



The Railsplitter

The Newsletter of the Department of Illinois,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



WINTER 2020

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UPCOMING ENCAMPMENTS:

The schedule for future Encampments and their hosts are as follows:

May 2020, Camp #443, Belleville

Oct 2020, Camp #1, No. Cook County

Future scheduling T.B.D.

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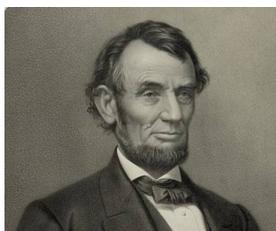
Chaplain's Corner

Patriotic Instruction

"Keyboard Klacking" from the DSVC

Camp News

And MORE!



The Emancipation Proclamation

January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a

majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:



Last June I went to the Lone Star State to attend their Department Encampment, representing CinC (Donald Shaw).

While there I attended a number of Church Services. At one of those Services

I saw a drawing that moved me tremendously.

Jesus bar Joseph was laying on the ground on top of a wooden cross. The Roman soldier had placed a nail on his wrist, and had a heavy hammer poised to strike the nail through the wrist and into the wood of the Cross. Jesus' eyes were opened as wide as possible, and he was looking at the hand of the soldier holding the hammer. There was terror on his face

and in his eyes.

The caption on the drawing said: "It was not the nails that held Jesus to the Cross, but his love FOR YOU."

Powerful stuff, and something to think about.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Chaplain Jerry

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION:

For any army to survive they need supplies of food, arms, clothing, ammunition, blankets, and much more. How were these and other supplies provided by a well-organized supply line? What did it look like? Imagine a massive wagon train with beasts of burden, either oxen or horses, pulling wagons with items needed for life and war. You'd see men working hard to keep the line moving and soldiers to guard the line. In many cases the soldiers guarding the line were replacements. I am sure they were in need of some rest after that arduous journey. These wagon trains were only a part of the vast way goods were delivered to the front line.

(Photo from "kids.bitannica.com")



Form our stories of the Civil War we know the railroads served as the quickest and easiest way to transport goods. It was much easier for a flat car to bring up cannon and ammunition to the troops. These trains allowed armies to shuttle forces across the vast theater of war. They allowed armies to reinforce and resupply quickly as supplies moved away from the rear area depots to the railheads, which were the closest railway points to the front line. Here is where the North had a great advantage with many more miles of track and resources to pay for goods and munitions. The South had miles of track but lacked the efficiency of operations since the South was for the most part an agricultural society and relied on rivers more than the rail lines to supply goods.. Of course, many a bridge and railhead were defended, but the strategy for each side was to destroy as many as they could to cut off the fighting me. It was easy for men to pull up miles of track. As we know, trains need two rails to ride on so many times only one was removed. So, another resource carried by a train was replacement track, spikes and fish plates.

Road and river traffic were more secure and less prone to accident, sabotage, and blockage. But that is not to say that there were not choke points and vulnerabilities across all forms of traffic. Cutting a supply line rarely entailed the actual physical destruction of supply convoys and depots. Armies on both sides would attempt to lay themselves across enemy supply lines, garrisoning key junctions and preventing movement, if they could, the free flow of goods. In many situations, an army that kept on advancing would find itself depleted of the basics to continue on, causing them to fall back. Many times, if this happened, and the soldiers could not live off the land, the troops

would be lost or soundly defeated. We have to realize that both sides controlled the routes back to base but if they extended too far beyond those routes they could be cut off from retreating. The generals controlled the maps and movement of troops. In most cases this determined where they could resupply but many a mistake was made.

Raiders also plagued Union supply lines. As the North moved into the land of the Confederates, they moved away from their bases. In many cases, this led to a long and perilous supply chain which had multiple vulnerabilities. Confederate cavalry raiders would encircle the advancing Union and move up the supply line. They did as much damage as they could but still

the North had the advantage.

Rivers were the hardest to plug up, but sunken ships and stakes could block river travel. Felled trees, burnt bridges, and roving gangs all plagued back roads. Highwaymen abounded to stop the flow of goods and to sell supplies they had stolen. To counter these threats, the Union soldiers marched in convoys to repel raiders, while others patrolled rail and road routes to catch saboteurs in the act. In other places, they occupied garrisons to provide refuge for traveling wagons and convoys. But in every place, the raiders had success. Furthermore, rear area work could be dangerous. Confederate raiders were especially nasty, and regularly picked off patrols.

Logistics and supply are one of the unsung elements of war. When we think of the great victories of the Civil War, we rarely think of the supply clerks and logisticians who enabled the victory. They were remembered when the men returned home and were thanked for what they did, but not by historians for the most part. Men and ammunition were always in high demand. So, the armies and commanders of the Civil War constantly considered where their army would get its next meal, and where they would get its next bullet. The supply side of the war was just as revolutionary, and just as important, as the major engagement.

I wish I could close with the quote, "An army marches on its stomach." Bu that quote was from Napoleon Bonaparte.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Zafran, P.I. Department of Illinois

THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND AUXILIARY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF
DOCTOR BENJAMIN F. STEPHENSON,
CREATOR OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
AT ROSE HILL CEMETERY, PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS.

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2020 AT 3:30 PM

THE CEMETERY IS LOCATED OFF ILLINOIS HIGHWAY 123
ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN.

A BLOCK OF ROOMS HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AT A REDUCED RATE OF
\$89.00 AT THE RIVERBANK LODGE. BOOK RESERVATIONS BY PHONE
(217) 632-0202. MENTION "SONS OF UNION VETERANS".

TO CHECK OUT THEIR BEAUTIFUL FACILITY, GO ONLINE TO
RIVERBANKLODGE.COM

****DON'T FORGET THE CEREMONY AT LINCOLN'S TOMB AT 10 AM!****

KEYBOARD KLACKING*From DSVC Joe Hutchinson*

Many of us think that we have a pretty good knowledge about the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic, but some things bear expanding upon. I have selected an article from the

National Archives about Black soldiers, some excerpts from the website "Wikipedia" about the G.A.R. and an article about Civil War pensions from "essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com" that I thought would be appropriate since February is Black History Month.

*****Black Soldiers in the U.S. Military During the Civil War*****

(Photo from Pinterest; text excerpted from the National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war>)

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship." Frederick Douglass

The issues of emancipation and military service were intertwined from the onset of the Civil War. News from Fort Sumter set off a rush by free black men to enlist in U.S. military units. They were turned away, however, because a Federal law dating from 1792 barred Negroes from bearing arms for the U.S. army (although they had served in the American Revolution and in the War of 1812). In Boston disappointed would-be volunteers met and passed a resolution requesting that the Government modify its laws to permit their enlistment.

The Lincoln administration wrestled with the idea of authorizing the recruitment of black troops, concerned that such a move would prompt the border states to secede. When Gen. John C. Frémont in Missouri and Gen. David Hunter in South Carolina issued proclamations that emancipated slaves in their military regions and permitted them to enlist, their superiors sternly revoked their orders. By mid-1862, however, the escalating number of former slaves (contrabands), the declining number of white volunteers, and the increasingly pressing personnel needs of the Union Army pushed the Government into reconsidering the ban.

As a result, on July 17, 1862, Congress passed the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, freeing slaves who had masters in the Confederate Army. Two days later, slavery was abolished in the territories of the United States, and on July 22 President Lincoln presented the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet. After the Union Army turned back Lee's first invasion of the North at Antietam, MD, and the Emancipation Proclamation was subsequently announced, black recruitment was pursued in earnest. Volunteers from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Massachusetts filled the first authorized black regiments. Recruitment was slow until black leaders such as Frederick Douglass (photo citation: 200-FL-22) encouraged black men to become soldiers to ensure eventual full citizenship. (Two of Douglass's own sons contributed to the war effort.) Volunteers began to respond, and in May 1863 the Government established the Bureau of Colored Troops to manage the burgeoning numbers of black soldiers.

By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers died over the course of the war—30,000 of infection or disease. Black soldiers served in artillery and infantry and performed all noncombat support functions that sustain an army, as well. Black carpenters, chaplains, cooks, guards, laborers, nurses, scouts, spies, steamboat pilots, surgeons, and teamsters also contributed to the war cause. There were nearly 80 black commissioned officers. Black women, who could not formally join the Army, nonetheless served as nurses, spies, and scouts, the most famous being Harriet Tubman, who scouted for the 2d South Carolina Volunteers.

Because of prejudice against them, black units were not used in combat as extensively as they might have been. Nevertheless, the soldiers served with distinction in a number of battles. Black infantrymen fought gallantly at Milliken's Bend, LA; Port Hudson, LA; Petersburg, VA; and Nashville, TN. The July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner, SC, in which the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers lost two-thirds of their officers and half of their troops, was memorably dramatized in the film *Glory*. By war's end, 16 black soldiers had been awarded the Medal of Honor for their valor.

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Black Soldiers in the US Military During the Civil War, Continued from Page 3

The black troops, however, faced greater peril than white troops when captured by the Confederate Army. In 1863 the Confederate Congress threatened to punish severely officers of black troops and to enslave black soldiers. As a result, President Lincoln issued General Order 233, threatening reprisal on Confederate prisoners of war (POWs) for any mistreatment of black troops. Although the threat generally restrained the Confederates, black captives were typically treated more harshly than white captives. In perhaps the most heinous known example of abuse, Confederate soldiers shot to death black Union soldiers captured at the Fort Pillow, TN, engagement of 1864. Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest witnessed the massacre and did nothing to stop it.

Article Citation: Freeman, Elsie, Wynell Burroughs Schamel, and Jean West. "The Fight for Equal Rights: A Recruiting Poster for Black Soldiers in the Civil War." *Social Education* 56, 2 (February 1992): 118-120. [Revised and updated in 1999 by Budge Weidman.]

The Grand Army of the Republic

(excerpted from Wikipedia)

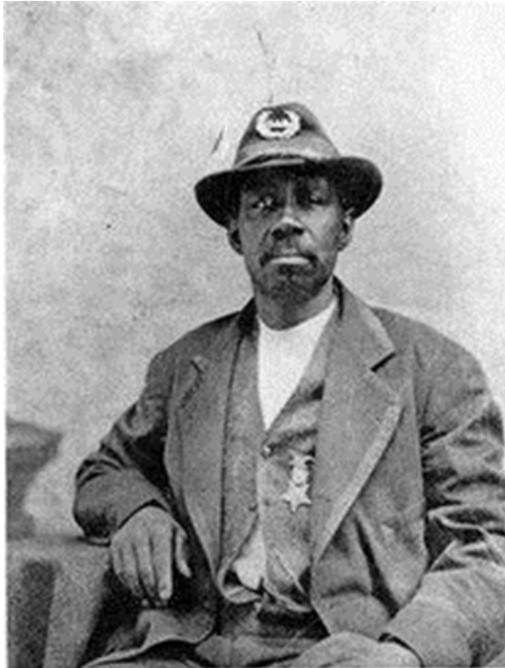
(Editor's note: *Bold emphasis is mine*) (Photo from Pinterest)

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (United States Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), Marines and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service who served in the American Civil War.

Linking men through their experience of the war, the G.A.R. became among the first organized advocacy groups in American politics, **supporting voting rights for black veterans**, promoting patriotic education, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates.

After the end of American Civil War, various state and local organizations were formed for veterans to network and maintain connections with each other. Many of the veterans used their shared experiences as a basis for fellowship. Groups of men began joining together, first for camaraderie and later for political power. Emerging as most influential among the various organizations during the first post-war years was the Grand Army of the Republic, founded on April 6, 1866, on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," in Springfield, Illinois, by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson and the first GAR Post was established in Decatur, Illinois.

The GAR initially grew and prospered as a de facto political arm of the Republican Party during the heated political contests of the Reconstruction Era. The commemoration of Union Army and Navy veterans, **black and white**, immediately became entwined with partisan politics. **The GAR promoted voting rights for Negro veterans, as many white veterans recognized their demonstrated patriotism and sacrifices, providing one of the first racially integrated social/fraternal organizations in America. Black veterans, who enthusiastically embraced the message of equality, shunned black veterans' organizations in preference for racially inclusive and integrated groups.** But when the Republican Party's commitment to reform in the South gradually decreased, the GAR's mission became ill-defined and the organization floundered. The GAR almost disappeared in the early 1870s,



and many state-centered divisions, named "departments", and local posts ceased to exist.

In the 1880s, the Union veterans' organization revived under new leadership that provided a platform for renewed growth, by advocating Federal pensions for veterans. **As the organization revived, black veterans joined in significant numbers and organized local posts. The national organization, however, failed to press the case for similar pensions for black soldiers. Most black troops never received any pension or remuneration for wounds incurred during their Civil War service.**

The G.A.R.'s political power grew during the latter part of the 19th century, and it helped five Civil War veterans and members, U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and Wm. McKinley elected President of the United States; all were Republicans. (The sole post-war Democratic president was Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th chief executive.) For a time, candidates could not get Republican presidential or congressional nominations without the endorsement of the GAR veterans voting bloc. Its peak membership, at 410,000, was in 1890, a high point of various Civil War commemorative and monument dedication ceremonies.

With membership strictly limited to "veterans of the late unpleasantness," the GAR encouraged the formation of Allied Orders to aid them in various works. Numerous male organizations jostled for the backing of the GAR, and the political battles became quite severe until the GAR finally endorsed the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, composed of male descendants of Union Army and Union Navy veterans as its heir. The G.A.R. was dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member, Albert Woolson (1850–1956) of Duluth, Minnesota.

In Fraternity, Charity, And Loyalty

Civil War Pensions

by Kathleen L. Gorman

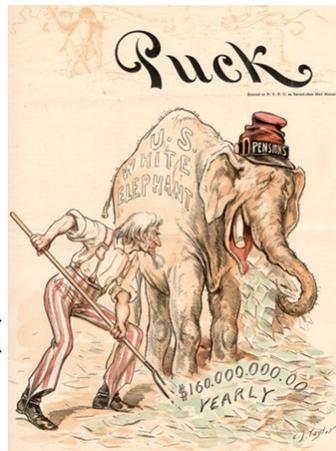
History of the Union federal and Confederate state pensions systems.

For most modern Americans the image of Civil War veterans is the one they have seen in the movies or read in novels. The old man, still in the remnants of his uniform, recounts stories of wartime bravery for an adoring crowd. It does not matter for the image if the veteran was a Confederate or Union veteran. The reality of the situation was, as usual, quite different than the image. By the 1890s (when the Civil War commemoration movement was at its height) most veterans were in their 50s and 60s, feeling the effects of both their physical war wounds and the nation's economic collapse, and desperate for some kind of help from anyone who could supply it. Because most Civil War soldiers were either farmers or laborers, their growing inability to do physical labor meant that pensions (or other governmental economic assistance) would be their only source of support.

Today we are comfortable with providing both tangible and intangible benefits to our veterans. There is widespread agreement that having put their own lives on hold to serve their country, they should be rewarded for that service. The Civil War provided significant challenges in that more than two million veterans could legitimately claim the attention of their government. An unknown number (but probably a pretty large percentage) were physically or emotionally damaged by what they had been through. Their hometowns threw them parades, their family was (usually) thrilled to have them back, but it was just not enough. What many of them needed was tangible economic assistance and the nation already had a history of providing that in the form of pensions. But pension systems after the Civil War were more complicated, more divisive, and more expensive than they had ever been and they also provided a model for future conflicts that would remain in place until after World War 2.

There was not just one pension system put in place after the war. Union soldiers were covered under the federal system while each former Confederate state had to create and fund its own pension system. And in a change from previous conflicts, it was not only white male veterans who were covered. African American veterans on the Union side were eligible for pensions from the very beginning. Women were also included both as widows and as veterans (primarily nurses) as time went on. Orphaned children were also eligible for assistance although the process was daunting. Each category had its own set of eligibility rules and benefit limits that changed dramatically over time and affected politics on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line.

For Union soldiers, the pension system began in 1862. Soldiers who were disabled as a result of their service were eligible for pensions; the amount depended on their rank and their injury. Dependents (widows and children) of soldiers who were killed on duty were also eligible. No one got rich from these early pensions. A "totally disabled" private received just \$8/month



from the first pension system. But amounts increased as it became necessary to recruit soldiers to a war that was no longer popular or easy, and pensions served as recruiting tools.

These first recipients only received benefits from the time of their application. That rule changed in 1879 with the passage of the Arrears Act. The Arrears Act provided veterans a lump sum payment to cover the time between when they left the military and when they applied for the pension. It resulted in both an increase in the number of pensioners and in the amount being expended on pensions. However, the veteran still had to have been disabled as a result of his time in the service. As time moved on, the veterans and their families needed more and more assistance, even if they had survived the war relatively intact.

The biggest single change to the pension system came in 1890 with the Dependent Pension Act. Because most veterans did some kind of manual labor to support themselves and their families, and their ability to do so declined over time, political pressure for more help increased (as did the public pleading and private, desperate letters). The 1890 Act expanded eligibility to veterans who were disabled and unable to do manual labor even if that disability was not a direct result of the war. They just had to have served ninety days and been honorably discharged. The result was a huge increase in expenditures and numbers of veterans receiving a pension. More than a million men were on the pension rolls by 1893 and pensions ate more than 40% of the federal government's revenue. One of the side effects of this legislation was a large number of men transferring their pensions from their previous disability pensions to these new service pensions because the new pensions paid more.

The last major change to the pension laws came in 1907 when old age itself was considered a disability. The amount of the pension depended solely on the age of the applicant. By 1910 more than 90% of living Union veterans were receiving some kind of government assistance. The last Union pensioner was Albert Woolson who died in 1956, but that was not the end of Civil War pensions. The last known widow died in 2008 and there were still at least two dependents receiving benefits in 2012.

For widows, eligibility rules focused on date of marriage and if they had remarried. Early pensions required that the service member must have died in service, the widow had to have been married to him at the time of his death, and she could not have remarried. As the rules for veterans changed, so did the rules for widows. The 1890 act allowed widows to receive pensions if their husbands were disabled for any reason at the time of their death, not just due to injuries received in service. In 1901 a widow became eligible for a pension even if she had remarried, so long as she was again a widow. Congress was still averse to allowing a widow to receive money if she was still remarried. The rules on remarriage were also eased over time until the government no longer stopped any widow of an honorably discharged veteran from receiving aid in 1916. Rules on dependents receiving pensions echoed those of widows with the 1890 law allowing completely physically or mentally disabled dependents to receive pensions throughout their life.

Widows were not the only women to receive pensions. Union nurses began receiving them at the rate of \$12 a month in 1892.

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Civil War Pensions (continued from page 5)

Their requirements were at least six months of service, an honorable discharge, and an inability to support themselves. The push to get nurses pensions was spearheaded by Annie Wittenmyer, former army nurse and continual activist after the war.

The Civil War pension system was color blind in that there was nothing in the application process that required applicants to be white. But recent scholarly works have made it clear that the process itself was far from color blind. Because African American soldiers were both less likely initially to be assigned to combat roles, and then less likely to be hospitalized (early disability applications required documentation from hospitals) if injured, they could not produce the documentation required by the application process. And they were less likely than their white counterparts to have the money necessary to complete the process. Ultimately the fate of black veterans' applications was decided by white bureaucrats who found it easy to turn them down without fear of retribution. An interesting side note is that the Grand Army of the Republic actively campaigned for their black brethren to be granted pensions just as white veterans were.

The federal pension system profoundly affected both the American political and economic systems in the decades after the war. President Grover Cleveland vetoed more than 200 bills related to pensions (most were private bills for veterans who did not qualify under the regular rules) and paid for it with his loss in the 1888 presidential election. However, his successor Benjamin Harrison was equally quick to sign pension bills regardless of the validity of the claim and Cleveland was able to defeat him in their 1892 rematch citing corruption in the process. Both major political parties catered to the popular Grand Army of the Republic and portrayed themselves as the veterans' friends. The pension system created a whole new profession, pension lawyers who worked the system to their own advantage and became the stars of many political cartoons.

The actual application process required the veteran to fill out a detailed form about his service, disability, and current status. The applicant was also required to supply witnesses to all of the above and then to submit to a physical examination by approved physicians if the pension was related to a disability. All of this work required time, travel, and money that many veterans did not have to spare. Pension attorneys could help with the process in exchange for future financial reward. So it was not only the veterans who had a stake in the continual increase in amount of pensions but also a whole new and powerful cottage industry.

Pension payments grew gradually over time starting with that \$8/month for a completely disabled private in 1862. A law passed in 1912 increased the rate to a maximum of \$30 a month for both Civil War and Mexican War veterans. Funding such a massive pension system was not an easy thing. The federal government found it most economically and politically expedient to rely on adjusting the tariff rate as necessary to pay for it all. The McKinley Tariff of 1890 pushed the tariff rate to as high as 49% on some imported goods and earned the enmity of non-veteran groups, particularly business organizations. From the end of the Civil War until the beginning of World War I, the treatment of Civil War veterans was constantly played out publically and used by both major political parties. And this was true in both North and South.

Confederate veterans faced an entirely different set of

problems than their northern counterparts. They were returning home to a region that had lost the war and had been completely changed by it. They were not eligible for assistance from the federal government and their home states were a mess in every possible way. And they were heroes despite it all. It was that image of Confederate soldiers as heroes that made it almost mandatory for each of their home states to provide for them. The eligibility requirements for each Southern state were slightly different but close enough that Georgia provides a model for all of them.

Artificial limbs were the first form of tangible assistance provided to Southern veterans. Georgia began providing free (if you ignore the cost of travel and work time lost) artificial limbs in 1871. It is hard to imagine what those veterans had been doing to get by in the years since they had been injured and it is hard to imagine them making the trip to the state capital to get their new limbs.

Most Southern pension systems followed the basic federal model although they started much later. Assistance was provided first to those disabled during the war at rates based on their level of disability. It was in 1889 that Georgia began providing annual pension payments to "disabled and diseased" veterans with the amounts varying depending on disability. Widows became eligible in 1893. Three years later pension payments began to those unable to economically care for themselves, again following the federal model. It was not until 1920 that income restrictions were removed. Widows saw continuing changes in their eligibility rules until in 1944 they could get pensions (\$30 a month) even if they had remarried.

Because southern states could not use tariffs to fund their pensions, they needed alternative revenue sources. Georgia turned to tobacco taxes to do so but found that those revenues were not even enough during the Great Depression. Part of the issue was that state officials continually underestimated the numbers of eligible pensioners and how much those numbers would change annually. It is easy to see why they had such trouble. In 1937 Georgia had 232 veterans receiving pensions but still 1377 widows, all of whom were eligible for \$30 a month even in the depths of the Depression. The state did miss a few payments when revenue did not match expenditures, prompting an avalanche of letters to the state's pension commissioner begging for help. In 1931 Commissioner J. Hunt received this plea from Mrs. R.C. Dubberly: "My mother is blind and almost helpless and it does seem like when these old people get like that they ought to get a little extra instead of cutting them out of a months pay."

There was not much political debate in the old Confederacy about providing pensions to their heroes. Opposing them was like opposing everything the South still stood for. And with the mythology of the Lost Cause at its height, that would be political suicide. The Confederate pension system even more so than the Union side relied on patronage. Confederate veterans had to produce comrades who would swear to their "honorable" service. If the veteran did not subscribe to the ideals of the Lost Cause, finding such comrades could be difficult. And the system lasted long after the myth was prevalent. John Salling, possibly the last Confederate veteran (there is some dispute) died in 1958 while the last known Confederate widow, Maudie Hopkins, died in 2008. There may be one or two others still living who do not wish to be identified.

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Civil War Pensions (continued from page 6)

If the numbers seem not to be that important, in the state of Georgia alone in 1952 there were still 401 widows receiving aid at a cost of \$361,000.

The Civil War pension system provided a model for later systems. Its sheer size and complexity warned the federal government of what might happen if there were even bigger wars later. And it also provided desperately needed assistance to thousands who had nowhere else to turn.

Footnote: permission to reprint received January 20, 2020.

Kathleen L. Gorman, "Civil War Pensions," in Essential Civil War Curriculum (Blacksburg: Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, May 2012), <https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/civil-war-pensions.html>,

Accessed January 13, 2020.

Emancipation Proclamation

(continued from page 1)

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all vio-

lence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the

considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Gen. G. A. Custer Camp 1

The Camp added four new Brothers in recent months. At a recent meeting Department Commander, Harry Reineke initiated the two Brothers present, Dr. Lawrence Schiller and Dr. Gary Fine. Welcome Brothers! Brothers William Scogand and John Zahina-Rojas will be initiated at the soonest opportunity.



Left to right: Dr. Gary Fine, Dr. Larry Schiller, DC Harry Reineke IV

It was reported that the SVR Veterans Day ceremony at Union Ridge Cemetery on Nov. 9, 2019 went extremely well.

Mark Braun reported on progress

at the Jewish Graceland Cemetery. There is a monument to Gen. William Gamble at the cemetery. Bill Kummerow reported on the status of the Sgt. Jeremiah Powell cenotaph dedication. It is the Camp's hope that the stone will be in place and the ceremony can be held at Memorial Day 2020.

Bill spoke to Capt. Mark Dempsy of the 1st Michigan Engineers at Veterans Day and invited the unit to join the Chicago Light Artillery at the ceremony. There was a brief discussion about Ellsworth Mills' suggestion to develop an advertisement to promote the Camp. CC Kaup also discussed a new Camp to help better serve Brothers in the Chicago area. The first meeting was held Dec. 5, 2019. Some Members of Camp #1 will transfer to the new Camp and some others will be dual members.

Final nominations were opened, and closed with no additional nominations. Elections followed with the retention of the incumbent elected officers:

- Camp Commander: Nick Kaup
- Senior Vice Commander: Rob Hauff
- Junior Vice Commander: Ellsworth Mills II
- Secretary: Don Sherman
- Treasurer: Bill Kummerow
- Council: Ken Smith, Tom Hauff & Mike Braun

Congratulations and thank you all!

I wish to thank our camp membership for their trust and confidence in me as your Camp Commander for 2020. Our reactivated camp now enjoys its 29th year of continuous activity. George Armstrong Custer Camp #1 has been honored as the first Abraham Lincoln Commanders-In-Chief Outstanding Camp, 1993-94, as well as Department of Illinois Outstanding Camp over those years. We are the oldest active camp here in the state. As such, our goals and expectations are set high. This year we will be cleaning all 228 headstones at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago that were replaced through our efforts twenty-nine years ago. Our goal is to have a ceremony there for July 4th. Our program on Monday, January 20th is highlighted by Professor Bruce Allardice of South Suburban College. His topic, "Conscription and the Civil War." Prior to his program our camp will conduct the initiation of new members and award recognitions. We look forward to your attendance.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Brother Nick Kaup
Commander, G. A. Custer Camp #1
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Gen. John McClernand Camp 4

“Uncle Dick” at Oak Ridge and Elkhart Cemetery

On the morning of Friday, October 16, 1874 the headline in the Illinois State Journal read “Eloquent Oration by Senator Olgesby”. On the previous day, 20,000 people participated in the dedication of Lincoln’s Tomb.

Headquartered in the Leland Hotel, The Society of the Army of the Tennessee scheduled their eighth annual reunion to coincide with the unveiling ceremony. Those in attendance included President and Mrs. Grant, Vice President Wilson, William T. Sherman, John Pope, Irvin McDowell and George Armstrong Custer.

The reunion met in the Opera House on October 14 but other than deciding that next year’s reunion would be in Des Moines on September 29 & 30th, there was too much to do and too much excitement to linger.

The city went all out. Downtown buildings were decorated to the hilt and Chinese lanterns adorned the entire setting. Welcome signage to the society was all over the place and it was reported up to 50,000 people were in town to celebrate the dedication of Lincoln’s Tomb.

All churches and government buildings were used for spillover from the hotels and they guaranteed that each site would include lighting and be heated.

In other words, the veterans of Grant and Sherman’s famed army and other visitors would be looked after, tended to, cared for, and made to feel welcome.

People came from all over the country and many from local towns throughout central Illinois literally packed the Capital City, which also just happened to be Mr. Lincoln’s hometown. The frolicking included numerous bands and music was the backdrop of the two-day celebration. This was not an event to miss.

President and Mrs. Grant, as well as Commanding General of the Army Sherman and other dignitaries, stayed in the Executive Mansion and welcomed visitors during an overflowing reception.

The society’s banquet was held Wednesday evening in the Leland Hotel and the price of a ticket was \$7.00. The “Official Programme” was sold for a quarter each. (The copy available for viewing in the Abraham Lincoln Presi-

dential Library and Museum is in very good condition.) Among other things, the booklet includes Lincoln’s most iconic speeches: the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, his annual reports to Congress, and the last two pages reflects the order of exercises of “the unveiling of the statue upon the monument erected in memory of Abraham Lincoln”.

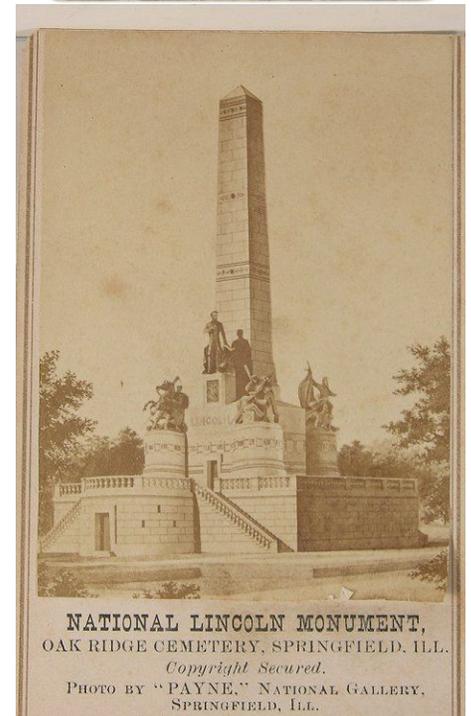
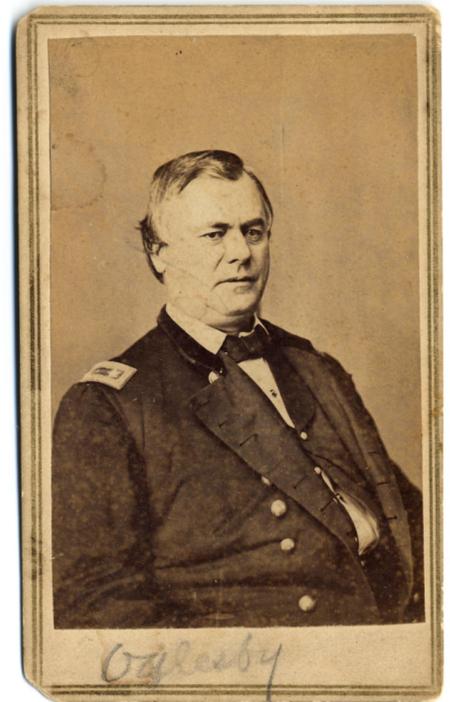
A sight to behold: At 10:00am on the morning of Thursday, October 15, 1874, five divisions formed up on 6th Street, overflowing both ways on Jefferson and eastward down Washington Street. Instead of facing north towards the cemetery, they faced south. The line of march for the column’s two-mile procession would first take them by Abe’s home on 8th Street, which was beautifully adorned as you might imagine, before snaking its way toward Oak Ridge and the formal ceremonies. Riding behind Sherman was Jacksonville’s very own, General Ben Grierson. Not to be overlooked, David Davis and Robert Todd Lincoln were also in attendance.

The President had already indicated that he did not want to deliver the main address. He and Sherman and a few others spoke for a few minutes each following the main oration, but they left the job or delivering the keynote speech to another. Governor John M. Palmer, the master of ceremonies, introduced the main speaker of the day, but his job was easy for, Richard J. Olgesby, needed no introduction. He was affectionately known as “Uncle Dick” and was widely loved by all. Olgesby went on for nearly two hours.

Senator Olgesby had always been a gifted and entertaining stump speaker, much in the fashion of Lincoln. On page 118 in his book entitled, **Lincoln’s Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard Olgesby**, author Mark Plummer wrote that Olgesby declared later that his 45-page address was the only speech that he ever wrote out. In the Illinois Daily Journal of October 17, 1874, an article reprinted from the Chicago Times reported that...“Senator Olgesby’s oration was much superior, in point of literary merit, to his ordinary efforts, it if does not rank as the best product of his life”.

The years have passed and the reunions of the Army of the Tennessee, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), as well as all the others, have marched into history. So it falls to us, the Sons of

Union Veterans of the Civil War, to form up, hoist the banners, and continue the march to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln every year on or near April 15.



(Olgesby photo courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library; Tomb photo from Pinterest)

Respectfully submitted by
Chuck Murphy, PI
General John A. McClernand Camp 4
Springfield, Illinois

New Camp News:

Brothers,

Our second organizational meeting was very fruitful. To recap, we accomplished the following on our journey to charter **U. S. Grant Camp 1863:**

Election and appointments of temporary camp officers, excluding the Senior Vice Commander office and one Councilman.
February meeting date and meeting location determined.

Our third organizational meeting will require commitments for those brothers who wish to have their names on the charter.

Please respond as to your intentions:

- 1) Are you still interested in being a charter member?
- 2) Have you an interest in becoming either a elected or appointed officer?
- 3) Any special area of interest or offices?
- 4) Have you a recommended permanent meeting location?

Col. John C. Bryner Camp 67

Officer Elections: At the November Camp meeting, Department Commander Harry Reineke IV proceeded to install the officers elected:

- Commander: Jon E. Lickey
- SVC: Ron Kirchgessner
- JVC: Wayne Wehrheim
- Chaplain: Tom Ashby
- Secretary: Darrell Clevidence
- Treasurer: Lionel Kinney
- Council 1: Larry Wachtveit
- Council 2: Joe Hutchinson
- Council 3: Tom Ashby
- Patriotic Instructor: Darrell Clevidence
- Scout Coordinator: Ron Kirchgessner
- Graves Registration: Joe Hutchinson
- Memorials Officer: Wayne Wehrheim
- Historian: Jon Austin
- ROTC Coordinator: Ron Kirchgessner
- Guide/Guard/Color Bearer: Dave Rogers



Br. Ron Kirchgessner presented a program at the Wheels-O-Time Museum in Peoria.

Ron appeared at the historic Marbold Estate in Menard County, 20 miles north of Springfield. (next column top)



Troop 333 Eagle Scout ceremonies



Your \$50.00 annual dues payment will be collected at the February meeting or a statement will be emailed to you if you can not attend.

Our February 13th meeting will be held again at the Panera Restaurant, 1140 North Plaza Dr., Schaumburg beginning at 7:00pm.

We look forward to our next gathering then.

If you have further recommendations or questions please contact me via email.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
 Nick Kaup, PDC
 Department Camp Organizer
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 nmkaup@aol.com
 847-910-0164

Veterans Day: Br. Ron partnered with the Scottish Rite Masons to post an entry in the Peoria Veterans Day Parade. He invited all Brothers to participate. The weather was poor, however so he was not in uniform.



When not in Puerto Rico with his job with FEMA, Br. Jon Austin performs living history programs about Civil War funeral practices.



Jon's house in Jacksonville, IL decorated for the holidays.

(Continued on Page 11)

Camp 67 continued:

The Camp sent birthday congratulations to Real Son William Pool to honor him on his 95th birthday. According to what we know, he may be the last Real Son.

The Camp also sent birthday congratulations to retired Brother John Pletkovich to commemorate his 100th birthday. The local TV news outlet had a nice segment about his party that may be viewed at: <https://week.com/2020/01/18/local-world-war-ii-veteran-celebrates-100th-birthday/>

Old Glory Camp 61-65

DC Reineke installing and congratulating Old Glory Camp 61-65 Jeff Kaup.



Also installed by Br. Harry were SVC Meade Gifford, JVC Tim Horn, Council Members John Bigwood, Jerry Smith, David Marshall, Treasurer Dennis Bradley, and Secretary Nick Kaup. New brother James Barr was initiated during our camp program.

Ceremonies were held at St. Paul's House, Chicago on Wednesday November 27th, 2019. Respectfully submitted, N. Kaup, Secretary.

Women in the Civil War

Excerpts from "Women in the Civil War" HISTORY.COM Editors; updated: FEB 8, 2019 original: FEB 5, 2010

A Women's Proper Place?

In many ways, the coming of the Civil War challenged the ideology of Victorian domesticity that had defined the lives of men and women in the antebellum era. In the North and in the South, the war forced women into public life in ways they could scarcely have imagined a generation before.

Background

In the years before the Civil War, the lives of American women were shaped by a set of ideals that historians call "the Cult of True Womanhood." As men's work moved away from the home and into shops, offices and factories, the household became a new kind of place: a private, feminized domestic sphere, a "haven in a heartless world." "True women" devoted their lives to creating a clean, comfortable, nurturing home for their husbands and children.

Fighting for the Union

With the outbreak of war in 1861, women and men alike eagerly volunteered to fight for the cause. In the Northern states, women organized ladies' aid societies to supply the Union troops with everything they needed, from food to clothing to cash. They organized door-to-door fundraising campaigns, county fairs and performances of all kinds to raise money for medical supplies and other necessities.

But many women wanted to take a more active role in the war effort. Inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale and her fellow nurses in the Crimean War, they tried to find a way to work on the front lines, caring for sick and injured soldiers and keeping the rest of the Union troops healthy and safe.

In June 1861, they succeeded: The federal government agreed to create "a preventive hygienic and sanitary service for the benefit of the army" called the United States Sanitary Commission. The Sanitary Commission's primary objective was to combat preventable diseases and infections by improving conditions (particularly "bad cookery" and bad hygiene) in army camps and hospitals. It also worked to provide relief to sick and wounded soldiers. By war's end, the Sanitary Commission had provided almost \$15 million in supplies—the vast majority of which had been collected by women—to the Union Army.

Nearly 20,000 women worked more directly for the Union war effort. Working-class white women and free and enslaved African-American women worked as laundresses, cooks and "matrons," and some 3,000 middle-class white women worked as nurses.

The activist Dorothea Dix, the superintendent of Army nurses, put out a call for responsible, maternal volunteers who would not distract the troops or behave in unseemly or unfeminine ways: Dix insisted that her nurses be "past 30 years of age, healthy, plain almost to repulsion in dress and devoid of personal attractions." (One of the most famous of these Union nurses was the writer Louisa May Alcott.)

Army nurses traveled from hospital to hospital, providing "humane and efficient care for wounded, sick and dying soldiers." They also acted as mothers and housekeepers—"havens in a heartless world"—for the soldiers under their care.

Also, more than 400 women disguised themselves as men and fought in the Union and Confederate armies. Some continued their "cover" long after the Civil War ended, living out their lives as men. A select few women were members of the G.A.R.

Women of the Confederacy

White women in the South threw themselves into the war effort with the same zeal as their Northern counterparts. The Confederacy had less money and fewer resources than did the Union, however, so they did much of their work on their own or through local auxiliaries and relief societies. They, too, cooked and sewed for their boys. They provided uniforms, blankets, sandbags and other supplies for entire regiments. They wrote letters to soldiers and worked as untrained nurses in makeshift hospitals. They even cared for wounded soldiers in their homes.

Many Southern women, especially wealthy ones, relied on slaves for everything and had never had to do much work. However, even they were forced by the exigencies of wartime to expand their definitions of "proper" female behavior.

A Women's Proper Place? Redux.

During the Civil War, women especially faced a host of new duties and responsibilities. For the most part, these new roles applied the ideals of Victorian domesticity to "useful and patriotic ends." However, these wartime contributions did help expand many women's ideas about what their "proper place" should be.

WANTED!

THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

STEP UP AND SERVE! WHEN THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALLS SAY, "YESSS!"

URGENTLY NEEDED:

EAGLESCOUT COORDINATOR

DEPARTMENT INSIGNIA ITEMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Brother Harry Reineke IV has Lapel Pins and Cufflinks with the Department Insignia available for purchase by the Brothers of the Department. Also available by special order are baseball caps and polo shirts by Gold Medal Ideas. Any profits will go to the Department. Shipping extra--call.



Lapel Pin



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Embroidery Sample for Shirts and Hats

Please order using the form below

Department Lapel Pin	_____ x \$ 7.50 = _____
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Department Ball Cap	_____ x \$16.00 = _____
Department Polo Shirt	(without name) _____ x \$22.00 = _____
	(with name) _____ x \$25.00 = _____
	SUB TOTAL _____
	Shipping (call) _____
	TOTAL _____

Name for Polo Shirt: (Print Clearly) _____

Please send form and a check made out to: Brother Harry W. Reineke IV
605 Main Street
Batavia, IL 60510

For information phone: (630) 806-9693

FACEBOOK PAGES:

The following Camps have Facebook pages. Feel free to like and share these pages with your friends.

- SUVCW Camp #1, Dept of IL
- PH Sheridan Camp 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Dept of Illinois
- SUVCWJohn A. Logan Camp #26
- Gen. E. F. Dutton Camp #49 Sons of Union Veterans
- Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443 (SUVCW)

SUVCW Old Glory Camp 6165, Dept of IL

DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE:

Illinois Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

NEW WEBSITE!

http://www.suvcwil.org/

NATIONAL WEBSITE:

http://www.suvcw.org/

RAILSPLITTER DEADLINES:

Fall: October 15 * Winter: January 15
Spring: April 15 * Summer: July 15

Please submit articles by the above deadlines. Articles may be edited for length and corrected for grammar and spelling. Not all photos may be used. New issues should come out about two weeks after the deadline.

Send to "bryner_camp67@yahoo.com". Text should be attached as MS-Word docs or contained in the body of the E-mail. Photos should be JPG attachments.

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter.