

HISTORY OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

SEDGWICK POST G. A. R. AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

MEMORIAL DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

(Written for The Capital Journal Memorial edition by Captain Daniel Webster, Salem.)

To Dr. B. F. Stevenson, an army surgeon of Springfield, Ill., belongs the honor of first having suggested the organization now known as the Grand Army of the Republic, the object of which should be "to strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the rebellion and perpetuate the memory and history of the dead." This suggestion was made in the spring of 1866, and so well was the idea received that the first national encampment of the order was held in Indianapolis, Ind., in October of the same year, at which the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana and the District of Columbia were represented. At this meeting Gen. S. A. Hurlburt of Ill., was elected commander in chief.

Those were strenuous times politically and active partisans sought to use the order to forward their own political ends, consequently the belief became prevalent that the order was purely political in its aims and purposes. This resulted in an almost total disruption of the organization, particularly in the middle west. It soon revived, however, and new rules and regulations were adopted which provided that "No officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use this organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its meetings; nor shall any nomination for political office be made." Since the adoption of the above, the order has led partisan politics alone and is now proud of the fact that men of all political parties are members thereof and that no distinction is made for or against a member because of his political affiliation.

The membership badge and button of this order is manufactured under letters patent expressly for the Grand Army of the Republic, from bronze cannon captured from the Confederate army during the war and at the surrender, and cannot be legally obtained or worn by any other than a member of the order in good standing, and in order to become such a member he must have served at least three months as a soldier in the Civil war and have received an honorable discharge.

In January, 1868, Gen. John A. Logan was elected commander in chief and on the 5th day of May following he issued the following order establishing Memorial Day: "The 30th day of May, 1868 is hereby designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet church yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will, in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

At the national encampment in 1870 the following article was adopted as part of the rules and regulations: "The national encampment hereby establishes a Memorial Day, to be observed by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, on the 30th day of May annually, in commemoration of the deeds of our fallen comrades. When such day occurs on Sunday, the succeeding day shall be observed, except where by legal enactment, the preceding day is made a legal holiday, when such day shall be observed."

At first the observance of the day was confined almost wholly to the G. A. R. but the custom has grown until of late years it has become national in its observance. This has a custom inaugurated by the survivors of the Civil War become of such general observance that the graves of deceased soldiers in the average cemetery seem neglected when compared with those of the citizen dead that have been decorated by their relatives and friends.

As this growth has been making it is quite noticeable that the pride

in the care and appearance of the cemeteries has also increased until it is rare one can be found that has not been improved through the infection introduced, originally, by the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Grand Army of the Republic, as an organization has now been in existence 40 years. Its experiences have been much as has that of other similar organizations, at times prosperous and at others discouraging, but, upon the whole, its members may truly feel proud of its record. It is safe to say that a large majority of the survivors of the Civil war are, or have been, affiliated with the organization, at the same time it is a fact that many are found in every community who have let their membership lapse and their interest in the order die out. Some of these are excusable because of the infirmities incident to old age and disease, but too many do so from loss of interest, the result of continued neglect of their fealty to the order, but they almost invariably retain and display the little bronze button as an insignia of their former membership notwithstanding the fact that it is contrary to the rules of the order and the statutes of the state of Oregon for them to wear the same when not in good standing with their post.

The Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, originated in Portland, Me., in 1869. Ten years later a state relief corps was organized in the state of Massachusetts.

The fifteenth national encampment of the G. A. R. held in Indianapolis, in June, 1881 authorized the formation of a Woman's Relief Corps auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, and at the national encampment held in Denver in July, 1883 it was "Resolved that we cordially hail the organization of the Woman's Relief Corps, and extend our greeting to them. We return our warmest thanks to the loyal women of the land for their earnest support and encouragement, and bid them God speed in their work," which fixed the status of the organization. The Woman's Relief Corps is a secret organization working under a ritual, and all loyal women are eligible to membership therein. No relief corps can exist as a part of the national order which is not auxiliary to a post of the G. A. R.

The W. R. C. has from the first been a loyal worker with the G. A. R., and more often than otherwise taken the lead in all benevolent and relief work in which they have been engaged, which has been considerable in this city and vicinity, and they are entitled to unbounded credit for their support and encouragement in the exercises incident upon the observance of Memorial Day. Their connection with the post seems to complete the family, rendering each more efficient in the performance of all the duties incumbent upon them by the laws and rules of the order.

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

Sometime in the '80s the Ladies of the Grand Army, composed of the wives, widows, mothers and daughters of soldiers, was organized, and, though not as large an organization as the W. R. C. it is well represented in all of the states and territories. In many cases they are accepted and recognized as auxiliary to posts of the G. A. R. The objects of the organization are practically the same as are those of their sisters of the W. R. C. They, too, have always been enthusiastic in their observance of their ritualistic services on Memorial Day. It has been the custom of the circle in this city to give a free dinner to all old soldiers upon such holidays as New Years, Memorial Day, and Washington's birthday, whereas it has been the custom of the W. R. C. to furnish a supper in the evening. With two such organizations in a flourishing condition there is not much danger of the old veterans going hungry or suffering for want of attention from the fair sex.

Mr. John Riba, of Vining, Ia., says "I have been selling DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills for about a year and they give better satisfaction than any pill I ever sold." Sold by all dealers.

SALEM VETERANS ON ROLL OF HONOR

On the 26th day of September, 1882, Department Commander N. S. Pierce of the Department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic, mustered the following named persons as charter members of Sedgwick Post, No. 10, G. A. R. in this city:

J. W. Crawford, O. B. Johnson, J. M. Patterson, A. W. Drager, L. Burton, H. W. Pallus, P. F. Clark, W. H. Cooper, E. Cather, F. J. Babcock, L. M. Baker, T. C. Smith, D. J. Dinsmore, Jonathan Leslie, E. L. Briggs, Wells Latourette, H. F. Adams, Emory A. Wood, A. F. Wheeler, D. W. Mathews, R. J. Sharp, Geo. Williams, O. G. Shurtleff, C. S. Rockenfeld, D. C. Sherman, F. McAdams, W. H. Simpson, Gideon Stolz, F. C. Perrine, L. Henderson, Newton Putnam, E. Lampert and J. W. Beatty.

The post was then organized by the election and installation of the following officers: Commander F. J. Babcock; senior vice-commander, T. C. Smith; junior vice-commander, A. F. Wheeler; surgeon, L. Henderson; chaplain, Gideon Stolz; officer of the day, Geo. Williams; officer of the guard, Wells Latourette. The appointive officers were: C. S. Rockenfeld, adjutant; D. C. Sherman, sergeant major; F. C. Perrine, quartermaster sergeant; inside guard, E. A. Wood; outside guard, Jonathan Leslie.

There have been enrolled in the membership of the post since its organization the following named persons:

George Anderson, James Atkins, Levi P. Adams, Isaac Adams, Albert Ammerman, E. L. Briggs, F. J. Babcock, L. M. Baker, L. Burton, E. Becker, James Batchelor, W. H. Byars, H. C. Bell, William Benson, J. C. Blair, James M. Brown, I. F. Burt, A. M. Bryant, W. W. Bartlett, E. W. Bell, A. B. Buren, A. G. Bradley, Gilbert C. Brown, Lewis Blakeley, James L. Ballinger, Edwin Burton, Lyman Blakely, J. L. Bennett, H. H. Brown, Peter Buell, Oliver Butler, M. Beamer, William H. Brown, B. H. Bradshaw, P. S. Barber, C. S. Brock, S. Burrigh, J. G. Burgraft, Avery Burnett, H. I. Brown, Jesse Bennett, J. Q. Barnes, John Batey, Gilbert C. Brown, P. F. Clark, J. W. Crawford, Alexander Cronoyer, E. W. Chapman, R. A. Crossan, Asa Corwin, Lewis Capsell, E. C. Churchill, O. C. Churchill, S. B. Cone, J. H. Campbell, Riley H. Cain, C. E. Cline, C. W. Cherrington, C. L. Corwin, E. B. Crew, J. Caulfield, S. N. Carter, W. Chambers, W. E. Copeland, Geo. P. Cadwell, D. J. Cooper, James Crawford, A. Collins, W. B. Carpenter, Wm. Cronk, Henry Craft, A. W. Drager, B. G. Dove, Evan Daily, Geo. M. Decker, John L. Donovan, Charles C. Daniels, William Dollarhide, E. P. Doty, Charles E. Dayton, Silas Dickerson, G. W. Davis, A. W. Dutton, Lockwood D. Dennison, Ira Erb, O. B. Edgett, John L. Evans, Wesley Ellison, G. W. Ellis, W. A. H. Folger, J. N. Ferguson, Joseph Fishburn, S. R. Foster, W. E. Flescher, W. J. Forbes, James Fisher, Peter Fox, David J. Ferrell, James R. Falbanks, A. N. Gilbert, O. P. Graham, M. E. Goodell, Charles Gibbons, L. R. Gault, George Griswold, G. A. Grandstand, G. G. Gans, H. H. Glassford, G. W. Grannis, James F. Goode, John Garbe, D. C. Howard, L. Henderson, W. A. Henry, T. E. Hoover, T. Holverson, William Hillery, G. W. Harrison, J. L. Hockett, William H. Henline, Alexander Hamilton, A. D. Hulac, L. D. Henry, E. K. Hall, T. J. Harrison, C. F. Hall, John Henson, W. I. Henderson, Richard Hoover, William Harrison, Michael Horgan, D. Hosea, J. M. Huber, J. Holsinger, John Heales, T. H. Henderson, James Harrington, Joseph Hepp, Leander Her, D. W. Inman, Oliver W. Jones, Jasper Jennings, J. W. Jackson, L. W. Jones, Silas A. Jones, G. W. Johnson, James W. Jory, C. R. Jones, W. B. James, T. B. Jones, Levi Jones, T. M. Kirby, John Kamph, John Kelley, John Kline, Joseph J. Krapps, Joseph Kirkpatrick, Wm. Kerr, J. L. Kaplinger, H. A. Ketchum, Ferdinand Kurz, Samuel Kleffman, Wells Latourette, E. Lampert, Jonathan Leslie, W. N. Ladue, Fred Lockley, J. B. Latherman, S. T. Lobeck, Joseph Luper, W. C. Lichtenthaler, Nelson Learned, R. Lucas, William Livermore, D. F. Lane, George E. Lewis, John Leonard, D. W. Mat-

hews, E. B. McCormack, A. J. Moffit, D. M. Morris, H. J. Minthorn, J. E. McCoy, William Marston, R. H. Miller, S. W. Morgan, William A. Morgan, Lewis Miller, Robert McCaustland, J. M. Matthes, A. H. McCormack, G. A. Musser, A. P. J. Matheny, F. E. Miller, A. McMillan, N. N. Mathews, A. H. McAtee, Thomas Morgan, E. H. McDougal, G. S. McNunn, J. R. Neer, Albert Olinger, Otto Olinger, August Otto, S. B. Ormsby, F. C. Perrine, John Patterson, Z. M. Parvin, W. D. Pettungill, J. K. Pickens, A. E. Parker, Avery J. Poole, Christopher Pefferling, C. Patee, William F. Peck, William K. Pratt, M. Pomeroy, A. L. Pearson, L. A. Port, H. W. Prescott, C. Patrick, J. M. Pugh, Frank L. Pound, G. A. Prentiss, Christopher Peffering, Alexander Prescott, Peter Rosier, Henry Rogers, S. A. Randle, J. D. Rouse, John A. Rotan, J. V. Ronco, T. Remington, J. C. Rutan, J. E. Ross, J. P. Robertson, T. H. Reynolds, G. D. Radabaugh, R. H. Ryan, E. Randell, J. E. Robbins, J. N. Ryan, W. M. Ribinson, B. F. Radabaugh, P. F. Rumlill, Alex. Prescott, Earl Race, W. H. Simpson, D. C. Sherman, T. C. Smith, Gideon Stolz, L. S. Scott, F. B. Southwick, D. H. Sherwood, A. R. Stevens, Lyman S. Scott, Joshua H. Smith, William Spayed, R. M. Sayre, A. S. Slippy, Frank Starr, I. N. Strickler, J. M. Scott, John Savage, George P. Sanderson, F. M. Smith, John Scollard, William H. Smith, I. C. Sutton, D. E. Swank, G. D. Sprague, James W. Silabee, John Schupp, G. W. Smith, F. R. Schultz, H. Spaulding, L. D. Small, J. H. Stockton, P. A. Thomas, S. P. Tetr, Oscar Titus, E. W. H. Robinson, James Ross, John A. Thayer, H. H. Tompkins, H. M. Shoop, I. C. Sutton, Gideon Stolz, W. VanAvery, W. Vandercook, George H. Simpson, D. C. Sherman, J. H.

Williams, A. F. Wheeler, George Wright, Anton Worth, S. B. Watkins, Hiram White, S. J. L. Whitman, E. H. White, G. W. Willis, Josiah Wilcox, J. M. Watson, Ashley White, E. C. Wethington, Edward Williams, N. S. Williams, Eli Webb, John L. Wood, W. A. Waters, L. Wentz, R. E. Wands, H. L. Woolley, Daniel Webster, John Williams, Henry Widdersheim, George Zinn, Thos. A. Radcliff, Henry A. Andries, Irwin L. Smith, James M. Long, Geo. W. Hunter, Harry W. Hicks, H. Cadwell, John F. Shoup, W. H. Watkins, W. W. Bales; R. T. Leeper, George Lansing, F. A. Thompson, David Cade, John Sullivan, Tilman H. Harryman, Samuel T. L. Lobeck, Joseph Chadwick, Abram DeLong, Edwin Y. Lansing, F. L. Forshnell, Clark B. Stone, Edwin B. Elliott.

Time has thinned the ranks of the Grand Army, and year by year the roster of Sedgwick Post, like that of all others, grows smaller. Only about 75 names now appear in the books of the local post. Many of the members have moved away from Salem, and many others for various reasons find it impossible to take an active part in the organization, and have been dropped from the list. As complete a list as possible of those in active standing in Sedgwick Post has been obtained. They are:

Albert Allen, Henry Andrews, Edward Briggs, J. Q. Barnes, W. H. Brown, L. M. Baker, H. Broughton, Isaac Buangartner, W. H. Byars, Lyman Burton, James Hatcher, Horace Cadwell, James Crawford, David Cade, A. W. Drager, Lee Eller, Ira Erb, W. H. Folger, George Griswold, S. B. Hayward, W. M. Hillery, D. C. Howard, Joseph Hepp, Ferdinand Kurz, H. A. Ketchum, William Lansing, George Lansing, F. R. Leeper, George Lewis, D. F. Lans, G. R. Meer, D. W. Mathews, Canfield Marsh, L. K. Page, F. L. Pound, Z. M. Parvin, Earl Race, J. P. Robertson, Thomas Ratcliff, R. R. Ryan, W. H. Robinson, James Ross, John A. Thayer, H. H. Tompkins, H. M. Shoop, I. C. Sutton, Gideon Stolz, W. VanAvery, W. Vandercook, George H. Simpson, D. C. Sherman, J. H.

Smith, Frank Southwick, L. L. Tilton, John Sullivan, P. A. Thomas, Daniel Webster, W. H. Simpson, W. H. Byars, L. M. Baker, F. E. Southwick, George Lansing, W. N. Ladue, James H. Brown, R. A. Crossan, G. W. Jones, Joshua H. Smith, J. Q. Barnes, W. H. Robinson, James Ross, E. L. Briggs, Daniel Webster, Robertson and Philip Thomas.

The following veterans in the office of Commander of Sedgwick Post: F. J. Babcock, E. B. Baker, T. C. Smith, J. W. Crawford, W. H. Simpson, W. H. Byars, L. M. Baker, F. E. Southwick, George Lansing, W. N. Ladue, James H. Brown, R. A. Crossan, G. W. Jones, Joshua H. Smith, J. Q. Barnes, W. H. Robinson, James Ross, E. L. Briggs, Daniel Webster, Robertson and Philip Thomas.

The Woman's Relief Corps played a prominent part in the Grand Army organization in Sedgwick Post No. 1, was organized in 1884, and has at present 100 members. The following wives of Civil war veterans have been members of the local corps: Ida X. Baker, Helen M. Southwick, Emma Jones, Mary Baker, Lucretia Burton, L. Crossan, Lottie Dickey, Leta Sarah Drager, Ada Simpson, E. L. Briggs, Sarah R. Robinson, and Fie Wright.

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