 19, 1879

When the Soldiers' Reunion was held in Aurora, the city was overflowed with visitors. More strangers were here than there were residents in the town -- and some inconvenience and trouble were experienced on account of the transportation and dust. In consequence the Chicago papers took it upon themselves to insult the people of Aurora, and malign the city. But last week, when scarcely fifty thousand visitors came to Chicago, a city boasting of half a million people, bitter complaint is heard of her inhospitality, and the selfishness of her people. A writer for an Indianapolis paper says:

Some of the Indianapolis veterans who went to Chicago have returned in a state of utter disgust at the way the reunion was managed or, rather mismanaged there. Everything was at sixes and sevens, everybody appeared crazy and nothing was well ordered. The local managers seem to have exhausted themselves in wind-work, and to have broken down when the real work came.

It will be well, hereafter, for Chicago papers to abstain from criticizing towns like Aurora for their short comings in entertainment, until their own people are competent to take care of things of the same kind, but not one quarter the proportionate size.

Wednesday, December 10, 1879

ATTENTION, G. A. R. !

At a regular meeting of Post, No. 20, G. A. R., Friday evening, Dec. 12th, will occur the annual election of "Post" officers for the ensuing year, when every comrade is urgently requested to be present. And also all whose applications for membership have been accepted should present themselves for "muster." By order of

H.B. Douglas, Commander.
Chris. Zimmer, Post Adj't.

Wednesday, December 24, 1879

CITY NEWS

Major L.G. Bennett, of Yorkville, has just presented the Monument Association with a handsome copy of his "History of the 36th Illinois Regiment," for the Memorial Hall library.

The Grand Army boys will shortly hold another "camp-fire," and at the last meeting of Aurora Post W.H. Watson, A.T. Judd and A.F. Wade were appointed as a committee to make arrangements for that pleasant event.

1880 was an election year, James A. Garfield & Chester A. Arthur would run against Winfield Hancock & William English. So much veteran power would surely attract great attention from the "non-politic" G. A. R. The National G. A. R. Encampment would be held in Dayton, Ohio in June. Louis Wagner, of Pennsylvania would be elected Commander-In-Chief. Edgar Swain, of Chicago, became Sr. Vice Commander. The Department of Illinois Encampment was held in Chicago, in January, and Edgar Swain was re-elected Department Commander. Aurora Post No. 20 would re-elect H.B. Douglas as it's Commander. The 36th held their reunion in Crystal Lake on September 23rd where William Hall was re-elected President.

Wednesday, January 7, 1880

CITY NEWS

The installation of officers elect of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., occurs on Friday evening next, and a full attendance of comrades is desired.

Wednesday, January 21, 1880

CITY NEWS

The annual "camp-fire" of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., will be held on Friday evening, February 6th.

Saturday, January 24, 1880

CITY NEWS

At the recent installation of officers of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., Comrade J.H. Freeman, Principal of West Side public schools, was appointed Adjutant of the Post. The appointment is an excellent one. Prof. Freeman was a valiant soldier in the Union service, and will honor any position to which his old comrades may assign him.

The annual camp-fire of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., occurs at Coulter Opera House on Friday evening, February 6th, and among other pleasing attractions for their invited guests the boys intend presenting the laughable farce of "Limerick Boy."

Wednesday, January 28, 1880

CITY NEWS

The State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic is in session in Chicago, and the following comrades from Aurora are in attendance: State Officers, H.B. Douglas, M.M. Robbins and W.H. Watson; Delegates, A.C. Ferre, J.B. Chase, F.O. White, A.C. Graves and Samuel Hitchcock; Alternates, J.A. Kinley, D. Corsair, Geo. L. Taylor, G.S. Chase, A.T. Judd and J.H. Blackmore. Past Commander T.B. Coulter will join them this evening.

(1880-GRAVES, CASE)

Saturday, January 31, 1880

CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 28th, 1880

G. A. R.

The annual reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic takes place in this city commencing to-morrow and lasting over Thursday. The occasion will be made interesting by parade, social meetings and speech making, and all of which will tend to make the boys happy with themselves and one another. From the Soldiers' Reunion at Aurora last year has arisen a wonderful inclination to meet often.

Most of the G. A. R. boys reached home Wednesday night from Chicago, where they had been in attendance two days at the State Encampment. All the State Officers of the organization were captured by Chicago, though Aurora was recognized by the choice of Comrade John B. Chase as a member of the Council of Administration, and the selection of Comrade Fred O. White as a delegate to the National Encampment.

Wednesday, February 4, 1880

CITY NEWS

Mistaken again. The State Encampment of the G. A. R. has never been held in Aurora.

Saturday, February 7, 1880

The sixth annual "camp-fire" held at the Opera House last evening by the veterans of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., was an exceedingly pleasant and enjoyable affair, though an entirely new departure from the ordinary conception of the word. The entertainment consisted of an address of welcome by Commander H.B. Douglas, several fine selections by the West Side quartette, and by a mixed quartette, each of which was heartily applauded; several recitations admirably rendered by Miss. Rose M. Cady, of Naperville, a gifted elocutionist and charming young lady who will be warmly welcomed whenever she may again consent to appear before an Aurora audience; a most eloquent and patriotic address by Major J.L. Dryden, of Monmouth, a gallant soldier of the 36th Illinois Regiment; and the laughable farce of "The Limerick Boy," with W.B. Hawkins in the title role, supported by an excellent cast. The Opera House was filled during this portion of the entertainment by invited guests -- and afterwards a complimentary party was given, with a good orchestra, and all who desired spent a couple of hours in the merry mazes of the dance. The occasion was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Wednesday, February 18, 1880 CITY NEWS

The members of Aurora Post and their families will indulge in an old fashioned sociable this evening at G. A. R. Hall. It is unfortunate that they should have selected an evening when quite a number of the comrades will be reluctantly compelled to attend an A. L. A. entertainment at the Opera House.

Saturday, February 21, 1880 CITY NEWS

F.O. White yesterday received for the Memorial Hall Library another valuable acquisition in the shape of a Report of the Chief of Ordinance, By Brig. S.V. Benet, U. S. A.

Wednesday, February 25, 1880 CITY NEWS

On Monday, Major W.H. Watson received notice of his re-appointment for a third term, by Department Commander Swayne, as Asst. Quarter-master General of the Department of Illinois in the G. A. R.

The wife of W.B. Gould expired at ten o'clock Monday morning at her home, corner of Spring and State streets. Mr. Gould is a carpenter employed in Holt's shop, and a member of the G. A. R. The family have resided in Aurora but a few years, but the deceased lady had won the warm esteem of a large circle of friends who will be pained by her untimely death. The bereaved husband is left with four motherless little ones, the youngest being an infant of but eight days

existence. The funeral will occur at two o'clock this afternoon from the house, Rev. W.A. Smith officiating, and the remains deposited in West Aurora Cemetery.
(1880-HAWKINS,GOULD)

A regular meeting of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R., occurs next Friday evening and it is important that all members who can should attend.

Saturday, March 13, 1880 CITY NEWS

If any person knows of an ex-member of the 118th Ill. Regiment in this vicinity, they will confer a favor by leaving his name at this office, or handing it to H.B. Douglas, Commander of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.

Saturday, April 17, 1880 CITY NEWS

Frank E. Brownell delivers his famous lecture on the "Life, Character and Services of Col. E.E. Ellsworth" next Tuesday evening at Coulter Opera House, under the auspices of Aurora Post, No. 20., G. A. R.

Saturday, April 24, 1880

The Executive Committee of the "Soldiers' Reunion of the Northwest" meets at Galesburg May 4th to decide where the Reunion for 1880 shall be held.

Saturday, May 8, 1880

DECORATION DAY.

The 30th day of May this year falling on Sunday, the ceremonies of Decoration Day will occur on the afternoon of Saturday, May 29th, and at a meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., held last evening, Comrades A.F. Wade, A.C. Graves and Eb. Denney were appointed a committee of arrangements, with instructions to carry out as near as practical the programme observed last year -- with the single addition of vocal music at each cemetery. The committee will meet early next week to select chaplains, music and committees for the various cemeteries, and perfect other preliminary arrangements.

The members of Aurora Post will meet at their hall at one o'clock p.m. and march to the City Hall, where they will form two detachments, the first proceeding to visit East Side cemeteries, and the second repairing the West Side cemeteries -- to unite again upon the island at

the conclusion of these exercises and proceed to Lincoln Park, where an oration will be delivered by Comrade J.H. Freeman, Adjutant of the Post, and Principal of the West division schools.

All ex-soldiers and sailors, and the citizens of Aurora generally, old and young, are earnestly invited to co-operate with the members of the G. A. R. in appropriately conducting the exercises of the day. A generous donation of flowers for the occasion is solicited, and all who can spare them should send them to the City Hall at an early hour Saturday morning, or notify the committee where they may be sent for.

Wednesday, May 12, 1880

Hon. John C Sherwins's bill to donate condemned cannon to the Aurora Monument Association, has passed the House of Representatives.

CITY NEWS

The Memorial Hall fountain has been improved by a coat of paint.

Saturday, May 15, 1880

DECORATION DAY.

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at their hall, Saturday, May 29th, at one o'clock p.m. and march to the Court House, where they will divide into two detachments. First detachment under command of S. V. Commander J.B. Chase will march to East Aurora and Spring Lake Cemeteries, Rev. N.A. Prentiss, Chaplain at Spring Lake, and Rev. J.L. Jackson, at Aurora Cemetery. Second detachment, under command of J. V. Commander, A.F. Wade will march to Catholic and West Aurora Cemeteries -- Chaplains, Rev. Father Stack for Catholic, and Rev. D.D. Hill, for West Aurora. After the exercises, at these cemeteries, the detachments will unite at the Court House, and the procession, under command of Post Commander H.B. Douglas, will form in the following order:

Martial Band

(Aurora Light Guards - Should they turn out.)

Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R.

Ex- Soldiers and Sailors

Orator of the Day

Mayor and Common Council

Members of the Press and Citizens

The line of march will be east to Broadway, north to Main street, east to Lincoln Park, where the beautiful and impressive Memorial Service of the G. A. R., with vocal music by Professor Stein's chorus, and an oration by Post Adjutant J.H. Freeman, will conclude the exercises of the day.

All ex-soldiers, sailors and citizens are invited to join with us.

Friends of the soldiers, who will aid us with flowers, can leave them at the Court room, on the morning of the 29th.

The following committees are appointed:

Fred James -- on all vocal music.

Frank Pinney and John Hollering -- on martial music.

Oscar Gates, Frank Harral and wife, Geo. Hale and wife -- on flowers.

A.P. Vaughn, A.T. Judd and Chas. Reynolds -- On Carriages.

Mike Malony -- For Catholic Cemetery West Aurora.

Bruce Gates -- For West Aurora Cemetery.

John Hubbard -- For German Catholic Cemetery.

Arthur Quinton -- For Aurora Cemetery.

Thos. Watson -- For Spring Lake Cemetery.

Wednesday, May 26, 1880

DECORATION DAY.

Below we give a list of the names of soldiers whose graves are located in the various cemeteries of Aurora.

EAST AURORA CEMETERY

George Gardner	N. Denniston,
----- Cogswell,	A. Moseley,
R. Flemming,	Chas. Titsworth,
Charles Otis,	J.G. Goodwin,
E.M. Emerson,	F. Goodwin,
Levi Morgan,	J.E. Merrill,
Unknown,	Fred. Hoff,
Wm. Blakesley,	W.B. Aiken,
A.P. Moffat,	R.A. Drain,
John Purdy,	N.A. Penton,
Geo. Hollenbeck,	G. Ross,
T.M. Craig,	J. Hoyt,
W.H. Berry,	Ira Warner,
F. Vaughn, Revolutionary Veteran.	

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,
Thos. Bexon,
Chas. E. Austin,
Chas. Siebolt.

E.L. Hunt,
Carl G. Metzner,
Chas. Clare,

GERMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

P. Schiltz,

N. Didat.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY

P. Lowry,
T. Fitzgerald,
Jas. Wade,
T.W. McKenna,
James McGuire,
Thos. Mahoney.

James Manahan,
A. Hanley,
E. Cunningham,
P. McGrath,
Phil. Reedy,

WEST AURORA CEMETERY

Wm. S. Huff,
M.C. Huff,
T. Race,
A. Race,
Wm. Shies,
S.A. Crance,
J.E. Smith,
J.H. Dodge,
A.J. Babcock,
C.W. Randal,
S.D. Towle,
---- Trask,
R.Y. Anderson,
J.B. Watkins,
S.B. Hawley,
Wm. Ford,
Anson Davis,
O. Curtis.

J.M. Mostow,
Wm. White,
W.W. Clegg,
Robert Linton,
Joy Tarble,
---- Young,
J.J. Wilder,
W.W. Wilder,
G.W. Myers,
Daniel Kipp,
W.H. Anderson,
D.C. White,
M. Ferguson,
N.L. Curtis,
F.E. Reynolds,
J.E. Vaughn,
Geo. Damuth,

There are one hundred and two names on this list, but their surviving comrades of Aurora Post fear that some graves heretofore have been missed, and earnestly request that if any of our readers know of any soldier's grave not here mentioned they will at once take the trouble to convey the necessary information to the proper person, as here designated:

Mike Malony -- For Catholic Cemetery West Aurora.

Bruce Gates -- For West Aurora Cemetery.

John Hubbard -- For German Catholic Cemetery.

Arthur Quinton -- For Aurora Cemetery.

Thos. Watson -- For Spring Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Hall will be open at eight o'clock, Saturday morning for the reception of flowers, and here they will be arranged by the ladies selected for that purpose. A liberal contribution of flowers is solicited, and will be sent for where it is inconvenient for parties to deliver them, on leaving name and number of residence with Mr. Gates at the Marshal's office.

Saturday, May 29, 1880

CITY NEWS

The Grand Army of the Republic extend a cordial invitation to citizens generally to participate to-day in paying a grateful tribute to the memory of the heroic men who were obedient to their country's call, and who testified their allegiance thereto by the sacrifice of their lives.

Commander H.B. Douglas requests every member of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., to be present at the hall of said Post tomorrow (Sunday) morning at 10 o'clock sharp, in uniform, to attend divine service.

The committee on flowers will be thankful for all the flowers that can be spared to-day for the graves of our dead soldiers. They should be sent to Memorial Hall at as early an hour as possible this morning, or word left with the committee as to where they may be sent for.

Mr. S. Felsenheld, having removed from the Miller & Coulter block, at the corner of Broadway and Main street, has thoughtfully presented the flag-staff upon the top of said building to Aurora Post, G. A. R., whose hall is in the third story, and to-day their flag floats from the same at half mast.

The ladies of the floral committee were busily engaged yesterday afternoon at Memorial Hall, preparing wreaths and crosses for the decoration of soldier graves to-day.

In acceptance of the invitation of the pastor, Rev. J.L. Jackson, Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will attend services at the Park Place Baptist Church to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, June 2, 1880

DECORATION DAY.

The programme of exercise arranged for the proper observance of Decoration Day was very much interrupted by a heavy and incessant rain, which rendered a general turn out impossible. A meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., was held at their hall at one o'clock p.m., and after fully discussing the subject it was decided not to postpone the exercises until Sunday afternoon, but to send squads of men in hacks and omnibuses, to decorate the soldiers graves in each of the cemeteries. Thanks to the efforts of the committee entrusted with the work, there was a great abundance of flowers, which the deft fingers of the ladies had wrought into handsome wreaths, crosses and bouquets, and each lonely grave was liberally decked with these fragrant floral tributes of affection. At the conclusion of this sad duty, the Post again assembled at their hall, and at half past three o'clock marched to the City Hall, where the solemn and

impressive services of the Order were conducted. Commander H.B. Douglas then introduced Comrade J.H. Freeman, Adjutant of the Post, who delivered the oration.

(oration omitted)

Prof. Freeman (who is the efficient and popular Superintendent of the West Side public schools) is a pleasing and forcible speaker, and his remarks were heartily applauded -- his comrades of the Post subsequently tendered him a vote of thanks. We should perhaps add in this connection, that Prof. Freeman has been in poor health for some time, felt quite unable for the effort and only consented to deliver the oration upon the urgent solicitation of his brother soldiers.

The muster roll of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., contains the names of one hundred and eighty three members. Of these, however, quite a number now sleep their last sleep. The list of soldiers graves in our cemeteries steadily increases, and as the surviving veterans each succeeding spring cover the lonely mounds with bright flowers, they instinctively ask, "How many of us will have been mustered out before next Decoration Day."

On Sunday morning last, by invitation, sixty-eight members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., attended services at the Park Place Baptist church, and listened to a most excellent discourse by the pastor, Rev. J.L. Jackson, from Proverbs 14:34 -- "Righteousness exalteth a Nation." The Post, on returning to their hall, passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Jackson for the able and interesting sermon, and requested that he furnish a copy of the same for publication, in accordance with which the discourse will appear in the Beacon next Saturday. In honor of the day and the veterans, the patriotic ladies of the society had decorated their beautiful edifice in the most charming manner with a profusion of flags and flowers, the skillful and artistic arrangement of which left nothing to be desired in that line. Excellent and appropriate music was sung by the fine choir, Mrs. J.J. McLallen presiding at the organ.

Saturday, June 9, 1880

CITY NEWS

At a regular meeting of Aurora Post, G. A. R., No. 20, held upon the 11th inst., a hearty vote of thanks was extended to all those ladies who so generously assisted in arranging flowers for Decoration Day. By order of

H.B. Douglas, Post Commander.

Wednesday, June 30, 1880

CITY NEWS

General Gates is entitled to much credit for the handsome shape in which he keeps the Memorial Hall grounds, more especially since it is only a labor of love with him. He refuses to allow his prisoners to run the lawn mower for fear they may damage the machine, and consequently cuts the grass every week himself.

Wednesday, July 7, 1880

CITY NEWS

The Memorial building was thrown open Monday, and visited by a large number of people.

Gates' new lawn sprinkler, for attaching to garden hose, is an admirable contrivance and attracts much attention when in use on Memorial Hall grounds.

In acceptance of an invitation, some sixty members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., and twenty or more of the Aurora Light Guards attended the Galena Street M. E. church Sunday morning, and listened to an able and appropriate discourse by Rev. M.E. Cady, principal of Jennings Seminary. On their way back to the East Side, the Post was invited to visit the Light Guards' armory, where both organizations united in passing a vote of thanks to Mr. Cady for the eloquent sermon, and requesting that he furnish a copy of the same for publication.

Wednesday, July 28, 1880

CITY NEWS

Gen. S.B. Sherer will have command of the Union forces during the grand military encampment at Galesburg next month.

At the Galesburg reunion next week, Col. Swain, of Chicago, will have command of the G. A. R., and has appointed on his staff from this place Col. H.H. Evans, T.B. Coulter and W.H. Watson. Gen. S.B. Sherer, who commands the Union forces, has also appointed upon his staff F.O. White, H.B. Douglas, A.C. Ferre and Dr. M.M. Robbins, of this city.

Wednesday, August 10, 1880

CITY NEWS

Mr. Pratt has an elegant new stereoptic view of the Memorial building, grounds and fountain, but happily excluding a glimpse of the City Hall, having been taken from the front of that structure. He is also making some excellent pictures, both cabinet and card size, of "In this Wheat By-and-by," representing a couple of grasshoppers perched upon a fence impatiently watching the growth of an adjoining field of wheat -- one of them playing an accompaniment upon a concertina while they unite in singing the well known melody.

Wednesday, August 18, 1880

CITY NEWS

The Annual Reunion of the 36th Regiment takes place September 23rd, at Crystal Lake.

Wednesday, September 1, 1880

REUNION 8th ILLINOIS CAVALRY.

The annual Reunion of the Eighth Regiment Illinois Cavalry will be held at the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., on Friday, September 17th, 1880. Fall in at 11 o'clock a.m. sharp. Dinner one dollar each. By order of the Executive Committee.

ABNER HARD, Secretary

Neighboring papers please copy.

Saturday, September 11, 1880

CITY NEWS

Dr. Hard presented to the Memorial Association, last Wednesday, a blank passport signed by Thomas Jefferson, President, and James Madison, Secretary of State, to be placed among the relics in the Memorial building. The signatures are genuine and it is a valuable curiosity. -- *Herald*.

Saturday, September 18, 1880

CITY NEWS

The Reunion of the 36th Regiment occurs next Thursday, at Crystal Lake.

Wednesday, September 22, 1880

CITY NEWS

Dr. Hard, of this city, attended the sixteenth annual reunion of the Eighth Ill. Cavalry Reg't last Friday, at the Palmer House, in Chicago. There were some fifty of the survivors present, many of them accompanied by their wives, by all of whom the event was greatly enjoyed. Next September, they will hold their reunion in St. Charles, where the regiment was organized, upon the twentieth anniversary of their muster into the service of the United States.

THE 36th REUNION

Will be held at Crystal Lake, Thursday, September 23rd. Special train will leave for the Junction at 5:45 a.m. Col. Greusel and others from the West will be on the 5 a.m. train, and comrades will be up from Yorkville and Bristol to go up with those from here. A good programme has been made up, and the people of Crystal Lake have made preparations for a fine reception. It is hoped that every surviving member of the old regiment will go and take his family with him.

ANDERSONVILLE PRISONERS

A meeting of prisoners of war is to be held at Decatur, Ill., on Oct. 6th and 7th, next, in connection with the reunion of Gen. Grant's old regiment and veterans association. All who have suffered as prisoners of war are urged to send their address, as well as the address of all surviving prisoners and an invitation will be mailed to each address setting forth the object of the meeting.

W.W. Kerr,
D.M. Berlin,
J.A. Miller,
Com.

Saturday, September 25, 1880

THE 36th REUNION AT CRYSTAL LAKE.

The sun never shone upon a finer day than that which opened for the reunion on Thursday last. Just at the peep of day the veterans and their families were seen gathering at the east depot to take a special train to the Junction. Among the familiar faces we noticed J.F. Harral, C.G. Ayers, Sam. Hitchcock, G.L. Dorr, H.B. Douglas, Chris. Zimmers, L.G. Bennett, M.E. Cornell, Uriah Foster, Aaron Prickett, G.G. Biddulph, J.S. Hatch, and many others, all in the happiest of moods and ready for their "transportation."

They were joined in Elgin by quite a number of the boys in that section, and arrived at Nunda at 10 o'clock, where they found carriages in readiness to transport them to Carpenter's Grove. The Algonquin Brass Band was on hand and did good service, while Drum Major Snell and "Pussy" Adams with his base drum made the woods echo with the strains of martial music.

Capt. Wm. Smailes, of Elgin, chief marshal, conducted the procession to the grand stand, and after music by the band, prayer by Chaplain Adams, and an excellent song by the glee club, Hon. M.L. Joslyn, President of the Day, introduced Judge B.N. Smith, of Woodstock, who delivered an address of welcome, which touched the hearts of his hearers and made a friend to him of every soldier present.

He was followed by M.E. Cornell, of Yorkville, who responded for the regiment in a finely written address. Judge Joslyn then announced that dinner was ready and about one thousand people marched to the tables and partook of a sumptuous dinner, a dinner which in quality and variety of viands may have been equalled but never excelled in the history of all our regimental reunions. After dinner the audience were again called to order, and Col. J.S. Wilcox, of Elgin, delivered one of the grandest speeches that the regiment has ever listened to. His manner was earnest but not excited, his enunciation perfect, his language impressive and elegant, and the thoughts which he thus presented on the causes and results of the war made an impression upon the minds of his hearers which will reach the homes and firesides, and have their effect upon the political contest which is now going on. After him came Rev. C.J. Adams with an original poem, addressed to the old soldiers, which was nicely written and well received.

The audience was then dismissed, and the regiment held a business meeting. The committee on resolutions reported that

Being informed this day of the deaths of comrades Capt. C.D. Fish, of company E, Seth Styler, of company G, Henry Weightman, of company B, Cavalry, and Edward Jones, of company --, 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 sorrowing friends our earnest sympathy.

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

M.E. Cornell,
W.H. Chamberlain,
J.C. Dennison.

Letters of regret were read from many absent comrades. About seventy members responded to "roll call."

W.H. Chamberlain and J. Perry and daughter came all the way from New York to be present; also Jep. Dennison and E.E. Lloyd from Chicago; and were warmly greeted by resident comrades.

Officers elected were Major. L.G. Bennett, president; F.O. White, secretary, and M.E. Cornell, treasurer, and Yorkville was fixed as the place for the next reunion.

The comrades are under great obligations to Elijah Buck, C.F. Dike and many others for their kind hospitality and efficient management. A hearty vote of thanks was returned to the people of Crystal Lake for generous entertainment.

(1880-I01, I02, R01)

CITY NEWS

We are under obligations to Mr. Fred O. White for the report, in another column, of the annual reunion of survivors of the gallant 36th Regiment, held in Crystal Lake, on Thursday.

Saturday, October 2, 1880

CITY NEWS

Capt. H.B. Douglas' company of mounted Garfield Guards having accepted an invitation to go to Oswego Monday evening, will rendezvous on Broadway, south of Fox street, at 6 o'clock p.m. sharp. Those going down in carriages will join the company at the old court house in Oswego at 7:30.

Wednesday, October 6, 1880

CITY NEWS

An informal G. A. R. sociable will be held this evening at the hall of Aurora Post No. 20, corner Broadway and Main street -- a reception tendered to Comrade S.D. Paine, of Jacksonville, Florida, late Chaplain of this Post. It is hoped that all members of the Post and their ladies will be present, and a thoroughly enjoyable time may be expected.

Saturday, October 9, 1880

An exceedingly pleasant sociable was held Wednesday evening at the hall of Aurora Post G. A. R., a sort of impromptu gathering of members of the Post and their wives in honor of Rev. S.D. Paine, of Jacksonville, Florida, the former Chaplain of the Post. The exercises were opened with music by the Post quartette, when Commander H.B. Douglas in a few well chosen words of welcome affected surprise at the presence of the wanderer. He was followed by the Post Adjutant, J.H. Freeman, who in one of those eloquent and thrilling speeches for which he has such a happy faculty, recalled the long and patient struggle of Comrade Paine to build up a church in Florida, and the unfortunate destruction of the edifice on the eve of completion, together with his own home -- and in behalf of the members of the Post presented him with a purse of \$35, as a slight expression of the sympathy and continued affection of his old comrades. The recipient was taken completely by surprise, his eyes filled with tears, and for a few moments his heart was to full for utterance. Gradually he recovered his equanimity, however, and in the most feeling manner expressed his surprise and gratification, and his thanks for the good will which prompted this kindly act. He took occasion to give a very interesting review of his work in Florida, and recalled with gratitude the generous aid that had been tendered him from time to time by the good people of Aurora in general. The balance of the evening was devoted to social intercourse, and the occasion proved one of the most delightful sociables the Post has ever had. Next morning Mr. Paine found a chance to secure a fine set of the American Encyclopedia for \$35 and at once invested his money in that manner -- his library, it will be remembered, having been burned -- and left us very much elated over his good fortune.

Published by request of Committee.

THE KENDALL COUNTY SOLDIER'S MONUMENT
ADDRESS FROM COMMITTEE

To the Tax Payers of Kendall County:

You are undoubtedly aware of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors at their last regular meeting in regard to extending upon the tax books for the ensuing year a rate percent that will produce the sum of six thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a monument to commemorate the memory of the soldier patriots of Kendall county who in the late civil war laid down their lives so the nation might live. We all remember with pride the noble sacrifices and the heroic efforts made by our people during those fearful years of war and carnage. While those who remained at home gave without count their time, and without stint their means, their sacrifice was infinitesimal when compared to that of those who, severing all the ties that bound them to home and friends, laid their lives a willing sacrifice upon the alter of their country. Those were dark days, days that tried men's purse and patriotism, days when promises for the future were freely made in a spirit that meant they should be rigidly kept. The war cloud at last cleared away, and left us free, united people.

Sixteen years have now elapsed since the close of the sanguinary struggle; and with peace and plenty brooding over all our land, we feel that it is a befitting time to erect to the memory of the three hundred a monument worthy of their deeds -- one that shall do honor to them and credit to ourselves. By such acknowledged appreciation, will we keep alive in the bosoms of our people and those to come after us the fires of patriotism; a spirit which has saved us so many times in the past and is our only safeguard for the future. We earnestly believe and fervently hope that every taxpayer will consider it as a privilege and not a burden, to contribute

his pro rata share of a levy made for so beneficent a purpose. Very few of you can know of the persistent but thus far unsuccessful efforts made by the surviving members of the old 36th Regiment to raise funds to place a suitable monument over the grave of their brave and gentlemanly Colonel, Porter C. Olson, and who today lies in an unmarked grave, illustrating the saying that "Republics are Ungrateful."

Out of this effort on the part of the members of the 36th has grown this last proposition to erect a Kendall County Soldiers' monument. Taking it on the basis of population it would require a contribution of forty cents from each inhabitant of the county to secure the desired amount; on the basis of land, 3 cents per acre; and on the basis of all property, 11 cents on each one hundred dollars. At a large gathering of representative tax payers held at the Court House, after a full and free expression, this plan of a pro rata, voluntary contribution, ascertained through the medium of the collector's tax books was considered by far the most just, equitable and satisfactory manner in which a work of this kind could be carried to a successful issue. At the meeting the undersigned were appointed a committee to confer with the Supervisors and get their consent to the extension and to take charge of the work in their respective towns. You are to understand that the payment of your pro rata share is entirely voluntary upon your part. No one is any more interested, in fact, in this matter than you are.

No one has any right, no one is seeking to compel payment. The only object is to get a county monument and have everyone feel that they have a property interest in it, that that interest is in a just and exact proportion to their interest in all other property in the county. When you pay your equitable share you are also cultivating that spirit of pride and patriotism, which it is right and proper we should all feel in a work of this kind, and this spirit will be intensified by the fact that the contribution was voluntary and not like taxes forced from you. It has aptly said that in the collection of its taxes the Government passes around the hat and behind the hat is a bayonet. In this case the hat is passed around, and behind the hat is a loving, patriotic recognition of a noble service well rendered -- a service requiring the greatest sacrifice mortal man can make for his country and the benefit of his fellow man. We feel proud of our country and its institutions, and it is to-day, what is it, only by reason of the efforts of these our dead countrymen, whose memory we seek to perpetuate by this county monument. Remember that in many counties of this grand State of Illinois, the patriotic people have already paid this debt of gratitude by the erection of works of this kind, while our county, one of the wealthiest, one of the most patriotic, has nothing of the kind within its borders. Remember that some of the largest tax payers stand ready to pay double their pro rata share if necessary to accomplish this work. Remember that this is not an effort to commemorate the memories of any particular regiments, but it is to be a monument to commemorate the deeds and memories of all soldiers of all regiments who went to the war from Kendall county and never returned. It is not in the interest or for the benefit of any place, any individual, any class of clique, but a *Kendall County Soldiers' Monument* in the truest and highest sense. Located upon county property.

It has been intimated that a portion of our people would not willingly submit to an assessment of this kind. We are very loth to believe this of a people who sent too many of their husbands, fathers, sons and friends to the war, who gave so lavishly of their means and time to prosecute a war, who paid during and at the close of the war such liberal bounties to the living, who to-day are so prosperous, enjoying so much of the benefits accruing to our county by reason of the successful establishment of the principles for which these noble heroes died. To say that for this purpose -- the last, least, and only duty you can perform for these our countrymen -- you will refuse to pay a just, equitable pro rata assessment of eleven cents on each \$100 valuation,

seems to us a slander upon your generosity and patriotism and entirely at variance with your past history; rather would we believe that you would feel hurt should your name not be found upon the roll of the contributors to this fund.

After a very thorough and careful consideration of this whole matter the plan herein proposed is believed to be the most just, economical and effective manner in which to accomplish this work. As it reaches, individually, each person in the county, by each Town Collector at a time when they are paying their regular taxes, and as this will only add a few cents, or at most a few dollars to the contribution of each, we feel that it is a work that can more properly be performed by the Town Collectors without taking any extra time or incurring any additional expense.

Lewis Steward,
R.W. Willett,
H.C. Cutter,
S.W. Johnson,
D.R. Ballou,
M.E. Cornell,
A.M. Sweetland,
John Listey,
John McKanna,
Committee.

Saturday, October 23, 1880

CITY NEWS

On Wednesday last H.B. Douglas received notice of his appointment on the staff of the Department Commander of the Dep't of Illinois of the Order of Union Veterans, with the rank of Colonel. The Dep't Commander is Gen. Torrence, of Chicago.

Saturday, November 6, 1880

(and appeared in many other issues throughout the fall of 1880)

HISTORY OF THE 36th REGIMENT

A large octavo of over 800 pages, which has sold for \$3.00. We now offer it to all new subscribers to the BEACON, and all who pay one year in advance, for

\$1.25.

The work is splendidly illustrated with steel engravings, and cost to produce \$2.50 per volume.

**THE BEACON
AND A
\$3.00 BOOK FOR \$3.25.**

The Postage is 25 cents on the book, and all ordering by mail must enclose 25 cents extra.

Saturday, November 13, 1880

CITY NEWS

As is generally known, Mr. T.B. Coulter is very severely affected with asthma. Since the death of Mr. Gardner, also, he has been burdened with the entire management of the affairs of the German-American Bank, until at length he has succumbed to the inevitable, compelled to relinquish business and seek some more suitable climate for a residence. Consequently, Gardner, Reising & Co. on Wednesday last disposed of their entire interest in the German-American Bank to the First National Bank, of this city. The First National Bank has also taken Dardner, Reising and Co's lease of the Opera House bank corner, which runs nearly four years yet, and the

premises will remain idle for the present. We have not learned in regard to Mr. Coulter's destination.

Wednesday, December 15, 1880 CITY NEWS

L.G. Bennett loaded up a car with household goods on Monday, and leaves Yorkville for a permanent home in Missouri -- near Springfield. James A. Godard is now Clerk of the Circuit Court and Recorder. -- *Yorkville Record*.

The following are the officers elect of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., for the ensuing year: Commander, H.B. Douglas; S. V. Com'r, A.F. Wade; J. V. Com'r, John H. Russell; Quartermaster, A.D. Bunnell; Surgeon, M.M. Robbins; Chaplain, Eb. Denney; Officer of the Day, A. Billings; Officer of the Guard, C.G. Ayers. Commander Douglas, who was reelected for the third time, has not yet selected his appointive officers. This Post has a membership of about one hundred and seventy, and is one of the most prosperous in the State.

(1880-BUNNELL,BILLING)

In **1881** President James Rudolph Garfield would take office. The G. A. R National Encampment took place in Indianapolis on June 15th with George S. Merrill of Massachusetts assuming the office of Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois would hold its Encampment in Peoria on January 26th with J. W. Burst of Sycamore elected as Department Commander. Henry B. Douglas was elected for a third term as Commander of Aurora Post. And, the 36th Illinois would hold their reunion in Plano on September 22nd, L.G. Bennett was elected President but was replaced by Nicholas Greusel upon his removal to Missouri. The reunion would not be a joyous one. President Garfield, shot on July 2nd would linger and pass on September 19th, just

three days prior to the event. In Aurora, a "Free Public Library" was established by the Common Council, and a Board of Directors appointed. The old Monument Association donated the Memorial Building and \$1000 to the city for the library.

Wednesday, January 12, 1881

CITY NEWS

General E.W. Chamberlain, chief mustering office of the Department of Illinois G. A. R, will install the officers, elect of the Aurora Post, No. 20, on Friday evening, Jan. 14th.

Wednesday, January 19, 1881

CITY NEWS

The installation of officers of Aurora Post, G. A. R., occurred last Friday evening, and were of a more than usually impressive character, the exercise being conducted by Gen. E.W. Chamberlain, of Chicago, chief mustering officer of the Department of Illinois. Delegations were present from the Batavia and Geneva Posts.

Saturday, January 22, 1881

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. State Encampment will be held in Peoria on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, January 26th and 27th, and it is expected that the following members of Aurora Post, No. 20, will be in attendance: W.H. Watson, Asst. Quartermaster General; John B. Chase, of the Council of Administration; Commander H.B. Douglas; Delegates, P.B. Page, J.F. Harral, J.M. Kennedy, John Kinley, and John Smith; and Alternates, A.P. Hatch, F.O. White, C.B. Colwell, A.F. Wade, and Thos. Bates. Through the courtesy of the C. B. & Q. Co., those attending the encampment will be charged but one fare for the round trip.
(1881-PAGE,AYERS,BATES,COLWELL)

Wednesday, February 2, 1881

CITY NEWS

A committee appointed for that purpose is making arrangements for the annual camp fire of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., to be held at the Opera House on Wednesday evening, February 16th.

A petition is being circulated by the G. A. R for signatures, asking the State Legislature to make Decoration Day, May 30th, a legal holiday.

Saturday, February 5, 1881

CITY NEWS

We are requested to announce that the wives of members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at their hall, corner of Broadway and Main street at half past two o'clock next Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 9th, to make arrangements for the camp fire, to be held on the evening of the 16th inst. A full attendance is desired.

Wednesday, February 16, 1881 CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. camp fire announced to have been held at the Opera House this evening has been indefinitely postponed.

Wednesday, March 9, 1881 CITY NEWS

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Aurora Monument Association held last Friday, Mr. T.B. Coulter resigned his position as Treasurer, in consequence of his intended removal from this city, and Mr. F.O. White was elected to fill the vacancy thus created.

Wednesday, March 16, 1881 CITY NEWS

We have received a copy of the *Weekly Freeman*, a paper published in Chicago, and evidently published in the interest of the G. A. R. In the copy at hand we find a truthful portrait of Felix LeBaume, son-in-law of I.M. Howell, of this city -- and President of the Western Andersonville Survivors' Association, and the Chicago Prisoners of War Association. The same paper also contains a somewhat lengthy personal sketch of Mr LeBaume, and announces that it is promised from his pen a series of articles giving full account of his experiences and observations while a prisoner of war at Andersonville. Mr. LeBaume is a forceful and graphic writer, and the articles will be full of interest.

Wednesday, May 4, 1881 CITY NEWS

Mr. Fred O. White has been invited by the Aurora Post, G. A. R., to deliver the oration on Decoration Day.

Saturday, May 7, 1881 CITY NEWS

The Executive Committee of the Soldiers' Reunion Association met Thursday afternoon at the Fitch House, there being present Col. Swain, Capt. Stephens and Capt. Koch, of Chicago; Major Bond, of Monmouth; Col. Evans and Major Watson, of this city. The principal business of this committee was to decide upon the place at which the next reunion shall be held -- but none of the proposals received proving satisfactory no decision was arrived at, and the committee adjourned to meet at Col. Swain's office in Chicago June 3rd. The resignation of

T.B. Coulter as Treasurer of the Association, in consequence of his removal from the State, was accepted, and Major Watson, of this city, was elected as his successor.

Wednesday, May 11, 1881

CITY NEWS

O.B. Gates has mowed the grass and cleaned up Memorial Hall park in nice shape.

Wednesday, May 18, 1881

DECORATION DAY.

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at their hall Monday, May 30th, at one o'clock p.m., and march to the City Hall, where they will divide into two detachments: First Detachment, under command of S. V. Commander, A.F. Wade, will march to East Aurora and Spring Lake Cemeteries; Rev. N.A. Prentiss, Chaplain at Spring Lake, and Rev. J.L. Jackson at Aurora Cemetery. Second detachment under command of J. V. Commander, John H. Russell, will march to Catholic and West Aurora Cemeteries; Chaplain, Rev. C.H. Hobart for West Aurora Cemetery.

After the exercises at the cemeteries, the detachments will meet at the City Hall, where the procession will be formed in the following order:

Martial Band
Aurora Light Guards
Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.
Ex-Soldiers and Sailors
Orator of the Day
Mayor and Common Council
Members of the press and citizens

The line of march will be east to Broadway, north to Main street, east to Lincoln Park where the beautiful and appropriate Memorial Service of the G. A. R., with vocal music by the East Side High School, and an oration by Comrade F.O. White will conclude the exercises of the day. The Post quartette will furnish music at the cemeteries on the East Side, and the quartette from the West Division High School on the West Side. All ex-soldiers, sailors and citizens are invited to join with us.

Friends of the soldiers, who will aid with flowers, are cordially invited to leave them at the Memorial Hall, which will be open at eight o'clock on the morning of Decoration Day.

The following committees have been appointed: M.M. Robbins, on vocal music; Chris, Zimmers, on martial music; A.D. Bunnell and wife, C.B. Fisher and wife, Geo. Hale and wife, on flowers; A.F. Wade and Theodore Howard, on carriages; Mike Maloney, for Catholic Cemetery, West Aurora; Oscar Gates, West Aurora Cemetery; E.B. Denney, Spring Lake Cemetery; J.F. Harrall, Aurora Cemetery; J. Hubbard, German Catholic.

(1881-HOWARD,GATES)

Saturday, May 28, 1881

CITY NEWS

All donations of flowers will be thankfully received Monday morning by the floral committee, at the City Hall. And as flowers are unusually scarce this year it is hoped as liberal contributions as possible will be made in this direction by all interested.

Wednesday, June 1, 1881

DECORATION DAY.

Monday proved a delightful day, and the usual exercises of Decoration Day passed off in a very pleasing and satisfactory manner. The day was very generally observed, the schools closed, the Silver Plate Factory and other shops shut down and most business suspended, while large numbers of citizens evinced their usual interest and in many ways aided in the exercises. The programme carried out was substantially the same as published in the BEACON two weeks since, except that on the assembling of the Post at one o'clock it was decided, in consequence of the intense heat and shockingly dusty condition of most streets, that the intention of marching to the various cemeteries should be abandoned, and that omnibuses and band wagons should be secured for the purpose -- and as the committee had already taken the necessary steps in anticipation of this action no delay was occasioned. Very many of the veterans are compelled to admit that they have lost much of the vigor of twenty years ago when they rallied so promptly in defense of their country; the results of exposure, privation and hardship in camp and field begin to tell upon them, each year a still larger number of them are indisposed to needlessly exhaust themselves by exposure in a long and dusty march, and it is likely they will use carriages altogether hereafter.

The long continuation of dry weather rendered flowers unusually scarce, but the donations were liberal, the floral committee energetic, their efforts being ably seconded by the large number of ladies called to their aid, and as a consequence the supply was abundant, enormous baskets of bouquets being conveyed to each cemetery for distribution.

In front of Memorial Hall, which was occupied as floral headquarters, the Post separated, one detachment, under command of Capt. A.F. Wade, proceeding to decorate soldier graves in the East Side Cemeteries -- Theo. Howard, repairing to the West Side Cemeteries. In the various cemeteries the services were similar, consisting of music and prayer, after which the soldiers slowly passed the graves of their sleeping comrades, reverently placing upon each silent mound a wreath or cross of evergreen, and covering them with flowers. Rev. C.H. Hobart officiated at the West Side cemeteries, and appropriate music was rendered by an excellent quartette from the West Side High School; on the East Side, Rev. J.L. Jackson and Rev. N.A. Prentiss officiated, and music was furnished by the Post Quartette, composed of comrade M.M. Robbins, A. Billing, J.F. Harral and Fred James. Large numbers of citizens were in attendance at each of the cemeteries, and some of the private floral decorations were very beautiful.

At the conclusion of these exercises, the G. A. R. again assembled upon the island, from which point they were escorted to Lincoln Park by the Aurora Light Guards and Fox River Lodge No. 2394 of the Knights of Honor, and followed by Mayor Phillips and members of the Common Council, and citizens generally in carriages, the sidewalks along the line of march being thronged with citizens.

The procession presented quite an imposing appearance, the most showy feature, of course, being Captain Stolp's fine company of Aurora Light Guards, under arms and in full uniform. They turned out about fifty men, and their soldierly bearing and creditable appearance

was flatteringly commented upon by the veterans whom they escorted. After many trials and troubles this company is now in splendid condition, a credit to themselves, their regiment and our city. For this happy result Capt. M.G. Stolp is to be heartily congratulated, for this end has only been secured through his untiring energy and perseverance, for he has been compelled to labor under most trying disadvantages -- one example of which may be cited in the fact that he has been forced to have about twenty-five men discharged during the past three months because they would not give proper attention to their duties. His ranks have not been depleted however, but on the contrary he has been able to fill up with a better class of men, and all now evince commendable pride in making the organization an honor to Aurora. It was the first parade of the company this spring, and they appeared in the handsome new regulation helmet of the regular army -- the initials "A. L. G." in silver letters on the front. The Light Guards are the first company in the State to adopt this helmet, and it is generally admired.

The "Knights of Honor," who promptly turned out upon invitation of the G. A. R. to take part in the exercises, is a new benevolent organization just started here, and styled Fox River Lodge No. 2394, of which Mr. John R. Burkholder is Dictator. Its present membership is thirty, though only sixteen were present in town to turn out under the command of Vice Dictator J.R. Cooper. Though the detachment was small in numbers they made a most favorable impression.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., turned out one hundred and fourteen members under command of Capt. A.F. Wade, Commander H.B. Douglas officiating as master of ceremonies.

At Lincoln Park two to three thousand citizens were assembled, and here the impressive Memorial Services of the G. A. R. were conducted, interspersed with appropriate music by an excellent chorus from the East Side High School, after which Comrade Fred O. White was introduced as the Orator of the Day. The oration was an eloquent effort, listened to with close attention throughout and frequently interrupted by applause. Lack of space compels us to epitomize Mr. White's address, as follows:

(oration omitted)

At the conclusion of the oration the Post marched to their hall where a vote of thanks was passed, to the committee of arrangements and other committees, the orator of the day, the Light Guards and the Knights of Honor, the pastors and High School students, the ladies, and all who in any manner aided in rendering the exercises of the day so gratifying a success.

Wednesday, June 1, 1881

CITY NEWS

On Friday evening last, at a meeting of Aurora Post, G. A. R., Hon. John C. Sherwin, in behalf of the comrades, presented the Adjutant, Prof. J.H. Freeman, an elegant gold pen and case, as a token of their esteem and their appreciation of his excellent services. The affair was an exceedingly pleasant one, and productive of much enjoyment to those present.

Mayor Phillips very thoughtfully instructed the Street Commissioner to have the streets in the vicinity of Lincoln Park sprinkled on the afternoon of Decoration Day, and his kindness in this direction afforded great relief to the soldiers and others who had been nearly suffocated by dust in reaching and returning from the cemeteries.

Wednesday, June 15, 1881

CITY NEWS

On Friday evening last, Prof. W.B. Powell presented to Aurora Post, G. A. R., two large steel engravings of "Lincoln and his Family." The pictures are enclosed in heavy gilt frames, and make a fine addition to the decoration of their handsome hall.

O.B. Gates, on Friday evening, presented to Aurora Post, G. A. R., a list of the soldiers buried in West Aurora cemetery, with the number and location of each grave. It is an elegant specimen of penmanship, executed by Mr. W.R. Gates.

Wednesday, June 29, 1881

CITY NEWS

A fellow calling himself Kingford, and claiming to be a one-armed soldier, who was here last week peddling a stove-cover lifter, was bounced out of town Saturday morning by Marshal Zimmers, after being made to show up a second sound arm skillfully secreted beneath his clothing. He is the same drunken fraud who has been imposing upon our neighbors up the river recently.

Saturday, July 9, 1881

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

When, at about ten o'clock last Saturday morning, it was announced that President Garfield had been shot, no man believed it -- and it was not until confirmatory reports were received, that men would entertain the terrible thought that it could be possible.

At nearly half-past nine o'clock Saturday morning, July 2nd, the President, arm in arm with Secretary of State Blaine, entered the passenger depot of the Baltimore and Potomac (Pennsylvania Central) R. R. in Washington, and was about to pass to the car in which were already Secretaries Windom, Lincoln and others of his party, when he was suddenly fired on from behind, a shot passing and inflicting a slight wound on his left arm near the shoulder; as he turned, another bullet entered just above his left hip, and brought him to the floor. The assassin, Chas. J. Guiteau, was immediately arrested, exclaiming as he was taken: "I am a stalwart; it had to be done; Arthur will now be President." He was quickly taken to District Jail, and a guard placed about it lest he fall a quick victim to the people's first emotions of revenge.

CITY NEWS

The annual Soldiers' Reunion is to be held at Bloomington this fall, and W.H. Watson goes to that city to-day to attend a meeting of the committee having the matter in charge.

Wednesday, July 13, 1881

THE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

At a final meeting of the Board of Managers of the Monument Association held Monday evening, it was resolved to turn over all their property, consisting of the Memorial Building, the \$1000 voted for library purposes, their books, relics, etc., to the Aurora Free Library organization, in response to the request of that society, through its Secretary, Mr. W.S. Beaupre. This is in conformity with the original design of the Association in constructing the building, and retaining funds. In the hands of the committee will remain a small amount of money, which will be devoted to a completion of the records, and placing them in permanent shape in the grand record book, in the Memorial Building.

Just about twelve years ago, "at a meeting of soldiers and citizens," in the City Hall, this Association was organized and later the Ladies Auxiliary Monument Association, both for the purpose of giving permanent expression to the silent, deep homage ever due our country and its defenders. From the inception of their work to the very latest, these associations have ever been in perfect harmony of effort; and the response of the people to their calls has been one continuous marvel of free offering. It has enabled the managers to erect a building the admiration of the aesthetic; to finish it free of debt; and to dedicate it to the patriotic, moral and educational use of the people.

In this connection it would be very gratifying to mention the names of many who have done effective work in connection of these organizations whose business is now ended, but in so doing it would be quite impossible to give all the credit they deserve. The conscience of each, and the knowledge that they have done what they could, must be their reward.

Wednesday, July 27, 1881

CITY NEWS

Hon. J.C. Sherwin, of this city, has been secured to deliver the oration at the annual reunion of the 36th Regiment, to be held at Steward's Park, Plano, September 22nd.

Wednesday, August 10, 1881

CITY NEWS

The regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R, occurs next Friday evening, August 12th, when a full attendance of comrades is desired.

Saturday, September 3, 1881

CITY NEWS

From the *Rockford Register*, of Tuesday last; The G. A. R. boys are at last in a fair way to have a first class excursion. They will go to Aurora, the week after the fair, and will arrange to have a programme of much interest. They are now figuring for the cars. They expect to run ten cars down, good passenger coaches, no cattle cars. They will probably charge \$1.50 round trip, guaranteeing seats or \$1 to those who wish to take their chances on sitting or standing. A

purse will probably be gotten up for the boat crew to row for, the bicyclers will probably go down, a basket picnic will be held in the park, the G. A. R. furnishing tea and coffee free, and all will have a delightful time. It is expected that Aurora will have the electric light in working order by that time, and the train will not leave Aurora on return till after 8 o'clock, giving the excursionists an opportunity of witnessing the electric exhibition.

Wednesday, September 7, 1881 CITY NEWS

It is very likely that the proposed G. A. R. excursion to Aurora will fall through. The C. B. & Q. have leased all their extra cars to the St. Louis road to be used during the Bloomington Soldiers' reunion next week, and then comes the Winnebago county fair, which would not be a good time; after that comes the Chicago Exposition, and the C. B. & Q. have use for all their cars then, so that cars could not be secured until about the first of October, which would be running it too late. As the G. A. R. boys don't wish to take the chances of cold weather and require pocket stoves and overcoats, consequently they fear they will have to abandon the excursion this season. -- *Rockford Register*.

Wednesday, September 21, 1881

PRESIDENT GARFIELD DEAD

The Midnight Bell Tolls the Knell.
That Fills the Nation with Grief
Unutterable.

The Long Ordeal is Over.
The Patient, Heroic Sufferer is at Rest.

President Garfield is dead, and though not unexpected, the final announcement carries keenest sorrow to all hearts. For nearly twelve weeks he made a most heroic struggle for life.

The sad tidings were speedily flashed over the continent, and throughout the broad land the solemn tolling of midnight bells announced to grief-stricken citizens that the terrible ordeal was over and the sufferings of their noble and beloved chief Magistrate were forever ended.

The Reunion of the veteran regiment, the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, will take place in Steward's Park, Plano, Ill., on Thursday, Sept. 22nd, that day being the twentieth anniversary of its muster into service. The Thirty-sixth was one of the bravest regiments in the service, and always held the confidence of its Brigade and Division Commanders. It took part in the battles of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, Franklin and Nashville. Its commanders were Colonels Nicholas Greusel, Albert Jenks, Silas Miller, P.C. Olsen and B.F. Campbell. The oration for the occasion will be delivered by the Hon. J.C. Sherwin, of Aurora, Representative of the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Sherwin was himself a private soldier in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteers. He refused promotion to the Captaincy of his company, which was offered him, because he thought it an injustice to the

Lieutenants, who were his neighbors and friends. He served his time out in the ranks, and will talk to his comrades as one who knows something of the hardships of a soldier's life. -- *Inter-Ocean*.

Saturday, September 24, 1881

THE 36TH REGIMENT.

About eighty of the survivors of the gallant 36th Ill. Vet. Regiment held their fifteenth annual reunion at Plano on Thursday. Hon. Lew Steward officiated as President of the day, Capt. Will. H. Hall as Marshal. Soldiers from Aurora and upriver towns, some of them accompanied by their wives, filled a special car attached to the regular morning train west, and on their arrival at Plano, after a few moments spent in cordial greetings of old comrades the line of march was taken up for Steward's Park, the soldiers under command of the venerable Colonel Greusel, and led by the Little Rock Cornet Band. As usual there were representatives of many other regiments in the ranks, forming a battalion of respectable size, and the Colonel was evidently gratified over the celerity with which his line was formed, and the promptness with which the veterans responded to each word of command.

On the grounds a speaker's stand and seats had been erected, and after music and prayer by Elder Holland, Hon. Lewis Steward in behalf of the people of Plano, delivered a brief but cordial and appropriate address of welcome -- and it is needless to say that throughout the day Mr. Steward was untiring in those kindly attentions which have so long rendered his name the synonym of generous hospitality with our people, who have spent so many pleasant days upon his delightful grounds.

In behalf of the Regiment Major L.G. Bennett responded in a most eloquent and acceptable manner -- but we regret that lack of time and space precludes the possibility of giving even a synopsis of his remarks.

President Steward then introduced Hon. John C. Sherwin, of Aurora, as orator of the day, whose address we epitomize as follows:

He began by saying it was difficult to speak upon this occasion, that words could not express the thoughts of the people to-day and proceeded substantially as follows: Eighteen years ago this morning the first flush of dawn as it lighted up the valley west of Missionary Ridge revealed the 36th Ill. within the city of Chattanooga with the deep strong current of the Tennessee at its rear, and impassable mountain ranges beyond that were lifting up their cragged outlines and seeming to impressively suggest to the defeated but still resolute and defiant army of the Union lying at their base that escape over and beyond them was impossible. To the right, Lookout Mountain lifted its lofty and precipitous sides; to the front, the long line of Missionary Ridge stretched away in both directions, while the only open expanse was to the north and south through the valleys between the mountains, both of which valleys were in entire possession of a victorious rebel army. For three weeks before that 22nd of Sept. the Army of the Cumberland, to which the 36th belonged, had been conducting an aggressive and skillful campaign over a country presenting unusual natural obstacles and that campaign had just ended in the battle of Chickamauga, fought on the 19th and 20th of September. The valor displayed there by the Union army was never surpassed at any time or any nation, and conspicuous amongst them all was the 36th Ills. Conspicuous for a courage unassailable by fear, by brilliancy in attack when attack meant destruction, by coolness in retreat when retreat was an absolute necessity, by

patience and endurance matchless and unapproachable. But all these splendid qualities had been unavailing. The three weeks campaign over lofty mountains ending in these two days of frightful carnage had left the grand old army of the Cumberland shattered and defeated. But within the hearts of the survivors a hope which was buoyant in a belief of future victory still glowed and burned. The 36th Ills. went into that battle with 370 men, of which its historian says one-half were lost in killed, wounded and missing. Your regiment with the rest of the army withdrew itself into Chattanooga during the night of the 21st of Sept. and on the 22nd day of Sept. that sleepless army vowed that it would hold Chattanooga though it should rain grape and canister for a year. It then and there determined that it would never relax its hold upon the spot until rebellion should be no more. And in a little more than sixty days from that time the same army of the Cumberland under the eye of General Grant swept up the sides of Missionary Ridge a victorious, resistless host and retook nearly every gun it had lost at Chickamauga and covered itself with mortal fame. Search history through and you will find no more splendid achievement than the storming of Missionary Ridge. From that day no armed rebel ever set his eye upon Chattanooga.

I have referred to these battles because they occurred so near the date upon which your reunion is held. In both of them the part taken by the 36th was so conspicuous and brilliant that they have engraved themselves upon the pages of history forever. Poetry has no voice which can adequately portray these grand achievements. Sober fact would seem like wildest fiction, and actual occurrence like the wild dreams of a troubled night. I will not attempt a resume of your campaigns. I shall not speak of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Franklin, Nashville and the many other battles in which you were engaged. I shall not try to describe your long marches through Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and other great States. I shall not recall the fatigue, the cold, the hunger and all the deprivations you endured. Even as you fought in all those battles, ever as you marched through all those States, always in suffering and in the exultations of victory, you followed our glorious flag with eyes undaunted, with a faith unflinching and unconquerable hearts and unflinching fidelity. You had your reward. Not in the glory you achieved personally, not in the luster bestowed by you upon your State and Nation, and in the plaudits of your friends, but in the immortal consciousness of your duty unflinchingly performed. It is not given to all generations to do so much for humanity and good government as you have done.

He then briefly referred to the advances of the country in material prosperity since the beginning of the war; to the changes in the moral sentiment of the people, and the advances made in public policy.

The speaker then referred to the difficulty in administering government in time of peace, as well as in war, and especially in a government like ours. He instanced the proceedings attending the count of the electoral vote in 1876-7, as having been attended with great peril to the country; also the subsequent controversy in Maine, but the fact that they were both disposed of peaceably, and the results acquiesced in was a strong proof that when reason had time to exert its influences, it was sure to overcome passion. We had seen also within a few months many of the newspapers and public men of the country abusing and maligning Gen. Garfield without stint, and now the same men and newspapers were loud in their praise of him. In Mr. Arthur's case not only his political opponents, but men in his own party, had abused and misrepresented him, and threats have been made that if Mr. Garfield died he should not become President, and if he did not administer the government precisely as Gen. Garfield had commenced to do; that if he changed Mr. Garfield's cabinet even, he would be guilty of disloyalty to the country. These

were but the passionate utterances of unthinking men, and were sure to be changed when they began to reflect that under the Constitution Mr. Arthur was clothed with the same power that Mr. Garfield possessed, and was charged with the same duties and responsibilities under the sanction of the same oath of office. That the responsibility was his, not ours; that the cabinet which he called around him, not us -- men in whom he could have confidence, and in whose judgement he could rely; if we also had confidence in them it was better but primarily the President was the one to be suited, and not ourselves; and if the President made mistakes and failed in the performance of his duties, he and his cabinet and his supporters would be set aside at the end of the term, and new men tried. The speaker said that personally he hoped Mr. Arthur might retain Mr. Garfield's cabinet and follow his policy, and in any event he believed that his administration would be wise and patriotic, and he would have the confidence of every man until it was proved otherwise.

He then alluded freely to Gen. Garfield and to the great sorrow resting upon the people, and closed by a confident prediction that our government would increase in stability with time, and that the same virtue and patience and courage which had animated the brave soldiers of the 36th and others who had done so much for the country in the past, would be imitated by the generations which were to come.

Mr. Sherwin's address was listened to with closest attention throughout, and heartily applauded.

Col. J.S. Wilcox, of Elgin, was called for, and responded in a brief but most eloquent, neat and timely speech.

Mr. Steward announced that memorial services would be held in Plano Hall at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, under the auspices of the village authorities -- the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Joseph Smith, and dinner was announced.

There seems to have been a misunderstanding, somehow, in reference to holding this reunion in Plano. It was to have been held in Yorkville this year, but the change subsequently made because of the Col. Olson monument to be erected at Yorkville could not be completed at that time. As near as we can learn, the sub-committee having the matter in charge at Plano had been strangely dilatory and negligent in calling to their aid the good people of the village, and as consequence the arrangements for dinner were very incomplete; in fact nothing had been done up to Thursday morning, when Mrs. Lew Steward and a few other hospitable ladies appreciating the situation generously came to the rescue and did the best they could under the circumstances to satisfy the cravings of their hungry guests. Of course there was a distressing lack of provisions, and hungry soldiers who were unfortunate enough to reach the second table viewed the dreary waste with dejected countenances, but consoled themselves with reminiscences of many a weary march in days of yore with empty stomachs and haversacks. Charley Ayers captured a stray cookie which with a cup of excellent clear coffee he shared with his hungry wife; somebody passed Capt. Ferre a dish containing three lonely cherries floating in some kind of liquid into which stirred an aggressive hornet, with the remark that he was disposed to accept in thankfulness all that was offered -- but the feeling of vexation over this meagre bill of fare gave place to one of genuine sympathy for the weary ladies who had tried so hard to remedy the difficulty when too late to have their efforts prove entirely successful.

Several hundred persons were upon the grounds, and the balance of the day was pleasantly spent in social intercourse.

At the business meeting Col. N. Greusel was reelected president of the Regimental Association; M.E. Cornell, Treasurer, and F.O. White, Secretary. On motion of M.E. Cornell, it

was decided to hold the next annual reunion at Yorkville, by which time it is expected the Olson monument will be completed. Suitable resolutions were passed upon the death of President Garfield; also upon the death of Comrades Samuel Archibald and J.H. Karl -- and a dispatch of greeting sent to the Society of the Army of the Cumberland that day assembled at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Among the prominent persons present were Col. N. Greusel, Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Major L.G. Bennett, Springfield, Missouri; Gen. S.B. Shaw, Capt. Ed. Cass, J.C. Dennison and E.E. Lloyd, Chicago; Col. J.S. Wilcox, Major Geo. D. Sherman and Capt. L.M. Kelley, Elgin; M.E. Cornell, Yorkville; Dave Givler, Naperville; Hon. L.D. Brady, Gen. S.B. Sherer, Aurora; W.H. Chamberlain, Dayton, Mass., and others.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

On the death of President Garfield will be held next Sabbath at the First Congregationalist Church. A special sermon will be delivered in the morning by the pastor, Rev. N.A. Prentiss. In the evening memorial addresses will be delivered by A.J. Hopkins, Esq., Prof. W.B. Powell, Hon. Chas. Wheaton and others. These addresses will be interspersed with appropriate music by the choir. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

To avoid the possibility of conflicting with the arrangements of any other organizations Aurora Post, G. A. R. on Tuesday evening last decided to hold memorial services at the First M. E. Church, and a committee was appointed to arrange preliminaries -- it being understood that Aurora Commandery would unite with the G. A. R. in such service, or in any other event hold the Masonic service in their own hall. On Thursday Mayor Phillips issued a proclamation, printed in another column. Last evening the Post and Commandery each held meetings, and anxious to conform as far as possible to the expressed wish of the Mayor, their joint committee arranged a program, which was adopted by each organization.

Wednesday, September 28, 1881 CITY NEWS

The beautiful floral decorations so admired at the First M. E. Church during the Memorial Services were yesterday photographed by Mr. Pratt, and then placed in the G. A. R. Hall. In this connection we are requested to state that this hall will be thrown open to the public from 7 to 8 every evening this week, so that all who desire may have an opportunity of viewing the same.

Members of the 89th Regiment are requested to meet at City Marshal Zimmer's office, Thursday evening, the 29th inst., to discuss the holding of a regimental reunion.

Memorial Hall was neatly draped outside by J.J. McLallen, Marshal Zimmers and Pierce Burton -- and the interior beautifully decorated by Mrs. Burton. The elegant silk flag belonging

to the hall drooped over the recording angel, and at her feet was a portrait of a superb floral pillow; with the initials in immortelles, presented by the ladies of Downer Place. The tables contained a variety of beautiful foliage plants donated by Mr. Rees, who also executed the floral designs.

Saturday, November 26, 1881

CITY NEWS

Commander-In-Chief, G. A. R., George S. Merrill, of Mass., will visit the encampment of this city next Tuesday, and a meeting was held last evening to make suitable arrangements.

In **1882** the Grand Army of the Republic held its National Encampment in Baltimore, Maryland on June 21st, Paul Van DerVoort of Nebraska would become Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois held its Encampment in Rockford on January 26th with Thomas G. Lawler of Rockford becoming Department Commander. J.H. Freeman was elected Commander of Aurora Post after H.B. Douglas had to suddenly relinquish his elected position of Commander. The 36th Survivors Association would hold their reunion in Millington, Illinois on September 21st. Nicholas Greusel stepped in as President when L.G. Bennett relocated to Springfield, Missouri. Porter Olson finally received his monument in September when the 36th dedicated it at their reunion. The Colonel who fell at Franklin no longer rested in an unmarked grave.

Wednesday, January 4, 1882

CITY NEWS

The annual installation of the officers elect of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will occur one week from next Friday evening, at G. A. R Hall. The installation will be public, so far as the wives of the members is concerned, which is about as large a number as the hall will accommodate, and the regular exercises will be followed by a pleasant social reunion. There should be a full attendance.

Saturday, January 7, 1882

CITY NEWS

H.B. Douglas, special mustering officer, and several other members of Aurora Post, went to Plano Thursday evening and initiated a Post of the G. A. R.

The annual installation of officers of Aurora Post, G. A. R will occur next Friday evening, and will be public so far as the families of members are concerned.

Wednesday, January 18, 1882

CITY NEWS

The open installation of officers of Aurora Post. G. A. R., last Friday evening was witnessed by a large number of the wives and daughters of comrades, and an enjoyable social reunion followed. The appointments made by Commander J.H. Freeman were as follows: Eb. Denney, Adjutant; C.W. Howard, Sergeant Major; A.M. Brown, Quartermaster Sergeant. This appointment of Comrade Denney will necessitate the election of another chaplain, which will occur at the next meeting, and will doubtless result in the choice of Comrade Rev. N.S. Sage.
(1882-BROWN,WALKER)

Saturday, January 21, 1882

CITY NEWS

The annual State Encampment of the G. A. R. will be held in Rockford, commencing next Tuesday, and Aurora Post, No. 22 (20), will be represented by Commander J.H. Freeman and comrades H.B. Douglas, John B. Chase, W.H. Watson, J.F. Harral and P.B. Page.

Wednesday, January 25, 1882

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The directors of the Public Library have a few words to say to the public:

1. If anyone has a valuable book that he is desirous of presenting to the library, it will be received with thanks and a label placed on it, so that every reader shall know to whom he is indebted for the instruction and entertainment it affords him.
2. Will not all former patrons of the library generously donated to the Public Library, give their books at home one more examination to be sure that they have not in their possession books belonging to the Public Library? It is thought that some of them must have such books from the fact that many valuable books are missing, some

from sets which can be replaced only at considerable cost; as, for example, Vol. 3, of the twelve volumes of Grote's Greece; Vol. 5 of the nine volumes of Bandoft's United States History; Vol. 8, of the twelve volumes of Fronde's History of England; and Vol. 1, of the three volumes of Lamartine's History of Girondists.

3. Now is the accepted time to present books, as also to return those missing, as a large purchase of books is to be made at once, and the new catalog made out.
4. It is expected that the Public Library will be opened about the first of March.

In the last letter to the Rochelle *Register*, Fred O. White writes: "The officers of Aurora Post No. 20. were installed last Friday night, and the occasion was one of much interest. The reports of officers were unusually elaborate, that of Prof. Freeman, the retiring Adjutant, being the finest paper ever presented to the organization. The membership has been kept good during the year, 135 being reported as in good standing. Something over \$50 has been paid out for the relief of the destitute, and there is something over \$2000 remaining in the hands of the Treasurer. After the installation, speeches were made by Comrades Freeman, White and Markell, an informal reception was held. A large number of the ladies were present, and the occasion was pronounced one of the most enjoyable in the history of the Post. Prof. J.H. Freeman is its present Commander."

Saturday, January 28, 1882

AURORA POST, NO. 20, G. A. R.

At the last regular meeting of the organization the seventh annual installation of officers occurred -- an open installation witnessed by the wives and daughters of comrades, and followed by an enjoyable social reunion. This Post has had a peculiarly successful career, and its operations have been exceedingly harmonious and satisfactory since the commencement of its existence; it has enjoyed the confidence and respect of the community in a remarkable degree, and its intercourse with other associations and the public has always been of a pleasant and agreeable character. As one indication of the unanimity prevailing among its members, may be cited the fact that during the seven years just closed the position of presiding officer was held but by two men: Commander T.B. Coulter held the place four years, and when finally compelled to remove from the city in consequence of ill health, H.B. Douglas was chosen as his successor. His mantle fell upon worthy shoulders, and Commander Douglas served with great acceptability for three years -- until at his urgent request he was relieved from further duty, and Comrade J.H. Freeman elected as Commander of the Post.

The annual reports of retiring officers were of more than usual interest -- those of Commander Douglas and Adjutant Freeman being especially meritorious, and each worthy of reproduction could we spare the space. Prof. Freeman had served two years as Adjutant, and his report, while containing a careful and concise record of the transactions of the Post during the year, with ample statistics relating to its history and standing, was so full of gratifying

encouragement and timely council that at the request of a number of the comrades we take the liberty of making a few extracts from the document as follows:

“We commenced the year 1881 with 135 names in good standing, and we close the year with 135 in good standing. During the existence of the Post 199 names have been born upon its rolls. The 142 names now born thereon deducted from the aggregate number leaves 57, which we have lost by death, honorable discharge, transfer and dropping for non payment of dues within the past seven years -- an average number of eight and one seventh per year, corresponding so nearly to the number lost in 1881 as to be marked as the second remarkable coincidence shown by the figures of this report.”

“These figures afford some lessons which it might be well to ponder and discuss. While we cannot rejoice in any growth, it ought to be a matter of congratulation that our number in good standing has not been decreased, and that the loss in membership has been no greater than the average in the years past. It would be very pleasant to be able to report a large increase in membership, and a gain in our finances; yet it should be born in mind that large numbers and a well filled treasury are not always the surest evidences of success and prosperity. Numbers alone cannot bring strength to an organization, nor can money create the spirit of fraternity and good will essential to its healthy condition and better life. These are not the things the most to be valued. The faithful adherence to the principle of our motto, “Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,” which characterizes our comrades, is far more to be praised than these other considerations. The good will that has prevailed toward each other shows that Fraternity is not a passive but an active virtue of our order; the liberality of judgement and the deference among our members to the feelings and wishes of others witness to the fact that Charity is not the mere idle and unmeaning word of a boastful motto, but one of the guiding principles of a social and benevolent, as well as of a patriotic and benevolent institution.”

“While we recall the many gratifying features of our meetings and of our order, the things which we regard as their chief excellencies, it is right that we render a word of well merited praise to him who has contributed so much to our accomplishment. I believe that I speak the sentiment of every comrade when I attribute the permanence and success of this Post, and the good will and harmony among its members, in no small degree to the courtesy, firmness, dignity, promptness and impartiality of him who has held the office of Commander for the past three years.”

“As we indulge in this retrospect and rejoice over the present condition of affairs, let us not shut our eyes to the needs and demands of the future. How can this feeling of comradeship be made closer, and this loyal enthusiasm become greater? A true appreciation of the objects and the work to be done by the Grand Army of the Republic is calculated to inspire zeal and quicken interest. The Commander-In-Chief during his late visit to this Post, expressed himself substantially as follows: “The work of the G. A. R. will not be complete until every soldier and sailor has been gathered into its ranks. There is no organization on the face of the globe like unto this. We can draw upon no new blood to fill up our ranks as the older ones drop out; no child can be born into it, no college or institution of learning can issue a certificate that will grant unto anyone membership in the G. A. R. ; the wealth of a Vanderbuilt cannot buy admission into this association -- our portals open only to the man who brings with him that little bit of paper, soiled, begrimed and torn it may be, which certifies to an honorable discharge from service in the armies or navies of our country during the hour of the Nation’s peril. Surely, my comrades, the distinction you enjoy is one to be highly praised and valued, as one which you should strive to confer upon every man who bared his breast in the defense of our country’s flag.”

“In closing this report, already too long, I cannot refrain from mentioning the pleasure I have experienced in discharging the duties of this position. The relations into which it has brought me with the officers and members of this Post have been so pleasant that I must confess to a feeling of some regret of laying aside its duties, and to no little misgiving in assuming those of a more responsible position. Comrades, in tendering to you my heartfelt gratitude for the many courtesies and the soldierly treatment which I have ever received at your hands, I would like to suggest the following which we would do well to adopt as a rule of action in matters pertaining to Aurora Post, No. 20: Lets us agree to almost anything, submit to almost anything, co-operate in almost anything, rather than draw sullenly apart and live in a proud, or grieved, or resentful self-isolation.”

CITY NEWS

Some forty members of the G. A. R. from Galesburg and other points south of here, delegates to the State Encampment at Rockford, spent some hours in this city Wednesday morning, waiting for the 11:40 Dubuque express. They made their headquarters at the G. A. R. Hall, and spent the time pleasantly. Quite a number of comrades expected to accompany them from here, but we believe the only ones able to get off on that train were W.H. Watson and J.F. Harral. J.H. Freeman went by the evening train, and H.B. Douglas was detained by the illness of his wife.

Wednesday, February 15, 1882

CITY NEWS

Rev. Dr. Sage has been made Chaplain of the G. A. R., and reports indicate that he will probably be induced to reconsider his resignation of the pastorate of the Universalist Church.

The funeral of Capt. Fred James, which was held at the First M. E. Church on Sunday last was very largely attended, many unable to gain admission, and strong delegations both of the G. A. R. and the Sons of Albion were present. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. R.D. Shepard, the pastor, and the funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Sage, of the Universalist Church. Of the connection between Dr. Sage and Capt. James, the *News* says:

Mr. Sage is Chaplain of the G. A. R., and when boys in Ohio, he and Fred belonged to the same singing society. The speaker paid a beautiful tribute to the memory of the deceased, who during his seventeen years residence in this city, had made many friends and no enemies. Cheering words were spoken to the aged mother, to the brothers and sisters, and words of sympathy for the poor wife who was so ill that she could not attend the funeral.

Wednesday, March 1, 1882

CITY NEWS

The following from the Yorkville *Record*, will probably interest old 36th boys in this neighborhood: "A committee of the 36th Illinois has held two proceedings in Yorkville recently to consider the erection of a monument to Colonel Olson. The Regiment has \$700 on hand, and will put up the shaft in the Millington Cemetery. The contract was let on Tuesday to Baldwin & Kuyl of Ottawa for \$750. The monument is to be sixteen feet high, of medium dark Quincy granite, surmounted by a ball and eagle of Italian Marble -- all furnished in a handsome manner. The committee in charge of the work is composed of the following members of the old 36th: M.E. Cornell, Yorkville; Bergo Thompson, Sheridan; John C. Taylor, Sandwich; L.F. Heminway, Little Rock; A. Christopherson, Lisbon. The monument is to be completed on or about the first of September. It will be a great relief to the boys when this work is done, and a good soldier's grave will be properly marked."

Wednesday, March 8, 1882

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, G. A. R., will hold special memorial services on Friday evening at their hall, in honor of their late Comrade, Fred. D. James. Every member of the Post should endeavor to be present.

Wednesday, March 15, 1882

CITY NEWS

The Public Library acknowledges the donation of the following books by Mr. Pierce Burton: Statistics, Medical and Anthropological, of Provost Marshal General's Bureau, 2 Vols.; The Life of Geo. Peabody, and Destinies of Man, by Dr. H.W. Thomas.

Saturday, April 15, 1882

CITY NEWS

At a regular meeting Tuesday evening, Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., accepted an invitation from Rev. R.D. Sheppard to attend services at the First M. E. Church on the Sunday morning previous to Decoration Day. It was also decided to extend an invitation to Comrade Rev. N.S. Sage to deliver the oration on Decoration Day.

Wednesday, May 24, 1882

CITY NEWS

The "Society of the Army of the Cumberland" propose to gather in, on Decoration Day, from all parts of the country, money for the erection of a monument to Garfield, to be erected at

Washington. They request that the subscription be general, not over \$1 to each person. If all the people give, the amount will be great, and the monument, one worthy of the man, and of the United States. Aurora has already contributed very liberally to a monument fund, but there are patriotic hearts here which will gladly respond to this call. General J.C. ---ith, of Chicago, is a member of the general committee from Illinois, and contributions sent to him will promptly reach their destination.

DECORATION DAY.

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at their Hall, Tuesday, May 30th, at one o'clock p.m., and march to the City Hall, where they will divide into two detachments: First detachment, under S. V. Commander Harral, will be conveyed to Root Street and Spring Lake Cemeteries; Second detachment, under J. V. Commander P.B. Page, will be conveyed to Catholic and West Aurora Cemeteries. After the exercises at the cemeteries, the detachments will meet at the City Hall, where the procession will be formed in the following order:

Marshall Zimmers and City Police
Light Guard Band
Fire Department
City Council
Martial Band
Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.
Ex-Soldiers and Sailors
Members of the Press and Citizens.

The line of march will be west to River street, north to Galena, west to Lake, south to Downer Place, east to Broadway, north to Main street, and east to Lincoln Park.

The exercises at the Park will consist of the beautiful and appropriate Memorial service by the Post:

Music
Recitation of a poem by Miss. Adkins.
Oration by Comrade Chaplain N.S. Sage.
Music

The Committee on Arrangements has made the following appointments:

Marshal -- John A. Kinley
Assistant Marshal -- C.W. Howard
Committee on Flowers -- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harral, Mr. and Mrs. Eb. Denney,
Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Howard.
Chaplain, Spring Lake Cemetery -- Rev. N.A. Prentiss
Chaplain, Root Street Cemetery -- Rev. Thos. Galt
Chaplain, Catholic Cemetery -- Rev. Father Welby
Chaplain, West Aurora Cemetery -- Rev. W. Windson
Spring Lake Cemetery Guide -- Charles Ayers
Root Street Cemetery Guide -- Frank Harral
Catholic Cemetery Guide -- M. Maloney
West Aurora Cemetery Guide -- Oscar Gates

A.F. Wade
John Walker
H.L. Krahl,

Committee on Arrangements.

The formal opening of the Free Public Library will take place on Decoration Day -- next Tuesday. Everybody is invited to call on that day and see what the Board has provided for them.

Saturday, May 27, 1882

CITY NEWS

Comrades Lyon and Jenks, of Plano, and Atwood, of Peoria, visited Aurora Post, G. A. R., Tuesday evening, and spent a few hours very pleasantly.

Wednesday, May 31, 1882

DECORATION DAY.

With the exception of two or three slight showers, which somewhat interfered with the programme, the exercises yesterday were highly satisfactory, and there was no lack of the usual interest by our citizens in the observance of the beautiful custom of decorating the graves of our dead soldiers with floral tributes upon each returning 30th day of May. The public schools and nearly all places of business were closed during the hours devoted to the exercises, and the streets along the line of march were densely thronged with people, though not so many as usual visited the cemeteries, because of the threatened rain.

It was feared, owing to the backwardness of the season, that there would be a scarcity of flowers, and to provide against such emergency, the floral committee took the precaution Monday to procure evergreens and make a wreath for each grave -- a cross being substituted for the grave of every comrade buried in the Catholic cemeteries -- and upon the face of each wreath and cross appeared the following tribute, an extract from one of Col. R.G. Ingersol's orations:

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.

In Memoriam.

In Grateful Commemoration of

Our Deceased Comrades.

"These heroes are dead. They died for liberty. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, -- under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, and the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or of storm, each in the windowless palace of rest. Earth may run red with others wars, -- they are at peace."

But there proved to be a greater abundance of flowers than ever before, and yesterday morning they came pouring into the Council Chamber by the wagon load -- professional and amateur florists contributed most generously, while hundreds of energetic school children scoured adjacent woods and fields to cut wild flowers, and the large parties of ladies who took to arrange the bouquets soon found themselves nearly buried beneath the bright blossoms. One of

the most notable contributions came from Mrs. Sibell, of Riverside, who sent by the first morning train two large baskets of beautiful flowers.

As usual the exercises were under the direction of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., the Committee of Arrangements being Comrades A.F. Wade, John Walker and H.L. Krahl -- and but for the threatened rain every portion of their programme would have been carried out without a jar. The Committee of Flowers consisted of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Harrall, Mr. and Mrs. Eb. Denney, Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Howard and they had the prompt and energetic assistance of scores of enthusiastic ladies.

The Post met at G. A. R. Hall at one o'clock p.m., and while waiting for some tardy comrades, those present were favored with a surprise in the shape of a recitation of the poem entitled "Scatter Sweet Flowers," which was charmingly rendered by Miss. Edna, the bright little ten year old daughter of Comrade Fred Westover. The Post turned out about one hundred men, and marching to the City Hall were supplied with flowers -- ladies passed down the ranks and pinned a beautiful button hole bouquet to the breast of each comrade, and the command was then divided into two detachments, one being sent to the cemeteries on either side of the river, the men being conveyed in band wagons and carriages.

At the West Aurora Cemetery, Rev. Wm. Windsor officiated as Chaplain, and at the Catholic Cemetery, Reverend Father Welby -- appropriate music being rendered by a quartette composed of Messrs. Otto Fisk and Al Hobbs, Mr. Fred Hammond and Miss. Jennie Knickerbocker. On the East Side owing to the fact that Rev. S.P. Keyes had been suddenly summoned to Chicago, Rev. Thos. Galt officiated as Chaplain at both cemeteries, and music was furnished by a double quartette from the Post, consisting of Comrades R.B. Johnson, Eb. Denney, Put. Howard, Henry Stebbins, A.B. Culver, Fred Thayer, Frank Harral and one hundred and five comrades were visited, as follows -- thirty one in Spring Lake; twenty six in East Aurora Cemetery; thirty nine in West Aurora, and seven in the Catholic Cemetery.

On returning to the City Hall the thirsty veterans were gratified to find one of E.A. Sanders ice wagons containing a couple of barrels of excellent lemonade, and after imbibing a liberal supply of the cooling beverage Mr. F.B. Rice furnished them with a choice brand of cigars. It is needless to say that these kindly attentions were duly appreciated, and both Comrade Sanders and Mr. Rice were given three hearty cheers for their thoughtfulness.

The line was then formed, and with the Aurora Light Guards and members of the Common Council escorting the Post the procession passed through the principal streets of the West and East Sides. The oration was to have been delivered at Lincoln Park, but the rain was falling as the procession was starting from the island, in consequence of which the committee so changed their plans as to accept of Mr. Corbett's offer and hold the closing exercises in Coulter Opera House. Before returning to the East Side, however, the sky had cleared again, and on reaching Lincoln Avenue, the Park was found well filled with people who supposed the original plan was to be carried out, while several thousand more were wending their way thither; but the committee considered it too late to make another change, and while deeply deploring the disappointment which many must experience, continued the march to the Opera House.

Here, the beautiful and impressive Memorial service of the Grand Army was conducted by the Post, followed by appropriate music, after which Miss. Belle Adkins admirably rendered Will Carleton's touching poem, entitled, "Cover Them Over With Flowers," which called forth the most hearty expressions of appreciation.

Comrade Rev. N.S. Sage was then introduced, and delivered one of the most eloquent, interesting and thoroughly appropriate orations to which we have ever listened on Decoration

Day. His remarks enlisted the closest attention throughout, and were frequently interrupted by applause. We regret that lack of time and space permits us to give but a small portion of his address as follows:

(oration omitted)

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Sage stated that an original poem written for this occasion by Conductor E.H. Belknap, of Galesburg, at the invitation of Mr. D.W. Simpson of this city, had been received yesterday morning. At his request, the poem, entitled, "A Soldier's Dream," was read in a very effective manner by Mr. Frank Thatcher -- after which the exercises were closed with music.

Comrade John A. Kinley officiated as Marshal of the Day, ably assisted by Comrade C.W. Howard, and happily no mishap occurred along the line of march. The Light Guards Never presented a finer appearance, and received many well deserved compliments upon their soldierly bearing and good discipline.

(1882-KRAHL,SANDERS)

(1882-MAP)

Saturday, June 3, 1882

CITY NEWS

The free public library is now open, and all who desire can draw upon its treasures, on conforming to the rules established for its management. The library will be open daily, Sundays excepted, from 9 to 12 o'clock a.m., from 1:30 to 6 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7, 1882

CITY NEWS

About eighty five members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., by invitation, attended divine service Sunday morning at the First M. E. Church, and listened to a most eloquent and appropriate discourse by the pastor, Rev. R.D. Sheppard.

Saturday, July 1, 1882

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., having accepted an invitation to attend the Garfield memorial services to be held at the First M. E. church to-morrow under the auspices of the Sunday-school, comrades are requested to meet at their hall at 1:30 o'clock p.m. sharp, as the services commence at 2 o'clock. A full attendance is desired, and Commander Freeman hopes every comrade who possibly can will report at that hour.

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the shooting of President Garfield, and memorial services will be held in several of the churches. By invitation, Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will attend the services to be held at the First M. E. Church under the direction of the Sunday School.

1867-8, BACK AGAIN, 1882.

H.C. Foote, formerly of Aurora, has returned, and is at Park House, prepared to make to order badges, stencils, steel and rubber stamps, checks, army corp badges with full military record of battles, etc., "promemoria."

Wednesday, August 2, 1882

SOLDIERS, ATTENTION !

Milo B. Stevens & Co., the well known War Claim Attorneys, will be represented at Geneva, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 25th and 26th, by their special agent, Frank I. Darling. Soldiers and others interested in claims for pension, increase of pension, or other claims it is hoped, will give him a call. Mr. Darling's whereabouts may be ascertained at the office of the Clerk of the Court.

Wednesday, August 9, 1882

CITY NEWS

The annual reunion of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment will be held at Millington, Sept. 21st. The monument of Col. P.C. Olson will be dedicated at that time, the dedicatory address being delivered by J.L. Dryden. The response on behalf of the regiment to the address of welcome, will be delivered by H.B. Douglas.

Saturday, August 26, 1882

CITY NEWS

An adjourned meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., was held Thursday evening, and attended by a large number of visiting comrades. Among those present were Comrade Lawler, of Rockford, Commander of the Department of Illinois; Chaplain More, of Chicago, Chaplain of the Third Regiment; and Comrade Carmichael, of Streator. Commander Freeman welcomed the visitors in the happiest vein, responded to by Capt. Lawler, in which he took occasion to express his satisfaction with the admirable manner in which the Post was conducted. Short speeches were also made by Chaplain More and others, and the occasion proved to be the jolliest kind of a reunion of war worn veterans.

Wednesday, August 30, 1882

In view of many reports which have been circulated, the Committee having in charge the State Reunion of Veteran Soldiers, having thought it fitting to issue the following circular:

Chicago, Ill., August 2, 1882

To G. A. R. Posts, and Veterans of Ill., Comrades;

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held this day it was unanimously decided to issue the following circular;

Owing to the sickness and absence from the State of some of the members of the Committee, no meeting was held until sixty days after the usual time, when, as it had been

generally conceded that Peoria would make such a bid that other cities could not compete with a reasonable expectation of securing the Reunion, the Committee finally met at Chicago, and adjourned to meet at Peoria, where it was found that three thousand dollars had been subscribed, and the citizens generally were in favor of securing the Reunion, but no formal bid was made by the local committee in whose hands it was left.

A bid was received from Quincy, agreeing to comply with all the requirements of the Committee, whereupon we adjourned to Quincy, and upon presentation of the details necessary to make the Reunion a success, the local committee asked for more time, which was granted, after which our Committee were led to believe that the prospects were so good that still further time was granted, when finally, from lack of support from the citizens of Quincy, it was decided not to attempt the holding of a Reunion there this year.

In view of the existence of the above facts a meeting of our Committee was called at Chicago this day, when it was resolved not to hold a Reunion this year, it being too late for any city to make it a success, and we adjourned to meet at Chicago, the first Wednesday in March, 1883, when we promise our comrades that the proper steps will be taken in time to insure a Grand Reunion during the year 1883.

G. A. R. Posts will please have this letter read at their first regular meeting.

J. McNulta, Pres, Bloomington,
C.K.Herrick, Cor. Sec, Chicago,
A.C. Sweetser, Rec. Sec, Bloomington,
E.D. Swain, Chicago,
W.H. Watson, Aurora,
J.D. McClure, Peoria,
W. Jackson, Kimira,
Executive and Location Committee.

HURRAH FOR PLANO.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will hold a camp fire with Plano Post G. A. R., at Steward Park next Thursday, Aug. 31st. Let every comrade go with their families and bring their friends. That all may be accommodated with seats, those that contemplate going, can leave word with J.F. Herral or Eb. Denney.

Saturday, September 2, 1882

CITY NEWS

Some of the Regimental reunions in which our readers are interested occur as follows: 95th Rg't, Woodstock, next Monday, Sept. 4th; 92nd, Tuesday, Sept. 5th, at Byron, Ogle county; 105th, Wheaton, Tuesday, Sept. 5th; 52nd, Elgin, Sept. 13th; 36th, Millington, Sept. 21st; 8th Ill. Cavalry, Tremont House, Chicago, Sept. 19th.

Owing to the rain only about half a dozen G. A. R. boys went to Plano Thursday to attend the camp fire given by Plano Post. Instead of going to Steward's Park, a hall was thrown open for their use, and all had a good time.

Wednesday, September 6, 1882 CITY NEWS

The Elgin *Advocate* is mistaken in saying that the 36th reunion occurs at Springfield, Sept. 2nd. It will be held at Millington, Sept. 21st, and Col. Olson's monument will be formally dedicated.

Wednesday, September 13, 1882 CITY NEWS

The sixteenth annual reunion of the 36th Regiment occurs at Millington on Thursday of next week, Sept. 21st, and all soldiers and their families are cordially invited to participate. The C. B. & Q. Company will give reduced rates on all of its lines to all soldiers and their families, on certificate of the secretary, in returning from the reunion.

Saturday, September 23, 1882

36TH REUNION.

The sixteenth annual reunion of the old 36th Regiment was held at Millington yesterday, and about two thousand people were present, among whom were about one hundred of the 36th boys.

Hon. Wright Adams was President of the Day, and Capt. D. Ballou and Bergo Thompson Marshal. Rev. Mr. Hoffman opened with prayer. Capt. W. Irving Terry, formerly of this city, delivered the address of welcome which was happily responded to by Capt. Henry B. Douglas in behalf of the Regiment.

The dinner was splendid and after feeding the whole multitude great baskets of provisions were left untouched.

The feature of the occasion was the dedication of a beautiful monument erected by the members of the Regiment to the memory of Lieutenant Col. P.C. Olson. It is a splendid granite shaft, surmounted with an eagle standing on a cannon ball cut in white marble. It is 17 1/2 feet high. The dedicatory address, by Maj. J.L. Dryden, was a splendid effort, and held the attention of the entire audience for more than an hour. After marching to the cemetery Col. N. Greusel unveiled the monument, and with a few touching remarks covered the grave with the battle flags of the Regiment, after which remarks were made by other friends, and then all joined in singing "Nearer My God To Thee" and "America," and with the benediction the exercises closed.

The officers for the ensuing year are Fred O. White, Pres.; J.F. Harral, Sec., and M.E. Cornell, Treas.

The next reunion will be held at Morris.

The Kendall County band furnished music, and several songs were sung by the Millington Glee Club.

Among the familiar faces were Capt. J.M. Turnbull and J.L. Dryden, Monmouth; Col. Greusel, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Majors G.D. Sherman, Elgin, and G.G. Biddulph, Millington; W.F. Sylla, Elgin; W.H. Chamberlain, New York City; Lieut. E.E. Lloyd and J.C. Dennison, Chicago; Hon. J.R. Marshall, Yorkville.

Deaths reported since last meeting; Newton N. Hearger, Company B Cavalry; N.B. Sherwood, Co. H; W.H. Curtis, Co. F; James Stokes, Co. E; Geo. McHugh, Co. E, for whom resolutions of respect were passed and the flags ordered draped in mourning for thirty days.

ROLL OF 36TH AT MILLINGTON.

Beman Adams	J S Hatch
N Greusel	E B Clark
Robt Fralich	E H Young
A Christopherson	Geo Ness
Cyrus Perry	G L Hagadone
Erick Johnson	E H Straight
E L Patterson	M S Townsend
G D Sherman	C F Sweetland
W W Gifford	Chris Thake
C Lloyd	C H Odekirk
J J Heume	E R Zells
H B Douglas	J M Kennedy
J Muirley	Uriah Foster
J L Dryden	Sam'l Hitchcock
D H Henderson	G G Biddulph
E Batch	J W Ellis
I M Turnbull	Thos P Hill
C L Ferguson	F F Heming
G A Cummings	Dan Davis
W A Mitchell	W H Chamberlin
W Colton	B Loveless
J W Arthurs	James Lannigan
David Boyer	W E Satterfield
J C Hall	Ed Price
F A Mossman	E E Lloyd
H Hermes	Tom Hornby
H J Eakin	A C Ferre
G F Roots	H Ford
N Perkins	V W Race
W Kerns	J A Bokes
O H Thompson	R B Horrie
J C Dennison	L F Hemminway
Chris Zimmers	C W Rolph
F W Sly	S L Smith
T Johnson	J Lanhart
H Mannahan	T Thorson
J A Porter	O H Johnson
W F Sylva	J F Harral
J Jenkins	B Thompson
W Willson	J C Taylor
M E Cornell	Barney Wheeler
Geo Beek	J Anderson

Fred O White

W Browning

(1882-INV, ORD, R01, PO)

Saturday, October 14, 1882 CITY NEWS

Henry B. Douglas, about to go to Florida, will make an auction sale of his farm property on Tuesday, Oct. 24th, 1882 at 10 o'clock a.m. He will offer his entire personal farm property, and his household goods. Among the variety of goods offered are 24 Lincoln sheep, about 50 shoats and pigs, 90 bushels Early Ohio potatoes, 35 acres of corn in the field, 18 tons tame hay, also horses, cows, chickens, farm machinery, etc. This will be a first rate opportunity to buy.

Saturday, November 18, 1882 CITY NEWS

The "Grand Army" have accepted an invitation from Prof. Freeman to attend in a body, the Garfield Memorial Services, given by the W. D. School at the Galena Street M. E. Church next Monday evening. Comrades will meet at their hall at 6:45 p.m. -- sharp.

Wednesday, November 22, 1882 CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, G. A. R., will hold a sociable next Friday evening, at their hall, and it is earnestly hoped that every comrade will endeavor to be present, with the ladies of his household.

Saturday, December 2, 1882 CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys are about taking steps to provide a suitable organ for their fine hall. There is considerable musical talent among the members of the Post, and an organ is much needed, especially at their pleasant socials.

Wednesday, December 6, 1882 CITY NEWS

The annual election of officers of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., occurs next Tuesday evening.

Saturday, December 9, 1882 CITY NEWS

At the G. A. R. social Tuesday evening, the members of Aurora Post made a liberal donation for the relief of the widow and fatherless little ones of their late Comrade, Thomas Bexon, who was killed four or five years ago by falling from a fire alarm telegraph pole at the corner of River street and Downer Place. Besides money, the contributions consisted of groceries, provisions and other necessaries which must prove highly acceptable at this season.

Wednesday, December 13, 1882 CITY NEWS

Mrs. Thomas Bexon desires us to convey to the members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., the thanks she cannot herself find words to express, for their thoughtful and generous remembrance on Tuesday evening of last week. These repeated evidences of the kindly interest taken in the welfare of herself and her fatherless little ones by the comrades of her late husband, fill her heart with grateful emotions that words are inadequate to express.

Saturday, December 16, 1882 CITY NEWS

The officers elect of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., are as follows: Commander, J.H. Freeman, S. V. C., F.H. Harral; J. V. C., P.B. Page; Chaplain, C.B. Colwell; Surgeon, M.M. Robbins; Quartermaster, A.M. Brown; Officer of the Day, J.J. McNair; Officer of the Guard, C.G. Ayers. Delegates to State Encampment, J.F. Harral, W.H. Watson and A.D. Bunnell -- Alternates, Mat. Kennedy, John H. Smith and M.D. Yager. The various appointive officers will be appointed on the night of installation.
(1882-McNAIR,KENNEDY)

Aurora Post, G. A. R., has re-leased from Mr. Shelton, for a term of five years, the fine hall in the Stenger block so long occupied as a Grand Army Hall.

Saturday, December 23, 1882 CITY NEWS

The installation of the officers elect of Aurora Post, G. A. R., occurs on Monday evening, Jan. 8th, and Capt. T.G. Lawler, Department Commander of Illinois, has been invited to be present on that occasion.

Saturday, December 30, 1882 CITY NEWS

Capt. T.G. Lawler, of Rockford, Commander of the Department of Illinois has accepted an invitation to be present at Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., on Monday evening, January 8th, and witness the installation of officers for the ensuing year. Every member of the Post should endeavor to be in attendance on that occasion.

In **1883** the G. A. R. National Encampment was held in Denver, Colorado on July 25th, Robert R. Beath, the soon to be author of "The History of the Grand Army of the Republic," was elected Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois held its Encampment in Danville on January 31st where S.A. Harper, of Elmwood, became Department Commander. John H. Freeman was reelected Post Commander of Aurora Post. Its membership had climbed to 135 active members in good standing. At the 36th Regiment annual reunion, held in Morris on September 27th, J.C. Dennison would be voted President for the ensuing year.

Wednesday, January 3, 1883 CITY NEWS

The installation of officers elect of Aurora Post, G. A. R., occurs next Tuesday evening, January 9th, instead of Monday evening, as inadvertently stated Saturday. Capt. Lawler, of Rockford, Commander of the Department of Illinois will be present on that occasion.

Saturday, January 6, 1883 CITY NEWS

An open installation of the officers elect of Aurora Post will occur next Tuesday evening at G. A. R. Hall, when every comrade is requested to be in attendance and bring his family. The Department Commander and other visitors will be present, and an unusually pleasant and interesting time may be anticipated. Meeting at 7 o'clock, sharp, for that evening that business may be expedited. To follow these ceremonies a sociable of the families of the comrades will be held, with refreshments. The comrades' wives are invited to bake a cake and bring along for the occasion.

Wednesday, January 10, 1883 CITY NEWS

About fifty of General S.B. Sherer's gentlemen friends called upon him, at the residence of J.G. Stolp, Monday evening, and spent two or three hours very pleasantly indeed. It was intended as a surprise, abetted by Mrs. S., but the general's determination to start for the west Monday, and other circumstances compelled the revelation of the plot. A very excellent supper was spread, and, very thoughtfully enjoyed. The general was to leave the city yesterday for

Grand Island, Neb., to inspect a large dock of sheep, and then return to Aurora for a few days. Then, in company with U. S. Collector Crooker, he will go to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to spend some time in recuperation by means of the medical waters and the skillful treatment of the local physicians. The best wishes of the General's friends, both felt and expressed, will follow him.

Saturday, January 13, 1883

CITY NEWS

There were at least three hundred persons in attendance at G. A. R. Hall Tuesday evening to witness the installation of officers of Aurora Post, No. 20, the number comprising only the comrades and members of their respective families. Capt. T.J. Lawler, of Rockford, Department Commander, was present by invitation -- also, Comrades A.D. Reed, of Batavia, District Inspector, and L.C. Porter, of Rockford. During the evening the first named gentleman delivered a very neat and eloquent though brief address, in which he took occasion to express his gratification over the excellent condition of Aurora Post, and pronounced their hall the finest in the State. He said that in the Department of the State of Illinois the membership of the G. A. R. had increased one hundred percent in 1882.

The annual reports of the Quartermaster, Adjutant and chairman of the Relief Committee were full of interest and highly satisfactory. The former showed a balance of over \$2000 in the treasury, while the Adjutant reported 157 members in good standing, an increase of twenty four during the past year. Inspector Reed, in a pleasant little speech, complimented the officers of the Post upon showing him the best set of books he had seen in the District.

L.C. Porter, who was long a member of this Post, was induced to talk at his old comrades in the old familiar strain, and of course his remarks were appropriate and well timed, and liberally interspersed with fun and pathos.

After the installation, Commander Freeman reappointed Comrade Eb. Denney as Adjutant for the ensuing year; Comrade C.W. Howard as Sergeant Major, and Comrade A.B. Culver as Quartermaster Sergeant.

At the conclusion of the regular exercises, hot coffee and a tempting array of refreshments were served, and the balance of the evening given up to social enjoyment. It was a thoroughly enjoyable affair throughout, and those who were present will long recall it as one of the pleasantest evenings ever spent by the Post.

Saturday, January 20, 1883

VICINITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys, of Batavia, talk of investing in a uniform.

Wednesday, January 31, 1883

CITY NEWS

J.F. Harral, Maj. W.H. Watson, A.D. Bunnell and J.M. Kennedy left yesterday for Danville, as delegates to the State Encampment of the G. A. R., from Aurora Post, No. 20.

Wednesday, February 7, 1883

CITY NEWS

At the State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Danville last week, department officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows; Col. S.A. Harper, of Elmwood, Grand Commander; Comrade I.S. Taylor, of Centralia, Senior Vice Commander; L.T. Dickson, of Danville, Junior Vice Commander; Dr. L.S. Lambert, of Galesburg, Medical Director. Decatur was chosen as the place for the next meeting.

Saturday, February 17, 1883

CITY NEWS

John E. Bevier, John B. Roberts and J.C. Goodale were mustered into Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., Tuesday evening.
(1883-BEVIER,GOODALE,CULVER)

Wednesday, March 7, 1883

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post will hold a sociable next Friday evening at G. A. R. Hall, and it is hoped all comrades and their families will be present.

Saturday, March 10, 1883

PERSONAL

Harry Douglas, son of H.B. Douglas, arrived from Florida Thursday. The reason he was not accompanied by his parents is that Mrs. Douglas is quite sick. They will return home as soon as she recovers sufficiently to risk the journey.

Gen. S.B. Sherer has returned from his stay at Hot Springs, Ark, and seems improved in health. He remains here until the middle of next week, when he goes to Nebraska, to take charge of the sheep ranch he has bought near Grand Island.

Wednesday, March 14, 1883

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Douglas reached home Saturday night. Henry has been much benefited in health by his sojourn in Florida, and Mrs. Douglas is slowly recovering from recent illness which prevented them from coming home a week earlier with their son.

Wednesday, April 11, 1883

CITY NEWS

P.J. Forest, who had been a great sufferer for a year or more past, died, Saturday morning, aged fifty one years. Funeral services were held at the First M. E. Church Sunday afternoon, attended by the Knights of Honor and G. A. R., and on Monday the remains were taken to Mendota for burial.

BLUE AND GRAY

Decoration of Confederate Graves and Laying of a Corner Stone
at New Orleans by Ex-Soldiers of Both Armies.

New Orleans, April 7.

Yesterday was the day set apart for the decoration of the graves of the Confederate dead, and was observed with more than usual spirit. The occasion was taken advantage of to lay the corner stone of the monument of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee in Metairie Cemetery, where General Hooker, of Mississippi, was the orator of the day. The monument is to be surmounted by an equestrian statue of Albert Sidney Johnston in bronze of heroic size. The veterans of the Confederacy escorting the members of the Grand Army of the Republic marched to the Confederate monument in Greenwood, which was appropriately draped, then to the tombs of the Society of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Washington Artillery in Metairie. At the former the most conspicuous decoration was a monument ten feet high, the column built of white roses, which was the gift of the Grand Army of the Republic. It is the most elaborate piece of flower work ever seen here, and cost several hundred dollars. In the evening the annual banquet of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee was given at which Jefferson Davis and other prominent Confederates spoke.

Wednesday, April 18, 1883

CITY NEWS

Measures have been taken for the preparation of a suitable place in Memorial Hall as a receptacle for the safe keeping and preservation of the records, flags and other property of Aurora Post, No. 20, Grand Army of the Republic. Here the documents of the order will be safely preserved long after the last of the gallant men who helped to preserve our national life in the desperate struggle of '61-5 shall have been laid away beneath the May flowers, and future generations will sacredly treasure the musty records as they slowly crumble in decay.

Saturday, April 21, 1883

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., has accepted the invitation of Rev. Wm. Windsor to attend services at the N. E. Congregational Church on the Sunday morning following Decoration Day.
(1883-CEM, INV, RIB)

(Subsequent issues of the Aurora Weekly Beacon for the balance of 1883 do not exist. Some time during the interval between Wednesday, April 25, 1883 and Wednesday, January 2, 1884 the *Beacon* increased in size from four to eight pages.)

In **1884** the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 23rd. John S. Kountz, of Ohio was elected its Commander-in-Chief. As for the Department of Illinois, its Encampment was held in Decatur on January 31st with L.T. Dickason, of Danville, its new Departmental Commander. Aurora Post installed its new officers in time for them to attend the Illinois Encampment. J.H. Freeman was once again re-elected Commander. The 36th Regiment held its Reunion in Chicago, at the Matteson House on September 25th. J.C. Dennison would be elected president for the ensuing year. Once again it was a Presidential election year. Chester A. Arthur chose not to run and the Republican Party nominated James Blaine. His Vice President was the soldiers favorite, John Logan. The Democrats ran Grover Cleveland. The same month the Presidential candidates were nominated, the Aurora Post began to explore an "Auxiliary to the Post." In the mean time, the city of Aurora began to canvas for subscriptions to enlarge the Memorial Hall to accommodate a larger Free Public Library.

Wednesday, January 2, 1884

DIARY OF 1883

October, -- Detachment of G. A. R. boys went to Rockford to attend annual Camp Fire of Neven Post.

November, -- G. A. R. Camp Fire at Opera House.

Saturday, January 5, 1884

CITY NEWS

A letter from Rice Thompson, in San Francisco, conveys the idea that he is still very much in love with the climate and surroundings. He says the flowers and the temperature remind him very much of the month of June at home. With the gentleman with whom he boards, he attended the meeting and banquet of the Grand Army, George H. Thomas Post, which was given in honor of General Hancock. The hall was very spacious, the entertainment good, and he thinks the members of the Post, who are leading business men of San Francisco, just as fine a body of men as he ever saw. And he was still further pleased to know that of the five-hundred or six-hundred members of the Post, all but about fifteen, were good republicans. Mr. Thompson is stopping with a gentleman by the name of Towle, a man well known among railroad and lumber circles. Mr. Thompson reports meeting several Aurora people in his trips about California. Among others he enumerates A.A. Dexter, Judah Mead, Judge Daniels, of DuPage, Edward Slossen, etc. Although they like the climate of California very much, Mr. Thompson and wife are now thinking of going further south and spending some time in Arizona and New Mexico.

The officers elect of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will be publicly installed next Tuesday evening, Jan. 8th. The wives, children, parents, brothers and sisters of deceased comrades are cordially invited to be present. Invitations can be secured on application to Comrade W.H. Watson.

The members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., and their families will indulge in an excursion to Chicago on Thursday, Jan. 24th, for the purpose of visiting the great National Painting, the Battle of Gettysburg. The train will leave the east depot at 7:15 a.m., and the fare for the round trip will be \$1.17. The committee having the matter in charge are Comrades W.H. Watson, A.P. Vaughn and A.C. Ferre.

Wednesday, January 9, 1884

CITY NEWS

The officers elect of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., were publicly installed last evening at Coulter Opera House -- at least, to the extent that the families of comrades and a few other friends were present by invitation. The installation was conducted by Post Commander H.B. Douglas, supplemented by a brief address by Commander J.H. Freeman, in which he took

occasion to briefly state set forth the objects of the Order and refer to the war record of the veterans composing the Grand Army of the Republic. In response to repeated calls, Mr. A.J. Hopkins also made a pleasant and characteristic little speech which was heartily applauded. As a whole, the gathering was very pleasant and enjoyable.

The G. A. R. boys and their families go to Chicago on Thursday, Jan. 24th, to view the Battle of Gettysburg.

Comrade H.B. Douglas, of Aurora Post, G. A. R., has been invited to install the officers elect of Batavia Post, next Friday evening.

Saturday, January 12, 1884 VICINITY NEWS

Last Monday evening, a Post of the G. A. R. was organized in Naperville, with a membership of about twenty.

CITY NEWS

Once more Eb. Denney has been appointed Adjutant of Aurora Post, G. A. R., Commander Freeman recognizing the fact that he is just the right man in the right place.

Saturday, January 19, 1884 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

A large party of G. A. R. boys and their ladies went to Batavia last evening -- two coach loads -- to attend the camp fire of Batavia Post. They were right royally entertained, and reached home before midnight, after having enjoyed a rousing good time.

CITY NEWS

A large number of G. A. R. boys have made arrangements to go to Chicago on the excursion next Thursday, to view the Battle of Gettysburg. Those who desire to accompany the party should hand their names to either A.P. Vaughn or Frank Harral.

Wednesday, January 23, 1884 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

At the meeting of Aurora Post, G. A. R., last evening, the delegates to the State Encampment were instructed to endeavor to secure the holding of the next State Encampment in this city.

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys, with their families and friends, will go to Chicago next Friday, Jan. 25th, to view the Great Painting of the Battle of Gettysburg. Fare for the round trip is only \$1.17, and the tickets will be good from Thursday morning to Friday night, thus affording all who may desire the opportunity to remain in the city over night. Tickets can be obtained from either member of the committee having the excursion in charge -- comrade W.H. Watson, A.C. Ferre or A.P. Vaughn.

Saturday, January 26, 1884

CITY NEWS

About a hundred persons went to Chicago Thursday on the G. A. R. excursion, to view the Battle of Gettysburg.

Wednesday, January 30, 1884

CITY NEWS

Comrades J.M. Kennedy, W.H. Watson and John B. Chase are the delegates who represent Aurora Post at the State Encampment of the G. A. R. now in session at Decatur.

Saturday, February 2, 1884

SOLDIERS OF PEACE Eighth Department Encampment of the G. A. R. at Decatur.

Decatur, Ill., Jan. 31. -- The eighth annual State or Department Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic convened at the Tabernacle yesterday. There are 330 Posts in the State and a total membership of 15,443. The officers are Commander A. Harper, Elmwood; Senior Vice Commander, I.S. Taylor, Centralia; Junior Vice Commander, L.T. Dickson, Danville; Chaplain, Rt. Rev. Samuel Fallows, Chicago; Medical Director, L.S. Lambert, Chicago; Assistant Quartermaster General J.L. Richardson, Galesburg; Chief Mustering Officer, P.W. Wilcox, Mendota; Inspector, James E. Jewett, Pekin; Judge Advocate, Thomas A. Boyd, Lewiston; Assistant Adjutant General, J.L. Bennett, Chicago. The objects are to strengthen fraternal feelings, to assist former comrades and extend aid to widows and orphans, and to maintain true allegiance to the United States. It is not a political organization. It is a delegate body, whose members are those who have political opinions which hew close to the line of both political parties.

The reception in the evening was an occasion long to be remembered. An address of welcome was made by Comrade W.C. Johns of this city. Speeches were made by General Oglesby, Governor Hamilton, S.A. Harper and others. Everywhere there is singing, a comrade-like feeling, and a joyous time. An effort will be made to hold the next encampment at Centralia. Those mentioned for Commander are L.T. Dickason, General McClernand, I.S. Taylor, C.H. Matheney and Harper. Those put forward prominently for Adjutant General are Comrades H.H. Thomas, Carmichael and Bennett, all of Chicago, and Captain D.L. Ambrose, of Springfield.

There is a manifest feeling that the headquarters of the encampment should be at Springfield, and Ambrose appears to have good backing. There will be grand parade this morning.

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. boys who attended the State Encampment at Decatur, reached home last night. The Department officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: Commander, L.T. Dickerson, of Danville; S. V. C., Harrison Black, of Marshall; J. V. C., William Jackson, Elmira; Surgeon, L.S. Lambert, Galesburg; Chaplain, E.D. Wilkin, Danville; Council of Administration -- W. Chenoweth, Chicago; Enos Bond, Chicago; C.A. Carmichael, Darkwood; R. Rowett, Carlinville, and Sidnet Post, of Galesburg. J.F. Harral, of this city, and D.A. Read, of Batavia, were chosen as delegates to the National Encampment, to be held in Minneapolis, Minn., in July next.

ILLINOIS G. A. R.

Decatur, Ill., Feb. 1. -- The election of officers of the Grand Army encampment of Illinois resulted as follows: Commander, L.T. Dickason, Danville; Senior Vice, Harrison Black, Marshall; Junior Vice, William Jackson, Elmira; Surgeon, L.S. Lambert, Galesburg; Chaplain, E.D. Wilkin, Danville; Council of Administration, W.H. Chenweth, Chicago; Enos Bond, Chicago; C.A. Carmichael, Darkwood; Richard Rowett, Carlinville; Sidney Post, Galesburg. The installation of these officers occurred in the evening. Peoria has been chosen as the place for holding the next encampment. A resolution was passed favoring the defeat of the bill pending Congress providing for abolishment of pension agencies.

Saturday, January 16, 1884

CITY NEWS

An excursion to Chicago via C. & N. W. R. R. will be given under the auspices of Aurora Post G. A. R. Tuesday, Feb 19th. Fare for the round trip, \$1.17. Tickets good to return the day following. All those wishing to see the famous Battle of Gettysburg should avail themselves of this last opportunity. Tickets now on sale at Downing & Mann's West side.

Wednesday, January 20, 1884

CITY NEWS

Three carloads of excursionists at half fare rates went to Chicago yesterday, over the C. & N. W. Road, to view, "The Battle of Gettysburg." Though not actually under the auspices of the Aurora Post, yet the excursion was under the management of several members of the Post, and the party consisted of many G. A. R. men, their families and friends, who could not make it convenient to go on a recent excursion under the direct auspices of Post 20 for the same purpose, or desired to inspect the great painting a second time. Those who went had a good time, and

notwithstanding the unpleasant weather have no cause to regret the trip. Yesterday morning the announcement was made that the C. B. & Q. Co. would also take all G. A. R. excursionists to and from Chicago at \$1.17 for the round trip, but it came too late to materially interfere with previous arrangements.

Wednesday, January 27, 1884

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

Four new recruits were mustered in to Aurora Post, G. A. R., last evening and six others elected. For charitable relief in this city \$50 was appropriated, and \$10 for the aid of flood sufferers. The veterans stand ready to extend further aid in the latter direction when required.

Saturday, March 8, 1884

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

Charley Collins will be here the last week in March to play an engagement under the auspices of Aurora Post G. A. R., and the committee having the matter in charge are now arranging the cast for his support.

CITY NEWS

Col. N. Greusel, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, arrived here Monday from Ohio, where he has been spending the winter. He halted to spend a few days with his daughter, Mrs. John A. White. As mentioned some time ago, the Col. proposes to settle up his affairs in Iowa, and will next summer make this city his permanent home. It is needless to say that the genial old gentleman will meet with an enthusiastic welcome from the many old friends of former days. The following letter received by the gallant Colonel explains itself, and will be of special interest to the battle scarred veterans who served underneath him during the war:

Headquarters Mil. Div.
of the Missouri.
Chicago, October 15, 1883.

Colonel N. Greusel,
Late 36th Illinois Volunteers,
Aurora, Ill.

My Dear Colonel: -- It gives me great pleasure to summarize the services performed by you while under my command. I first met you as Colonel of the 36th Illinois Infantry. In the fall of 1862 your services were most valuable. At the battle of Perryville, Ky., October 8th, 1862, while in command of a brigade, you behaved with great gallantry, leading your brigade all the time, and on the campaign to Nashville the excellent discipline you maintained was a model for all. In the battle of Stone River, December 31st, 1862, while commanding your regiment, and after the death of General Sill, the Brigadier (1st brigade, 3rd division, right wing) your service

was marked by bravery and good judgment; and when you were compelled to leave us, it was much regretted, for it was felt that our cause was losing one whom it could illly spare. I am my dear Colonel,

Yours Truly

P.H. Sheridan,

Lieutenant General.

Saturday, March 15, 1884

VETERANS, ATTENTION !

To the Soldiers who served in Illinois Regiments during the War of the Rebellion:

The last General Assembly of Illinois made an appropriation for preserving from further decay the battle flags borne by the volunteer troops of this State in the late war, and for construction of suitable cases in which to place them, and the preparation and decoration of a suitable hall in the State House for the permanent resting place of these historic emblems.

The survivors of the 169 regiments who bore these banners, the friends of these survivors who so nobly sustained them in the field, and all citizens of the State of Illinois, are invited to assemble at Springfield on the 26th day of March, 1884, to unite in dedicatory exercises upon the formal opening of the Memorial Hall.

It is proposed to make this the most interesting reunion of soldiers ever held in this State. Gen. Grant has been invited to preside, and will do so if his health will permit. It is earnestly hoped that all soldiers will be present to meet their old comrades in arms, and to witness what our patriotic State has done to preserve the battle flags under which you won imperishable renown.

Reduced fare will be obtained on all railroads leading to Springfield.

L.H. Elliott,

E.R. Roberts

John M. Adair,

J.L. Million

J.L. Wilcox,

H.B. Buck

Bluford Wilson,

John S. Lord

Committee on Invitations.

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. are busily at work preparing, "Reward" for the stage. It will be the best play of the sort which they have ever presented to the people of the city, and they will have the aid of Charlie Collins both in the preparation of the piece and its rendition. The cast of characters is as follows.

Fritz Stein, Charley Collins; Tom Markham, Robert Burk; Walter Greenwood, Mit. Miller; Geo. Hudson, John F. Dewey; Mr. Harris, J.A. Carey; Sam Watson, G.S. Case; Ike Smith, M.D. Yager; Jim Johnson, Frank Babcock; Bob Winslow, Dr. G.F. Allen; Dick Osgood,

J.J. McNair; Grace Harris, Miss. Rae Copley; Kate Riley, Miss. Lena Culver; Miss. Mehitable, Mrs. C. Zimmer; Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Walter Lindsay.

Saturday, March 15, 1884

CITY NEWS

The dates of the Charley Collins entertainments, under the auspices of the G. A. R., are March 26th, 27th and 29th.

All soldiers who were prisoners of war during the late Rebellion are requested to send their names, addresses, company and regiment, when and where captured, how long and where confined, to M.S. Robinson, Secretary Illinois State Association of Ex-Prisoners of War, 95 Fifth Ave., or Dr. G.C. Somers, President, Grand Pacific Hotel, Chicago.

Wednesday, March 19, 1884

CITY NEWS

Members of G. A. R. Post who propose to attend the war concert this evening are requested to meet at their hall at 7 o'clock -- and to avoid climbing stairs their ladies can assemble either at Chase & Budlong's or Terry & Kraeger's.

Saturday, March 22, 1884

CITY NEWS

The rehearsals of "Reward," which is to be presented three nights next week by Charley Collins and a fine array of home talent, under G. A. R. auspices, are progressing very satisfactorily.

Mr. T.B. Coulter has been in the city a few days, on his way to commence living on his ranch, near Hastings, Neb. His family are also in the city, and will remain here until their goods, shipped from Pennsylvania, have arrived at their destination. Miss. Augusta Wheeler, who has been spending some months with her sister, Mrs. Coulter, in Pennsylvania, came with them to this city.

Wednesday, March 26, 1884

CITY NEWS

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings of this week, the Aurora Post of the Grand Army, assisted by Charley Collins, will present the war drama of "Reward," in the Opera House. Some years ago "The Color Guard," was rendered in the same way, and gave the most unbounded satisfaction. "Reward," is the same play but has been very much improved, and better adapted to the pleasure loving public. Some of the characters and scenes have been

materially changed, and much for the better. Mr. Robert Burk, who so well sustained the heroic role in the "Color Guard," occupies the same position in this play, while Miss. Rae Copley, the accomplished elocutionist, becomes the heroine. Walter Greenwood is personated by Mit. Miller, while the villain of the play, Hudson, is to be personated by Mr. J.F. Dewey, Editor of the *Post*. Other characters will be as well taken, and everything done to make the evening pleasant and profitable. A large number of the men of the Post, who have been there and know just how those things are, will take the parts of Union and Confederate soldiers, and show how battles are fought, won and lost. Charley Collins, himself, is one of the best impersonators of the popular idea of the German character, and keeps his audience in a continuous strain of laughter on account of the "droubles," of the innocent Dutchman. His songs are inimitable, and at times plaintive enough to draw tears, and again so irresistibly comical as to burst the buttons from the coat of the most sedate. Our citizens should devote one evening of the week to seeing "Reward."

Saturday, March 29, 1884

GIVE IT TO THE OLD SOLDIER.

To the Editor:

As the town election is approaching I wish to urge the people to vote for an old soldier for the office of town collector. John Kautenberger is the only soldier in the field and should have the votes of all patriots. He is not an able bodied man as has been represented but is disabled as the following certificate will show. We cannot have a chance to keep the soldiers many years longer, so let us help them while we can. B.

Aurora, March 26, 1884

This is to certify that some four years ago I treated John Kautenberger for ulceration of the cornea of the right eye, and that in my opinion he is permanently disabled and will not again fully recover the proper use of that eye.

Abner Hard, M. D.

(1884-KAUTENBERGER, VAUGHN)

CITY NEWS

At the earnest request of the G. A. R. boys and numerous other citizens, Charley Collins has consented to repeat the great military drama of "Reward next Monday evening. This is done expressly to accommodate the hundreds who have been turned away night after night, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Collins must appear in Plattsburg, N. Y. next Wednesday evening. Tickets for Monday evening are on sale at Watson's. Those who witnessed the entertainment are greatly delighted with the admirable manner in which it is presented, and state that all the characters have been remarkably well sustained.

Wednesday, April 2, 1884

CITY NEWS

Another large audience greeted Charley Collins Monday evening, and his reception was as cordial and enthusiastic as upon former occasions. The exact figures have not been reported, but it is understood that the charity fund of the Post has been replenished to the extent of about \$400, as the result of the four entertainments -- which is highly satisfactory, considering bad weather and the unfortunate interruption caused by the lecture of Mr. Willetts Friday evening. One feature Monday evening that was not down on the programme proved highly satisfactory to all concerned, and a surprise alike to Mr. Collins and the audience. Mr. Collins is billed to appear in Plattsburg, N. Y., this evening and should have started East Monday morning, but in order to show his appreciation of the hearty welcome always accorded him in Aurora he readily consented at great inconvenience to himself, to remain and give an extra performance Monday evening. During the evening in one of his best acts, the mirth provoking Dutch comedian was astounded at being followed upon the stage by Commander Freeman and ordered to halt. The intruder then, in a few eloquent words, in behalf of the members of Post 20, G. A. R., presented Mr. Collins with an elegant, gold headed cane, as a souvenir of their esteem for him personally and their appreciation of his professional ability and the valuable services in Aurora upon this and former occasions. For a few moments the recipient was completely overcome by surprise, but finally recovered himself sufficiently to express his grateful thanks in a few broken words that were sufficiently eloquent. The cane was one of the handsomest in E.W. Trask's large stock, and was artistically engraved, one side bearing the words "Your Reward," and the other, "Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R." -- the date, "March 31, 1884," appearing on the top.

Wednesday, April 9, 1884

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

The G. A. R. boys cleared \$517 from Charley Collins recent presentation of "Reward" on four evenings at Coulter Opera House.

Wednesday, April 23, 1884

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

On invitation of Rev. Geo. B. Stocking, the members of Aurora Post, G. A. R. will attend services at the Universalist church on Sunday morning preceding Decoration Day.

Saturday, April 26, 1884

THE IOWA VETERANS.

Marshalltown, Ia., April 25 -- The annual Grand Army of the Republic encampment closed last night after an all-day session. A resolution was introduced ironically requesting the Iowa delegates in Congress to reinstate all deserters, bounty jumpers and dishonorably discharged soldiers, and place Fitz John Porter at their head, where he belongs. A substitute for this resolution, which was adopted, urges Congress to remove the oath of secrecy from the Porter court-martial. Resolutions warmly commending General Logan's course in Congress were adopted with cheers.

Wednesday, April 30, 1884

CITY NEWS

Inquiries are frequently made why the fountain on Memorial Hall grounds is not in running order. The reason is that as yet no provision has been made this season for water supply. When the Council put a stop to the filling of street sprinkler's tanks from the street hydrants, it was ordered that the Holly pumps should only be used for fire purposes -- consequently the fountain cannot be started until further action is taken by that body. Some light repairs are needed on tank and pipes, and the fountain should be started up at once -- the agreement upon which it is accepted from the ladies of the Memorial Association being that it should be constantly kept in running order.

Saturday, May 17, 1884

CITY NEWS

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Free Public Library, Wednesday evening the resignation of Mrs. T.H. Clark as Librarian, was accepted. Upon the advice of relatives, Mrs. Clark will shortly remove to Danville, N. Y., where a couple of her brothers are conducting a water cure establishment. With them her oldest son, Sam, is already employed, and they also offer a situation to Hollis, who will graduate next month from the High School so long conducted by his late lamented father. Consequently the family will remove from Aurora about the first of July, though their departure will cause general regret.

To succeed Mrs. Clark, the board wisely elected Mr. James Shaw, Clerk of the city Court of Aurora, and we doubt if a better selection could have been made. Mr. Shaw is a student, an educated gentleman who is eminently qualified for the position, thoroughly conversant with the needs and possibilities of the Library, and his other duties are not sufficiently onerous to prevent his giving ample attention to its details.

The board also authorized the purchasing committee to expend \$500 in the purchase of new books.

In reference to the proposed extension of the present library building, the matter is being permitted to drag, simply as we understand it, because the committee in charge have not been able to spare the time from their private business affairs to press the work of subscription. The amount required for the improvement is \$5000, which would place the library and reading room on a basis to meet all requirements for at least a score of years to come, but while all seem to recognize the great necessity for increased facilities, and the feasibility of the plan contemplated, the aggregate of subscriptions has only reached \$2,400 as yet. It is hoped that as soon as the committee can find time to prosecute the canvas every business man in the city will gladly contribute to so worthy an object, and they will certainly be amply remunerated indirectly for any investment in this direction. The intention is to complete the proposed improvement this summer, and energetic measures will shortly be adopted.

Saturday, May 24, 1884

DECORATION DAY.

Friday, May 30, being a National Holiday, we the undersigned merchants and business men of Aurora, agree to close our respective places of business on that day from 1 o'clock p.m. until 4 o'clock p.m. for the purposes of uniting in the services of decorating the graves of those soldiers who have joined the silent majority on the other side.

W.H. Watson
Miller & Sencenbaugh
Somarindyck & Slater
R.C. Allen & Sons
C.H. Reeves & Son
Mason Bro's
J.H. Thompson & Co.
N. & D. Goldsmith
Cooper Bro's
Jacobs & Silver
Wilcox & Swalley
Kendall & Holden
Wright & Dewolfe
Thomas Denney
Smith & Daily
Turner & Stinson
Pierpont & Johnson
B.C. Carpenter
Frank Unfried
J. Wolfort
J.A. Weeks
M.J. Weis
L. Hayward
L. Hirsh
B. Brown
Titus & Marshall
George Hanna
N.R. Hobbs & Son
Abner Manning
Tanner & Son
Slaker Bro's
H.N. Janes
A.G. Case
A.P. Anderson
Gilbert & Kemp
C.A. Wilkie
F.M. Simpson
E.W. Trask
O.S. Clayton

A.K. Perry
Eugene Statler
H.B. Matthews
Terry & Kraeger
J.C. Harrington
Hawley & Otis
Mrs. J. Denney
Royston Bro's
Mrs. Jas. McCollum
C. Cummings
O'Donnell Bro's
Daniel Freese
B. Flick
Scholl & Buhler
John Reising
S. Felsenheld & Co.
W.A. Robinson
Allen & White
Bankrupt Clothing Co.
Denney Bro's
F.B. Rice
E.W.L. Rice
Will I. Rice
Bern A. Rice
Wilcox & Gilbert
E.S. Hanna
Morgan, Davis, Meredith
Frank Heaton
J.C. Goodale
Reising & Simmons
Wm. McMicken
D.C. Winslow
Plum & McLallen
C.S. Lewis
S.W. Gilbert & Son
Chas. Anning
H.J. Morris
J.F. Haeni
Hanna, McMillan, Scott & Co.

PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES FOR DECORATION DAY.

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at their hall at one o'clock sharp Friday, May 30th to march to the front of City Hall when they will be supplied with

flowers. One detachment, under command of Senior Vice Commander J.F. Harral will visit West Side Cemetery. Second detachment under command of Junior Vice Commander M.D. Yager, will visit Root street Cemetery, returning to City Hall the procession will then proceed to Spring Lake Cemetery where the general exercises will be held moving in the following order: Marshal Zimmer and platoon of Police.

Band.

Aurora Fire Department.

Mayor and Common Council of Aurora.

Speaker, Chaplain, and choirs of the societies.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.

Ex-soldiers and sailors.

Members of the press and citizens.

Marshal A.C. Graves.

Ass't Marshals, J.E. Bevier, E.B. Johnson.

Committee on Flowers.

Chaplain, West Aurora Cemetery, Rev. Wm. Winsor.

Chaplain, Catholic Cemetery, Rev. Father Welby.

Chaplain, Root street Cemetery, Rev. Galt.

Chaplain, Spring Lake Cemetery, Rev. Stocking.

Guides at Ceremonies:

Comrade Ayers, Spring Lake

Comrade Hubbard, at Root

Comrade Maloney, at Catholic

Comrade Gates, at West Aurora

Comrade Hettinger, at German Catholic

Committee on Flowers -- Mesdames J.H. Freeman, Eb. Denney, A.A. Velie, M.M. Robbins.

Assistants -- Mesdames J.F. Harral, J.M. Bigger, C.J. Ayers, A.M. Brown, G.S. Case, H.B. Douglas, J.B. Chase, C.P. Dutton, A. Hard, J.M. Kennedy, H.L. Krahl, A.C. Little, J.J. McCullom, A. Page, E. Stetler, W.J. Pollock, M.J. Tarble, O. Wilson, W.H. Watson, A.B. Culver, M.D. Yager, L.B. Copley, Wick Smith, Wm. Gardner, J.E. Bevier, F.B. Rice, Ike Morgan, F.L. Bartlett, T.N. Holden, Wm. Holmes, M.R. Pease, L.R. Brigham, J.J. McLallen, H.H. Evans.

At Spring Lake Cemetery the ceremonies will consist of:

Singing by East Side Quartette.

Prayer by Rev. Stocking.

Singing by West Side Quartette.

Memorial Service by Aurora Post, G. A. R. No. 20.

Scattering of flowers by 50 children, 25 from East Aurora, and 25 from West Aurora Public Schools -- Guides to escort the 50 children are, Comrades E. Stetler, P.B. Page, A.P. Vaughn, C.W. Ware.

Oration by General H.H. Thomas, of Chicago, closing exercises by,

Singing by East Side Quartette.

The line of march will be from the City Hall on Fox street to Broadway, Broadway to Main, Main to Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln Avenue to Spring Lake Cemetery. Return by South Broadway.

Wednesday, May 28, 1884

CITY NEWS

Mr. Felix La Baume, of Chicago, has just published a revised edition of his famous picture of the horrors of Andersonville. It is improved as a work of the engraver, and made even more expressive of the horrors of the prison pen that was the first edition. The work is not one that will be pleasant for a home picture, but copies of this too realistic engraving should be placed in positions where the young of the nation may see it, and know to what depths of degradation a civil war will reduce a people, and the possibilities of inhumanity which lie in the hearts of a people imbruted by the holding of human beings in slavery. Andersonville was but the concentration upon white men of the brutalities practiced upon the negro for the two hundred years of slavery domination in the south, and this record is a most likely perpetuation of its memory. Sample copies may be had at 50 cents by addressing Mr. La Baume or four copies will be sent for \$1.

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

The Committee in charge of Exercises on Decoration Day -- Messrs. Watson, Kennedy and Culver -- request that every person who can spare flowers for the decoration of the graves of our departed heroes will kindly deliver them at the City Hall, at as early an hour as convenient Friday morning. The school children are also invited to visit the woods Friday morning among the early hours, and gather wild flowers for this purpose.

CITY NEWS

Over one hundred members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., by invitation, attended services at the Universalist church Sunday morning, and listened to an excellent discourse by the pastor, Rev. Geo. B. Stocking, which he was requested by them to have printed.

The third annual Reunion of the 15th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was held in Rockford last Saturday, the twenty-third anniversary of the day on which they were sworn into the United States service. About one hundred of the surviving veterans were present to greet each other, some of whom came eight hundred miles to enjoy that pleasure. They banqueted at the American House during the afternoon, and had a delightful reception at the G. A. R. Hall in the evening.

Saturday, May 31, 1884

CITY NEWS

Jeakle, the popular Fox street restaurateur, won the lasting regard of the G. A. R. boys yesterday by thoughtfully furnishing with a liberal supply of cake, ice cream and lemonade, the ladies engaged at the City Hall in the preparation of flowers for the decoration of soldiers graves.

The regulation G. A. R. badge, being rather cumbersome for every day wear, H.H. Miller is supplying the members of Aurora Post with a neat little facsimile of the same in the shape of a gold scarf or vest pin.

Decoration Day was very generally and satisfactorily observed in this city yesterday. The C. B. & Q. shops were shut down at noon, the schools were closed, and the business houses all closed their doors during the afternoon. The weather was all that could have been desired, and the only cause of discomfort to the thousands of citizens thronging the streets seemed to be the dense clouds of dust which enveloped them when once beyond the range of the sprinklers. As usual the exercises were in the charge of Aurora Post, G. A. R., the committee of arrangements being Messrs. W.H. Watson, J.M. Kennedy and A.B. Culver, and though there seemed to be much tedious delay in one or two instances, the programme prepared by them was entirely appropriate, and carried out in a very pleasing manner.

The members of the Post to the number of one hundred and twenty marched from their hall at half past one o'clock to the front of the City Hall, from which point details were sent to decorate the graves in the various cemeteries on the East and West Sides, large baskets of flowers being conveyed in E.A. Sander's ice wagons. Each squad of soldiers were accompanied by a pastor of one of the city churches, and a quartette club, the usual service of singing and prayer being conducted at each cemetery.

Mr. Chas. A Gardner's "Karl" Band having kindly volunteered to furnish music for the occasion, reported upon the island at 2 o'clock, and while awaiting the return of the absent soldiers, rendered some fine selections which elicited hearty applause from the multitude present. One of these selections was a grand medley of patriotic airs specially arranged for the occasion by Mr. Jack Bims, the accomplished cornetist and talented leader.

The procession moved from the island about half past three o'clock, the veteran soldiers being followed by a juvenile military company composed of bright and energetic lads from the East Side schools under the command of Capt. Frank Holden. The little fellows were armed with light wooden guns, carried the starry flag with becoming pride, marched in good shape to the sound of the drum, their evolutions being very creditable, and all were pleased with the appearance of the embryo heroes. Then came carriages containing the Orator of the Day, Gen. H.H. Thomas, of Chicago, and the chaplain Rev. Geo. B. Stocking, Mayor Thorwarth and members of the Common Council, quartette clubs, members of the press and citizen generally. The band was preceded by Marshal Zimmer and a platoon of Police, and the line of march was by way of Broadway, Main street and Lincoln avenue to Spring Lake Cemetery.

At Spring Lake the soldier graves were strewn with flowers by fifty little girls, escorted by a guard of honor from the G. A. R., at the conclusion of which the remaining exercises took place on the west side of the grounds, not far from the Col. Miller monument. After a dirge by the band, the East Side Quartette sang "Comrades, We Come Once More." Prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. B. Stocking, and the West Side Quartette sang "Tread Lightly o'er Their Graves," after which the members of the G. A. R. united in their impressive memorial service, and the band followed with an excellent selection of music entitled "Garland of Flowers."

At this point Commander Freeman announced that owing to the lateness of the hour it was necessary that the band should return at once to the city, and upon motion of Adjutant Eb.

Denney, the Post unanimously tendered a vote of thanks to Mr. Gardner and his superb band for the excellent class of music rendered during the afternoon.

Gen. H.H. Thomas was then introduced, and made a pleasing and appropriate address, which was necessarily cut very short, as he did not commence talking until after 5 o'clock. It was estimated that from six to seven thousand persons were in attendance.

The G. A. R. boys evinced their appreciation of the valuable services gratuitously rendered yesterday afternoon by Mr. Charles Gardner's splendid band, by attending his dramatic entertainment in large numbers. Forty of them were present in a body, while many more were accompanied by various members of their families.. A year ago yesterday, Mr. Gardner was in Elgin, and his band in similar manner voluntarily took part in the services of Decoration Day on that occasion.

Wednesday, June 4, 1884

VICINITY NEWS

Post 453 G. A. R., was recently organized in Hampshire.

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

Aurora Post, G. A. R., meets at the Hall on Thursday at 1:30 p.m., to attend the funeral of Comrade William Mears.

CITY NEWS

On their return Friday evening from Spring Lake Cemetery, on invitation of Comrade John E. Bevier, 110 of the G. A. R. boys halted at Bevier & Hartz's drug store and tested the quality of their soda water.

Saturday, June 7, 1884

CITY NEWS

Mrs. William Mears and her children desire to return their sincere thanks to the friends, neighbors and G. A. R., who so kindly rendered valuable assistance in their late sad bereavement.

Fifty four members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., turned out Thursday afternoon to attend the funeral of their late Comrade William Mears. Rev. N.S. Sage, of Leland, also a member of the Post, officiated.

Wednesday, June 11, 1884

CITY NEWS

T.B. Coulter writes to us that he and his family are now well settled in his new home in Hansen, Adams County, Nebraska, also anticipating that they will like their new home. Crop prospects are excellent.

Saturday, June 14, 1884

CITY NEWS

At the G. A. R. Hall, to-morrow, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the members of Aurora Post, will hold memorial services in honor of their late Comrade Wm. Mears. (1884-MEARS, SMITH)

Saturday, June 21, 1884

CITY NEWS

The meeting of ladies held in G. A. R. Hall Tuesday evening adjourned until Thursday afternoon next June 26th, at 2 o'clock when the wives of all comrades belonging to Aurora Post interested in the organization of an auxiliary society to operate in connection with the Post are invited to be present. Remember, at G. A. R. Hall, at 2 o'clock p.m., next Thursday.

Wednesday, June 25, 1884

CITY NEWS

At a meeting last evening, Aurora Post, G. A. R. accepted an invitation from the committee of management, and voted to turn out in the grand procession on the Fourth.

A meeting of ladies is to be held at G. A. R. Hall at 2 o'clock to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon, to consider the feasibility of organizing a Ladies' Relief Corps, or auxiliary society to operate in connection with the G. A. R. The wives of all members of Aurora Post are invited to be present.

The members of Aurora Post, G. A. R. held a very impressive memorial service Sunday afternoon at their hall, in honor of their late Comrade, Wm. Mears. The family and other friends of the deceased were present. The services included a touching and eloquent address by Rev. William Windsor.

Wednesday, July 2, 1884

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL MILITARY REUNION.

St. Paul, Minn., July 2. -- Preparations are making on an extensive scale for the annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee at Lake Minnetonka August 13 and 14. The coming meeting will probably be the most notable ever held by the Society. General Sherman will preside. General Grant has signified his intention to be present for perhaps the last time, and to deliver what may be his farewell address to the army and people. The annual oration will be delivered by Colonel Ozro Dodds, and the banquet will be attended by some of the most noted poets and orators of the country.

ATTENTION COMRADES!

As per vote taken at last regular meeting you are requested to be at G. A. R. Hall on Friday morning, July 4th, at 9 o'clock, in uniform, to take part in semi-centennial celebration. By order of Post,

J.H. Freeman, Comdr.

Eb. Denney, Adj't.

CITY NEWS

A grand re-union of Soldiers and Sailors will be held at Chicago on August 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1884, under the auspices of the Reunion Association of the Northwest.

The Chicago Driving Park has been secured, and arrangements are being made for the accommodation and entertainment of forty thousand Veterans.

The programme will be interesting, and will include regimental meetings of Illinois soldiers and soldiers of other states.

Wednesday, July 2, 1884

THE FOURTH.

The weather last Friday was all that could have been desired, and our semi-centennial Fourth of July celebration proved a splendid success. The city was thronged with strangers who, with the great bulk of our own people, seemed determined to enjoy themselves to the utmost; the heavy rain of Wednesday had effectually laid the dust, the sky was overcast with light clouds, rendering the temperatures delightfully cool, and throughout the day everything passed off in the pleasantest manner imaginable.

The decorations about town were not so elaborate as upon some former occasions, but every business house and many private residences displayed more or less bunting, evincing a general interest in the observance of the day. The balcony of City Hall and the speakers stand in Lincoln Park were tastefully decorated by Mr. Al. Pfrangle, but by a strange oversight on the part of somebody our beautiful Memorial Hall was left untouched. The balcony and front of the Hotel Evans was very handsomely decorated, and much skill and good taste was displayed in the beautifying of W.H. Watson's and Mason Bros. store fronts -- and these were especially attractive.

There was considerable delay in the moving of the procession, owing to the lateness of the hour in which some who were to take part reported, but Chief Marshall H.B. Douglas speaks in the highest terms of the efficient and intelligent aid rendered him by his Assistant Marshals, Messrs. A.C. Graves, Dr. E.J. Sill, Robert Allen and Milton Miller. The procession finally moved from Lincoln Park about eleven o'clock, passing the principal streets, across the Fox street bridges and back by way of New York street bridge, in the following order:

Chief Marshall Douglas and Assistant Graves.

Aurora Cornet Band.

Carriage containing Hon. B.C. Cook, of Chicago, orator of the day; Rev. Geo. B. Stocking, Chaplain, and Hon. B.F. Fridley, Hon. Chas. Wheaton and Hon. C.D.F. Smith.

Aurora Lodge, A. O. U. W., escorting a finely uniformed and well drilled company of select Knights of this Order, from Chicago.

German-Catholic Benevolent Society -- a large company in regalia.

Ancient Order of Hibernians, preceded by the Light Guard Martial Band.

Rock City Cornet Band, of Batavia, accompanied by a mounted detachment of the Sons of Albion.

G. A. R. drummers, with S.G. Minkler, of Kendall county as bass drummer, followed by escort of G. A. R., followed by a beautifully trimmed emblematic car conveying forty seven persons. The States and Territories were represented by young ladies dressed in white, while above them appeared the Goddess of Liberty, impersonated by Miss. Kittie Slaker. In front of her were two boys representing the army and navy -- and behind her an aged and manacled slave, with the legend 'As We Were,' and a young colored man of intelligent countenance industriously pouring over a dictionary, representing the race today "As We Are." The manacles and chains were no new experience for the aged colored man, Page Moore, as most of his life was spent in slavery, until freed by the late war. Each side and in the rear of the car marched long columns of the battle scarred veterans composing Aurora Post of the G. A. R. -- the idea conveyed being that the gallant men who saved our Union twenty years ago were still ready to rally again in its defense if need be. Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Harral are entitled to the credit of this happy conception and the effective manner in which it was developed.

Wednesday, July 9, 1884

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Is located in the Memorial building, next to the Court House, on the Island. Open Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 2 to 6 o'clock, and from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. All residents of the city are entitled to draw books after filing certificates -- furnished on application at the Library rooms.

Wednesday, July 16, 1884

CITY NEWS

A Ladies Relief Corps, has recently been organized by the wives of some of our veteran soldiers, and a large number of the members of Aurora Post and their ladies assembled at G. A. R. Hall last evening to witness the installation of the officers elect. Commander Freeman officiated as installing officer, and the various offices were filled as follows: President, Mrs. J.F. Harral; S. V., Mrs. J.H. Hubbard; J. V., Mrs. A. Quinton; Secretary, Mrs. C.G. Ayers; Treasures, Mrs. H.B. Douglas; Conductor, Mrs. Wm. H. Scragg; Guard, Mrs. J.H. Kinley. The organization starts out with a membership of about twenty, but recruits will be speedily enrolled.

Saturday, July 19, 1884

Frank Harral goes to Minneapolis next week, to represent Aurora Post at the Annual National Encampment of the G. A. R.

Wednesday, July 23, 1884

J.H. Hubbard concluded Monday noon to attend the G. A. R. encampment, and departed on an evening train to overtake the other Aurora veterans in Chicago and accompany them to Minneapolis. He has a sister living in that city whom he had not seen in many years, and the temptation to visit her could not be resisted.

J.H. Harral and wife, W.H. Watson and wife, P.B. Page and wife, of this city, with A.D. Reed and wife, of Batavia, left here Monday for Minneapolis, to attend the annual national encampment of the G. A. R. Mr. Watson will be absent a couple of weeks, while Mrs. W. will doubtless remain somewhat longer to visit her sister.

Saturday, July 26, 1884

OLD VETS ON PARADE.

They Throng the Streets of Minneapolis for Four Long Miles
A Grand Sight.

Tattered Banners and Battle Scarred Heroes Greeted by the Great Concourse of People

Generals Logan and Sherman Create Unbounded Enthusiasm All Along the Line.

A Great Day.

The G. A. R. Reunion.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 24. -- This was parade day in the National Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, and the greatest day of the meeting. Nearly twenty thousand were

estimated to be in the ranks, and such an assemblage as collected in honor of the day surpasses anything that had been imagined. Over one hundred thousand people were packed along the thoroughfares through which the parade passed. Every available spot was crowded. Even the housetops were used for observation. Thousands of teams lined the sides and intersections of the streets and avenues, while yards, walks and windows were alive with people. Business all through the city was suspended and the unanimous sentiment was cordially in favor of giving the honored guests an assurance that open hands, and hearts were extended to them. There were 100,000 visitors in the city. The wildest enthusiasm existed over the whole route. The parade was one hour and twenty minutes passing a given point, and was four miles long. Throughout the whole time one continued roar of cheering and hurraing went up, every State was greeted with an ovation, and the well known officers who figured so prominently in military affairs received a double outpouring. General Logan was the foremost figure in the first line of the procession. He received the most enthusiastic welcome from the old soldiers, who nearly pulled him off his horse in their endeavors to shake hands with him. About the middle of the procession rode General Sherman, bowing and waving his hat to the cheering crowds on the side walk. The decorations of the streets were the finest ever seen here. A number of elaborate arches had been erected and every house and store along the line of march was gaudy with bunting. The day was excessively hot, but not dusty, and several citizens devoted themselves to the work of refreshing the marchers at every halt. The line of march was down Hennepin and up Nicollet avenues. After the route had been passed over the procession disbanded.

After dinner the various State delegations held reunions, at which the old war scenes were affectionately gone over while the officers transacted some routine business at the Coliseum.

In the evening, the Flambeau Club, of Topeka, Kan., gave an exhibition of alleged fireworks, which consisted chiefly of making a hideous din in the ears of an immense crowd of people. Owing to some poor management their pieces were fired off very close to the amphitheatre, which caught fire, and for a few moments there was a very good chance of a perilous panic. The fire was extinguished, however, before any serious damage was done.

The election of Commander-In-Chief occurs to-day. General Warner, of Missouri; Major Anderson, of Kansas; General Barnum, of New York, and General Kountz, of Ohio, are the principal candidates, with the odds largely on the side of Warner.

CITY NEWS

Eight recruits were mustered in to Aurora Post, of the G. A. R. last Friday evening -- and there should have been thirteen. The Post is increasing its membership very rapidly.

Saturday, August 2, 1884

CITY NEWS

The annual reunion of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment will be held in Chicago, at the Madison House, on Thursday, September 25. One of the Munger Bro's, proprietors of this house, has been trying several years to have the reunion held in that city, and now that he has succeeded will make it lively for the boys.

Wednesday, August 13, 1884

CITY NEWS

A grand reunion of soldiers and sailors will be held at Chicago on August 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1884, under the auspices of the Reunion Association of the Northwest. The Chicago driving park has been secured and arrangements are being made for the accommodation and entertainment of forty thousand veterans. The programme will be interesting, and will include regimental meetings of Illinois soldiers, and meetings of soldiers of other States.

At a meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, last evening, the G. A. R. boys voted to go to Chicago in a body, on Thursday, August 28th, the third day of the great Northwestern Reunion. They unite with the Posts of Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles and Elgin, going over the Northwestern Road, that company having generously placed the fare at one cent per mile for the round trip. Going on that day they will escape both the sham battle and the long march of the grand parade.

The Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the G. A. R., will hold a lawn sociable at the residence of J.M. Kennedy, West Park avenue, this (Wednesday) evening, Aug. 13th. Put Howard furnishes the music and dancing will commence at eight. All are invited, and a good time may be confidently expected.

Saturday, August 16, 1884

CITY NEWS

The lawn sociable given Wednesday evening by the Women's Relief Corps, at the residence of J.M. Kennedy, was a grand success. The attendance was very large, the company an unusually joyous one, the weather delightful and we understand the ladies cleared about \$30. A source of considerable sport was the raffling of a large cake, the contestants being Matt. Kennedy, the present City Clerk, and J.J. McLallen, his predecessor in office. The vote was declared a tie, after \$8 had been spent. They declared it a put up job, each insisting that the other was the winner, and next day, during the absence of Jim, Matt embraced the opportunity of settling the dispute by delivering the cake to his store.

IN MEMORY OF OLD DAYS.

Annual Reunion in Minneapolis of the Army of the Tennessee.

Lake Minnetonka, Minn., Aug 14 -- The members of the Army of the Tennessee were called to order in the hotel parlor yesterday by General W.T. Sherman, who read a brief letter from General Grant expressing regret at his inability to be present. Before reading the letter

General Sherman feelingly referred to General Grant's present feeble physical condition and to the present financial troubles in Wall Street. The speaker said no one believed General Grant was in the remotest degree personally responsible for the trouble, and said the respect and love he had won on the battlefield would survive long after Wall Street was a name held to be synonymous with gambling with gold and credit.

The evening meeting was held in the large dining room, which was handsomely decorated. Governor Hubbard welcomed the Society, General Sherman responding. Ex-Governor Davis, then delivered an eloquent address, after which Miss. Alice Mitchell, of Chicago, sang the battle song of the Republic. Several short speeches were also made, and the Society adjourned until today. General Sherman will be re-elected President.

Wednesday, August 20, 1884

CITY NEWS

A special meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., is called for Friday evening next, to make arrangements for attending the Re-union in Chicago. Every comrade should be present.

To soldiers and sailors reunion to be held at Chicago, the C. & N. W. Ry., will sell tickets for \$1.60 for the round trip. Commencing sale Aug. 24th, discontinue Aug. 29th, tickets good until Sept. 1st.

Saturday, August 23, 1884

LATE NEWS ITEMS

The sixteenth annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, of which Lieutenant General Sheridan is President, will be held at Rochester, N. Y., September 17 and 18 (Chickamauga week).

CITY NEWS

At a meeting of Aurora Post, G. A. R. last evening, the arrangements for visiting Chicago next Thursday, to attend the grand reunion was placed in the hands of a committee, who will probably make their announcement Monday.

Saturday, August 27, 1884

CITY NEWS

Following are some of the Re-unions in which veterans in this vicinity will be interested:

74th Illinois Infantry, at Rockford, Sept. 4th.

89th Illinois Infantry, at Bristol, September 5th.

95th Illinois Infantry, at Harvard, McHenry county, Sept. 4th.

13th Wisconsin Infantry, at Sharon, Wis., Sept. 10th.

17th Illinois Cavalry, and 67th Illinois Infantry, at Chicago, Sept. 10th.

105th Illinois Infantry, at Naperville, Sept. 2nd.

36th Illinois Infantry, at Chicago, Sept. 25th.

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

Two veterans from Oswego were mustered into Aurora Post, G. A. R. last evening.

On Monday, the Aurora Free Public Library received a valuable donation from Gen. S.B. Sherer, now spending a few days among his friends here. The gift consists of a series of some thirty elaborate maps showing the operations of the Union and Confederate armies in connection with many of the most prominent engagements of the late war. The collection is of great historical value, and will be of absorbing interest to many of our old veterans who marched and fought over the territory so minutely portrayed from surveys made by U. S. Engineers. The officers of the Library will take early steps to have these maps bound in suitable shape to place upon the tables. The list is as follows:

Map of region between Gettysburg, Pa., and Appomattox Court House, Va.

Map of Fredericksburg, Va.

Map of the battlefield of Chancellorville and Antietam.

Map of Rebel fortifications at Columbus, Ky.

Map of the country between Monterrey, Tenn., and Corinth, Miss., showing lines of entrenchments made and routes followed by Union army under Gen. Halleck in the advance on Corinth, May 1862.

Map of the battlefield of Shiloh, showing the position of the Union forces on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862.

Map of the region around High Bridge and Farmville, Va.

Battlefield near Belmont, Ky.; the Union forces commanded by General U.S. Grant, Nov. 7, 1861.

Harpers Ferry and the country around it.

Rebel lines of works at Blakely, Ala., captured by the Union army April 9, 1862, with positions and approaches of Union forces.

Map of the battlefield of Pea Ridge showing positions of Union and Rebel forces March 8, 1862.

Sketch of battlefield and Rebel works at Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1862.

Map of battlefield of Perryville, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862.

Map showing operations of Union forces under Brigadier General G.W. Morgan at Cumberland Gap, Tenn., during part of 1862.

Sketch of battlefield at Logan's Cross Roads, and the Rebel fortified position at Mill Springs, Ky., Jan. 19, 1862.

Battlefields in front of Nashville, Tenn., where the Union forces under Thomas routed the Rebel army under Hood, Dec. 15 and 16, 1864.

Topographical survey of Jetersville and Sailor's Creek, Va.

Map of the battlefield of Chattanooga, Tenn., prepared to accompany the report of Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant.

A series of military maps showing the operations of the Union armies of the Potomac and the James from May 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865, including all the battlefields in Virginia during the last year of the war, and also the sieges of Richmond and Petersburg.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 25. -- The sixteenth annual reunion of the soldiers and officers of the Army of the Cumberland -- General Philip H. Sheridan, President -- will take place at Rochester, N.Y., September 17 and 18. Word has been received here that the local committees are making ample preparations for the entertainment of the veterans attending, and that the principal railroads will carry them at reduced rates.

MANY WESTERN SOLDIERS TO MEET.

Milwaukee, Wis. Aug. 25. -- A military encampment which will be participated in by all the State companies, and many from other western States, including Detroit, Chicago, Dubuque and St. Louis, will begin to-day at Cold Spring Park. Prizes will be given for the best drilled companies, and a sham battle will take place. About three thousand soldiers will be in line on the day of the grand parade.

CITY NEWS

Most of the members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., are investing in a neat blue uniform, which N. Goldsmith is furnishing them at remarkably low figures.

The old soldiers of Rockford organized a Blaine & Logan marching club Saturday evening -- and the Swedish Republicans of that city are to organize two clubs.

We are notified that the sixteenth annual reunion of the Army of the Cumberland is to be held this year at Rochester, N. Y. on the 17th and 18th of September.

Veterans interested should bear in mind that the annual reunion of the 89th Regiment occurs next week Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Kendall County Fair Grounds at Bristol.

A large number of G. A. R. boys will go to Chicago tomorrow to attend the reunion, and Oscar Gates is about town collecting money to pay for a band to accompany them.

Some twenty five or thirty boys of the West Division have organized the "Blaine and Logan Kids," and an effort is being made to uniform them with small torches capes and caps.

Saturday, August 30, 1884

THE VETERANS.

Visitors to the Reunion of Soldiers and Sailors of the Northwest, at Chicago,
Treated to a Sham Battle.

Chicago, Aug. 29. -- The third day of the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion was interfered with by the rain in the early morning. The rain ceased too late for the programme of the morning to be carried out. The morning was passed in general visiting, and was, perhaps, more pleasant than the formal exercises originally planned would have been.

At two p.m. the prize drill between companies of the First Regiment of the State Guards was called. There were three entries. The drill lasted nearly two hours, the companies going through fifty movements. The prizes were awarded on the following scores: Company G, 441 points, out of a possible 500; Company E, 410 points; Company B, 404 points. During the drill General Logan, accompanied by Gen. Torrence drove on the grounds and received an enthusiastic reception.

The night attack on the fort was announced to occur at eight o'clock, but it was long after nine before the attack began. The fort, an earthen embankment about four feet high, was defended by two guns from battery D under Lieutenant Allen. The First Illinois Cavalry, under Colonel Welter, who was also in chief command, assisted the battery. The attacking party was under the command of Colonel J.T. Foster, and consisted of Company C, Second Regiment, Lieutenant E.L. Gray, commanding the Chicago Light Infantry, and two guns from battery D. At the signal the four cannons were discharged nearly simultaneously, followed by the rapid forward march of the light infantry. Hundreds of rockets and roman candles threw a fitful light over the scene. The infantry on each side then advanced, and the volleys in quick succession, mingled with the roar of the cannon, gave the realistic effect of a night attack, which continued for an hour and a half. The fort will be captured in the final contest to-day.

CITY NEWS

Over one hundred members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., had made arrangements to go to Chicago Thursday morning over the Northwestern Road, to attend the reunion of old soldiers, but in consequence of the heavy rain only some forty of the boys put in an appearance. The rain had ceased before they reached Chicago, but the grounds were exceedingly wet and muddy, and the day was not very pleasantly spent. The redeeming feature of the trip was the fact that they were accompanied by the Aurora Cornet band, and furnished with excellent music.

ROUND THE CAMP-FIRES.

Ten Thousand Visitors at the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion in Chicago.
The Second Day's Proceedings.

Chicago, Aug. 28. -- Camp James A. Mulligan woke up late yesterday. The "salute at sunrise" of thirteen guns was fired some minutes after ten o'clock in the forenoon under the direction of Major E.P. Tobey, of Battery D. Few visitors were on the ground at that hour, and only a small portion of the veterans attending the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion had come out from the city. Not until the forenoon had passed did the crowds swell to respectable dimensions. In the afternoon about 10,000 people were present, nearly half of whom were veterans.

There were no interesting exercises until late in the afternoon, when the parade and review of the veterans occurred. About seven hundred veterans took part in it. The veterans were commanded by Gen. A.L. Chetlain, the Division Commanders being Gen. R.N. Pearson, Col. L.T. Dickason and Col. A.J. Nichols. After parading past the grandstand with colors flying and to the music of "Marching Through Georgia," the old soldiers were disbanded, having made a very good showing.

The only contestants in the prize drill were companies from the Nineteenth and Fifty Seventh Illinois Volunteers. The Fifty Seventh appeared on the parade ground first. They were under the command of Col. F. Busse and drilled very well, although their manual was ragged. Following them came the Nineteenth men. Their manual was good and coupled with steady marching, gave them the victory. They were under command of Captain Tom Beatty.

Last evening jolity reigned throughout the camp. The dancing floor was utilized by a large number until a late hour, and numerous spectators fringed the edges of the enclosure, evidently enjoying the scene.

Saturday, September 6, 1884

OLD SOLDIERS, ATTENTION !

A meeting of the old soldiers will be held at Republican headquarters Monday evening, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing an escort to meet General Oglesby on his arrival here next Thursday. All veterans are cordially invited to be present.

Wednesday, September 10, 1884

NOTICE TO VETERANS.

All veterans interested in the reception of Gen. R.J. Oglesby on Thursday afternoon are requested to assemble at Republican Wigwam at 1 o'clock sharp to take part in the reception from the train to Hotel Evans, and from there to Lincoln Park.

Badges will be furnished at the wigwam to all veterans willing to take part in the reception. In charge of veterans, Capt. A.C. Ferre, Marshal; Thos. Howard, Assistant Marshal.

Eb. Denney

A.C. Ferre

W.H. Watson

A.J. King
J.F. Harral
Com. of Arrangements.

Saturday, September 13, 1884

CITY NEWS

During the regular session of Aurora Post, G. A. R., Tuesday evening, the comrades were surprised by the ladies of the Relief Corps, and served with a tempting lunch, after which an hour or two was pleasantly spent in social intercourse.

Saturday, September 20, 1884

THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 19. -- At the meeting of the Army of the Cumberland Association yesterday morning, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Lieutenant-General Phil Sheridan; Corresponding Secretary, Colonel Henry M. Cist; Treasurer, General James Fullerton; Recording Secretary, Col. John W. Steele. The Committees on the Garfield Monument fund and on memoirs reported, and the meeting adjourned until the evening, when a banquet was held at the arsenal.

The following were the toasts and the speakers of the evening: "The Army of the Cumberland," General J.S. Fullerton; "The First Bull Run, Its Lesson," Alfred Ely; "The Rank and File," Rev. John A. Nelson; "The War Governors," J.W. Keifer; "The Eastern Troops in the Army of the Cumberland," General A.G. Underwood; "The Volunteer Soldier," General John A. Logan; "Our Dead Comrades," General S. Woodford; "Women in the War," General H. Porter. The toasts and speeches were interspersed with music by the city band and vocal selections by a quartette.

Saturday, September 27, 1884

CITY NEWS

Col. Greusel, of the old 36th Regiment was in the city on Tuesday last, preparatory to attending the 36th Reunion in Chicago on Wednesday. The old patriot and soldier was in first rate spirits, and apparently sturdy health. He has spent the last winter in Ohio, and is positive that State will give a majority of from 20,000 to 30,000 in the October election, and do even better for Blaine in November.

At the reunion of the 36th Regiment in Chicago Thursday, the old officers of the Association were unanimously re-elected as follows: J.C. Dennison, Elgin, President; F.O. White, Aurora, Secretary; M.E. Cornell, Yorkville, Treasurer. There were over ninety of the survivors of the regiment present, most of them accompanied by their wives, and 194 were

seated at the banquet. All present unite in saying that it was the most enjoyable reunion they have yet had.
(1884-INV)

Saturday, October 4, 1884

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

The Ladies Relief Corps have made arrangements for holding their first fair, to open December 9th and continue three days. An Enjoyable programme will be presented each evening.

Wednesday, October 8, 1884

CITY NEWS

Mr. A.P. Vaughn, C. B. & Q. freight agent in this city, who gallantly served in the Union army through the late war, and came out as a Captain in the 52nd Regiment Illinois Infantry, hands us a copy of the first Confederate Presidential ticket, picked up by him on reaching Tennessee in the spring of 1862. It reads as follows:

For President of the Confederate States
Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi
For Vice President
Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia

Tennessee Electoral Ticket

For the State at Large -- Robert C. Foster, 3rd, of Davidson; Wm. Wallace, of Blount.

For the Districts -- 1st, F.M. Fulkerson, of Hawkins; 2nd, Wm. G. McAdoo, of Knox; 3rd, W.L. Aiken, of Monroe; 4th, S.D. Rowan, of Warren; 5th, John F. Doak, Wilson; 6th, Geo. W. Buchanan, Bedford; 7th, Lucius J. Polk, Maury; 8th, G.A. Washington, Robertson; 9th, B.F. Lamb, Henry; 10th, Robert B. Hunt, Madison; 11th, Jos. R. Mosby, Fayette.

For Congress -- 7th Congressional District, George W. Jones.

Saturday, October 25, 1884

SOCIETY NOTICES

Womens' Relief Corps. The regular meetings of the W. R. C. have been changed to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 28th.

L. Ayers, Sec.

Saturday, November 15, 1884

ATTENTION, COMRADES.

There will be memorial services held in Grand Army Hall, at 3:30 p.m., to-morrow, Nov. 16, in respect to our deceased Comrade Smith. All comrades and their families are requested to attend. Rev. Windsor will deliver the address.

King, Graves and Case,
Committee.

SOCIAL AND SOCIETY NOTICES.

Womens' Relief Corps. Members of the society are invited to meet over No. 9 Fox street on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19, 1884

CITY NEWS

The 89th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers will hold its first annual reunion at the Palmer House, in Chicago, on the 22nd of January next. The Palmer House furnishes the banquet at \$1.50 per plate, and entertains members of the Regiment at \$2.50 a party. Members of the regiment desiring information concerning the reunion should address the Secretary, I.K. Young, at Bristol, Ill.

Memorial services were held Sunday afternoon at the G. A. R. Hall, in memory of Comrade W.A. Smith, who died recently at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. John Walker.

At the regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas--It has been the will of the Great Ruler of the universe to remove from our ranks, Comrade W.A. Smith, therefore be it

Resolved--That we, the members of Aurora Post, No. 20, Grand Army of the Republic Department of Illinois, sincerely mourn the loss of our departed Comrade who was a brave soldier and a good citizen, a kind and loving husband and parent and an exemplary christian.

Resolved--That these resolutions be adopted by this Post and spread upon the records and that the Adjutant be instructed to have them printed in the Aurora Beacon and to send a copy of the same to the family of our late Comrade.

A.J. King,
A.B. Culver,
Alfred Billing.
Committee.

Saturday, November 22, 1884

CITY NEWS

Tuesday evening next, at the regular meeting of Post 20, G. A. R., Comrade L.B. Crooker will, by request present a paper giving a brief sketch of the career of his regiment, the 55th

Illinois Infantry, during the late war. It will be of absorbing Interest, and every member of the Post should be present.

Wednesday, November 26, 1884 CITY NEWS

The Ladies Relief Corps will run their first annual fair at the Opera House, from December 9th to the 12th. Barr's Band has been engaged to furnish music for the occasion, and the ladies promise the liveliest kind of a programme for every evening.

At the regular meeting of the Aurora Post, G. A. R., last evening, Comrade L.B. Crooker read a most interesting sketch of the experiences of his regiment, the 55th Illinois Infantry, and the 54th Ohio in the battle of Shiloh, fought at Pittsburg Landing on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862. There was an unusually large attendance of members of the Post present, with many visitors from Naperville and other points, very many of those present having taken part in that engagement, and so much delighted were all with the graphic description given of the main features that on unanimous request Comrade Crooker kindly consented to reproduce the sketch one evening during the fair to be given shortly by the Ladies Auxiliary Society at the Opera House. The exercises of the evening were closed by serving a lunch consisting of hot coffee, sandwich, etc., and taken as a whole the occasion was more than usually enjoyable, even for a meeting of the veterans of Aurora Post and their friends.

Saturday, November 29, 1884 CITY NEWS

The Women's Relief Corps. -- a society that is auxiliary to Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. -- is making arrangements for holding their first grand annual fair and bazaar at Coulter Opera House, commencing Tuesday, December 9th, and continuing for the balance of the week. They will display for sale a large assortment of useful and ornamental goods, serve an oyster supper each evening, and present new and unusually pleasing attractions every night. Barr's Band will furnish music throughout the fair. As the object of all efforts of this association are of a large number of the prominent and well known ladies of Aurora is purely charitable, they should meet with liberal encouragement. They propose to give everybody the full worth of their money in healthful enjoyment, and have placed season tickets (admitting gentlemen and lady) at the low price of \$1. Further particulars will be given next week.

Saturday, December 6, 1884 CITY NEWS

The regular meeting of Aurora Post, G. A. R. Tuesday evening next; for the election of officers, opens at 7 o'clock sharp, so that comrades can at the close reach the fair of the Ladies Relief Corps, which opens at the Opera House that evening.

The first fair given by the Ladies Relief Corps opens at the Opera House Tuesday evening next, Dec. 9th, with an oyster supper. Wednesday they will serve a grand turkey dinner, and there will be new attractions for Thursday and Friday.

Wednesday, December 10, 1884 CITY NEWS

The first annual fair and bazaar, under the auspices of the Ladies Relief Corps opened last evening at the Opera House. They have a splendid display of useful and ornamental work for sale, and the house never was fitted up in more tasteful and pleasing manner. They use Company D armory (opening from the main floor) as a dining room, and that also is handsomely decorated for the occasion.

Turkey dinner to-day.

A feature not on the programme is in store for those who are present at the Fair Friday evening -- one which will greatly surprise at least one individual and delight all members of the G. A. R. and Women's Relief Corps. Don't miss being present to witness it.

At the Relief Corps Fair last evening, a large easy chair No. 1 was won by ticket No. 29, and chair No. 2 by ticket No.7 -- but neither of the lucky individuals were in the house. At the close of the evening the vote in the contest for the diamond pin to be awarded to the most popular young man, the vote stood -- Thos. McMicken, 20; H.H. Alshuler, 18; Wynn Meredith, 12; Will Rees, 9; J.B. Chase, 1. The fair closes Friday evening.

Commander J.H. Freeman was set down for an address last evening at the opening of the Womens' Relief Corps fair at the Opera House. The members of the Post reached the Opera House at a very late hour and the speech was necessarily cut very short; but Prof. Freeman was as ever, equal to the occasion, and did the subject ample justice in eloquent and glowing sentences upon which, unhappily, we have no time this morning to comment.

There was an unusually large number of comrades in attendance last evening at the hall of Aurora Post, G. A. R., and officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows: Commander, Eb. Denney; M.D. Yager, S. V. C.; F.L. Thayer, J. V. C.; J.E. Bevier, Quartermaster; Dr. Harvey Seymour, Surgeon; John McNair, O. of D.; C.G. Ayers, O. of G.; C.H. Snedeker, Chaplain. Delegates to Department Encampment to be held at Peoria in February, L.B. Crooker, J.F. Harral, W.H. Watson and Theo. Howard; Alternates, J.M. Kennedy, A.D. Bunnell, M.D. Yager and M.E. Cornell. At the close of the meeting a hundred or more of the comrades repaired to the Opera House in a body to attend the fair being held by the Women's Relief Corps.

Hon. L.B. Crooker yesterday placed in Memorial Hall a valuable collection of relics from the battlefield of Shiloh, which will be viewed with much interest, especially by the old soldiers who took part in that engagement. They consist of part of a 20 pound Parrot shell, a battered canteen, twisted bayonet, the lock of a musket, a variety of bullets and pieces of other missiles, a piece of wood from the old Shiloh church, a piece of wood from the stump of the tree under which Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson died. These relics were collected by Mr. Crooker on a visit to the battlefield last April, on the twenty-second anniversary of the bloody struggle, and the contribution will be carefully treasured by the Memorial Association in their museum of war relics, which is steadily growing in historical interest.

THE AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Not the least of the institutions of Aurora to which attention may be called at this time is the Aurora Free Public Library. A brief history of its organization will not be without interest. The first public movement towards the free public library as now established, was made on the evening of May 2, 1881, when the regular meeting of the Common Council of the city, Alderman Thorwarth presented a numerously signed petition requesting the Council to establish a public library and reading room, as provided for in Chapter 81 of the Revised Statutes of Illinois. The statute referred to empowers the City Council of each incorporated city to establish and maintain a public library and reading room, and to levy a tax of not exceeding one mill on the dollar on all the taxable property in the city for such purpose.

The petition introduced by Alderman Thorwarth was referred to a special committee, consisting of Alderman Thorwarth, McCollum, Day, Race and Denney. At the next meeting of the Council, Alderman Thorwarth presented a report from this committee, recommending that the prayer of the petition be granted, and the passage of an ordinance accompanying the report, which briefly ordained that "a public library and reading room be and the same is hereby established, in conformity with the law aforesaid."

No action was taken by the Council at that meeting on the report and accompanying ordinance, but at the meeting on June 13, the report was adopted and the ordinance passed by a unanimous vote. The following named gentlemen then composed the Council: W.W. Bishop, William P. West, George McCollum, John D. Race, Jacob Dickes, Chris. Solfisburg, John F. Thorwarth, James W. Battle, T.H. Day, H.G Gabel and Eb. Denney. They were all in their seats and answered "aye," when their names were called. Mayor Travis Phillips at once proceeded to carry out the provisions of the Statute by appointing the following directors of the proposed public library and reading room: J.J. McLallen, F.L. Bartlett, T.H. Clark, F.O. White, Isadore Leins, Mrs. Pierce Burton, Mrs. Thomas Galt, W.S. Beaupre and Eb. Denney.

On the 25th of June these directors met and duly organized by choosing proper officers, and at once set in motion the machinery of the Free Public Library of Aurora. The Aurora Library Association presented to the Board for the use of the new library their collection of books, several hundred in number, all works of merit, making an admirable nucleus for the more extensive library contemplated under the new auspices. The Soldiers' Monument Association also presented to the Board the Memorial Building on the island, which had been erected to commemorate the services and patriotism of the Union soldiers. Thus by the efforts of a few devoted men and women, the new library was comfortably housed and started upon its career without one cent of expense to the people.

From that time on the institution has prospered. The City Council has each year promptly voted the maximum tax allowed by law which realizes \$2,500 or \$2,700 annually. This sum has been carefully and judiciously expended in improving, extending and carrying on the library, and probably no tax drawn from the people is more cheerfully paid. The late Prof. T.H. Clark, who was the first President of the Board of Directors, and continued as such down to his death, gave some of his best works down to the library, and his discriminating taste, great learning and excellent judgement, were of infinite service in the foundation of the library.

Aurora was somewhat behind many sister cities in taking advantage of the privileges and powers conferred by the State in the library law, but the liberality of her Council, the enterprise and judgement of the library directors, and the appreciation of her people will soon place her abreast of the foremost. The library now contains about 5,500 volumes to which additions are constantly being made. Occupying its own building, it is subject to no rent charge and is burdened by no debt. The register of book borrowers contains about 2,700 names, and these are increasing at the rate of about sixty each month. The number of books issued now averages 800 weekly.

It will be noted above that the ordinance of the City Council contemplated the establishment of a public reading room as well as library. The Board of Directors, however, have hitherto directed their energies exclusively to the library. Indeed, the Memorial Building is insufficient to accommodate both. The design of the Board, however, is to erect a suitable addition to which the library will be removed, and the present building will be given over to a reading room. A fund for this purpose made up of voluntary contributions, already amounts to about \$2,700, and as much more is required. It is hoped that the full amount will be made up during the coming winter. When the proposed new structure is finished, Aurora will have one of the best equipped libraries and reading rooms possessed by any city of its size and wealth in the country. Its benefits have already been felt throughout the community, and with increased facilities and more commodious rooms, its attractions will be multiplied for those who avail themselves of its advantages, and its area of usefulness will constantly widen.

Saturday, December 13, 1884

CITY NEWS

Michael Maloney, the one-armed janitor of the City Hall, was the fortunate holder of the ticket which drew the large easy chair Tuesday evening, at the Relief Corps fair. The tickets for this particular chair were sold among G. A. R. men, and general satisfaction is expressed by them that the prize should have dropped into Mike's hands.

The old and tattered battle flag of the 36th Illinois Regiment is now in possession of Mr. F.O. White, of this city, and will be placed in our Memorial Hall. The flag has been in charge of Major Biddulph, of Millington, since the close of the war, but as that gentleman is about to remove from the State, the Regiment at the last reunion instructed him to hand it over to Mr. White as the future custodian.

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

The finest gold headed cane ever sold in Aurora was presented to Mr. Frank Harral at the Relief Corps fair last evening, by his comrades of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. It was a grateful acknowledgement on the part of the Post for untiring official and other labors always well performed by Mr. Harral during the long series of years. Comrade F.O. White was detailed as spokesman, and of course the duty devolving upon him was gracefully and happily performed. The presentation was a surprise, and Mr. Harral was not given an opportunity to suppress his emotions and attempt an expression of his feelings.

That large and beautiful wax doll, one of the prizes at the Relief Corps fair, was stolen from the Opera House Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Take dinner today at Company D armory, with the ladies of the Relief Corps. This is the closing day of their fair, and all their friends should be present at the Opera House this evening.

Wednesday, December 17, 1884 CITY NEWS

The first annual fair of the Women's Relief Corps closed Saturday evening at the Opera House. The ladies met with fair success in their laudable efforts to secure funds for the aid of the destitute, but their expenses were somewhat heavy, and except on the last evening perhaps the attendance was not so large as had been hoped. Full returns are not yet in, but we understand the gross receipts were something over \$900, and they will clear in the vicinity of \$400. The lucky individuals to whom prizes were awarded Saturday evening were as follows: John Meredith, folding chair; H.B. Douglas, pair of bronzes; Herman Ayers, silk quilt; W.H. Downing, album on stand; Alfred Billing, toilet set; Mrs. J.F. Harral, panel painting; Ticket No. 23, Mill Creek, painting; Mrs. W.H. Scragg, statuary; Eb. Denney, plaque; F.S. Taylor, table scarf; S.E. Walker, patent rocker; Mrs. Hawkes, banner. In the contest for the diamond pin, the prize was carried off by Mr. Thos. McMicken, as the most popular young man in the city.
(1884-DOWNING, WALKER)

Saturday, December 20, 1884 CITY NEWS

The Opera Huse will no doubt be filled to its full capacity next Tuesday evening, the occasion of the gift concert for the benefit of the Library building fund. A programme of unusual excellence will be presented, in which the following ladies and gentlemen will take part: Miss. Phoebe Carpenter, soprano; Miss. Millie Wilson, alto; Mr. John Fauth, tenor; Mr. Ollie Barr, bass; Miss. Jennie Wendell, of Chicago, elocutionist; Miss. Rae Copley, elocutionist; Mr. Edward E. Wendell, Chicago, solo zither; Mr. Earl Drake, solo violin; Mr. Silas Barr, solo cornet; E.A. Stein, musical director.

In addition to receiving full worth of his money in one of the best entertainments of the season, every purchaser of a ticket will have a chance of capturing the elegant gold watch donated for this purpose by Trask & Beardsley, and which is now on exhibition at their store. Aside from the intrinsic value of the fine watch, it will be especially prized because of being the first time piece turned out of our Aurora watch factory, and will be accompanied by the proper

vouchers of that fact from the officers of the company and the gentlemen who so generously donated it to the library. Trask & Beardsley will take pleasure in showing the watch to any who may call at their store.

Those who have not yet secured tickets should do so at once and help to swell this building to requisite proportions, as it is very desirable that the proposed addition to the present structure should be made in the spring. All interested in the success of the free public library recognize the urgent necessity for increased accommodations, and in this present undertaking the opportunity is afforded for everybody to aid in the good work.

Tickets can be obtained at any member of the Library Board of Directors, at Plum & McLallen's store and White & Todd's lumber office, on the West Side, or at the Aurora National Bank, on the East Side.

Stephen Grover Cleveland took office in **1885**, the only Democrat to be elected President between 1860 and 1912. Having hired a substitute to serve for him during the war, he enjoyed little approval from the veterans. Their preoccupation did not dwell on his accomplishments, rather their thoughts were of their ailing hero, U. S. Grant. The National Encampment of The G. A. R. met in Portland, Maine on June 24th and elected S.S. Burdett, from Washington, D. C. as its Commander-In-Chief. The Department of Illinois Encampment was held in Peoria on February 18, W.W. Berry of Quincy became the new Department Commander. Surprisingly, Illinois would establish a Soldiers' Home, to relieve the pressure on the Dayton, Ohio Soldiers' Home, in Quincy, no less! Aurora Post elected Eb. Denney as its Commander. In September, the 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Survivors Association held their reunion at Elgin on the 27th, George D. Sherman was elected its President. The Sons of Veterans and Woman's Relief Corps enjoyed more notoriety. A subscription of \$5775. was raised during the administration of Mayor Fred O. White, to erect an addition to the library. \$2000 of the sum was contributed by the G. A. R.. and as a consideration, they were given a lease of the hall, "free during the lifetime of the Post," the city also gave the Library Board a 99 year lease on the land on which the library building stood. The total cost of the new building addition and fixtures was \$12,962.54

Wednesday, January 7, 1885

CITY NEWS

Only a small squad of the G. A. R. boys accompanied Comrade H.B. Douglas to Shabbona Saturday evening to assist in the installation of the officers elect of Shabbona Post. They had a very pleasant time, however, and reached home about eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, January 14, 1885

CITY NEWS

There was a large audience present last evening at G. A. R. hall to witness the installation of officers of Aurora Post, and quite a number of comrades from abroad were present. The exercises were highly enjoyable, including an eloquent address by Rev. Dr. Fawcett, and brief speeches by Commander Eb. Denney, Judge Ware and Mrs. F.J. Harral, the presiding officer of the Woman's Relief Corps. Refreshments were served.

Wednesday, January 21, 1885

GENERAL GRANT IMPROVED AND AT WORK.

New York, Jan., 20. -- Fordyce Barker, General Grant's physician, said yesterday that the General was steadily improving and had not looked so well for several years. Colonel Fred Grant said his father had wholly recovered from the trouble with his tongue, but he still suffered from his throat affection. The General is engaged in finishing his recollections of the war, which will embrace the Mexican war as well as that of the rebellion. The work will be concluded in about three months, and will be about the size of a volume of Appleton's Cyclopaedia. The copy has not yet been edited, neither has the publisher been selected. It is expected that the memoirs will meet with ready sale, and that they will realize a large sum for the General.

Saturday, January 24, 1885

CITY NEWS

The survivors of the 89th Illinois (Railroad) Regiment had their first organized reunion Thursday, at the Palmer House, in Chicago. The attendance is said to have been quite large, and the occasion was greatly enjoyed. Some of the boys from this vicinity did not reach home until last evening.

Wednesday, February 11, 1885

CITY NEWS

Under the head of "Do we appreciate the G. A. R.," a correspondent of one of our contemporaries seeks to convey to the public in an ironical manner that the members of the G. A. R. are absorbing the public offices. He recounts the State Senatorship, the city Marshal's

position, the two street Commissionerships, the Assessorship, the City Clerkship, etc., as held by them, and the ironically intimates that it is a shame the other places of emolument be not given them. The editor, in similar vein, helps him out by intimating that still another gentleman, prominently mentioned for position this spring, is also a member of that order.

CITY NEWS

The annual State Encampment of the G. A. R. will be held at Peoria next Wednesday and Thursday. The delegates from Aurora Post, No. 20, consisting of comrades L.B. Crooker, W.H. Watson, J.F. Harral and Theo. Howard, will leave here Tuesday afternoon, possibly accompanied by Commander Eb. Denney and one or two alternates.
(1885-WATSON)

Saturday, February 21, 1885

CITY NEWS

The Batavia delegation from Peoria passed through this city yesterday afternoon, on their way home from the State Convention of the G. A. R. They were well pleased with their reception at Peoria, and their experience there. They were still better satisfied with their success in procuring the position of Senior Vice Commander for their comrade A.D. Reed, who has been their own Post Commander for some time. We also note that J.H. Freeman of this city, is appointed one of the delegates from the State to the National Encampment.

ILLINOIS G. A. R.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 20. -- The State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic completed its business yesterday afternoon and adjourned. The following officers were elected:

Commander, W.W. Berry, of Quincy; Senior Vice-Commander, A.D. Reade, of Batavia; Junior Vice-Commander, P.W. Wycoff, of Henry; Chaplain, E.D. Wilkin, of Danville; Surgeon, A.T. Barnes, of Bloomington; Delegate-at-large to the National Encampment, Governor R.J. Oglesby.

The matter of a State Soldiers Home was referred to the Past Department Commanders, Hilliard, Swain, Burst, Lawler and Harper. The scheme to introduce life insurance into the order was laid over until next year at Springfield. A resolution was adopted asking the Legislature to reprint the Adjutant General's Report containing a list of the Illinois Volunteers in the war of the rebellion. The Ladies Relief Corps elected the following officers:

President, Mrs. Julia G. Sine, of Rockford; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Clara W. Harral, of Aurora; Junior Vice-President, Miss. Maggie Crissey, of Decatur; Treasures, Mrs. Mary Van Alstyne, of Rockford; Chaplain, Mrs. Sylvia Diehl, of Henry.

CITY NEWS

The delegates from this city to the State Encampment of the G. A. R. reached home yesterday, and report having a pleasant and satisfactory session.

Saturday, March 7, 1885

CITY NEWS

The regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. will be held at their hall next Tuesday evening, and it is expected that the Department Commander, Major Barry, of Quincy, will be present. A camp fire sociable will succeed the regular business session, and it is hoped that every comrade, accompanied by his family, will be in attendance.

Wednesday, March 11, 1885

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Is located in the Memorial building, next to the Court House, on the island. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 2 to 6 o'clock, and from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. All residents of the city are entitled to draw books after filing certificates -- furnished on application at the library rooms.

AURORA FREE READING ROOM.

The Aurora Free Reading Room in the Y. M. C. A. building, on the island, opposite the Post Office, is open every week day from one to six o'clock, and seven to ten o'clock p.m. On Sundays from one to six o'clock p.m., only. The tables laden with the choicest reading of the day. All the popular monthlies of the country, several London Illustrated Periodicals, Daily and Weekly papers. Reading suitable for all tastes and ages. Every one invited.

A large and appreciative audience entirely filled the spacious G. A. R. hall last evening, the occasion being a sociable for the purpose of presenting a Post Commander's badge to Comrade J.H. Freeman. The exercises opened with prayer by Rev. Thos. Galt, followed by the West Side Quartette, who charmingly rendered "All Honor to the Soldier." The next number of the programme was an address by Rev. Wm. Windsor, who presented a view of the country at the beginning of the war, and as it is in its present unified condition, illustrating this by the fact that two of the ex-confederate generals are in the cabinet of the new executive officer, and also by an incident which took place on the Connecticut Day at the New Orleans Exposition, when the 9th Connecticut restored to the 3rd Mississippi the battle flag which it had captured from them in the late war. His remarks were well received and elicited frequent applause.

Mrs. Thos. Galt, having been invited to address the Ladies Auxiliary Relief Corps, spoke of the activities of the women called out by the exigencies of the Civil War, and which had since found development in the missionary, religious and temperance work, and in the Relief Corps of the G. A. R.

The song, "On Gallant Company," was next rendered by the quartette, after which, Professor Freeman being down for a "two minute speech," closed his remarks with a statement that President Arthur deserved the thanks of every member of the G. A. R. for his last official act in signing the bill placing General Grant on the retired list. As the speaker was about taking his seat, Comrade F.O. White, mayor-elect, stepped forward and presented him with an elegant gold Past Commander's badge, on behalf of Post No. 20. In his remarks he reviewed the past work of Comrade Freeman as a soldier and officer in the army, as a teacher in the public schools, and as Commander of Post No. 20 for two years, and said that he had distinguished himself both as a soldier and a teacher.

The remainder of the evening was spent very pleasantly in discussing, a bountiful repast, and in listening to old army songs rendered by the members of the Post.

The badge is elegant in design and finish and is arranged so that to the initiated it reads, "Past Commander of Aurora Post No. 20, Dep't of Ill., G. A. R."

Under the skillful management of the committee, consisting of Comrades Herral, Kennedy and Gates, everything passed off smoothly and pleasantly.

From the neighboring towns there were present, Comrades W.P. Wright, W.T. Laird, M. Stevens, D.B. Givler, J. Ehrhart, T.W. Saylor, H. Musselman, of Naperville; Spooner and Collins, Batavia; Marshall and Hobbs, Yorkville; and Allen, of Shabbona.

Saturday, March 14, 1885

CITY NEWS

Comrade J.H. Freeman will be the delegate to the National Convention of G. A. R. boys at Portland Me., from Illinois. This meeting is to be held the coming summer. Mr. Freeman will then have a good chance to display that elegant badge presented to him Tuesday evening last.

Saturday, March 21, 1885

ATTENTION G. A. R.

Special meeting this evening, March 21st, at 8 p.m. sharp, to make arrangements to attend the funeral of our late comrade, Dr. Hard.

By order of Eb. Denney, Com.

C.W. Howard, Adjutant.

(1885-HARD, SHERER, FERRE)

CITY NEWS

A number of G. A. R. boys of Earlville will be up to attend the meeting of Aurora Post next Tuesday evening, if they can make arrangements to reach home by a late train.

Col. D.C. Sprague, of Washington, son-in-law of Mr. C.D. Pratt, of this city, has been elected as poet for the Decoration Day celebration at Baltimore, Maryland, under the auspices of the G. A. R.

Wednesday, March 25, 1885

CITY NEWS

The funeral of Dr. Abner Hard yesterday afternoon was one of the largest ever witnessed in Aurora. Services were held at the First Congregational Church, Rev. N.A. Prentiss officiating, and in addition to the large number of our own citizens in attendance very many were present from Batavia, Yorkville and other neighboring towns. The remains were escorted to their last resting place in Spring Lake by a detachment of over one hundred members of the G. A. R.

Wednesday, April 1, 1885

A PROPOSED SOLDIER'S HOME IN ILLINOIS.

The committee appointed at the last Annual Encampment of the Department of Illinois of the Grand Army of the Republic, consisting of Col. H. Hillard, Col. E.D. Swain, Col. L.T. Dickason, Capt. J.W. Burt, Capt. T.G. Lawler and Capt. S.A. Harper, for the purpose of considering the subject of procuring a suitable home for the ex-soldiers from Illinois who served in the Union army during the War of the Rebellion met in Chicago yesterday.

A bill to appropriate \$200,000 for the purchase of suitable grounds and the erection of buildings thereon or the purchase of buildings already erected, and the maintenance when established of an Illinois Soldier's Home, was submitted by Col. H. Hillard.

The bill was adopted after it had been amended to include soldiers from other States who have resided in Illinois three years previous to making application for admission to the home. The bill further provides that the home shall be for soldiers who may have become disabled through service in the late war, and whom age may have disqualified for earning a livelihood, and who have been unable to procure admission to the National Soldier's Home.

The Governor of Illinois, Treasurer, Auditor, and six members of the Grand Army of the Republic are to be a committee to locate and establish the home. The committee will be a Board of Trustees for the management of the home, the Treasurer to furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his duties.

It is stated that the National Soldier's Home at Dayton, Ohio, is so overcrowded that many inmates are sleeping on the floor. There are at present 300 ex-soldiers in this State who are treated as paupers.

The committee was to go to Springfield last evening, to present the bill to the Legislature.

Wednesday, April 8, 1885

CITY NEWS

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., have accepted an invitation from Rev. Thos. Galt to attend Divine service at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning, May 24th.

Yesterday, April 7th, was the twenty third anniversary of the closing day of the battle of Shiloh, one of the bloodiest and most stubbornly contested battles of the late war, brought into special prominence of late by the lectures of Gen. Prentiss and the recent controversy among participants.

The surviving veterans who took part in this battle, now living in Aurora, as far as we have been able to learn are as follows:

Alfred Billings	H. Williams
L.C. Lee	J. Doon
John Kautenburger	H. Hamilton
C.T. Douglas	C.L. Treest
A.B. Wood	E.D. Pinney
L.M. Wildrick	J.H. Hubbard
E. Perrigo	W.H. Dunn
L.B. Crooker	B.F. Stephens
E.A. Sanders	C.M. Ross
A.P. Vaughn	B.M. Kenyon
Theo. (Put) Howard	D.A. Wedge
E.S. Purdy	P.L. Loucks
J.W. Kelly	Wm. Cowdry

If there are other old soldiers in the city who were present at Shiloh, it is requested that they hand in their names to Comrade A.P. Vaughn at as early a date as convenient, that a complete list may be made for future reference.

Wednesday, April 22, 1885

CITY NEWS

At the last regular meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., a vote of thanks was extended to Rev. and Mrs. Thos. Galt, Rev. Wm. Windsor, the West Side Quartette, and Mr. F.O. White for kindly assistance in making the last sociable of the Post -- upon the occasion of presenting Post Commander Freeman with a testimonial badge -- so pleasant an event.

The following preamble and resolutions were also adopted:

WHEREAS -- The messenger death has again visited our Post and summoned another honored and beloved Comrade to join the "pale battalion of those mustered out," Therefore,

Resolved, -- That in the death of Comrade Hard, Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. has lost one of its most loyal and trusted members, the city a patriotic and useful citizen, and his family a devoted and affectionate husband and father.

Resolved, -- That while we deeply deplore his loss, we will ever strive to emulate his distinguished patriotism, his soldierly bearing and his true Christian manhood.

Resolved, -- That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his afflicted family, trusting that the Great Commander above may cheer and comfort them in this bitter hour of sorrow and gloom.

Resolved, -- That a copy of these Resolutions be forwarded to the family of our deceased comrade and copies furnished the press of the city.

J.A. Kinley

John L. Walker
F.L. Thayer.

Saturday, April 25, 1885

CITY NEWS

There will be a meeting held at G. A. R. Hall on Monday evening at 8 o'clock, to celebrate the 63rd birthday of Gen. U.S. Grant. Aurora Camp No. 21, Sons of Veterans, are particularly invited to be present.

By order of Eb. Denney, Commander.

Next Monday evening at G. A. R. Hall, the veteran soldiers of Aurora will meet to celebrate the 63rd birthday of Gen. U.S. Grant, the illustrious hero under whom they served in so many hard fought battles. The Aurora Camp of the Sons of Veterans are especially invited to be present, and any of our citizens who may so desire.

Wednesday, April 29, 1885

CITY NEWS

An informal meeting of the "Sons of Veterans" was held last Monday evening at the celebration of Grant's birthday by the G. A. R., in which little business of importance was transacted. They hold a meeting next Monday night, at which all members are requested to be present as important business will be transacted.

A large number of Aurora veterans and their friends, together with members of Aurora Camp of the Sons of Veterans, assembled at G. A. R. Hall, to commemorate the 63rd birthday of Gen. U.S. Grant. Brief and appropriate addresses were delivered by Comrades J.H. Freeman, F.O. White and L.B. Crooker, Messrs. James Murphey, Fred. Brown and others, which were interspersed with musical selections and timely recitations by Dr. Arnold and heartily applauded. The exercises were particularly interesting throughout, all present evincing the greatest admiration of the hero in whose honor the met, an abiding appreciation of the services he had rendered his country, and the keenest sympathy for him in his late misfortunes.

Saturday, May 2, 1885

Commander Eb. Denney, of Aurora Post, G. A. R. received a telegram Wednesday from Senator Evans, that the latter's bill appropriating \$200,000.00 for a soldier's home had passed the State Senate.

SONS OF VETERANS

Will meet at G. A. R. Hall Monday evening, May 4, at 8 o'clock sharp.
S.M. Kautenberger,
Orderly Serg't.

Saturday, May 9, 1885

The G. A. R. committee having in charge the arrangements for the observation of Decoration Day, has been fortunate in securing the spacious Casino rink in which to hold the services of that occasion. The graves of our dead soldiers having been appropriately decorated with floral offerings, their surviving comrades after a short march through principal streets will repair to the casino, and there hold the general exercises.

The building will be tastefully draped, and the seating capacity so increased as to accommodate about 2,000 persons, thus affording comfortable seats for everyone of the veterans and all others who may desire to be present. The plan will undoubtedly prove much more satisfactory than any heretofore adopted.

Saturday, May 16, 1885

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, G. A. R.

An elegant and very tasteful circular bearing on the corner the time honored badge of the G. A. R. in bronze and colors, comes to us from the Michigan Central, "The Niagara Falls Route." It presents to the veterans all the necessary information about the various attractive routes it offers to the National Encampment at Portland, June 24th, and is of unusual public interest. The inducements to an Eastern trip, combining a visit to old friends, and attendance upon the largest and most notable military reunion since the war, are irresistible.

Members of the G. A. R. and W. R. C., their families, and such bands and other organizations as may accompany them, can purchase of the Michigan Central, at the lowest rates, round trip tickets to Portland and return, good for thirty days, and with the privilege of stopping over on the return trip. The first route takes them right through in about forty one hours, via Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Albany and Boston, and will be taken by the Commander-In-Chief and staff, whose special train will leave Chicago, Toledo and Detroit on the 20th. This route has the advantage of the finest views of Niagara from the train, the grand scenery of the Berkshire mountains, and the historic city of Boston.

The second route takes them through the wild wonderful scenery of Canada by the new line of the Canadian Pacific, via Ottawa to Montreal, thence past Memphremagog and other lovely New England lakes, by the only line running through the heart of the White Mountains to Portland.

The third route described takes them by the brink of Niagara Falls and over the great cantilever bridge, through the rich fields of western New York, by the bewildering beauties of the Thousand Islands, down the rapids of the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and then through the White Mountains by Fabyan's and the Notch, past the very feet of Washington, Adams and the

other giant peaks of the Presidential range. A special train will run by this route and a special steamer chartered.

The Michigan Central justly claims that *no other line offers comparable attractions, greater comforts or lower rates.* It is first and foremost "*The Niagara Falls Route.*" From the cars of no other road is a good view of the falls obtainable; while the Portland & Ogdenburg is the only line passing through the heart of the White Mountains region, no other running within sixteen miles of Mt. Washington.

A beautiful engraving of Niagara Falls, with the Michigan Central train stopping at Falls View, and a clear, well executed map showing in color the different routes accompany the circular. We presume that any Michigan Central agent can supply a copy, but a postal card to O.W. Ruggles at Chicago will undoubtedly procure one.

Wednesday, May 20, 1885

CITY NEWS

Col. Greusel, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, father of Mrs. John A. White, of this city, and the first commanding officer of the 36th Regiment, is introducing at Elgin a history of the late war written by "M. Quad," of the Detroit *Free Press*. In mentioning the presence of that city of the gallant old gentleman, the *News* says:

"Last year a cyclone swept over Colonel Greusel's possessions, sweeping everything from the face of the earth. The publishers of the history have given him an extra good commission, as with the money made the Col. intends erecting a home for himself. He will canvas the city, and we bespeak for the gentleman a cordial reception. He is deserving of assistance, and his book is worth more than it is sold for.

(1885-GREUSEL)

A building permit was granted by the Common Council Monday evening, to the Public Library Board, for the erection of an addition to the Soldier's Memorial Building which is used as a public library building. The plans for the addition, drawn by Mr. Joseph Mulvey, call for a structure 44 feet long and 44 feet wide which will be located almost in the rear of the present building, extending sixteen feet further west.

ATTENTION AURORA POST NO. 20 G. A. R.

You are requested to assemble at your hall on Sunday Morning, May 24th, at 9:30 p.m., for the purpose of attending Divine worship. By order of

Eb. Denney, Comdr.

C.W. Howard, Adjt.

Wednesday, May 27, 1885

CITY NEWS

The fourth annual reunion of the Fifteenth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry was held in Rockford last Monday. About ninety of the surviving veterans were present, some of them having come from points as far distant as Washington, D. C., and the interior of Nebraska, to enjoy the happiness of once more grasping the hands of old comrades. Dinner was served at the American House, after which eloquent speeches were delivered by Gen. A.C. Fuller, of Belvidere, Illinois' famous Adjutant General during the war; Col. George C. Rogers, of Eureka, Kansas; Col. N. Greusel, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Comrades F.O. White, of Aurora, Childs, of Chicago, and others. In the evening a pleasant entertainment was given, the programme consisting of brief speeches, vocal music, recitations, etc. The affair was a gratifying success, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves to the utmost.
(1885-WHITE)

The G. A. R., at their meeting last evening voted to ask permission from the Library Board to build an upper story to the new library addition, to be used as a hall exclusively for the organization, the Sons of Veterans and the Women's Relief Corps. The Board will probably grant them permission as the addition will make a larger and finer looking building.

Saturday, May 30, 1885

PROGRAMME OF THE EXERCISES FOR DECORATION DAY.

FORENOON

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., who are detailed to decorate the graves of their fallen comrades, will meet at the City Hall at 9:30 o'clock, this Saturday, May 30, where they will be supplied with flowers.

One detachment, under command of Senior Vice-Commander, M.D. Yager, will visit Spring Lake and Root Street cemeteries; the second detachment, under command of Junior Vice-Commander, F.L. Thayer, will visit West Side cemeteries.

Chaplain, Spring Lake Cemetery, Rev. Holbrook.

Chaplain, Root Street Cemetery, Rev. Scudder.

Chaplain, West Aurora Cemetery, Rev. Burks.

At East Side cemeteries, ceremonies will consist of singing by East Side Quartette, Prayer and scattering of flowers.

At West Side cemeteries, singing by West Side Quartette, Prayer and scattering of flowers.

Guides at cemeteries -- Comrade Ayers, at Spring Lake; Comrade Quinton, at Root Street; Comrade Gates, at West Aurora, and Comrade Maloney at Catholic cemetery.

AFTERNOON

The members of Aurora Post, No. 20, will meet at their hall at 11:15 o'clock a.m. sharp, and march via New York Street bridge to the corner of River street and Downer Place at which place all who are to join in the general exercises are requested to muster promptly.

At two o'clock the procession will proceed north on River street to New York street, east on New York street to Broadway, south on Broadway to Fox street, east on Fox street to Lincoln

Avenue, north on Lincoln Avenue to the Casino rink, on the corner of Main street, moving in the following order:

Marshal Zimmer and platoon of Police.
Band.
Aurora Fire Department.
Mayor and Common Council of Aurora.
Speakers, Chaplains and choirs of the Societies.
Aurora Public Schools, East Side.
Aurora Public Schools, West Side.
Aurora Commandry, No. 22.
Concordia Lodge, No. 303, I. O. O. F.
Waubonsie Lodge, No. 45, I. O. O. F.
Company D, 3rd Regiment, I. N. G.
Woman's Relief Corps, No. 10, department of Illinois.
Sons of Veterans, No. 21, department of Illinois.
Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., department of Illinois.
Members of the press and citizens.

All will be under command of Capt. A.C. Graves, Officer of the Day.

AT THE CASINO RINK.

The Rev. Wm. Windsor will open the exercises with prayer.
Singing by the pupils of the West Side schools.
Address by Comrade A.C. Little.
Address by Comrade M.E. Cornell.
Singing by the pupils of East Side schools.
Oration by ex-Governor Hamilton.
Singing by a select chorus led by Prof. E.A. Stein.
Memorial Service by Aurora Post, G. A. R.
Address by Comrade F.O. White.
Singing by select chorus led by Prof. E.A. Stein.
Prayer by Rev. ReQua.

J.F. Harral
A.J. King
W.H. Downing.

MERCHANTS OF AURORA.

As Decoration Day comes on Saturday we have thought it best to ask you to close but one hour, from 2 to 3 p.m. Will you all do that in honor of our noble dead?

J.F. Harral.
A.J. King.
W.H. Downing.
Com.

(1885-HARRAL, WATSON)

CITY NEWS

As we go to press despite the threatening rain and muddy streets, a large number of the G. A. R. and others, have assembled to take part in the decoration procession. A quartette consisting of Messrs. Ed. Stubbs, D. Nixon, Harry Keeley and F. Nichols will render a selection at each cemetery. The songs will be "Cover them over with beautiful flowers" and "Comrades we have fought together."

Reub. Johnson is convalescent, but the G. A. R. boys imagine they will be compelled to charter an ambulance for his accommodation this afternoon.

At the Casino rink the G. A. R. by request, will leave their decorations so that all who go to see the "Taylor Sisters" skatorial exhibition this evening will have the benefit. Only fifteen cents admission.

To-morrow evening at the First M. E. church, Rev. Dr. Fawcett will talk of "The Boys in Blue," and all members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., who desire to attend should report in time to leave their hall at 7 o'clock sharp.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Aurora, Ill., May 29, 1885.

As a joint committee representing the Grand Army, Woman's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans, of the city, having in charge the duty of making arrangements for the proper observance of Decoration Day, we ask your attention to this circular.

Memorial or Decoration Day occurs on Saturday, May 30th, and is recognized both by custom and legal enactment as a holiday. Its observance is intended to keep in grateful remembrance those who fell in the late civil war. It is deemed only fitting that the citizens of the republic should keep green the memory of those whose patriotism gave new life and strength to the Union. The revival of such memories annually and the honors paid to departed heroes of the republic are calculated to strengthen the loyalty of the people in the National Government, inspire them with a patriotism which is the only safeguard of a popular government which encourages the spread of sentiments favorable to universal liberty.

Believing that all are in hearty sympathy with these ideas and willing to aid in spreading them, we ask the people of this city and vicinity to close their places of business on that day from 2 to 3 o'clock p.m. and join us in the decoration exercises.

Very Respectfully,

J.F. Harral, A.J. King, W.H. Downing, Anna Stickle, Milla Phillips, Sophia Tyre, Geo. O. Plummer, Frank Hewitt, Chas. Colwell.

Wednesday, June 3, 1885

MEMORIAL DAY.

(This marks the first time the G. A. R. Medallion is published in the Beacon)

Since the inauguration of this beautiful custom of observing one day in the year in which to honor our soldier dead the idea has been growing in favor with all classes of the people, and as the years roll around the 30th day of May is beginning to be recognized throughout the United States as one in which to cease if possible, from business cares and in some manner help to keep green the memory of the Nation's brave sons, who offered up their lives upon the shrine of Liberty.

It is a singular fact that bright as may the sun shine upon the 29th or 31st days of May, the intervening day is generally either partially or wholly clouded. The morning of last Saturday proved no exception to this rule, and until about three o'clock p.m., heavy clouds accompanied by scattering rain drops seemed as with a pall to shut out the glorious sunshine from the many who had gathered in our city to participate in the exercises of the day. Typical they seemed of the lowering clouds of civil strife which just a quarter of a century since shrouded in gloom our grand nation, and seemed as with the doom of heaven to be blotting forever from our sight a future career of free, prosperity. The thoughts of the assembled multitude in our city last Saturday morning were involuntarily turned back to those exciting scenes of the first days of our civil war. Again did they hear treason's signal gun, as with lightning rapidity its echoes rolls from hill and dale, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, waking within the breasts of Liberty's hearty sons, such fires of patriotism as astonished the world, and which nerved their arms of steel to such deeds of valor as made slavery's vaunted hosts turn ghastly with fear, and finally sue for peace. Again did the scenes portrayed in the following lines bring back to them warlike thoughts.

To Illinois belongs the honor of furnishing for the war of the rebellion more soldiers in proportion than any other State in the Union, therefore it seems amply fitting that the idea of establishing G. A. R. Posts should have originated in Springfield, in February 1866 by Dr. B.F. Stephenson, of that city. Since that time branch Posts have sprung up throughout the United States, and thousands of veterans consider themselves honored by a membership. From a membership of forty-three at Decatur, in 1866 the order has grown to an aggregate of nearly 300,000. The Aurora Post, No. 20, numbers upon its rolls just 210 surviving veterans, of the late war. Of the objects of the G. A. R., as a body, Rev. S.D. Paine, formerly of this city, at Jacksonville, Florida, a few days since, said; "The Grand Army of the Republic does not design to keep up the bitter memories of the war, but to care for its destitute and disabled comrades, the widows and orphans made by the war, and to assist in restoring peace and good will to all sections of our beloved country. The soldiers on both sides are doing this. Old battle flags that were born against each other in the shock of the conflict now wave side by side in memorial services. Swords captured in battle are being restored. A little over a year ago the survivors of a Virginia regiment went to a reunion of the 28th New York Regiment and restored to them their old flag captured in battle. It was a graceful and soldierly act, appreciated by the boys in blue."

Probably at the rink about 3000 people were assembled to take part in the exercises. It is the only building in the city which could have accommodated the crowd with seats, and made a splendid auditorium. By three o'clock the procession arrived and filled the hall to overflowing. In honor of the occasion the building had been decorated throughout with flags and flowers, and the speakers stand represented a miniature fort, with cannon pointing in several directions. The exercises were opened by prayer by Rev. William Windsor, after which a song was sung by the pupils of the West Side High School. Comrade A.C. Little made an eloquent lengthy speech, preceding it by offering the following resolution:

Whereas to the eternal disgrace of the nation there are crippled and disabled soldiers, poor and unable to support themselves:

Therefore, be it resolved, as members of the G. A. R., soldiers and citizens were here assembled, that we request and instruct our members of the lower house to use all honorable means to secure the passage in the house of the senate bill appropriating \$200,000 for the erection of a home for the soldiers of the State of Illinois.

It was seconded by Mayor F.O. White, with a few explanatory remarks, after which the vast audience adopted it without a dissenting voice, and instructed the City Clerk to send copies of the same to the representatives from this district.

Comrade M.E. Cornell, of Yorkville, then addressed the audience in a short, forceable speech, after which the pupils of the East Division Schools rendered a selection in a very pleasing manner.

The feature of the day was the oration by Ex-Governor John M. Hamilton, which was next upon the programme, and as he stood erect before the great audience, he had the bearing of a remarkably able man, and one well fitted by nature to govern a great State. In stature he is tall, broad shouldered and well formed, with slightly reddish moustache and florid complexion. He is 38 years of age and served for a time in the war, having enlisted before he was seventeen years old. The address which he delivered was the best of the kind, without exception, we ever heard in this city.

After the remarks of Governor Hamilton were concluded, there was singing by a select choir under Prof. Stein's leadership, and the benediction by Rev. ReQua, fittingly concluding the unusually interesting exercises of this memorial day.
(1885-JOHNSON,LITTLE)

The G. A. R. attended the First M. E. church in a body last Sunday evening to listen to an address by Rev. Dr. Fawcett upon "The Boys In Blue." The subject was handled in a very able manner, and his audience listened with rapt attention as their emotions were kindled by many touching reminiscences.

Wednesday, June 10, 1885

CITY NEWS

At a meeting of the Public Library Board held last Saturday evening, a lease of the ground, which they will require for the addition to the Memorial building, was accepted from the city. It was also decided to build a second story for the G. A. R. and give them a permanent

lease of it, to be used solely for their purpose, and the Women's Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans. A committee consisting of F.O. White, Dr. F.L. Bartlett and Eb. Denney was appointed, with power to accept plans and let the contract. The work will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Saturday, June 13, 1855

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. Post of this city, received as a present a few days since from D. Pettit & Co., a white bronze cast of their badge. It is framed and has a background of black velvet, making a valuable and appropriate gift to that organization.

Wednesday, June 17, 1885

ON TO PORTLAND.

Never before has the opportunity to visit New England, the White Mountains and the Seashore at such small cost, great comfort and with so many advantages and attractions as that now offered by the Michigan Central by its excursions to Portland, under the auspices of the G. A. R., June 15th to 22nd, daily.

A choice of several routes is offered both in going and returning, and they take the traveller through some of the most beautiful and sublime scenery on the continent. Special trains are provided, a special steamer chartered (taking no other passengers, omitting the numerous landings, and going through the most delightful channels,) special rates obtained at hotels and other places to be visited, and ample opportunity afforded to leisurely see Niagara Falls, ascend Mount Washington and make numerous charming side trips at a small cost. No other line can give passengers the grand views of Niagara Falls, from the train that it does. In the language of the eminent writer, "there is but one Niagara Falls, on earth, and but one direct great railway to it." No other line offers such attractions in the way of special trains and steamers, and its route to Portland via the White Mountains Air Line is the only road directly through the White Mountains, through the famous Notch, and along the base of the whole Presidential range. The nearest point to the White Mountains by any other line is sixteen miles, and the nearest road south of the P. & O. is more than twice that distance, and no other line gives such a choice of returning routes by the White Mountains, the rushing Ottawa through the wild scenery along the Canadian Pacific, or climbing over the granite hills of Berkshire and sweeping grandly by the sublime glories of Niagara.

As no other Portland excursions will be made this summer than these to the National Encampment in the leafy month of June, with thirty days in which to return, we will be greatly mistaken if the friends of the veteran heroes do not turn out in force to accompany them down to the sea by one of these delightful routes of the Michigan Central through the finest scenery east of the Rockies.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE G. A. R.

Portland, Me., June 15, -- The programme for the six days National encampment of the G. A. R., June 26 and 27, was completed to-day. The camp has been named "Camp U.S. Grant." accommodations are already engaged for twenty-one thousand visitors, and there is plenty of room.

Saturday, June 20, 1885

CITY NEWS

The Sons of Veterans hold a special meeting Monday evening next, and it is desirable that every member should be present.

ATTENTION ! COMRADES.

To enable you to journey pleasantly and cheaply, from your homes to the Grand Army Reunion at Portland, Maine, the Burlington Route, (Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad) has made the following arrangements for your transportation from all stations on their road to Portland.

TICKETS, DATE OF SALE, LIMITATION, ETC.

Round trip tickets will be sold June 14th to 22nd inclusive. Limited going until June 24th, and limiting returning to thirty days from date of sale. Stop-over privileges will be allowed at points of interest by lines east of Chicago, Peoria or St. Louis on return trip only. These tickets will be available only to members of the Grand Army of the Republic and families, members of the Woman's Relief Corps, and organized Bands and Drum Corps. Applicants for these tickets must present certificate of Post Commander, or otherwise identify themselves as being entitled to such tickets.

RATES OF FARES, ROUTES, ETC.

The round-trip rate from Chicago is \$25; Peoria, \$28.35; St. Louis, \$30. Low round trip rates will be made from all locations, to either Chicago, Peoria or St. Louis, which will be added to the above rates, and tickets sold through. Passengers will be given their choice of any of the different routes between the above mentioned points and Portland. Tickets will not be sold via New York.

For tickets, rates and general information, call on your nearest C. B. & Q. ticket agent, or address Percival Lowell, General Passenger agent, Chicago, Ill.

ATTENTION ! SONS OF VETERANS.

A special meeting of the Sons of Veterans will be held Monday, June 22nd, at 8 o'clock sharp, to hear the report of the investigating committee upon the advisability of running an excursion. All members are earnestly requested to be present.

D.E. Hinman, Capt.
Sam'l Kantenberger, Orderly Serg't.

Wednesday, June 24, 1885

CITY NEWS

A Council of Chosen Friends was duly instituted at the G. A. R. hall on Saturday evening, by Deputy Supreme Counselor Gabriel Meiers and the following officers were installed: Past Chief Counselor, Geo. S. McCollum; Chief Counselor, B.D. Ryder; Vice Counselor, A.G. McDole; Secretary, F.O. Tarbox; Treasurer, F.P. Hammond; Preiste, D. Flynn; Marshal, H.W. Knickerbocker; Warden, P. LeMander; Guard, R. Gamble; Sentry, J.D. Wilson; Trustees, A.C. Little, W.T. Murphey, I.S. Stephens; Medical Examiner, Dr. W.T. Murphey.

THE BOYS IN BLUE.

National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Portland, Me.

Many Thousand Veterans ensconced at Camp U. S. Grant, and More Arriving Hourly.
Indignation Over Insinuations Made by the "Law and Order League" of Portland.

COMRADES IN COUNCIL.

Portland, Me., June 23. -- The nineteenth annual National encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic began with a sunrise gun yesterday morning. It bids fair to be the greatest affair of the kind in the history of that organization, and it seems that it will be altogether too big an affair for the people of Portland to handle with anything like satisfaction to the vast number of visitors or to the citizens themselves. As it is now, all of the available tents have been pitched, and those members of the Grand Army who have already arrived have been assigned to quarters. Veterans and sight seers are arriving here in trains and boats from all directions and in great numbers. The Grand Trunk Railway has already sold upwards of seventeen thousand tickets to Portland to witness the encampment.

At Camp U. S. Grant there was a steady throng of strangers all day. For a time the rain sent the men to their tents, but it continued only for a short time. All seem satisfied with the camp, and the best of order prevails. Not a single man was noticed in camp or about it who seemed to be under the influence of liquor, and not an arrest was made in the entire city yesterday. The noon trains brought a large number of G. A. R. boys, who promptly reported to General Beal and went into camp. Maine will have about 5,000 men in camp. Men will arrive from other States and be assigned quarters as they report. From Vermont, 300 men; Indiana, 100; Kansas, 50; Pennsylvania, 300; Ohio, 290; New York, 500; Connecticut, 100; New Jersey, 300; Virginia, 250; California, 30; Potomac, 25; Maryland, 66; Nebraska, 200; Michigan, 200; Rhode Island, 500; Colorado, 20; Minnesota, 1000; Delaware, 25; Missouri, 20; Oregon, 10; Arkansas, 10; Kentucky, 10; Washington Territory, West Virginia, Dakota, Florida and Utah have delegations on the way. From all information received it is expected that not less than 12,000 men will be in the camp and several thousand more quartered elsewhere.

A great deal is heard in regard to the liquor question, the Law and Order League having issued circulars declaring that all liquors consigned to members of the Grand Army will be promptly seized. Many of the visitors have declared their intention to vigorously oppose any

such action, and last night the following was issued, signed by the Departments of Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska and Michigan:

“Newport, Vt., June 22. -- Two thousand comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic have read the dispatches regarding the appointment of special police to care for the lives and property of the people of Portland. We call your attention to the fact that in times past we were the police of the Nation, and twenty years has not diminished our respect for law and order. We come unarmed, and respectfully ask permission to enter your city unmolested by special police or special investigating committees.”

General Logan and a delegation of the Grand Army from Washington arrived from Boston last evening. Much enthusiasm was created by the reception tendered General Logan on the dock. Mrs. Logan, who accompanied the General, came in for her share of warm greetings.

The grand reception of the Commander-In-Chief occurs this evening. The welcome to Commander Kountz will be delivered by General J.A. Hall, Department Commander of Maine, followed by an address of welcome by Governor Robie on behalf of the State, and a similar address by Mayor Deering on behalf of the city of Portland. Commander Kountz will respond for the G. A. R., and there will be brief addresses by General Logan, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Governor Alger, and other distinguished visitors.

Montreal, Quebec, June 23. -- The suggestion has been made that the Grand Army be asked to rendezvous in Montreal in 1887.

Saturday, June 27, 1885

ATTENTION, COMRADES.

All members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., are cordially invited to attend the mustering of a new Post at Sandwich, this (Saturday) evening. They will go down on the Mendota accommodation, leaving the east depot at 6:15 p.m., and returning about midnight. Fare for the round trip, 75 cents. All who can go may anticipate a good time, and will do well to leave their names with Comrade John B. Chase, at Chase & Budlong's store, during the day. By order of Committee,

M.D. Yager, Chairman.

THE OLD SOLDIERS.

Annual Address to the Grand Army Veterans by Commander-In-Chief Kountz.

A Gratifying Increase In The Membership -- Resolutions of Sympathy Tendered General Grant.

San Francisco Chosen as the Place of Meeting of the Next Encampment -- Other Proceedings.

THE ORDER GROWING.

Portland, Me., June 25. -- The streets were crowded yesterday again with 100,000 visitors. Everywhere the uniform of the Grand Army is conspicuous. At the great encampment the veterans have settled down into comfortable camp life. Good order and good nature prevail everywhere. The secret Executive session of the National Encampment began at 11 o'clock yesterday morning in the City Hall, with a full attendance of delegates. After calling the

Encampment to order, the Commander-In-Chief proceeded to deliver his annual address. He said that four years ago there was a membership of nearly 70,000. On March 31, 1884, thirty-eight Departments reported 5,026 Posts and 269,684 members, while the report of the Adjutant General shows the membership to be 287,637. The large number of 54,292 reported by the Adjutant General as suspended during the years is due in great measure to the negligence and inefficiency of the Post officers. "Our finances," the Commander-In-Chief continued, are in excellent condition. We have on hand a cash balance of \$15,224. The question having been raised as to whether the late Comrade, Dr. B.F. Stephenson, of Springfield, Ill., was really the first mover in the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, it is deemed but simple justice to his memory, as well as family and comrades, to state that all authentic records confer upon him that very great honor. During the past eleven months there have been issued 50,000 badges, at a profit of \$6,630.

At the close of Commander Kountz's address, Commander Brown of Ohio offered a resolution that the G. A. R. Encampment, representing 300,000 ex-soldiers and sailors, tender to the distinguished soldier, and statesman, General U.S. Grant, profound sympathy in his continued illness, and extend a soldier's greeting to our beloved commander and comrade, who has for months endured unspeakable agony with that characteristic fortitude that has challenged the admiration of the world. This was received with loud applause and cheers, and in a moment, half a dozen comrades rose and offered resolutions of sympathy to the General. Efforts were made to refer all the resolutions to a special committee, but the convention would not listen, and by a unanimous vote amid the greatest enthusiasm the resolutions were adopted and the Adjutant General ordered to telegraph them at once.

It was decided to hold the next encampment at San Francisco; California guaranteeing \$100,000. Comrade Loring, of Massachusetts, submitted an important resolution to the executive session. It provides that the Grand Army of the Republic Association favors giving eight dollars a month to the surviving veterans of the war, whether disabled or not; that all legislation on the subject of pensions be cancelled and that the 300,000 pension applications now on file be withdrawn. The resolution was referred to a committee.

THE GRAND ARMY.

The Business of the Annual Encampment at Portland, Me., About Concluded.

Election of Samuel S. Burdette, of Washington as Commander-In-Chief -- Other Officers
Chosen

Great Preparations for a Gathering of Soldiers at Fairmont Park, Philadelphia.

ALMOST ENDED

Portland, Me., June 26. -- At yesterday morning's executive session of the National encampment of veterans a resolution was offered and referred providing for a suitable recognition of Dr. Benjamin Stephenson as founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. A telegram was read from General Grant thanking the encampment for resolutions of sympathy. It was decided that the next annual encampment be held some time between October and May. A

report adverse to the eight dollar per month pension bill was adopted. The National Woman's Relief Corps elected Mrs. Sarah E. Fuller, of Massachusetts, President.

At the afternoon session the Commander-In-Chief was authorized to appoint a committee to present resolutions to the heads of departments at Washington in behalf of the pension claimants. A recommendation that all petitions to Congress from Posts or pension claimants be sent through the National Headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic was adopted.

The election of officers was then proceeded with the following names being presented: John W. Burst, of Illinois; General John A. Reynolds, of New York; Hon. Samuel S. Burdette, of Washington; Governor Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin. Comrade Fairchild withdrew his name and the balloting proceeded. On the second ballot Burdette received 239, Reynolds, 136; Burst, 79; and Mr. Burdette's election was made unanimous. Ex-Governor Conner, of Maine was chosen Senior-Vice-Commander-in-Chief, and Comrade Lewis, of Atlanta, Junior Vice-Commander-In-Chief. The executive session then closed

It is reported that yesterday afternoon's executive session was very stormy. Some of the Illinois delegation accused one of their number, it is said, of having sold out their candidate, Major Burst, to the New York men, alleging that he had bartered his influence in the Illinois delegation for the Adjutant Generalship in the Grand Army in case the New York candidate should be elected. These statements, it is said, gave rise to an acrimonious debate, which resulted in some severe personalities. Official members of the encampment refused to make any statement concerning the scenes in the session.

THE PHILADELPHIA ENCAMPMENT.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 26. -- The work of preparation for the National Soldier's Encampment which begins on the Centennial Grounds in Fairmont Park, is nearly finished, and troops from the North, South and West are beginning to arrive. Sunday it is expected that 10,000 men will be under canvas on the site of the Centennial buildings of 1876. During the last few days requests from military organizations in all parts of the country for positions in the camp have been refused because the additional soldiers could not be accommodated. The drill grounds which are already inclosed, occupy about seventy-five acres. Cavalry and artillery movements will sweep clear across the length of the grounds, while the smaller movements will probably be made on the western part near George's Hill. There will also be a camp east of Belmont Mansion and another north of George's Hill. It is expected that the expense of the encampment, without including the guarantee of the Park Commissioners, will be about \$80,000. The item for prizes alone amounts to \$25,000 and the lumber cost is \$12,000. Adjutant General Drum, of the United States Army, will have full charge of making details for the general officer in command and full staff; also The Board of Military Judges, to be composed of regular army officers who are already preparing schedules of movements, etc., for competitive drills. It is expected that the two artillery batteries of the United States Army stationed at New York and Washington will arrive here Friday evening. The Marine Band of Washington is to occupy the English building, a relic of the Centennial. The grand stand, now nearly finished, will accommodate 5,000 spectators at the military review. In front of it will be erected a platform, seven feet in width and 100 feet in length, to be occupied by President Cleveland and his Cabinet and invited guests.

There are at present time in good standing as members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., 216 veterans of the late war. We understand this is the second largest Post of the Grand Army in the Department of Illinois.

Saturday, July 25, 1885

GEN. GRANT IS DEAD.

When Lincoln fell the rebellion was scarcely over, the times were troubled and his death so sudden, that the Nation was bowed down as never before by the loss of any of its great men. To-day we mourn the other great hero of the war. Everything is changed. We are in the midst of profound peace. Our greatest citizen has passed slowly away. The end has been expected for weeks and months, and we were in a measure prepared for it. There is no excitement, no demonstration beyond the tolling of bells and the draping in mourning of buildings throughout the land. Deep water runs smoothly, and the grief of the American people is none the less real, none the less deeply felt, because it is silent. A sketch of his life, so well known to nearly everyone, we give elsewhere. His only fault was in placing too great confidence in friends who sometimes deceived him. So honest he was himself, that he could not understand that men could be otherwise. To him we may apply the tribute written in memory of Washington, besides whom he will stand in history: "The Brave, the Wise, the Good, supreme in war, in council, and in peace, valiant without ambition, discreet without fear, confident without presumption, in disaster, calm, in success, moderate, in all, himself, the Hero, the Patriot, the Christian."

CITY NEWS

Notice. -- The G. A. R. will meet at their hall Sunday, July 26th, at 6:30 p.m., uniformed, for the purpose of attending Divine service at the First M. E. church, per order of the Commander.

Mayor White issued a call for a meeting at the City Hall last evening, to take action in reference to making arrangements for a suitable demonstration upon the day in which General Grant's funeral is to be held -- and Commander Denney also called a meeting of the G. A. R. at the same time. Speeches were made by prominent citizens, but space will not permit an extended report.

Committee of Arrangements -- J.B. Chase, Dr. F.L. Bartlett and Frank Thatcher.

Music -- E.A. Stein, Capt. E.J. Sill, and S.B. Taylor.

Speakers -- J.J. McLallen, Eb. Denney and Trav. Phillips.

Finance -- W.S. Beaupre, Thos. McMicken and W.H. Watson.

Decorations -- Mrs. E.C. Beardsley, Mrs. Willis Hoyt, Mrs. Chris. Zimmer, Miss. Marcia Dickinson and Miss. Anna Lawler.

The Public Library Board met last Wednesday and elected officers for the ensuing year as follows; F.O. White, president; Mrs. Thos. Galt, vice-president; E.C. Beardsley, secretary; W.S. Beaupre, treasurer; J.J. McLallen, librarian; James Shaw, assistant librarian in charge.

Wednesday, August 5, 1885

CITY NEWS

The Ladies of the W. R. C. will meet at Mrs. Chris. Zimmers's on Saturday, Aug. 8th, at 1:30 p.m., to attend the memorial services at the Island Rink.

Mrs. J.F. Harral, Pres.

Mrs. C.G. Ayers, Sec.

Last Saturday morning a representative of this paper was informed by a prominent member of the G. A. R. Post, in this city, that the fare from Chicago to New York for soldiers who participated in the civil war had been placed at the low rate of \$6 for the round trip, to enable them to attend General Grant's funeral. Consequently we inserted a notice to that effect, but after the Beacon was issued, discovered that the information was an unfounded rumor. The following from the *Chicago Tribune* of Aug. 3rd, will explain the correct rates:

The Michigan Central Railway Company has issued a neat memorial which, after touching upon the death of Gen. Grant, states that it has made a rate of \$20 to New York and return for the military companies in uniform and Posts of the G. A. R., traveling in parties of ten or more. These tickets will be on sale Wednesday and Thursday next, and be good not later than August 11. Time tables for the four daily trains are also included in the memorial.

The Chicago Railroad Association (passenger department) held a meeting yesterday to further consider the reduction in fares for those wishing to attend Gen. Grant's funeral in New York. The western roads decided to stick to the first agreement, by which the rate of one fare for the round trip is made to soldiers in uniform and members of the Grand Army of the Republic, bearing proper badges or credentials, if in parties of ten or more. These tickets will be sold August 4 and 5 and will be good to return until August 15. It was also agreed to sell tickets to the general public who wish to attend the Chicago demonstration at one and one third fare for the round trip. Tickets to be sold August 7 and 8.

Wednesday, August 12, 1885

CITY NEWS

It is gratifying to learn that the proposal to pension all Union soldiers of the late war meets with no favor among the soldiers themselves. The proposition met with a decided rebuff at the hands of the G. A. R. at Portland, Maine, and all over the country a general protest goes up from the soldier element against any scheme which involves the idea that their patriotism could be requited with money. A proper provision for the disabled and for the widows of soldiers is but a rightful work of gratitude on the part of the government the soldiers fought to save. When it comes to pensioning able bodied soldiers, however, none will be found so strenuous in opposition as the very men who fought in the federal armies.

It is hoped that every member of Aurora Post, G. A. R. will endeavor to attend the picnic next Saturday, at Cowdry's grove, and bring his family.

At Geneva last Friday afternoon a meeting of delegates from the various G. A. R. posts throughout the county was held for the purpose of making arrangements for the annual reunion. It was decided to hold the reunion in Geneva, on the Island, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 2nd and 3rd. The Committee on Arrangements are Capt. A.D. Read, of Batavia, Commander Cook, of St. Charles, and Commander Bunker, of Geneva.

As mentioned in our columns several issues since, the members of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will picnic with their families at Cowdry's Crossing, near Oswego, next Saturday, Aug. 15th. Members of vicinity Posts are invited to attend.

The "Sons of Veterans," assisted by the "Ladies Relief Corps," will give a sociable at the Island Rink, Wednesday night, August 19th. Misses Maudie Hazelet and Nellie VanSickle will give exhibitions of skating, after which dancing and refreshments will be the order of the evening. Howard's orchestra will furnish the music.

Saturday, August 15, 1885

CITY NEWS

Hon. Andy Welch, our new Revenue Collector, attended the G. A. R. picnic last Saturday, (spoken of elsewhere), and by a very generous action early in the day won lasting friendship with the G. A. R. boys present. It seems that among other boats which George Cowdry had engaged for the day at Yorkville, was a large stern-wheel paddleboat, which for some reason the owners would not allow to go, just at the last minute. Happening to be near by and hearing of it, Mr. Welch bought the boat for \$20 and sent it up to the picnic grounds. He seems to be just about such a good natured and jovial man as the honorable gentleman whom he is to succeed as Revenue Collector for this District.

(1885-BEARDSLEY,COWDRY)

If you desire to have a good time just drop in at the Island rink to-night, where the Sons of Veterans hold their social.

Rare enjoyment is promised at the Island rink this evening, in the sociable to be given by the Women's Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans. All are invited.

Remember the Sons of Veterans sociable at the Island rink, this evening. Ice cream and other refreshments served, and exhibitions of fancy skating by the Misses Nellie VanSickle and Maudie Hazlett. Admission only 5 cents.

About three hundred people attended the G. A. R. picnic, which was held last Saturday at Cowdry's Crossing, just above Yorkville. The train stopped directly at the grounds, over the entrance to which appeared a huge arch with the hospitable word "Welcome," in large green letters, and the stars and stripes floating far above it. As they neared the grove another banner appeared with the inscription "1861, G. A. R., 1865." The place is one of the finest picnic grounds on the Fox River, which at that point is wide, admirably adapted for boating. Comrade Cowdry had kindly provided some half dozen boats which were in constant use throughout the day, enabling all who desired to indulge in that pleasure.

As the train arrived about eleven o'clock, the camp fires were soon lighted, over which boiled the fragrant coffee. If the G. A. R. boys did not know what was good for the inner man before they engaged in suppressing the rebellion, they never since have shown any failing in that direction, and by twelve o'clock the veterans, with their families and guests, were seated in groups under the trees, partaking of all good things imaginable. After dinner, Prof. Sweet and his assistants furnished music, to which all who were so inclined danced, right on the grass under the trees, amid much merriment (the host said he had forgotten to have the "floor waxed." Amid such varying amusements as boating, dancing, playing ball, chatting, swinging, lounging in hammocks and gathering flowers, the afternoon passed away very rapidly.

Comrades Eb. Denney, George Cowdry and Put Howard seemed to vie with each other in keeping the crowd good natured and hilarious over their school-boy antics. About four o'clock a small group of the boys were loudly applauded as, headed by Comrade Reub. Johnson, they rendered some of the old time songs in an excellent manner. Before starting for the train, Eb. Denney called for three cheers for their warm hearted host, Geo. Cowdry, which were given with a will, after which Mr. C. responded by telling them that he hoped they all live to again meet in his grove, where they should always be heartily welcomed. Throughout the day the weather was delightful, and not an unkind word or accident marred the pleasant occasion. It was a light hearted crowd of picnickers that arrived home at 5:30 p.m., well pleased with their annual holiday.

Saturday, August 22, 1885

CITY NEWS

The social given at the island rink last Wednesday evening, by the Women's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans, was one of the most successful occasions of that nature which was ever held in this city. The receipts at the door showed an attendance of about eight hundred people, who seemed to enjoy themselves throughout the evening. Fancy skating by Maudie Hazelett and Nillie VanSickle, singing and recitation by Dr. Arnold, were the attractions presented, after which Put Howard's orchestra furnished excellent music for all who wished to dance. Ice cream and other refreshments were served to the satisfaction of all. About \$60 was cleared during the evening, which is to be divided equally between the Ladies Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans. We trust that the two organizations will give other socials during the season.

G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT.

Announcement was recently made that the several Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Kane county would hold an encampment on Herrington's island, at Geneva on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 2nd and 3rd. The committee of arrangements consisting of A.D. Reade, Post 48; E.C. Cook, Post 456; and Frank Bunker, Post 60, has just issued a circular addressed to comrades, from which we extract the following: Round trip tickets will be sold at all stations on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway in the county, for one and one third the regular fare, but each ticket must be stamped by the Ass't Adj't General at "Camp Spaulding," in order to be good for the return passage.

Good, substantial and wholesome meals will be provided on the island by Messrs. Harris & Howell, at 25 cents each. (Mrs. Harris is the proprietor "Hotel Harris," at Geneva, and assures us that the meals shall be first class.) In addition to the dining hall, there will be a sutlers's stand, where comrades and their friends can obtain cool lemonade, ice cream, cigars, tobacco, pop, etc., but no malt or spiritous liquors will be allowed on the grounds.

The Elgin National Watch Company Military Band has been engaged to furnish music on both days of the encampment, and will give an open air concert, Wednesday evening. All persons not members of the G. A. R. will be charged 10 cents admission to the island on the evening of the concert. This concert, by the most celebrated band in the Northwest, certainly needs no recommendation or guarantee from us, and the admission to the island is placed at one dime in order that everybody may attend.

A special train will leave for Batavia and Aurora at 10:30 p.m. Another will leave at the same time for Turner Junction to connect with the night Freeport train for Elgin, providing there are passengers enough to warrant it.

An admission fee of 10 cents will be charged all outsiders visiting the island to help defray expenses.

The Commander of the camp has issued the following general order:

HEADQUARTERS

ENCAMPMENT KANE CO. POSTS

G. A. R. DEPT. ILL;

"CAMP SPAULDING."

GENEVA, August 18, 1885

General Order No. 1.

Having been appointed Commander of the Encampment of Kane County Posts, to be held at

GENEVA, SEPT., 2nd AND 3rd, 1885

the following comrades are hereby appointed to the offices designated, and will be respected and obeyed accordingly.

George O. Spooner, Post 48, Assistant Adjutant General.

E.C. Cook, Post 456, Commissary of Subsistence.

Eb. Denney, Post 20, Officer of the Day, September 2nd.

George D. Sherman, Post 49, Officer of the Day, September 3rd.

E.F. Cleveland, Post 519, Officer of the Guard, September 2nd.

G.W. Lattig, Post 495, Officer of the Guard, September 3rd.

Dr. Robbins, Post 20, Surgeon.

A.U. Hetrick, Post 453, Senior A. D. C.
Morgan Hughes, Post 20, Bugler, Sept. 2nd.
Thos. Meredith, Post 48, Bugler, Sept. 3rd.

These officers will report in uniform to the Assistant Adjutant General.

Commanding officers of Posts will report to the Quartermaster for the assignment of quarters. The Woman's Relief Corps will be provided with a tent for headquarters by the Quartermaster.

It is desired that all comrades who can, will wear a blue suit with brass buttons, and the regular G. A. R. badge.

Let there be a full representation from every Post in the county and make this, our first encampment, a grand success.

By command of A.D. Reade.

Commanding Camp.

George O. Spooner,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Saturday, August 29, 1885

CITY NEWS

The members of the various Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Kane county, and their families, will encamp on the island at Geneva next wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 2nd and 3rd, and expect to have a rousing good time. The Elgin Military Band will be in attendance and give a concert in the evening. Trains leave for Batavia and Aurora each evening after the close of the festivities.

Wednesday, September 2, 1885

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

The G. A. R. go to Geneva to-day to attend the reunion.

The G. A. R. veterans of Kane county picnic on the island at Geneva to-day and to-morrow. The Elgin Military Band will be in attendance both days, and to-morrow evening will give a grand concert. All are invited. Outsiders will be charged an admission of ten cents, to cover expenses.

Saturday, September 5, 1885

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. of this county, under command of Capt. A.D. Reade, of Batavia, met at Geneva last Wednesday morning and enjoyed a two days reunion of Herrington's Island, which was connected by a foot bridge with the main land. Old soldiers and their families were admitted free to the grounds, others paying the nominal entrance fee of ten cents to cover expenses. The island is an excellent place for such a gathering, and thousands of strangers were attracted to its shores to witness the enthusiasm with which the old soldiers gathered around the camp-fires. Wednesday evening the Elgin Military Band gave a concert at eight o'clock, some

2,500 people having the pleasure of hearing the delightful music. An excursion train from this city accommodated a large number of our citizens, as well as those of Batavia.

Thursday the G. A. R. boys in camp voted to organize permanently for an annual gathering of this character, with the following officers for the coming year: President, Eb. Denney, Aurora; Secretary Major G.D. Sherman, Elgin; Treasurer, J.M. Lattig, Blackberry.

Elaborate preparations will probably be made every year for the camp-fire.

The annual reunion of the 8th Illinois Cavalry will be held at the Sherman House, Chicago, Ill., on the 18th day of September, 1885. Business meeting at 11 a.m., Dinner 12:30 p.m. We hope to make arrangements with the railroads for reduction of fare. Twenty four years ago the 8th Illinois Cavalry marched to the front in defense of the Government. Our regiment made a glorious record for itself, and it is eminently proper that those of us who survive should meet and recount our trials and triumphs. Boys, you will not have to search the roosts for chickens -- the Sherman House will give us broiled chicken on toast. You are cordially invited to join us and enjoy the festivities of the occasion. Bring your wife and children. Our beloved and honored Comrade, Dr. Abner Hard having recently died, the committee of arrangements have directed that all communications be addressed to
Col. L.H. Whitney,
125 Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

The Sons of Veterans and Ladies Relief Corps will probably hold a sociable next week at the Casino rink.

Wednesday, September 9, 1885 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

Mr. E.W. Hubbard is accommodating his fellow members of the G. A. R. with large sized group pictures of the first twelve Commanders of the G. A. R. They are put up in neat frames and cost just one dollar.

The annual reunion of the 36th Regiment will be held at Elgin on Thursday, Sept. 24th. The survivors of this famous organization never fail to have a good time at these annual gatherings, and none should absent themselves.
(1885-INV)

Sons of Veterans and Women's Relief Corps, will give another sociable next Saturday evening, at the Casino rink. Refreshments will be served, and a variety of amusements presented, together with dancing, combining to render the programme most attractive and enjoyable. All are invited.

Saturday, September 12, 1885

THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

The annual reunion of the Fifty-Second Regiment was held in Elgin, and on Thursday the veterans ran an excursion from that city to Chicago, to view the panorama of the Battle of Shiloh.

Wednesday, September 16, 1885

CITY NEWS

The W. R. C. and S. O. V social at the Casino rink Saturday evening was attended by about 500 people who seemed to enjoy the various attractions. Frankie Taylor, gave a creditable exhibition skate, afterwards the "Zouave Three" gave a silent drill which was certainly remarkable in execution and that it was highly appreciated by the audience was testified to by repeated applause and encore. The balance of the evening was devoted to dancing, to the music of Howard's orchestra, and to the disposal of the tempting refreshments which the ladies provided. The occasion was a social and financial success.

Saturday, September 19, 1885

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 17. -- The Society of the Army of the Cumberland began its seventh annual reunion yesterday with five hundred members present, including General Sheridan, the President. Among others present are Generals Cist, Fullerton, Muzzy, Poe, Barnett, Innes, Cutcheon, Stone, Price, Morgan and Swayne. Governor Alger welcomed the Association this evening. General Sheridan responded and General Muzzy delivered an oration.

A number of Michigan veterans of the Mexican War are also holding a reunion here and the Sons of Veterans of the United States are holding their National Encampment.

Wednesday, September 23, 1885

CITY NEWS

A number of the members of the old 36th Regiment, are preparing to attend the reunion, at Elgin, to-morrow.

The old Fox River Regiment, the 36th Illinois Volunteers, will hold their annual Reunion at Elgin, Thursday, Sept. 24th. It is expected that there will be a full attendance, and a good time is anticipated. Mayor Henry B. Willis and Col. Ed. S. Joslyn will do the talking, and anyone who has heard them, has had the pleasure of listening to real eloquence. The train leaves the C. & N. W. depot at 7 a.m., and will return at 6 p.m. Both the C. & N. W. and the C. B. & Q return those in attendance at one third fare on the certificate of the Secretary.

Saturday, October 3, 1885

CITY NEWS

A flag staff has been erected over the library addition to the memorial building, tipped with a weather vane, bearing the letters G. A. R.
(1885-CHP)

Saturday, October 10, 1885 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. meet Tuesday night.

Saturday, October 31, 1885 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS.

The G. A. R. will give the play "The Scout of the Cumberland," at Coulter Opera House, from Nov. 17th to Nov. 21st.

Wednesday, November 4, 1885

CITY NEWS

The choral society, under the training of Dr, Andre, will meet Wednesday night, in G. A. R. Hall, and all desirous of joining should take this opportunity of doing so.

The "Scout of the Cumberland," which is to be presented at the Opera House Nov. 17th to the 22nd, by the G. A. R., is said to be superior to any military drama ever given in this city. The four leading characters will be taken by professionals who make a specialty of this play. The remainder of the cast will be made up of home talent. The proceeds of the performance will be devoted to local charitable purposes. (repeated in the November 7th paper)

Wednesday, November 11, 1885

CITY NEWS

Col. Greusel, of Mt. Pleasant, Ia., who has been visiting his son-in-law, Mr. John White, on Claim street, departed last evening for a weeks visit in Sandusky, Ohio. When he returns he will probably take up his residence in Mt. Pleasant, as the discovery of a seven foot vein of coal on his property, in the edge of that city, leads him to abandon his intention of making this city his home. We hope that the Colonel may realize his present prospects of wealth from the coal mine. Mrs.G. will spend the winter in this city.

The Women's Relief Corps will hold an apron bazar in the new G. A. R. Hall as soon as it is completed.

All those who are to take part in the G. A. R. drama next week are requested to meet Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock at Coulter Opera House.

At the meeting of the G. A. R. last evening, they decided to open their new hall about Dec. 1st, with a grand camp-fire. W.H. Watson, J.M. Kennedy and John Walker, were appointed a committee to make the arrangements.

The Elgin Post G. A. R. are to present "The Union Spy" at Elgin at the same time that the Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. present "The Scout of the Cumberland" at Coulter Opera House, Nov. 17th to 22nd.

Wednesday, November 18, 1885 CITY NEWS

The "Scout of the Cumberland," as rendered by the G. A. R. last evening, was a grand success and elicited the applause of the large audience present. The thrilling scenes presented, are those which appeal to the patriotic spirit of all present, and makes the entertainment one of unusual pleasure. Everybody in the city should attend at least one evening during the week.

Wednesday, November 25, 1885 CITY NEWS

The ladies of the W. R. C. will meet with Mrs. J.F. Harral on Wednesday afternoon. Members of the G. A. R. and S. of V. are invited for the evening. Tea will be served from six to eight o'clock.

Wednesday, November 28, 1885 CITY NEWS

At the regular meeting of the G. A. R., Post No. 20, last Tuesday night, it was decided to open their new hall in the library building, with a grand camp-fire next Thursday evening Dec. 3rd. The Posts in the neighboring towns have been invited to participate, and a large attendance is anticipated. Major W.H. Watson, Matt Kennedy and John Walker are the committee on arrangements. The Post will hold its next regular meeting in the new hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 8th, when officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

The G. A. R. Post No. 20, have removed their effects to their new hall in the library building.

Wednesday, December 2, 1885 CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. camp-fire and dedicatory services of their new hall to be held to-morrow (Thursday) evening, bids fair to be well attended, and a very interesting event.

Saturday, December 5, 1885

THE NEW HALL.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., dedicated their new hall Thursday evening, with a grand camp-fire, speeches, music, etc., in a very creditable manner. A large number of friends from out of the city were in attendance, and after the guests had duly inspected the hall and listened to a short address of welcome, they adjourned to the City Hall, where the camp-fire was held.

The new hall is built on the walls of the library addition to the memorial building, which is located upon land belonging to the city, and is therefore free from taxes forever, and a hall without rent for the G. A. R. Post, as long as they exist, or as long as a quorum of the Post exists, after which it passes to the control of the Public Library Board, who, at that distant day, will doubtless need more room. It is approached by a stairway on the east side of the building, and is a large, well lighted apartment, the hall proper being 31 x 41 feet, and 13 feet high; and the ante room opening to the north, about 18 x 26 feet. Both rooms are well furnished, the carpets being new, and a present from the Woman's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans. Both of these organizations being simply auxiliary to the G. A. R., will use the hall for their meetings. The furnishings of the hall are appropriate, the Commander's desk in the east being a miniature fort with cannons pointing in all directions. A number of pictures of deceased Comrades adorn the wall, and the intention is to make a fine collection of war relics to be placed in the hall.

The Aurora Post is now nicely located, and its numbers are a host of sturdy veterans, who will doubtless live many years to enjoy their new quarters.

(1885-DESK, VETS)

THE CAMP-FIRE.

Repairing to the City Hall shortly before nine o'clock, Thursday evening, those who had invitations soon filled that room to listen to the camp-fire speeches and partake of the subsequent banquet. Commander Eb. Denney was chairman of the occasion, and seated near him upon the stage were about ten Commanders of different G. A. R. Posts, including Col. Berry, of Quincy, the State Commander of the G. A. R., and who was chairman of the recent famous Soldier's Home Commission; also two other members of the Commission, Gen. Lew. Wallace, of Chicago, and Mayor F.O. White, of this city. Ex-Mayor Bartlett being one of the speakers of the evening also had a seat among the notables, and was the only one upon the stage who did not belong to the G. A. R. Speeches were made during the evening respectively by Col. W.W. Berry, of Quincy; ex-Mayor Bartlett; Col. Lew. Wallace, of Chicago; Prof. Freeman, and were interspersed with excellent music from Stein's orchestra, and choice, well rendered vocal selections by Miss. Fannie Quereau and Miss. Phoebe Carpenter.

COL. W. W. BERRY

made an excellent speech, which being his first public effort since the locating of the Soldier's Home at Quincy, was devoted mainly to a statement in detail as to how Quincy was finally the fortunate city. He said that after visiting the forty-two cities and towns who wished the location, as most people were aware, the chances finally narrowed down to some half dozen cities, between which it was almost impossible to decide. After much balloting the result being

unchanged, the members of the commission from the southern part of the State showed the other members conclusively that on account of the climate the location ought not to go above the fortieth degree of latitude. As the sailors were also to be considered in choosing a site, it should be located upon navigable water. The fortieth meridian crosses the Mississippi River at Quincy, hence enough votes (four) were secured, which favored that city. The Colonel said that all old soldiers, whosoever they were, whenever in need of a home, should be heartily welcomed at the Home without feeling that they were objects of charity.

At the close of Col. Berry's able effort he was loudly applauded, as he was also several times during his remarks.

EX-MAYOR F. L. BARTLETT

was then announced and made a remarkably able effort, which we would like to be enabled to produce in full. Blending the comical with the serious in his inimitable style, the genial Doctor had the audience in turn uproarious in merriment or hushed with glistening teardrops, as he made his sparkling witticisms or paid just homage to the memory of the old soldiers. He said he remembered some of those present before they had attained to eminence. That he knew Capt. F.O. White forty years ago, just after he was appointed on the Soldier's Home Commission, (outbursts of applause.) That he knew Col. Put Howard years since, when he didn't know the Fisher's hornpipe from any other jig, (applause.) That he knew Commander Chris. Zimmers when he was having knowledge pounded into his head at the old Oak Street School, instead of his pounding peace, good order, etc., into the heads of numerous culprits, (applause.) That he had somewhere read in the different papers, that the question of "who was going to take care of the old soldier?" was being agitated and that he had made up his mind as he started from home that evening, that he would take care of them himself if need be, (thunders of applause.) But he had come to this new G. A. R. Hall and found that the old soldiers were taking mighty good care of themselves, (applause.) That they had plenty to eat, that their old sweethearts were still with them and that they had stalwart support in their growing sons, (S. O. V. order.) That they had just dedicated the finest hall of its kind in the State and on the whole did not need any help. In closing, he said, that he guessed the old soldiers were having all the meat, bread and butter, etc., which they ever needed, and if they ever wanted pie and cake to call upon him. (Great applause.)

General Wallace and Prof. Freeman each favored the audience with short, pointed speeches which were well received. The edibles were then passed to the vast audience, and consisted of coffee, doughnuts, sandwiches and hardtack on tin plates. The large audience dispersed at a late hour, having thoroughly enjoyed the reception at the hands of their old soldier friends.

QUINCY GETS THE SOLDIER'S HOME.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 3. -- The long continued and vexatious dead-lock in Governor Oglesby's Board of Commissioners to select a location for the new State Soldier's and Sailor's Home for disabled and needy Illinois veterans of the war of the rebellion, has at last been broken. The board, in session at the city yesterday, finally decided by a majority vote in favor of locating the institution at the city of Quincy.

The Woman's Relief Corps hold an apron bazaar and sociable in Stolp's woolen mill store on the island, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Aprons of all styles and sizes will be placed on sale, and a full patronage is solicited. The admission will be only ten cents and every ticket entitles the holder to one chance on a beautiful patent rocker, now exhibited at Stolp's show windows. Don't forget, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week, Dec. 15th, 16th and 17th.

Attend the W. R. C. Apron Bazaar and Sociable, Dec. 15, 16 and 17, at Stolp's woolen mill store. It entitles you to a chance on a beautiful patent rocker easy chair, now on exhibition in Stolp's show window.

Wednesday, December 16, 1885 THIS MORNING'S LOCALS

Congressman Hopkins has laid before Assistant Postmaster General Stevenson the protests of the people of Antioch, Lake county, against the newly appointed Postmaster at that place. The G. A. R. veterans are displeased because he takes the place of an old soldier. Mr. Stevenson promised to give the matter careful attention.

Wednesday, December 23, 1885 CITY NEWS

The Woman's Relief Corps cleared about \$120 by their bazar held last week.

At a meeting of the Sons of Veterans held last Monday evening, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: C.E. Colwell, Captain; H.L. Bunnell, First Lieutenant; Harvey Rackameyer, Second Lieutenant; S.M. Kautenburger, delegate; C.R. Taylor, alternate; C.W. Howard, mustering officer, and Messrs. Hewitt, Taylor and Colwell, Camp Council.

It was **1886** and the National Encampment of the Grand Army was held in San Francisco on August 4th. Lucius Fairchild of Wisconsin would be elected Commander-In-Chief. Earlier in the year, the Department of Illinois would hold their Encampment in Springfield on February 27th. P.S. Post, of Galesburg would become its new Department Commander. The Aurora Post would elect Eb. Denney once again. There would be a dedication of the new addition to the Memorial Building / Library on January 6th. The 36th Illinois Survivors would hold their reunion in Seneca on September 23rd. George D. Sherman would be reelected President. This would be the second anniversary of the Kane county G. A. R. encampment held on Herrington's Island in Geneva. The Ladies of the G. A. R. would make its appearance in the paper as another benevolent association serving the needs of the orphaned children of veterans. In October the vets would travel to Quincy for the dedication of the "Soldiers' Retreat," on the 19th. They were constantly reminded of their mortality as military leaders began to fall in ever increasing numbers. The loss of Generals Winfield Scott Hancock and George B. McClellan saddened them greatly, then Colonel E.S. Joslyn of Elgin brought the loss back to the 36th. But, shortly after Christmas their hero, Senator John Logan passed in Washington, only a few weeks after his visit to Aurora and his boys. The year came to a sad conclusion.

Saturday, January 16, 1886

VICINITY NEWS

A new G. A. R. Post, numbered 546, with thirty seven charter members, was organized at Rochelle on the evening of Jan. 12th.

Saturday, January 23, 1886

CITY NEWS

The home of Thomas Phillips and Wife, just below Montgomery, was visited by a merry sleigh load of G. A. R. people Wednesday night, who all seemed to have a remarkably jolly

time. The couple had in some way obtained knowledge of the intended surprise and had prepared a delicious supper for the visitors.

Wednesday, January 27, 1886

CITY NEWS

The Woman's Relief Corps will hold a sociable on Friday evening, the 29th inst. at the rooms of Mrs. C. Zimmer, on the island. All will be made welcome.

Saturday, January 30, 1886

Gen. B.M. Prentiss will lecture on the "Battle of Shiloh" at the City Hall, Tuesday evening, Feb. 16, under the auspices of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. Tickets may be obtained of any member of the Post, at twenty five cents each. A large audience should greet the General, who will certainly interest those who hear him. His description of the maneuvering and terrible fighting on the memorable field is intensely interesting, and he enters into the spirit of his lecture with all the vim of an old soldier in actual fray. Don't miss hearing him.

Saturday, February 6, 1886

CITY NEWS

In honor of her fortieth birthday, Mrs. A.B. Culver was given an enjoyable surprise party Wednesday evening at her residence on Union street. A pleasant evening was passed, during which Mrs. Culver was presented with a willow rocker and a set of silver knives and forks by the members of the Woman's Relief Corps.

WISCONSIN G. A. R.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 5. Ex-Governor Lucius Fairchild was elected department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic yesterday afternoon to succeed Major James Davidson, of Sparta, Wis. General Fairchild served with honorable distinction in the war and lost an arm at the battle of Gettysburg. He was subsequently Governor of Wisconsin for three terms, and was Minister to Spain under President Hayes' Administration.

Wednesday, February 10, 1886

NOTES OF THE DAY

The Pennsylvania G. A. R. Encampment was held at Scranton Tuesday, General Gobin being chosen Department Commander. Resolutions paying a glowing tribute to the memory, worth and valor of General Hancock were passed.

CITY NEWS

General Prentiss lectures Tuesday evening, February 16th, at the City Hall, under the auspices of the G. A. R., upon the "Battle of Shiloh." The General probably is more conversant with the thrilling details of this hard fought battle than any other living man. Tickets can be procured of the members.

Saturday, February 13, 1886 CITY NEWS

Tuesday evening next, Feb. 16th, is the date of Gen'l Prentiss' lecture on the "Battle of Shiloh," at the City Hall, under the auspices of the G. A. R. Get your tickets of the members.

Next Tuesday a delegation from the G. A. R. Post in this city go to Springfield to attend a several days' session of the State Encampment of G. A. R. The delegation will be as follows: W.H. Watson and wife; J.F. Harral and wife; J.M. Kennedy and wife; and General S.B. Sherer, A.D. Bunnell and Eb. Denney.

Wednesday, February 17, 1886 CITY NEWS

The City Hall was nearly filled last evening with an audience composed of old soldiers, their wives and children, and many of our citizens both young and old, who were eager to listen to an account of the Battle of Shiloh from Gen. B.M. Prentiss, who was one of the commanding Generals in that engagement, which is accorded to have been one of the most severe of the rebellion. The General is not a very large man, but he nevertheless looks to be every inch a general, and despite his age still remains very erect, talks in a firm, distinct voice, and has a merry twinkle in his eye as he recalls some humorous incidents of his soldier life. His description of the battle was so perfectly plain that all could readily understand it, and was listened to with great attention and enthusiasm by the large audience. Time and again did they burst into hearty applause as some heroes name was mentioned or patriotic sentiment was uttered or comical incident related. Space forbids an elaborate account of the lecture which so many are familiar with. Sufficient it to say that it was of thrilling interest, and those of our citizens who never heard the General speak missed a valuable opportunity last evening.

Saturday, February 20, 1886 CITY NEWS

The Illinois Grand Army Encampment at Springfield, on Thursday by an almost unanimous vote, adopted a resolution against the restoration by Congress of Fitz John Porter to the position in the army from which he was expelled by a court martial.

At the recent State meeting of the Woman's Relief Corps at Springfield, Mrs. J.F. Harral was elected President and Mrs J.H. Hubbard Secretary. The ladies are well known residents of this city, and will make efficient officers for this worthy organization.

THE VETERANS

Meeting of the State Encampment of Department of Illinois
G. A. R. -- Large Attendance

Statistics of the Growth and Prosperity of the order in the State,
The Woman's Relief Corps

The Ex-Soldiers of Indiana Gather at Indianapolis,
A Resolution of Indignation Passed

They Wore the Blue.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 18. -- Two thousand or more delegates and interested members of the Grand Army of the Republic met in this city yesterday and escorted Commander-In-Chief S.S. Burdett, of Washington, D.C., from a morning train to the Representative's hall, where he delivered an interesting address to the Illinois Grand Encampment. Colonel W.W. Berry, of Quincy, Department Commander, also addressed the meeting at considerable length. At the afternoon session over one hundred nominations for office were made. For Department Commander there were named the present assistant Adjutant-General, J.L. Bennett, of Chicago; General Philip S. Post, of Gettysburg; Colonel Thomas Scott, of Fairfield, and ex-Department Commissioner, J.H. Freeman, of Aurora. Governor R.J. Oglesby was the only delegate-at-large to the National Encampment at San Francisco nominated, but about seventy-five district delegates and alternates were put in nomination. It was declared by resolution that the organization is opposed to the passage by Congress of the Johnson House Bill to pension all Ex-Union soldiers, except through influences outside of the Grand Army. A suspension of the rules was adopted to permit the ladies of the woman's relief corps, an auxiliary organization, to enter and listen to an address of welcome by Governor Oglesby.

At a late hour last night a report gained general currency that General Post had decided to withdraw from the contest for Department Commander. It was denied by him and his friends who consider its origin to be unfriendly. The contest is said to be between Post and Scott.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 18. -- In his capacity of Assistant Adjutant-General J.L. Bennett reports to the Illinois Grand Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic now in session here that sixty new posts have been added to the membership of the order during the year just closed. The cash receipts of the year amounted to \$8,257.73. The distributions amounted to \$6,017.63, and the remaining \$2,240.10 was turned over to the Assistant Quartermaster-General. To the 20,005 members in good standing at the time of the last encampment 7,657 have been added by various means, and 5,106 were lost, leaving the active membership in this State 22,556. The sum of \$4,994 was expended during the year for charity by the posts acting individually.

There was an annual session of the Woman's Relief Corps of the Department of Illinois, in this city yesterday. The report of the secretary, Mrs. Minnie M. Kyle, of Rockford, shows the active membership at the time of the present meeting is 1,177, of which number 210 were gained during the year by the institution of new posts. There was \$947 expended during the year for

charity, and there is to the credit of the relief fund the sum of \$1,224, and in the general fund \$1,492.

BRAVE BOYS WERE THEY

Closing Proceedings of the Grand Army Encampment
of the Department of Illinois

The Fitz John Porter Bill Roundly Denounced
Various Measures Introduced
Election of Officers

The Universal Pension Bill Approved by the Indiana Veterans
They also Choose New Officers

THE OLD SOLDIERS

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 19. -- At the session of the Grand Army yesterday a delegate from Vandalia precipitated a commotion in the encampment by offering the following:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the delegates of the Grand Army represented here that Fitz John Porter should not be restored to the army and that our Senators and Representatives in Congress are instructed to oppose said proposition.

Thereupon a most exciting and stormy scene ensued. Cheer after cheer went up. The delegate of Streator rose to a question of privilege, and in an attempt to defend Fitz John Porter said that it was beyond the province of this order to deal with political questions. Hisses and yells from all portions of the hall followed this declaration, and the Commander ruled that there was no politics in the discussion of Fitz John Porter. After the hot blood had cooled down, the resolution was almost unanimously adopted.

Memorial resolutions to the memory of Generals Grant, Hancock and McClellan were presented and adopted. W.F. Calhoun, of Clinton, offered a resolution, which was adopted, protesting against the war-bred sentimentality that seems to be taking root in this Republic, which claims that the tearing down of loyal memories of the war is demanded by the spirit of patriotism, and that these memories cannot be offensive to any loyal citizen of the Republic and should not be disturbed. The Sons of Veterans organization was indorsed and preference was expressed for Nashville, Tenn. for the meeting of the National Encampment, succeeding the coming session at San Francisco. The choice between Chicago, Springfield and Rock Island as the place of the next annual encampment of the Illinois Department was decided to be for the latter. The resolutions adopted Wednesday at Indianapolis (Springfield), in reference to lowering the flags at half mast over the department at Washington in honor of Jacob Thompson were presented and adopted. Officers were elected as follows:

Commander, General P.S. Post, of Galesburg; senior vice-commander, Colonel Thomas C. Fullerton, of Ottawa; junior vice-commander, Enos Bond (colored), of Chicago; chaplain, Rev. E.D. Wilkin, of Danville; surgeon, Dr. A.T. Barnes, of Bloomington. Delegates to the National Encampment at San Francisco were chosen.

The newly elected officers were publicly installed last night. The Woman's Relief Corps elected the following officers yesterday:

President, A. Harral, of Aurora; senior vice-president, Mary Holtsman, of Pontiac; junior vice-president, Fleta C. Stahl, of Delevan; chaplain, Miss Josephine P. Cleveland, of Springfield; secretary, Mrs. Lizzie Hubbard, of Aurora.

CITY NEWS

At the recent State Convention of the G. A. R. at Springfield, Mr. W.H. Watson was elected as a delegate to the National Encampment. P.S. Post of Galesburg was elected Department Commander.

John Collins' house at Batavia was burned Wednesday morning; loss about \$1000 on the building, and slight on furniture, all covered by insurance. Mr. Collins had gone to Springfield as delegate to the State Encampment of the G. A. R.

Saturday, February 27, 1886

REMINISCENCES -- EIGHT

Aurora, 1847 to 1867
War Notes.

During the week or ten days succeeding the call for 75,000 troops, in April, 1861, the citizens of Aurora raised nearly \$6,000 by private subscription to support the families of volunteers. The spirit of patriotism ruled supreme, and men and means were speedily forthcoming to assist in stamping out of existence the great rebellion. During the period above mentioned, four companies were wholly or partially raised, and one departed for Springfield, on its way to the front, under command of Capt. N. Greusel. Monster war meetings were held, and everybody came forward to help in the work. For one volunteer company, sixty names were obtained on the roll in three hours. Capt. Greusel's company left on Sunday, April 21, 1861, and 6,000 people accompanied the men to the train. All the Physicians left in the city volunteered their services during the war free to the families of the men who enlisted. The company was assigned to the 7th Illinois Infantry, the first regiment sent out by the State during the rebellion, and Captain Greusel was subsequently promoted to Major.

The 36th Regiment, Col. Nicholas Greusel, which rendezvoused just below Aurora, on the west side of the river, broke camp and departed for St. Louis on the 24th of September, 1861. The 52nd Infantry and the 8th Cavalry, organized the same year, had numerous members from Aurora. The 36th was at first called the "Fox River Regiment," and the 52nd, commanded by Col. (now Judge) Isaac G. Wilson, was known as the "Lincoln Regiment," while the 8th Cavalry, under command of Col. John F. Farnsworth, soon received the nickname of "Farnsworth's big abolition regiment."

Peter Douglas, the first man who enlisted from Aurora, became a member of the 36th, and at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 6, 1862, was taken prisoner. The regiment in that fight lost four men killed, thirty wounded, and a large number taken prisoners, including twenty-two men from Capt. Miller's Aurora Company. Mr. Douglas was subsequently killed at the battle of Stone River, Tenn., in Dec., 1863.

The 52nd regiment was badly cut up at the memorable battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862. The following casualties occurred among the Aurora men: Sherman Towle, Co. A, killed; E.C. Millgate, Co. D and E. B. Eastman, Patrick Kems, Nelson Miller, Jacob Meisner, H.E. Perrin, E.S. Purdy, D.W. Ray, F.J. Randall and D. Bronson, of Co. H, wounded.

By report of J.H. Mayborne, of Geneva, enrolling officer for Kane county, dated Oct. 8, 1862, it is found that the total enrollment for Aurora at that time, of able bodied men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, was 1845. Of these 626 were in actual service, or a trifle over one third, which proportion held good throughout the greater portion of the country.

When the last draft occurred in 1864, Kane county had a surplus of 347 men, over her quota, already in the field. Aurora's quota and the number credited were as follows: Outside the city, quota 192, credited 204; first ward, quota 199, credited 206; second ward, quota 334, credited 345; third ward, quota 210, credited 261; fourth ward, quota 157, credit 194; Total quota for Township and city, 1,092; total credit, 1,210; excess, 118.

In Feb. 1865, when a new call for recruits was made, and a heavy one, Aurora was asked to raise 124 men over and above all credits. The fact that the enrollment list in the Provost Marshal's office had not been corrected made the number under this call much larger than it would otherwise have been. But two towns in the county, Hampshire with an excess of nineteen and St. Charles with five, had credits greater than their quota under this call.

The files of the newspapers for the years from 1861 to 1865 are full of items of thrilling interest to any community, and especially is it interesting to read the Aurora papers for that dread period which have been preserved. Here is an account of the departure of the company or regiment; next come letters from the "boys" telling of camp life and southern scenes; then the the dispatches tell of the battle in which it is known that friends have participated and at last the dread news arrives that some of the brave men who went out from the community will return to it no more in life, or will come with maimed bodies and broken constitutions. The fire of the enemy laid many noble soldiers low who left sorrowing families in and around Aurora, and a perusal of the old papers recalls vividly the memory of those days of war and death. Renewed interest attaches to the story as year by year the number of survivors of the conflict, who are now advanced in years and gray with the marks of age, grows less and less as the angel of death calls them to the eternal parade on the shores of that land where war is no longer known.

Saturday, March 27, 1886

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, G. A. R. voted at its last meeting to attend the military drama, "Reward," in a body next Wednesday evening, and have engaged a whole section in the gallery. Comrades can get their tickets now of Commander Eb. Denney.

Saturday, April 3, 1886

CITY NEWS

The members of Sandwich G. A. R. will attend the closing rendition of "Reward at the Opera House this Saturday evening.

Saturday, April 10, 1886

CITY NEWS

A camp of Sons of Veterans was instituted at Gardner, Tuesday evening, by officers from Streator.

The 13th Illinois Infantry, which holds its reunion at Dixon, May 24, has numerous surviving members in Kane county, some of whom will attend the meeting.

Saturday, April 17, 1886

CITY NEWS

A detachment of the G. A. R., together with the Sons of Veterans, went to Batavia Thursday evening and mustered in a camp of the Sons of Veterans.

REGIMENTAL REUNION.

The fifth annual reunion of the survivors of the Fifteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry will be held at Belvidere, Boone county on Monday, May 24, 1886. An unusually large attendance is expected, and a cordial welcome assured. Reduced rates have been secured over the Illinois lines of the C. & N. W., C. M. & St. P and Illinois Central railways, all who attend being returned for one third the regular fare over either of these roads on presenting a certificate from the secretary. An urgent invitation is extended to every survivor of the regiment to be present on this occasion if possible, accompanied by his family.

C.M. Ross, Secretary

Exchanges please copy.

Mrs. J.H. Hubbard, Secretary of the Woman's Relief Corps, has been at Quincy, Ill., for several days past, assisting in forming a branch Post of that organization in that city.

Wednesday, April 21, 1886

VICINITY NEWS

The G. A. R. Post at Earlville has received a consignment of twenty-five muskets, for use in drilling.

Saturday, April 24, 1886

CITY NEWS

The Woman's Relief Corps held an enjoyable social at the G. A. R. Hall on the island, last evening, which was well attended by members of the G. A. R. and S. O. V., with their families.

Wednesday, April 28, 1886

The Saratoga Post, G. A. R. is making a vigorous protest against the introduction into schools of histories of the United States, which glorify such southern leaders as Stonewall Jackson, Sumner, and the assassin Booth, and which make Lincoln appear as a coward.

CITY NEWS

At the meeting of the G. A. R. post last evening, Comrades Chris. Zimmer, J.C. Beede and Fred Hotz were appointed as a committee of arrangements for Decoration Day, which occurs Monday, May 31. Memorial services will be held Sunday at St. Mary's church, which will be attended by the G. A. R. in a body.
(1886-BEEDE,HOTZ)

Wednesday, May 12, 1886

CITY NEWS

G. A. R. Post, No. 20 has just issued a new directory and roster, which includes the S. O. V. and W. R. C. Posts.

Saturday, May 15, 1886

DECORATION DAY.

The exercises of Decoration Day will take place at the Island rink, on Monday, May 31, under the auspices of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. The oration will be delivered by Hon. L.B. Crooker, of Mendota. Music by Rev. C.H. Holbrook's choir of twenty voices. Devotional exercises by Rev. T.R. Strobbridge. Comrades detailed to decorate soldiers' graves will leave City Hall as soon as possible after 12:30 o'clock, and will be accompanied to the cemeteries by the following clergymen:

West Aurora Cemetery, Rev. S. Earngey,
Catholic, Rev. T.F. Leydon,
Spring Lake, Rev. W.S. ReQua,
Root st., Rev. W.H. Scudder.

Music for West Aurora cemeteries will be furnished by a quartette from the Oak street school. Guides for marking of the soldier's graves:

West Aurora Cemetery, Comrade O.B. Gates,
Catholic, Comrade J.F. Harral,

Spring Lake, Comrade C.G. Ayers.

A cordial invitation is extended to all civic and military organizations in the city, to take part in the parade and general exercises, and the committee earnestly desire all those who will take part to report to the chairman as early as possible, to enable them to complete arrangements by Monday morning, May 31. It is desired that all who can will furnish flowers and bring them to City Hall as early as possible on Monday morning, May 31, so they may be perfectly arranged.

C. Zimmer,
F.L. Hotz,
J.C. Beede,
Committee.

The Sons of Veterans serenaded Mayor Miller, Commander of the G. A. R., Eb. Denney and C.W. Howard at midnight Wednesday. The recipients responded by lighting their respective domiciles from cellar to garret, while the boys sang all of the patriotic songs they could call to mind.

THE COMING G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

San Francisco, May 14. -- The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will convene in this city on August 3 next, and already the local committee is actively engaged in preparing for the event. It promises to be a most important gathering of ex-soldiers and sailors yet held in this country, and fully 40,000 people who will be interested, directly or indirectly, in the encampment are expected to visit this city on the occasion from points east of the Rocky Mountains.

The State Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, which opened in this city Wednesday, occupied but one instead of three days as anticipated. About forty delegates were in attendance, among them being Commander-In-Chief Payne, of Ohio, and chief Mustering officer Geo. W. Penniman, of Minnesota. Reports read stated that the organization had increased in the past year from twenty-one camps and membership of 267 to forty-seven camps and a membership of 893. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: George B. Abbott, of Chicago, Colonel Commanding Illinois Division; D.E. Hinman, of Aurora, Lieutenant Colonel; H.A. Swanzy, of Chicago, Major; J.A. Tuthill, Leroy, Chaplain; H. Wakefield, of Braidwood; Harry Rubens, Bloomington; and J.D. Hill, Peoria, were elected Division Council. Geo. D. Stadden was elected delegate to the National Encampment. A camp fire was held in the evening at the G. A. R. Hall, which all seemed to enjoy. Speeches were made by various members in which more or less vituperation was showered upon the head of Jefferson Davis. Eitel-george's orchestra furnished excellent music, and refreshments were served. The next encampment will be held in Peoria.

The Public Library Board, Monday evening, decided to pipe the library building for connection with the water mains.

Wednesday, May 26, 1886

DECORATION DAY.

Memorial Exercises of Aurora Post No. 20, G. A. R.

The Post will assemble at City Hall on Monday, May 31, at 12:30 o'clock p.m., where the flowers will be distributed,

Comrades will form into two divisions; the 1st division under command of S. V. Commander M.D. Yager, will proceed to the east side and decorate the soldiers graves in Root street and Spring Lake cemeteries; the 2nd division under command of J. V. Commander J.M. Kennedy to West Aurora and Catholic cemeteries. Each division will be conveyed by wagons, and should be as expeditious as possible, so as to return to City Hall by 2:30 o'clock.

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

City Marshal, J.L. Walker and Platoon of Police.

Aurora Military Band.

Chief Marshal, A.C. Graves.

Assistant Marshal, J.H. Bevier.

Company D, 3rd Inf., I. N. G., under command of Capt. E.J. Sill.

Canton Aurora, No. 13, Patriarch Militant, I. O. O. F., under command of
J.E. Maydwell.

Aurora Camp No. 21, Sons of Veterans, under command of Capt. C.E. Colwell.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., in charge of Commander Eb. Denney.

Ex-Soldiers.

Woman's Relief Corps in carriages.

Mayor and City Council.

Orator of the Day, Hon. L.B. Crooker.

Citizens in carriages.

Societies not yet reported and which wish to take part, will report to the Chief Marshal and be assigned to a place in the procession.

The procession will form promptly at 2:30 o'clock on South River street, right resting on Downer Place,. The

LINE OF MARCH

will be north on River street to Galena, west on Galena to Lake, north on Lake to Walnut, east on Walnut and New York to Lincoln avenue, south on Lincoln avenue to Main, west on Main to Broadway, south on Broadway to Fox, west on Fox to the Island rink, where the general exercises will take place.

PROGRAMME.

Music by Band.

Prayer by Rev. T.R. Strobridge.

Music by Rev. C.H. Holbrook's choir of 28 voices.

Memorial services by Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R.

Address by Hon. L.B. Crooker, of Mendota.

Music by the choir.

Exercises will close by singing "America."

The committee would recommend that all places of business in the city be closed between the hours of 2 and 4:30 p.m. on that day.

Chris. Zimmer,

F.H. Hotz,

J.C. Beede,

Com.

Saturday, May 29, 1886

CITY NEWS

The Sovereigns of Industry held a special meeting Wednesday evening and made preparations to attend St. Mary's church in a body Sunday in company with the G. A. R. Post.

Wednesday, June 2, 1886

SERVICES IN AURORA.

Address by Hon. L.B. Crooker and Sermon of Rev. T.F. Leydon.

When the 30th day of May falls upon a Sunday, as is the case this year, the provisions of the Statutes of Illinois, which make of it a legal holiday and has this year been generally observed throughout the State as the time of holding appropriate ceremonies to commemorate the memory of our fallen heroes and to keep alive the fires of patriotism throughout the land.

It has been the annual custom with the pastors of the churches in this city to each in their successive turns, invite the Aurora Post, No. 20, Grand Army of the Republic, and its auxiliary societies, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans, to a special service held at their churches the Sunday preceding Decoration Day. The honor of addressing the veterans and their families this year fell upon the Rev. Thomas F. Leydon, of St. Mary's Catholic church.

Early last Sunday morning the veterans could have been noticed as from all portions of the city they collected at their hall upon the island. Shortly before 10:30 o'clock they were formed in line to march to the church, and to the number of one hundred and sixty seven, headed by their Commander, they wended their way up the hill.

As one stood upon the street and looked into the faces of the sturdy heroes, as again they marched in line, the stories of their hardships, their trials and their victories were recalled with wondrous force. Their faces have a few added wrinkles and the gray hairs are more numerous than a year ago, for these old soldiers whom the Nation delights to honor are men who not only worked before the war and during the war, but have worked ever since. Thus it was that their shoulders were not quite as square, their heads not quite as erect, their eyes not quite as bright and their step not quite as firm as they were a quarter of a century since when roused by the Nation's danger, they left all to march under the stars and stripes and brave death in a hundred forms to save the Union. But the same energy and determination which characterized them

during the war was visible in all their faces, though many have not quite the requisite health and strength to sustain any such hardships as they then endured.

Accompanying the veterans were a large delegation of the Woman's Relief Corps -- young wives and sweethearts of the long, long ago, who although they are now mature thoughtful women still regard the boys in blue with looks of tried and true affection. A number of the Sons of Veterans were also in attendance as a sort of a rear guard for their honored sires, who are comforted with the knowledge that should age at last render them helpless, they will have sturdy hands to minister to their comforts and necessities.

Arriving at St. Mary's church the three organizations were given seats in the central portion of the audience room, and such a large number were in attendance that seats were provided for a few of them inside the chancel railing. The ladies of St. Mary's society are noted for their enterprise in any matter in which they interest themselves, and to them belongs the credit of the fine decorations which appeared throughout the edifice. The flag of Ireland was gracefully draped at the right of the pulpit and opposite the stars and stripes which appeared on the left. Above the flags appeared the large floral designs, "Peace" and "Welcome," and in the rear of the audience room the appropriate words, "Christ is Risen." The pulpit and sanctuary were literally covered with flowers and plants which also decorated in profusion other portions of the immense room. All seats not reserved for the visiting organizations were occupied at an early hour and hundreds were unable to gain admission.

The Decoration Day efforts of Hon. Fred O. White at Yorkville, of Prof. J.H. Freeman at Plano and of Mrs. Thomas Galt at Oswego, are all said to have been of no small merit and to have been thoroughly appreciated by their respective audiences.

Decoration Day was fittingly observed by the G. A. R. Posts and citizens of St. Charles and Geneva on Monday, in the forenoon at Geneva and in the afternoon at St. Charles. The address of Col. Hardin at Geneva, is very highly spoken of. He is the father of Rev. Mr. Hardin, pastor of the M. E. church at Geneva, and was Colonel of the 57th Indiana during the rebellion. St. Charles was crowded in the afternoon by spectators, and wore its old-time appearance.

Wednesday, June 23, 1886

CITY NEWS

At its regular meeting held last night, Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. decided to picnic at Cowdry's grove on Friday of this week, June 25. Everybody is invited to go as far as they desire. The train will leave C. B. & Q. at the regular time, 10:20 and return on the regular time. Tickets 30 cents for the round trip, to be had at the C. B. & Q. ticket office. Invitations are extended to Woman's Relief Corps, No. 10. Also of Sons of Veterans.

Saturday, June 26, 1886

CITY NEWS

The Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. accompanied by their families, relatives and friends held an enjoyable picnic at Cowdry's crossing yesterday. Mr. Cowdry always receives the veterans with outstretched arms, and a day spent at the delightful grounds is generally one of unalloyed pleasure. Pleasant it was to observe the veterans and their families and children all enjoying themselves like so many school children. Boating furnished one of the enjoyable features of the occasion and the day as a whole was one of rare pleasure.

Wednesday, July 7, 1886

CITY NEWS

On account of the oppressive heat, but about fifty of the G. A. R. boys accepted of Rev. Scudder's invitation and attended services at the First Congregational church Sunday evening. The sermon was a good one and the church tastefully decorated with flowers.

The Woman's Relief Corps will hold an ice cream social, and dance at the Casino rink Friday evening, July 16. A small admission fee will be charged at the door. Dancing and refreshments extra. Prof. Howard's orchestra will furnish music.

Saturday, July 10, 1886

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The report of the officers of the Public Library which we publish in this issue will be found very interesting reading. The report of the building committee shows that the building is entirely paid for, without drawing a dollar from the general fund, and that a surplus of \$127.88 remains for future use. The report of the secretary shows that the city of Aurora has leased to the Board of Directors of the library, the ground upon which Memorial Hall is located and the approaches thereto for ninety-nine years free of rent and that in consideration of a donation of Two Thousand dollars, the Board of Directors has leased to Aurora Post, G. A. R. the second story of the addition to Memorial Hall, free of rent, during life of said Post. The report of the treasurer shows a balance in the treasury of \$3,334.46. Over \$1,000.00 have been spent for books during the year and about \$145 for papers and periodicals. The Librarian's report exhibits a largely increased patronage of the Library and the addition of 557 volumes, many of which are expensive books of reference which had been much needed making the total number of books now in possession of the Library, 6,333. The Library is in good hands and its usefulness will increase as its advantages are more widely known. The reading room has proved a valuable adjunct. It is one of the best selected general libraries of its size in the country. Limited in several points, readers nevertheless find that if there are but two or three books on a given subject, those are generally the best authorities. We may well take pride in the Free Library as one of the most valuable institutions of the city.

The Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will participate in a camp fire and reunion at Yorkville, which the following order from the *Record* will explain.

CAMP-FIRE

Yorkville Post, No. 522, Grand Army of the Republic, will hold its first camp-fire on Wednesday evening, July 21st, in the Yorkville rink, to which all comrades, ex-soldiers and sailors, and citizens generally are cordially invited.

The following programme is adopted:

Music by the band.

Song, "Marching Through Georgia," Male Quartette.

Fifteen minute speech by a Comrade.

Song.

Refreshments.

Toasts and Responses.

"The Army Mule," response, Comrade Willett.

"The Guard House," response, Comrade Lester.

"The Army Forager," response, Comrde J.A. Freeman.

"The Girl I Left Behind Me," response, Comrade Frank Moulton.

"Chuck-a-luck," response, Comrade Jordan.

"The Mail Call," response, Comrade Curran.

"Post 522," response. Comrade Herrington.

"The Old Flag," response, Comrade Marshall.

Song, "Red White and Blue."

Response to toasts to be limited to five minutes each.

Quartermaster Hagerman will be prepared to receive the necessary rations for an army supper. Contributions from foraging parties and others will be received and promptly disposed of.

By order of

B.F. Herrington

Commander

Official: Thos. P. Hill, Adjutant.

The Woman's Relief Corps have engaged the Casino rink for Friday evening, July 16, and propose to give a grand sociable and dance. Music will be furnished by Put Howard's orchestra. Ice cream will be served, etc. A small admission fee will be charged, and a charge made for dancing, ice cream, etc.

Wednesday, July 14, 1886

FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

The following order issued by Mrs. J.F. Harral, Department President of the Woman's Relief Corps, should meet with prompt and hearty cooperation of all members of the organization.

Headquarters Woman's Relief Corps

Department of Illinois,

Aurora, Ill., July 2, 1886.

General Order, No. 4.

1. The proceedings of the first, second and third annual conventions of this Department of the Woman's Relief Corps, have been published in pamphlet form and are now ready for distribution. Corps will be supplied with same at 10 cents per copy, postage or express charges added. Corps Presidents will ascertain, at the earliest moment, the number required, and forward orders to Sue A. Sanders, Dept. Treasurer, Delevan, Illinois.
2. The time has arrived when members of this organization will feel that it is both a duty and pleasure to enter a new field of labor.

"The Soldiers' and Sailors' Home," which has been located at Quincy, Illinois, will be formally dedicated on the 19th of October next and the buildings are to be completed by Jan. 1st, 1887. In view of these facts and the necessities which will now grow out of them, we would suggest that every Corps in this Department and G. A. R. Posts which have no Corps auxiliary to them, proceed at once to organize for work, in order to provide for the comforts and necessities of the inmates of this noble institution.

Contributions of books, rugs, easy chairs, suitable wearing apparel and other things which will help to make the rooms pleasant and add to the comfort of individual members, should be gathered up and held in readiness to forward at the proper time.

The Woman's Relief Corps, which is the authorized and recognized auxiliary to the G. A. R., should now take up this work in earnest, push it with vigor and see that the desired results are obtained.

Corps Presidents are requested to report progress to these headquarters, from time to time, in the organization for and prosecution of this work.

By Command of Department President,
Clara W. Harral.

Lizzie Hubbard,
Dept. Secretary.

Saturday, July 17, 1886

CITY NEWS

Many members of the G. A. R. Post at this point, are making preparations to attend the grand camp-fire and reunion at Yorkville Wednesday, July 21, a program of which was published in last Saturday's Beacon.

The social given last evening by the Woman's Relief Corps at the Casino rink, was very liberally patronized, and must have realized for the ladies a neat profit. Dancing and refreshments of ice cream, cake and lemonade were the attractions offered.

Wednesday, July 21, 1886

CITY NEWS

Major W.H. Watson departs Friday for California to attend the national reunion and camp fire of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is one of twenty two State delegates, of whom Chicago has three, Aurora one and Rockford one, and has been honored by an invitation to join a private party of seventeen persons who have chartered one of Pullman's finest private cars, which is at the same time a drawing room and sleeping car, and is also provided with cooking

apartments. Several waiters will be in attendance and the party will travel like princes. They leave Chicago at 12:05 Friday via the Milwaukee and St. Paul railway, and will consume nine days in transit, stopping at Denver, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake and other points of interest, while it is intimated that an unusual treat is in store for them on the Central Pacific railway. The Major is thus anticipating an unusually pleasant trip and will probably be absent nearly a month. The party will return via the Burlington route.

Mr. J.F. Harral and wife and Mr. A. Page, of this city, and Mr. F.M. Hobbs and wife, of Yorkville, will depart Sunday, July 25 for San Francisco, California to attend the national annual reunion of the G. A. R. which is held in that city. Mr. Harral is an alternate State delegate while his wife is the President of the State organization of the Woman's Relief Corps, and will attend in that official capacity. The party will depart Chicago at 12:30 p.m. via the Burlington route, and will undoubtedly have a pleasant trip as many attractions have been arranged for them en route. They will make a detour at Maniton, where the train stops one day. Passing through the grand canyon of the Arkansas and Royal Gorge, they will make a detour to Leadville, where they will stop nearly one day. They are advertised to pass through numerous famous canyons and gorges, and will stop at Salt Lake City to visit the Mormons one day. The excursion is advertised to consume eight days in transit, arriving at San Francisco Monday forenoon, August 2 at 11:10 o'clock.

Saturday, July 24, 1866

CITY NEWS

A large number of the members of Aurora Post, G. A. R., accompanied by their friends, attended the camp fire at Yorkville Wednesday evening and report themselves as having enjoyed the occasion. Large delegations were also in attendance from Sandwich and Plano. The crowd assembled in the rink at eight o'clock and filled that structure to overflowing. The band was in attendance and discoursed good music, while the veterans gave proof of still possessing excellent lungs by lusty renditions of popular old time war songs. As usual at all gatherings now-a-days of the old soldiers, there was an abundance of good things to eat and the appetites of the veterans seem to have lost none of their old time vigor, as hampers of sandwiches and doughnuts and gallons of coffee and lemonade were disposed of. The toasts were responded to in a very lively manner and were rewarded by storms of applause. Merry veterans dispersed at a late hour and Post No. 20 did not reach home until after midnight.

ATTENTION COMRADES !

Special California excursions will be run by the C. B. & Q. R. R. to the National Encampment of the G. A. R. at San Francisco, leaving Chicago by train No. 1 at 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25. These trains will connect with trains from Peoria and St. Louis, as well as with branch trains in Illinois and Iowa, and are elegantly equipped with commodious passenger coaches, Pullman sleepers, and the famous C. B. & Q. dining cars. The route will be over the Burlington to Denver, and from thence via the picturesque D. & R. G. Ry and the Central Pacific R. R. to San Francisco.

Saturday, July 31, 1886

CITY NEWS

At a meeting of the Library Board Wednesday evening, officers for the ensuing year were re-elected as follows: President, F.O. White; vice president, Mrs Thos. Galt; secretary and librarian, J.J. McLallen; treasurer, W.S. Beaupre.

The Ladies Relief Corps are talking of giving another one of those dancing parties at the Casino rink, the last one of which was so well patronized.

Old soldiers living at Lake Geneva and vicinity are arranging for a grand reunion at Lake Geneva on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 1, 2 and 3. Among the speakers who have positively promised to be present are: Gov. Oglesby, Ill.; Gov. Rusk, Wisconsin; Ex-Gov. Fairchild, Wis.; and Phil. Cheek, Jr., who is Post Commander of the Department, Wisconsin, G. A. R. The indications are that this will be one of the largest and best attended reunions in the Northwest. The citizens of Lake Geneva are taking a great interest in the matter, and every effort is being made to render it a successful affair.

Wednesday, August 4, 1866

CITY NEWS

The Kane county G. A. R. is making arrangements for its annual reunion on Herrington's island, at Geneva, this year. Lieut. Col. Smailes, of Elgin, will be the Commander of the camp this year.

A letter received from W.H. Watson at Salt Lake states that his party were having a pleasant time, although it was very hot while crossing the desert. He expects to arrive in San Francisco Sunday.

THE VETERANS.

The Annual Grand Army Encampment Begins at San Francisco -- A Great Parade

San Francisco, Aug 4. About 11,000 members of the Grand Army paraded in the streets of the city yesterday, and 350,000 people were in the streets to witness it. The eastern banners were heartily cheered, especially the New York bullet shot flags. The Veteran Zouaves of Elizabeth have been presented with a handsome banner. The carriage in which General Sherman was seated was attacked by six handsomely dressed young ladies, who pelted the General with roses. As soon as the parade was over a rush was made for the restaurants and street stands, and

they were soon cleaned out. Several cases of women fainting from hunger and fatigue are reported.

In the evening a reception was tendered to the National Encampment, the Army of the Potomac, Loyal Legion, Woman's Relief Corps and kindred societies. Mayor Bartlett welcomed the visitors and Commander Burdette replied.
(1886-ARCH, NATRIB)

THE GRAND ARMY AT SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco, Aug 3. -- Commander-In-Chief Burdette, of the Grand Army of the Republic, was given a reception last night at the Mechanic's pavilion by the National Guard of California, after which a grand ball was given to the officers and delegates of the Grand Army, the Army of the Potomac and the Woman's Relief Corps. Over 8,000 persons were present. At Metropolitan Hall a reception was given the Society of the Army of the Potomac by Mayor Bartlett, who delivered an address of welcome. About 3,000 were present. The Society of the Army of the Potomac elected General Martin T. McMahon, of New York, president yesterday, and named Saratoga as the next place of meeting.

Saturday, August 7, 1886

THE VETERANS.

The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic
at San Francisco Elects Ex-Governor Fairchild, of
Wisconsin, as its Chief Officer.

San Francisco, Aug. 7. -- At the third day session of the G. A. R. National Encampment yesterday a resolution favoring the Lowering Pension Bill, which provides for pensions of eight dollars a month for every surviving soldier and sailor of the war was debated. During the session General Sherman read an address in which he reviewed all the wars in which the country had been engaged, explaining their causes and the benefits which had resulted. He glorified the United States and complimented his comrades on the good work done in the civil war. Mrs. Elizabeth Kinne of San Francisco, was elected National President of the Woman's Relief Corps and Mrs. Sarah Nichols, of New York, senior vice president.

St. Louis was selected as the place of holding the next National Encampment. The Encampment then proceeded to the election of Commander-In-Chief. Corporal Tanner, of Wisconsin, John Burst, of Illinois, John P. Rea, of Minnesota, and John H. Reynolds, of New York were placed in nomination. The vote was as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 441; necessary to a choice, 222. Tanner received 112, Fairchild, 158. Burst, 72. Reynolds, 37. Rea, 62. Mr. Reynolds withdrew in favor of Mr. Fairchild, and the second ballot was proceeded with. When 337 votes had been cast on the second ballot it was shown that Mr. Fairchild had received 229, or seven more than necessary to elect. A motion was then made to make the election unanimous, which was carried. Gen. S.W. Backus, of San Francisco, was unanimously elected Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief.

THE G. A. R. AT SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco, Aug. 5. -- Commander Burdetts annual address to the Grand Army of the Republic shows that 20,611 comrades have joined and 3,020 have died during the last year, and that the cash balance on hand was \$300,000, Colonel Fred Grant applied for membership.

Last evening 10,000 people listened to the grand welcome concert given by the San Francisco and Oakland societies. There were 700 voices in the chorus.

At the Society of the Army of the Potomac banquet there were present Generals Sherman, Logan and McMahon, Governor Stoneman, California; Mayor Bartlett, San Francisco; Gen. James A. Beaver, Pennsylvania; Colonel Horace C. King, New York; Colonel Slyer, Missouri.

The DeKalb county G. A. R. we understand will hold a grand celebration at Kirkland, Aug. 14.

Wednesday, August 11, 1886

CITY NEWS

The next annual encampment of the G. A. R. will be held at St. Louis. Ex-Governor Fairchild, of Wisconsin, has been chosen Grand Commander for the ensuing year.

Thanks to Major W.H. Watson for a copy of the San Francisco *Morning Call*, of Aug. 3, containing an extensive account of the G. A. R. reunion. The issue is a wonderful triumph of the printers art. It having twenty-eight full pages of matter and over 162 excellent wood cuts of persons prominent in the military history of the late civil war. It is a magnificent specimen of what can be issued from the offices of our larger newspapers. The paper is well worth the perusal of those who would get a thorough understanding of the objects and influence of the G. A. R. and the glorious part its members played in the war. It is in fact in itself a condensed history of that struggle.

Saturday, August 14, 1886

CITY NEWS

The San Francisco (Cal.) *Morning Call* of August third, prints and biographical sketch of each of the delegates to the G. A. R. encampment in that city. Of Major W.H. Watson, the only delegate from this city, it speaks as follows: "Willis H. Watson -- Delegate, was born in Vincennes, Ind., June 22, 1840, and after attending the Vincennes University, engaged in the book and stationery business. On August 3, 1862, he entered the service as Captain of Company G, Eighteenth Indiana Infantry, and was mustered out at Munfordsville, Kentucky, in 1864. At Perryville, Kentucky, October 2, 1862, he was wounded by buckshot in the left arm, and injured in the right side by the concussion of a cannon ball. For over four years he was assessor of United States Internal Revenue at Atlanta, Ga., but has since resumed the book, stationery and wall paper business at Aurora, Ill. Comrade Watson was vice president of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention in Chicago when General Grant was nominated, and was also a delegate to the Republican National Convention that nominated him. His name was the first on the charter

of Aurora Post, No. 20, of which he was quartermaster for two years, and then assistant quartermaster general of the department for two years. He is married and has one daughter.”

The twenty-second annual reunion of the 105th Illinois Volunteers will be held at Sycamore, Thursday, Sept. 2.

A soldiers reunion will take place at Sterling, Aug. 24, 25 and 26.

Great preparations are being made by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion Association of Ogle county, for the reunion at Oregon, Aug. 17 and 18. Gen. J.C. Smith, Gen. Dustin, Hon. L.B. Crooker, Congressman Hitt, Gen. B.F. Sheets, Capt. Thos. Lawler, and Capt. E.T.E. Becker will speak. Gen. Phil Sheridan is expected.

The G. A. R. encampment at Herrington's island, Geneva, Aug. 25 and 26, bids fair to be even more largely attended than that of last year. Col. Smailes, of Elgin, will be in command, and will appoint his subordinates. The Elgin Military Band will furnish music, and has agreed to give a concert on the island the first evening of the encampment. The Sons of Veterans of Aurora, Elgin and Elburn will also be in attendance. Preparations are being made for a grand good time, and it may be expected that Aurora veterans will turn out in goodly numbers.

Wednesday, August 18, 1886

CITY NEWS

Major W.H. Watson is expected home to-morrow from a month's trip to California. Being one of the delegates to the G. A. R. encampment, he has participated in various excursions to different parts of the State, and reports seeing many former residents of this city. Everyone has united in extending hospitalities to the delegates, and they have had a very pleasant time.

Saturday, August 21, 1886

THE GENEVA ENCAMPMENT.

The soldiers and sailors of Kane county will be in camp next Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 25 and 26, on Herrington's island, at Geneva. The Elgin Military band will be in attendance both days, and a special train will be run over the Northwestern road Thursday morning for the accommodation of residents of this city and vicinity. Those who attended last year will be tempted to again participate.

The following in regard to the encampment is from the *Courier*:

“Col. Smailes has appointed the following commissioned staff for the G. A. R. encampment at Geneva: John Harper, Elgin, adjutant; Frank Bunker, Geneva, commissary of subsistence; E.C. Cook, St. Charles, quartermaster; A.D. Reade, Batavia, master of transportation; Dr. E.F. Cleveland, Dundee, Surgeon; Rev. W.H. Ilsley, Elgin, chaplain; M.D.

Yager, Aurora, officer of the day first day; A.L. Hetrich, Hampshire, officer of the day second day; Capt. Colwell, Aurora, officer of the guard first day; Capt. Wayne, Elgin, officer of the guard second day.

Col. Smailes has arranged for the pitching of tents on Herrington's island and for bridging the Fox to the island. The bridge will be in a more convenient place than last year. He has also negotiated with Landlord Harris, of the hotel, to furnish meals on the camping ground, so the veterans will fare well in any event. The Geneva committee will cooperate heartily in the preparations.

The military band will give two concerts, one each evening. Old soldiers and their families will be admitted free. Others will be charged ten cents for entrance to the island."

Saturday, August 28, 1886

CITY NEWS

A large number of people were in attendance at the encampment of the soldiers and sailors of Kane county at Herrington's island, Geneva, Wednesday and Thursday, and report a very pleasant occasion. An excursion train was run Thursday evening, and was well patronized, and the participants greatly enjoyed the concert given by the Elgin Military Band. Officers elect of the Association for the ensuing year are as follows: President, Geo. Sherman, of Elgin; secretary, Geo. Spooner, of Batavia; treasurer, E.C. Cook, of St. Charles. One delegate from each post of the G. A. R. and each camp of the S. of V. will also be selected to form a board of directors, to arrange the programme for the next annual encampment.

Saturday, September 4, 1886

CITY NEWS

The ladies of the G. A. R. will give the first of the series of dances at the Casino rink, Sept. 8. Music by Put Howard's orchestra.

The veterans of the 52nd Illinois Infantry will hold their annual reunion at Elgin on Thursday, September 9. Captains Barto, Compton and Doty, from Minnesota, will be present.

Wednesday, September 8, 1886

CITY NEWS

The sociable given by the ladies of the G. A. R. occurs this Wednesday evening at the Casino rink. Music by Put Howard's orchestra.

John B. Roberts and Granby S. Case attended the reunion of their old regiment, the 127th Illinois Infantry, at the Palmer House, Chicago, on Monday. Fifty-four of the veterans sat down to the banquet, and there were others in the city who did not partake. Gen. Logan was called in, and in a feeling speech paid high compliment to the regiment and the part it took in the Vicksburg and other memorable campaigns. Mr. Roberts was called upon to respond to one of the toasts.

Saturday, September 11, 1886

CITY NEWS

Abraham Lincoln Circle No. 4, Ladies of the G. A. R., gave a first of a series of parties at the Casino rink, Wednesday evening, which was attended by a large number of people and enjoyed greatly. Put. Howard's orchestra furnished splendid music, refreshments were served, and the midnight hour was reached before the assembled pleasure seekers desisted from dancing and proceeded homeward. This organization has a noble purpose, that of watching over and caring for the children of deceased soldiers being a special feature, and its existence can result only in good to the community. Its work is really similar to that which fell to the lot of soldiers' wives and daughters when the men were themselves absent in the field during the war times of a quarter of a century ago. The burden was bravely borne then, and there will be no faltering now.

The prize cake at the party given by the ladies of the G. A. R., at the Casino rink, Wednesday evening, contained a gold ring, and was drawn by Mrs. Rudolph Solfisberg.

Saturday, September 18, 1886

CITY NEWS

Invitations have been issued to the twentieth annual reunion of the veteran regiment, the 36th Illinois Volunteers, to be held in the city of Seneca, Ill. September 23. The Rock Island, Burlington and C. St. L. & C. railways have offered reduced rates on one and one third fares. An elaborate programme has been arranged for the day, consisting of speaking, singing, etc. Chas. H.R. Thomas will be president of the day, and John Graham, marshal. Major G.D. Sherman, president of the association, will give a response to a welcome address to be delivered by Rev. Father Donovan. A free dinner at Roak's Hall will be given under the auspices of the young ladies of Seneca and other interesting features will contribute to make the day one of rare interest to the survivors of the old 36th.

Survivors of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry hold their twenty-first annual reunion to-day at the Sherman House, Chicago.

Wednesday, September 22, 1886

In his address before the Army of the Tennessee, last week, Gen. Chetlain advocated a property restriction upon the right of suffrage, maintaining that property and intelligence usually accompany each other, and that such a qualification would bring a better class of men into public life. The trouble with Gen. Chetlain's reasoning is that the converse of his proposition is not true. While it is true that wealth and intelligence are in most cases united, it is not true that poverty and ignorance go hand in hand. The poor man in a majority of cases is as well posted as his rich neighbor in the public questions that require the intelligent exercise of the voting privilege. He reads the same newspapers and has access to the same books, and there are times

when his ballot is his only weapon of defense against encroachments on his rights. The Falsity of Gen. Chetlain's position was clearly exposed by General Logan, who opposed a qualified suffrage on patriotic grounds, and showed that a property qualification would have prevented Grant and Lincoln from voting when they were 21 years old. Speaking for the soldier element, Gen. Logan showed that the majority of the soldiers of all the wars of this nation were poor men, and that, after they had saved the nation, it would have been a lasting injustice to take from them the rights they had fought to maintain. Gen. Logan also said that it is on this same principle that poverty and ignorance go together, that southern colored people are prevented from voting when the last census shows that a million colored people can read and write, and are in many cases better qualified to vote intelligently than the class of "poor whites" who deprive them of this right. It is just because of this notion that if a man is poor he is ignorant, and therefore unfit to vote, has become so widespread among the people, that they have excused "counting out" in the south, and are impatient whenever Republican Statesmen insist that the negro should have his voting rights, ignorant though he be. Gen. Logan is one of the men of our day who dares to publicly denounce the pernicious and growing sentiment that would make poverty a species of disgrace, and would throw all political rights into the hands of the wealthy.

Saturday, September 25, 1886

CITY NEWS

About seventy veterans of the old 36th Illinois Infantry attended the reunion at Seneca on Thursday, Sept. 23. There were also numerous G. A. R. men present from Morris and other points. Rev. Father Donovan delivered an eloquent address of welcome, which was responded to by Major Geo. D. Sherman, president of the association. A splendid dinner was furnished at the rink, by the ladies of Seneca, and about 1,000 persons partook, with the mercury in the rink away up in the top of the bulb. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Major Geo. D. Sherman, of Elgin, president; M.E. Cornell, of Yorkville, vice president; Fred O. White, of Aurora, secretary. The next reunion will be held in Chicago. Colonel Nicholas Greusel was present and enjoyed the day with his old comrades in arms. Those in attendance from Aurora were Fred O. White, Sam Hitchcock, Chas. Odekirk, and Charles G. Ayers and wife. Elgin sent down Major George D. Sherman, L.M. Kelley and Wm. F. Sylla. Jepp. Dennison, E.L. Lord (Lieutenant of police), and E. Henning attended from Chicago. Will. Hall, of Sandwich. M.E. Cornell, of Yorkville, and W.H. Chamberlain, of Pittsfield, Mass., were also on hand, and there were others from Iowa, Kansas, Indiana and from Ottawa, Seneca and vicinity. Resolutions were passed in respect to the memory of Lieutenant Col. E.S. Joslyn, of Elgin, Capt. Hemmenway, of Plano and other deceased comrades.

Wednesday, September 29, 1886

IN MEMORIAM.

The following resolutions were adopted at the late reunion of the 36th Illinois:

Another year has completed its circle, which finds the surviving members of the old 36th gathered together in annual reunion. As the years go by death makes increasingly rapid

innovations into our ranks, this year being no exception to those that are past, and we now learn with deep feelings of sadness of the death of our comrades, Col. Ed. S. Joslyn, Capt. L.F. Hemmingway, of Co. E, Geo. Stonax, First Lieutenant Co. F, Geo. Vail, Co. K, Geo. Avery, Co. I. Therefore.

Resolved, That we express our heartfelt sympathy with the families of our deceased comrades, and ask them to be consoled in this their great bereavement, by remembering that these comrades dared all and did all in one of the noblest and grandest struggles, for the advancement of the human race, that has ever occurred in the history of nations. We commend to the hopes and promises of a grand and lasting reunion on the other side of the silent river, when this life, with them, shall come to a close.

Resolved, That our flag be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that the secretary of this association be requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the families of our deceased comrades.

Wm. F. Sylla,
M.E. Cornell,
L.M. Kelley.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. will give a second of the series of pleasant parties at the Casino rink Wednesday evening, Oct. 6. Put. Howard will furnish music. Admission 10 cents. Dance tickets 25 cents.

Wednesday, October 6, 1886

CITY NEWS

The Ladies of the G. A. R. will give another one of their pleasant dancing parties at the Casino rink this evening.

Mr. Lewis R. Gamp expired last night at his home on the corner of Union and Claim streets, after a month's illness, aged fifty-one years. Deceased had been for many years employed in the C. B. & Q. paint department, being a skilled ornamenter, and for a time located at Creston, Iowa, in charge of the company's paint department there. The funeral will be held from the residence at two o'clock Friday, and will be in charge of the G. A. R., of which organization deceased was a member.

Saturday, October 9, 1886

CITY NEWS

The funeral of L.R. Gamp occurred Friday afternoon from the residence, 341 Claim street, under the auspice of Aurora Post, G. A. R., who took charge by the request of the family. Mr. Gamp, although an old soldier, was not a member of the organization.

The second party of a series given by the Ladies of the G. A. R. occurred Wednesday evening at the Casino rink, and was largely attended as well as thoroughly enjoyed. Put. Howard's orchestra furnished its usual excellent music.

Wednesday, October 13, 1886

CITY NEWS

The G. A. R. post met last evening to consider the question of going to Quincy to attend the dedicatory exercises of the Soldier's Home, October 19-21. But few were present owing to other business requiring their attention, and as nothing satisfactory could be done without further information or a greater attendance, no action was taken in the matter. Quite a number have expressed their intention to go.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The joint executive committee of the Republican clubs held a meeting in the council chamber last evening, and reported progress.

It was announced that General Logan will be here on the 1:40 p.m. train, over the C. B. & Q., to-day.

It is expected that every member of the reception committee who possibly can, as well as other citizens who desire to pay their respects to the distinguished Senator, will be at the depot on the arrival of the train. The General will be entertained at Hotel Evans. During the afternoon he will have the opportunity to ride about the city and see something of its growth and attractions.

Hon. A.J. Hopkins, J. Dana Hall and F.H. Thatcher were elected members of the reception committee.

Prof. J.H. Freeman will preside at the evening meeting and introduce the speaker.

Members of the young men's club will act as ushers. The rink will be provided with comfortable seats and ladies will be heartily welcomed.

The band will be out and the C. B. & Q. club, which took such a lively part in the campaign of 1884, will help to swell the throng.

Aurora can well afford to put on her holiday attire in honor of one of the bravest soldiers and greatest Statesmen of modern times.

The procession will form in front of the City Hall at 6:30 p.m., and will pass through Broadway, over the New York street bridge, south on River street, and east on Downer Place to the Rink, where the exercises of the evening will be held.

The soldier boys will rally to the island to-night to listen to their old chieftain, Gen. John A. Logan.

Wednesday, October 20, 1886

CITY NEWS

A party of twenty five or thirty citizens of Aurora, principally members of the G. A. R. or Sons of Veterans, departed for Quincy on the 11:30 train Monday evening to take part in the

dedicatory exercises of the Soldiers' Home. Among them were city Marshal John L. Walker, R.R. Johnson, John Bevier, C.B. Colwell, E.E. Hinman, Asahel Judd, Joseph Ingham, Plum. Page, Gus Aucutt, F.O. White, H.H. Evans, Mrs. J.F. Harral, John McNair, E.W. Harleman, M.D. Yager, E.D. Briggs and others whose names were not ascertained. The party expects to leave Quincy to-night and reach home to-morrow morning.

Sandwich Post, G. A. R., was on last Saturday evening presented by the ladies of Sandwich with an elegant flag costing sixty dollars. The veterans went to Quincy as a post, proudly bearing their new banner. The presentation was a reminder to them of similar events which occurred a quarter of a century ago, when they were on the eve of departure for the seat of war.

Wednesday, November 3, 1886

G. A. R.

On Friday evening of this week there will be a musical entertainment and social at Grand Army Hall, for the benefit of the Relief Fund of the order this coming cold winter. Admission for adults 15 cents; children 10 cents. Come everybody.

Saturday, November 6, 1886

CITY NEWS

The musical entertainment at the G. A. R. hall, last evening although not largely attended, was fairly enjoyed by those present.

Wednesday, December 1, 1886

The Grand Army Pension Committee has issued a circular of recommendations to Congress, the main feature of which permits the granting of pensions to disabled veterans, without requiring them to show proof that the disability was incurred in active service or resulted from it. This would be a wise and humane measure. It is frequently impossible at this late date for an old and disabled soldier who needs and is entitled to relief, to secure the proofs necessary under existing laws to procure a pension. His witnesses are dead or cannot be found, and there are other technicalities to which he is unable to conform, and the pension is denied him. Relief in such cases cannot be obtained at present. The Grand Army scheme would provide pensions for the widows, orphans and dependent parents of soldiers, for the prisoners of war, the aged, disabled and dependent veterans, without requiring proof that disability resulted from service and without excluding any veteran excepting the well and the rich. This is substantially the same as the pension measure that Senator Logan urged upon the last Senate; and some such act of relief ought to be passed for the benefit of those who fought for the Union and are now in unfortunate circumstances.

CITY NEWS

Several members of Aurora Camp of Sons of Veterans will go to Rockford, Dec. 8, to assist John A. Logan Camp in celebrating its first anniversary.

Saturday, December 11, 1886 CITY NEWS

The Army of the Cumberland will hold its eighteenth annual reunion in Washington, May 18 and 19, 1887, at which time the statue of General Garfield will be unveiled.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., will meet at its hall at nine o'clock to-morrow (Sunday) morning, to attend the funeral of J.A. Lanigan in a body.

Wednesday, December 15, 1886 CITY NEWS

At the annual business meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., last evening, officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: M.D. Yager, Commander; R.B. Johnson, senior vice commander; J.M. Kennedy, junior vice commander; J.V. Raymond, quartermaster; E.E. Hewitt, chaplain; Alex McNair, officer of the day; G.S. Case, officer of the guard. Delegates to the annual state encampment were elected as follows: W.H. Watson, J.F. Harral, A.F. Wade, Gen. S.B. Sherer and J.M. Kennedy; Alternates, A.P. Vaughn, Geo. Cowdry, R.B. Johnson, J.H. Hubbard and Put. Howard.

Saturday, December 18, 1886 CITY NEWS

The Ladies of the G. A. R., held a public installation of officers at their hall last evening, which was a pleasant affair.

At the annual business meeting of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. Tuesday evening, the members quietly put their heads together and raised about sixty dollars with which to defray the funeral expenses of the late James Lanigan, who was a member of the post, and left his family in somewhat straightened circumstances. The small balance which was left after paying the funeral expenses will be applied to purchasing such necessities as the family may require at present. The case of another old soldier residing in the southern portions of the city was also brought up for consideration, and his wants will be supplied for a time. He has a family to support and is unable to procure work. The G. A. R. boys stood by each other during the war, and are not the kind of men to desert their comrades in times of necessity now.

(1886-LANIGAN)

It is stated that there is a possibility of Charlie Collins making another appearance in Aurora soon, under the auspices of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. He claims to have remodeled his play since his last visit here.

Wednesday, December 22, 1886 CITY NEWS

Camp No. 21, Sons of Veterans, elected officers Monday night as follows: H.L. Bunnell, captain; S.M. Kautenberger, first lieutenant; E. Hinman, Dr. Charles E. Colwell and H.C. Ayers, camp council; E.D. Briggs, delegate to the state convention at Peoria next June; B. Butts, alternate. The officers will be installed January 3.

Wednesday, December 29, 1886

JOHN A. LOGAN

The death of General John A. Logan, the senior Senator from Illinois, which occurred at Washington, Sunday afternoon, has caused a feeling of profound sorrow throughout the states and nation. But a few weeks ago, Gen. Logan stood before five thousand people in this city, the picture of robust health, a man in the meridian of his powers, and delivered a calm, careful and statesmanlike oration. It seemed at that time as if he would be spared for many years to represent the people of his state in the highest of the national councils. A few weeks have sufficed to lay the strong man low and to hush forever in death the eloquent voice that has so often aroused his countrymen to action. His death is an irreparable loss to the nation. There is not a man in the state who can take up his unfinished work and carry it on to completion.

CITY NEWS

Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R., at its meeting last evening, voted the sum of \$100 for the widow of Gen. Logan, and Commander Denney telegraphed to Adjutant General Fairchild, at Madison Wisconsin, to draw on him for that amount. The Post also voted to attend the General's funeral in a body, if it is held in Chicago. The installation of officers for the Post will occur January 11, and be a public affair. An invitation has been extended to the Joliet Post to visit here at the second meeting in January. Captain A.D. Reade, department inspector, and George O. Spooner, assistant district inspector, both of Batavia, inspected the Aurora Post last evening.

(1886-CHP)

(1886-HALL)

(1886-MAP)

(1886-INSIDE)

(1886-MODEL)

