

McLean County Museum Of History

**Grand Army of the Republic
(GAR) Collection**

Processed by
Brigid R. McBride

Collection Information:

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| Volume of Collection: | 2 boxes |
| Collection Dates: | 1885-1951 |
| Restrictions: | None |
| Reproduction Rights: | Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History |
| Location: | Archives |
| Notes: | See Photograph Collection- Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Grand Army of the Republic (Ladies' Auxiliary) |

Brief History

The Grand Army of the Republic was founded by Benjamin Franklin Stephenson of Springfield, Illinois in 1866. The first post was in Decatur, Illinois. The organization spread quickly through the state of Illinois and to adjoining states. The organization was the preeminent veterans' group and reached peak of 400,000 members in 1890.

The organization of the GAR was based upon three objectives: fraternity, charity, and loyalty. Fraternity was expressed through monthly meetings with the local posts, "camp fires" in which veterans would sing songs and tell stories, and encampments, which were national meetings. The second objective, charity, was expressed by providing medical, burial, and housing expenses to widows, veterans, and orphans. The GAR established several soldiers' homes and orphanages by 1890. The third objective, loyalty, is expressed by the monuments, memorials, and artifacts donated to communities. The GAR's principal legacy to the nation, however, is the annual observance of May 30 as Decoration Day, or more recently, Memorial Day.

Some 700 McLean County men died in the Civil War. In 1866, McLean County voters approved a monument in Bloomington's Franklin Park (no longer standing) and in 1913, another monument in Miller Park.

In McLean County, there were nine GAR posts:

Chas. E. Hovey Post, Normal
Wm. T. Sherman Post, Bloomington
H.W. Wood Post, McLean
McPherson Post, Saybrook
Chenoa Post, Chenoa
Thomas Riddle Post, LeRoy
Lexington Post, Lexington
Martin Post, Gridley
Stark Post, Belle Flower

Scope Note

This Collection contains ephemera from the Grand Army of the Republic including ledgers, meeting minutes, financial accounts, correspondence, programs, and newspaper clippings.

Box 1

Folder 1: Member List McCullough Post

- 1.1.1 Ledger book with members' names and dues paid, 1897-1900

Folder 2: By-Laws McCullough Post

- 1.2.1 Ledger book with member list, including rank and regiment, state and branch, no date

Folder 3: Meeting Minutes Chas. E. Hovey Post

- 1.3.1 Ledger book with Post happenings, newspaper clippings, loose pages, 1912-1927

Folder 4: Meeting Minutes Chas. E. Hovey Post

- 1.4.1 Ledger book contains list of members, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, 1899-1911

Folder 5: Record Book Chas. E. Hovey Post

- 1.5.1 Ledger book contains list of members, dues paid, amount, 1898-1899

Folder 6: Wm. T. Sherman Post

- 1.6.1 *Historic Roster of Wm. T. Sherman Post No. 146, Department of Illinois Grand Army of the Republic Organized July 26, 1882, Bloomington, Illinois*; printed 1911; includes rosters with names, rank, company, regiment, state, months served, date of joining post, date of death (6 copies)
- 1.6.2 Photocopied pages; including list of names associated with Wm. T. Sherman Post, Chas. E. Hovey Post, and several others in Illinois
- 1.6.3 Resolution concerning the death of I.N. Ives, date of death is after 1911, no date on resolution
- 1.6.4 William T. Sherman list of articles belonging to the GAR to be turned over to the SUV upon disbanding the GAR, 1936
- 1.6.5 By-Laws and Rules of Order of Post No. 146, GAR, 1885

Folder 7: Muster Roll Wm. T. Sherman Post

- 1.7.1 Post No. 146, Evergreen City Lodge Hall, Bloomington, 1888, incl. post muster roll.

Box 2

Folder 8: Encampments

- 2.8.1 *Journal of the seventy-Fourth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic*, Springfield, ILL., September 8 to 13, 1940
- 2.8.2 Souvenir of the 66th National Encampment Grand Army of the Republic, Springfield, Illinois, September 1932 (2 copies)
- 2.8.3 Grand Army of the Republic, The Sixty-Ninth Annual Encampment, Bloomington, Illinois, 1935 (3 copies)
- 2.8.4 Official Program, 75th National Encampment Grand Army of the Republic, September 14-19, 1941

- 2.8.5 Grand Army of the Republic, The Eightieth Annual Encampment, Springfield, Illinois, June 11-13, 1946
- 2.8.6 Official Program, 83rd National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28 through September 1, 1949
- 2.8.7 Campfire Proceedings Annual Convention Allied Orders of the Immortal Grand Army of the Republic Honoring and Memorializing the Eighty-fifth Annual Encampment, Decatur, Illinois, June 8-10, 1951

Folder 9: Correspondence

- 2.9.1 Resolution from the Wm. T. Sherman Post No. 146 to the Western Union, 1891
- 2.9.2 Correspondence from B.D. Simissan(?) concerning the naming of McCullough, 1898
- 2.9.3 Correspondence from C.A. Partridge, concerning changing name from McCullough to Chas. E. Hovey Post, 1898
- 2.9.4 Information on John Corbett's war experiences, no date
- 2.9.5 Correspondence to Alta from Irene concerning convention, 193?
- 2.9.6 Correspondence to Lester and Alta from Jim Blackman
- 2.9.7 Correspondence to Lester and Alta from Jim Blackman concerning the next encampment at Rock Island, Illinois, 1949
- 2.9.8 Correspondence from Secretary of the national Grand Army of the Republic to L.F. Stewart, concerning the final encampment at Indianapolis, September 1949
- 2.9.9 Correspondence to Agnes from Elizabeth concerning an accounting of the encampment, 1949

Folder 10: Bulletin

- 2.10.1 Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Association of Cook County, Illinois, Bulletin, April 1949

Folder 11: Miscellaneous

- 2.11.1 34 checks and receipts for the GAR Hall rent, janitor fees, and miscellaneous, 1897-1900
- 2.11.2 Program First Day of Issue of the Commemorative Stamp Honoring the Grand Army of the Republic, 1949
- 2.11.3 Memorial Day Complimentary Banquet to the Veterans of the Civil War William T. Sherman Post No. 146, 1914
- 2.11.4 Grand Army of the Republic certificate, 1888
- 2.11.5 Beirly's GAR Song Folio, No. 1, A Choice Collection of Memorial Day and Patriotic Songs, no date
- 2.11.6 Beirly's GAR Song Folio, No. 2, A Choice Collection of Memorial Day and Patriotic Songs, no date
- 2.11.7 The Grand Army Camp-Fire-Extra consisting of Old Familiar War Songs, no date
- 2.11.8 Calendar, 1935 and 1938
- 2.11.9 Illinois Conference of Charities and State Congressional Committee GAR, dinner menu for the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home, 1899
- 2.11.10 Rosters of Bloomington Post No. 140, Lexington Post No. 240, H.W. Wood Post No. 173, Hudson Post No. 611, R.T. Harvey Post No. 606, and Bloomington W.R.C. No. 7, 1889

- 2.11.11 Services for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic, 1886, includes Memorial Day Services, Burial of the Dead, Installation of Officers
- 2.11.12 Grand Army of the Republic Highway Report of J.G. Spielman, 1949
- 2.11.13 Circular Letter No. 1, Series 1937-1938
- 2.11.14 General Orders No. 3, Series 1934-35
- 2.11.15 General Orders No. 3, Series 1937-38
- 2.11.16 Parade Order Bloomington, Illinois, May 22, 1935 (eight copies)

Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings

- 2.12.1 Newspaper photograph "The State's Last Veteran," no date
- 2.12.2 Newspaper photograph "Veterans of Four Great Wars Meet Here," no date (3 copies)
- 2.12.3 "Mickey McCarty Says," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.4 "G.A.R. Gives Day to Visitation of Lincoln Shrines," photocopy, *Chicago Daily News*, September 20, 1932
- 2.12.5 "Stewart Gets G.A.R. Post," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.6 Newspaper photograph "Plant Tree for Washington in Shadow of Douglas Monument," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.7 "Dies: George P. McClellan, 89, Veteran of Civil War, Ill 3 Weeks, Dies," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.8 Various photocopied articles and obituaries, "E.M. Wales Dies at 88," July 21, 1932 and four others
- 2.12.9 Newspaper photographs "G.A.R. Opens its 66th Encampment at Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, photocopy, no date
- 2.12.10 "Memorial Day Call Issued," "Grand Army Ground of Orders Plans for Special Jubilee," photocopies, no date
- 2.12.11 "Lincoln Day Plans Made," and "Dwight Gives Graham Honor," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.12 "Music Festival Notes," "Judy Named Delegate to G.A.R. Encampment," and "G.A.R. Family to Dine Feb. 3," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.13 "Delegates to G.A.R. Conclave Arrive Here," photocopy, no date
- 2.12.14 "Payton Abernathy Brown Dies," photocopy, February 25, 1933
- 2.12.15 "Capt. Ambrose, Last Civil War Vet here, Dies," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, photocopy, November 17, 1949
- 2.12.16 "G.A.R. Begins its Session at Lincoln's Tomb," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, photocopy, September 19, 1932
- 2.12.17 "Vet, 99, Sad About Mixup on Inaugural," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, photocopy, January 20, 1949
- 2.12.18 "Cheer Gallant 33 In March of Illinois G.A.R.," photocopy, June 1931
- 2.12.19 Newspaper photograph "The Boys in Blue Answer "Call to Arms" at Aurora," *Chicago Daily News*, photocopy, no date
- 2.12.20 "G.A.R. Veterans Parade Again in Old Time Spirit," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, photocopy, September 22, 1932
- 2.12.21 Newspaper photograph "Nautilus, with Sir Hubert Aboard, Sets Out on Atlantic Trip-G.A.R. Veterans Stage Parade," *Chicago Herald Examiner*, photocopy, June 5, 1931
- 2.12.22 *Illinois State Register* (Springfield, Illinois) June 17, 1931
- 2.12.23 *Portland Sunday Telegram* (Portland, Maine) September 8, 1929
- 2.12.24 *Chicago Sunday Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois) Graphic Section, February 14, 1937

Folder 13: Ladies of the GAR

2.13.1 *Ritual of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic*, revised 1933

2.13.2 *Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic Department of Illinois Roster for 1930-1931*

Folder 14: Scrapbook

2.14.1 Loose pages of scrapbook containing newspaper articles and photographs, most refer to the G.A.R. or the Women's Relief Corp.

Folder 15: Applications for Members in McPherson Post

2.15.1 M.F. Atkinson, 1884.

2.15.2 Joseph Watt, 1892.

2.15.3 A.L. Simpson, undated.

Loose Items

Ladies of the G.A.R. Meeting Minutes; Ledger contains notes, financial information, 1938-1944

Grand Army of the Republic Ledger Book with members' names and dues paid, 1900-1909