

PROCEEDINGS

C.-IN-CHIEF

S. V., U. S. A.

1882-89

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EIGHT ANNUAL ENCAMPMENTS

OF THE

Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans,

U. S. A.,

For the Years 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887,
1888 and 1889. Bound and Published
April 1, 1890.

BY AUTHORITY.

C. A. BOOKWALTER,
Adjutant-General.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,
Commander-in-Chief.

INDIANAPOLIS:

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1890

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AT THE
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION, HOLDEN AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.,
AUGUST 27, 28, 29 AND 30, 1884.

In obedience to orders issued by Commander-in-Chief Frank P. Merrill, of Maine, the Commandery assembled in Independence Hall, at 2 o'clock P. M. August 27th, Commander Merrill in the chair.

In the absence of Adjutant General Edgecomb, Commander Merrill appointed Brother Horace P. Kent as Acting Adjutant General.

The Encampment was then opened in due form.

The Chair appointed the following Committee on Credentials: Edwin M. Amies, Pennsylvania, H. L. Wright, Maine, C. C. Morton and R. M. J. Reed, of Pennsylvania.

A roll-call of officers ordered and the following responded to their names: Frank P. Merrill, Commander-in-Chief; C. C. Morton, Vice-Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief; H. L. Wright, Chief-of-Staff; John C. Blake, Quartermaster General; E. M. Amies, Judge Advocate General; Frank H. Challis, J. B. Maccabe, E. J. Thornton, and E. R. Vincent, members of Council-in-Chief.

A recess declared by chair until such time as Committee on Credentials could present its report.

Report presented, and a motion made and seconded that it be accepted, provided no name except that of a son of a veteran appeared thereon. Lost. Motion made and seconded, that report be accepted as presented. Carried.

The report was as follows :

FIRST GRAND DIVISION.

I. S. Bangs; J. B. Maccabe, delegate; C. W. Davis, delegate.

MAINE.—C. H. McKusick, W. E. Parsons, delegates; A. K. J. Harvey, B. L. Farrar, alternates.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Frank H. Challis; R. W. Pillsbury, H. D. Soule, delegates; H. E. Webster, W. H. R. Haddock, alternates.

VERMONT.—Fletcher D. Procter; G. F. Cheney.

MASSACHUSETTS.—F. J. Bradford, C. S. Iline, Horace P. Kent, Geo. S. T. Fuller.

CONNECTICUT.—Wm. H. Pierponte; L. E. Seymour, E. F. Hill, delegates; A. C. Smith, D. E. Ford, alternates.

SECOND GRAND DIVISION.

MARYLAND.—W. E. W. Ross, W. C. Hunter, John C. Foote, John A. Thompson, jr.; Geo. W. Johnson, alternate.

OHIO.—E. H. Gilkey, W. C. Wykoff, C. M. Cott, H. F. Guerin; G. B. Sinclair, B. G. Ewing, alternates.

NEW JERSEY.—Robert Crawford, John A. Rodrigo, W. D. Brown; L. L. Drake, Capt. Rink, alternates.

POTOMAC.—W. C. Farquhar; John F. Weber, alternate.

KANSAS.—L. J. Webb, A. E. Case.

MICHIGAN.—F. W. Rowlson, C. F. Johnson.

NEW YORK.—Jas. E. Purdy, Alex. Rain, C. B. Westbrook, S. M. Bower, C. S. McBride.

EAST PENNSYLVANIA.—W. C. Hunter, delegate-at-large, 2d G'd D.; J. H. Closson, E. W. Alexander, R. M. J. Reed, H. M. E. Flint, Chas. J. Miller, C. Day Rudy; Alex. Fritz, C. E. Smith, W. P. Masterson, alternates.

WEST PENNSYLVANIA.—A. P. Davis, H. T. Rowley, H. W. Orth; F. M. Hartzell, W. C. Reem, H. W. Arnold; R. M. Linton, alternate; W. S. Payne.

ILLINOIS.—John Mayo Palmer, Hany F. Moore, Thos. Rinaker.

MINNESOTA.—George W. Penniman.

Signed,

E. W. AMES.
H. L. WRIGHT.
C. C. MORTON.
R. M. J. REED.

Moved and seconded, that where a regular delegate is absent the members of the Division present shall fill the vacancy from the regular alternates. Carried.

Moved and seconded, that the name of A. E. Case, credited to Kansas, be transferred to Illinois, which Division he represented. Carried.

Upon roll-call from the report, it was ascertained that thirty-one members were entitled to vote, who, with six officers, and one alternate, who was granted a vote by the Encampment, made a total of thirty-eight votes.

A motion was made and seconded, that all brothers present, not entitled to a voice in the meeting, be invited to take seats inside the rail, the first and second rows of seats to be reserved for members. Carried.

Moved and seconded, that Encampment proceed to order of business.

The following reports of officers were read and referred :

[NOTE.—The report of General Frank P. Merrill, as Commander-in-Chief, to the Third Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, not appearing with the manuscript of proceedings of that Encampment turned over to me by my predecessor, I telegraphed and wrote General Merrill, requesting him, if possible, to supply same, thinking he might have retained a copy thereof, and the following, in answer to my request, explains itself, and will doubtless prove of interest.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,
Commander-in-Chief.]

MALDEN, MASS., January 4, 1890.

General Charles F. Griffin, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—This morning I received the following telegram from you:

“INDIANAPOLIS, IND., January 3, 1890.

“*General Frank P. Merrill, 48 Washington Street:*

“If possible, please send me your report as Commander-in-Chief to Third National Encampment, to complete proceedings on file.

“CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,
“*Commander-in-Chief.*”

Now, General, nothing would give me more pleasure than to comply with your request; but it is an impossibility. I kept no copy of the reports, and it would be absurd to attempt to duplicate papers of that kind from memory, nearly six years after they were made. I feel that an irreparable injury and injustice has been done myself and the officers of my administration by the loss of those reports, as they contained a full account of our doings from August 6, 1883, to the meeting of the Third Annual Encampment at Philadelphia, in 1884. I can not believe that any one would maliciously destroy them, and so must ascribe their loss to the carelessness of my successor in office, or his assistant.

I fully appreciate your efforts to secure those reports and wish I could supply them, as it would certainly benefit me more than any other one man to have them printed in the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Encampment.

Possibly I may be able to supply a few facts that will interest the Sons of Veterans of to-day by contrasting the strength and resources of the Commandery-in-Chief in 1883 with the magnificent organization in 1890.

When I assumed command, August 6, 1883, the affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief were in a chaotic state. All the books, blanks, seal, supplies, etc., belonging to the Commandery-in-Chief, I packed in a small eighteen-inch gripsack and carried them to my home in Auburn, Maine, together with a debt of \$790—a legacy left me by my predecessor. Before the end of the year the debt was much heavier than the gripsack. It was impossible to tell how many members we had in good standing, or what we might expect to realize from the per capita tax just levied. The tax went first to the Divisions, then to the Grand Divisions and then to the Commandery-in-Chief. The amounts, which were small at the start, were in some cases wholly absorbed before reaching headquarters.

But the good work could not be allowed to lag for want of funds, and it did not. General S. S. Baugs, of the First Grand Division, and General W. E. W. Ross, of the Second and Third Grand Divisions, aided by Major A. P. Davis, spent time and money almost without stint to forward the work of organizing new camps and strengthening those already started. Printers were found who would furnish blanks and books and wait for their pay. Thus we were enabled to push the work of organization, reduce the debt, in a measure bring order out of chaos, and turn over to the next administration ten hundred and fifty pounds of supplies.

I feel that I would be doing an injustice did I omit to mention the valuable assistance rendered by Adjutant General Fred. L. Edgecomb, and Quartermaster General John C. Blake. Brother Blake should have all the credit for the reduction of the debt during the year, as the plan by which it was done was wholly his own. The members of my staff all worked for the advancement of the Order, and no doubt look back upon those "golden days" with the feeling that "virtue hath its own reward." I certainly look back upon those days as among the happiest of my life, in spite of hard work.

I regret very much, General, that I can not give you a detailed report of all that happened during my administration; but I can not supply the figures with any degree of accuracy; consequently have decided not to try it. Our work is done. If it was done well it will no doubt be appreciated. Whatever the verdict, it can not be changed now; and so I rest my case.

Most sincerely yours,

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Past Commander-in-Chief.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING
AUGUST 27, 1884.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
AUBURN, MAINE, August 27, 1884. }

To Frank P. Merrill, Lieutenant General and Commander-in-Chief:

SIR:—I have the honor to herewith transmit my report as Adjutant General, for the year ending August 27, 1884.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRED. L. EDGECOMB,
Colonel and Adjutant General.

The "Sons of Veterans of the United States of America," as you well know, are composed of the sons and grand-sons of the men who went bravely to war and battled for liberty and justice, that their children might inherit those great boons of liberty and freedom of speech; and who are now bound together in the closest ties of fraternity and friendship for the purpose of keeping green the memory of those men, helping the needy, and a proper observance of that most beautiful service of Memorial Day.

Since the last Commandery meeting, the First, Second and Third Grand Divisions have been permanently organized.

The First, composed of the New England States, Commander Frank H. Challis, with headquarters at Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Second, composed of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia; Commander _____, with headquarters at _____.

The Third, composed of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota; Commander Leland J. Webb, with headquarters at Topeka, Kansas.

The First was organized December 27, 1883, at Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Second was organized August 26, 1884, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Third was organized July 8, 1884, at Chicago, Illinois.

The Fourth Grand Division has, since its provisional organization, been under the efficient management of Brevet Major General A. V. Bohn, of Leadville, Colorado.

The Fifth Grand Division, being composed of the Southern States mostly, has not been organized on that account. It has been under the jurisdiction of General Wm. E. W. Ross, Commander of the Second Grand Division.

Sir Commander, allow me to make a suggestion, which I think ought to be brought before the Commandery-in-Chief, and that is the question of Grand Divisions. I would suggest that they be abolished, for the following reasons, to-wit:

First. They are a hindrance to the Commandery in promulgating orders and official business, and *vice versa*; in receiving reports from Divisions, as now, they have to come through the proper channels, which cause great delays, or have, in the fiscal year just ended.

Second. In the roster of the Grand Divisions there are a lot of high-flown military titles and offices, that can be easily dispensed with. And here, speaking of titles (military), I would suggest that *all* military titles of whatever grade or rank be done away with. For instance, let the Commander-in-Chief be Commander-in-Chief, not Lieutenant General; and so on down to the lowest grade. Let the Orderly Sergeant be Camp Secretary, and the Quartertermaster Sergeant be Camp Treasurer, and other offices accordingly. As Past Commander-in-Chief Beath says, the high-flown military titles are making our Order ridiculous in the eyes of the whole country, and the laughing-stock of the Grand Army. Do away with these, and the Grand Army of the Republic will give us their full sympathy and help.

There have, since the organization of our Order been about four hundred Camps mustered in, some of that number having come over from the so-called Philadelphia order, and the Morton branch, of New York State. They have an average of about thirty-five or forty, and that gives us the estimated numbers of membership of near sixteen thousand, a glorious result in every way. As we have some of the first young men in our Order, I fail to see any reason why we should not succeed and live to carry on the good work we have commenced.

I am glad to make mention of the fact that officially I know of only a very few Camps having been obliged to give up their charters; mostly on account of hard times, the members not feeling able to pay the running expenses of the Camp. These Camps, allow me to say, were all very small, probably the largest not numbering over twenty members.

The death list has happily been very small in the last year, I having only been informed of seven deaths throughout the Order.

The work in the Adjutant General's and Quartermaster's offices is very laborious, when the fact is known that the average "Son" works from ten to twelve and even fifteen hours a day, and then does what official business remains after everybody else is quietly sleeping in their beds. This fact shows that the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General should be allowed a suitable sum for their services in the future, such sum being large enough to allow these officers to give their undivided attention to the work of their respective offices.

The following work of the office is but a rough estimate of the year's work, and what will have to be done in the years to come:

Letters received	1,924
Letters written	1,857
General Orders issued	8
Special Orders issued	1
Circular Orders issued	4
Number of General Orders issued	6,400
Number of Circulars issued	5,000
Number of Special Orders issued	500
Commissions issued (Aides-de-Camp)	69
Commissions issued (Assistant Inspector Generals)	3
Commissions issued (Grand Division Officers)	15
Commissions issued (G. A. R. Brevets)	3
Diplomas issued (Civilian Life Members)	3

The Quartermaster General's report is herewith transmitted.

The Judge Advocate General has made no official report, nor in fact have any of the rest of the Staff.

The following is the standing of the Grand Divisions, as per reports received:

First Grand Division—

Members in good standing	1,675
Loss, from all causes	124

1,551

Second Grand Division—

Members in good standing	3,368
Loss, from all causes	603

2,765

Total membership, First and Second Grand Divisions 4,316

Third Grand Division—

No report received.

Fourth Grand Division—

No report received.

Now, here, sir, is the place where you can see the need of doing away with Grand Divisions. The Assistant Adjutant Generals have to wait for Division Adjutants, and so there is a great delay in their making their reports to Commandery headquarters; whereas, if the Commander-in-Chief was in close communication with the Divisions, they could get a little "stirring up" now and then if they did not forward their reports at the proper times. Also, Commandery headquarters would be better informed as to the standing of Divisions, both in matters of numbers and financially. The Quartermaster's report shows that supplies could be furnished Divisions quicker and with less expense than through Grand Divisions. Then, another thing, the per capita tax, drawing on the Divisions, obliges them to draw on the Camps heavily, thereby keeping the treasury always low, unless the muster fees and quarterly dues are enormous. Let us do away with the Grand Divisions of the Order.

APPENDIX.

General Orders, Special Orders and Circulars.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 AUBURN, ME., September 15, 1883. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 1.

I. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, I hereby assume command of the same with headquarters at Auburn, Me.

II. For the information of members of the Order, the following roster of elective officers is published: Frank P. Merrill, Auburn, Me., Commander-in-Chief; Augustus Saltzman, St. Joseph, Mo., Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief; Charles C. Morton, Philadelphia, Pa., Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief; Horace L. Wright, Auburn, Me., Chief-of-Staff.

III. The following appointments have been made on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, with the rank of Colonel: Frederick L. Edgecomb, Auburn, Me., Adjutant General; John C. Blake, Auburn, Me., Quarter-

master General; Edmond M. Amies, Altoona, Pa., Judge Advocate General; E. H. Gilkey, Columbus, Ohio, Inspector General; John J. Miller, Trenton, N. J., Chief Mustering Officer; W. R. Byers, Columbus, Ohio, Chaplain-in-Chief; Edwin R. Bennett, Chicago, Ill., Surgeon General; Harvey M. Burrell, Leadville, Col., Chief Ordnance Officer. They will be obeyed and respected accordingly. Additional appointments of Aides-de-Camp will be announced in future General Orders.

IV. The following are the Council-in-Chief for this term, with the rank of Colonel: Edward J. Thornton, Philadelphia, Pa.; Herbert A. Goss, Auburn, Me.; Frank H. Challis, Manchester, N. H.; J. B. Maccabe, East Boston, Mass.; John A. Wood, McKeesport, Pa.; Edgar R. Vincent, Columbus, O.; Geo. M. Allen, ———, Ind.; H. C. Windmiller, ———, Miss.; B. F. Risk, ———, Ill.; F. E. Brown, ———, Col.; Fred H. Storah, Auburn, Me.; Well Valentine, Bennington, Vt.; S. Ellis Riply, Livermore Falls, Me.; A. S. Libby, Portland, Me.; H. F. Baker, ———, N. J.

V. The Grand Army of the Republic, at Denver, Colorado, in National Encampment assembled, having officially recognized and endorsed *this* branch of the Sons of Veterans, all organizations of ex-Soldiers' Sons, by whatever name they may be known, are cordially invited to correspond with these Headquarters or with the nearest Division or Grand Division Commanders, with the view of associating themselves with the SONS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Grand Division Commanders will issue charters free of costs to all organizations of Camps or Posts that may have been organized and paid a charter fee to any other branch of the Sons of Veterans, or to any organization whose objects are similar and whose membership is eligible to this Order under the Constitution of the Order.

VI. As the Grand Army of the Republic has recognized us under the name of the "Sons of Veterans of the United States of America," it is important that all printed stationery should bear the full name of the Order, as by this means we can be readily distinguished from other similar organizations.

VII. All communications to the Commandery-in-Chief, from Subordinate branches of the Order, should be addressed to the Adjutant General, and sent through the regular channels, *i. e.*, Division and Grand Division Headquarters. Requisitions for supplies must be addressed to the Quartermaster General. Camps will draw on the Division Quartermaster. Division and Grand Division Commanders will see that sufficient supplies to fill orders promptly are kept constantly on hand.

By command of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
AUBURN, ME., November 12, 1883. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 2.

For the information of the Adjutant General, Division Adjutants will immediately forward to these headquarters, the name, number and location of all Camps in their respective Divisions, together with the name and post-office address of the Camp Commander, and as near as possible the number of members in each camp. It is absolutely necessary that this information be furnished *at once*, to enable the Commander-in-Chief to estimate the total strength of the Order, and for the convenience and information of the Order in general. This list will be published as soon as complete and sent to every Camp in the United States.

II. As the present semi-annual term closes December 31st, it will be necessary for the heads of the different departments to see that their reports are forwarded to these headquarters in accordance with pages 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60, R. and R. Blanks for this purpose will be furnished on application.

III. The name of H. C. Windmiller, _____, Mississippi, in General Order No. 1, should read C. A. Windmuller, St. Louis, Missouri. The mistake occurred in printing.

IV. In relation to the proposed consolidation of the two Orders of Sons of Veterans (known as the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia branches) as published in S. of V. and G. A. R. papers, after the meeting of the Commanders of each branch, in Boston, Massachusetts, October 24th, Commander-in-Chief Merrill has notified Grand Commander Earp, of the Philadelphia branch, that the truce agreed upon would end on and after November 10th, for the reason that the terms of consolidation as presented by him did not meet with the approval of the Pittsburgh Order. In accordance therewith, every member of the Pittsburgh Order is urged to use his influence to extend and increase our membership in Camps already organized, and strive *by all fair means* to organize new Camps in localities where none exist. We have now about three hundred and fifteen Camps organized in twenty-one States, and this number can easily be increased to five hundred before January 1, 1884, with a little exertion. This is the best time in the year to organize Camps. Thousands of young men, sons of soldiers, are scattered from Maine to California, who only need to be shown the principles and objects of our glorious Order, to band themselves together and increase our membership ten-fold before another National Encampment.

By order of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AUBURN, ME., January 15, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No 3.

I. The following are hereby appointed as Aides-de-Camp from the several Divisions on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, to be obeyed and respected as such:

MAINE.—W. E. Parsons, Foxcroft; F. E. Gibbs, Canton; J. W. Rogers, Rockland; A. K. P. Harvey, Auburn.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—J. H. Wooley, Penacook; H. P. Kent, Portsmouth; W. F. Stark, Lake Village; W. W. Payne, Derry Depot.

VERMONT.—J. H. Woodward, Brandon; E. Wales, Jr., Brattleboro; H. I. Cushman, Bennington.

MASSACHUSETTS.—F. W. Page, Jamaica Plains.

NEW JERSEY.—A. R. Dease, Camden; L. L. Drake, Elizabeth; A. McS. Soper, Metuchen; W. H. Cox, Newark.

NEW YORK.—Jos. H. Hatch, New York City.

EAST PENNSYLVANIA.—G. K. Black, Philadelphia; R. E. Hopkins, Milton; J. L. Stewart, Philadelphia; E. A. Hatfield, Sunbury.

WEST PENNSYLVANIA.—John A. Wood, McKeesport.

OHIO.—Chas. M. Cott, W. C. Wikoff, Columbus; F. M. Myers, East Liverpool; J. G. A. Richter, Canton.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Arthur Sperry, John Webber and H. A. Hulfish.

WISCONSIN.—C. E. Armin, Waukesha; N. A. Burnham, Clintonville; J. W. Kershaw, Kilbourne City; A. Ockershauser, Baraboo.

MINNESOTA.—A. S. Morgan, Minneapolis.

IOWA.—Al. Kellock, Dunlap; W. G. Butterfield, DeWitt; F. H. Weeman, Magnoket; Orris Roberts, Dunlap.

KANSAS.—D. D. Hoag, Wyandotte; E. W. Palmer, Paola; A. McGinnis, Eldorado; W. M. Bickford, Larned.

NEBRASKA.—S. L. Carlyle, Weeping Water; Frank Coats, Dorchester; S. P. Buckmaster, York; J. F. Knerr, Osceola.

II. The following are hereby appointed Aides-de-Camp from the several Grand Divisions, on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, with the rank of Colonel, to be obeyed and respected as such: First Grand Division—E. W. Reynolds, Bangor, Me.; Geo. W. Ward, Worcester, Mass. Second Grand Division—A. Miner, Wilkes Barre, Penn.; J. L. Rake, Reading, Penn. Third Grand Division—S. W. Coglizer, Weeping Water, Neb.; R. V. Mallory, Springfield, Ill. Fourth Grand Division—J. D. Fleming, Leadville, Col.; Warren C. Bliss, Denver, Col.

III. It is requested by the Commander-in-Chief that the Commanders of all Subordinate branches of the Order, forward to these headquarters, at once, copies of all General Orders and Circulars issued by them. It is essential these should be had at these headquarters that the Commandery-in-Chief may understand how the Order in general is prospering.

IV. Badges will be furnished by Grand Division Commanders to Divisions on receipt of \$9.50 per dozen, and Grand Division Commanders will instruct Colonels of Divisions to furnish badges to Camps, when ordered by the dozen, at the uniform price of \$10.50 per dozen. Single badges or badges ordered in less quantities than half dozen will remain at \$1.00 each. These prices will go into effect February 1, 1884. Camp Commanders should see that every member is provided with the Badge of the Order prior to the coming Memorial Day.

V. Attention is hereby called to the circular from the Quartermaster General's Department, which is herewith promulgated.

By order of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
AUBURN, ME., March 10, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 4.

I. In accordance with a vote taken at the last National Encampment the next National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will meet in Philadelphia, commencing August 27, 1884, at 9 o'clock A. M. Place of meeting to be hereafter announced. Arrangements will be made to secure low rates of fare on all railroads, and it is hoped a large delegation of Sons of Veterans will be present. Brothers are urged to take their vacation at this time, as efforts will be made to have three thousand Sons of Veterans in line at the Grand Procession which will take place the first day of the Encampment. Full particulars will be published as soon as arrangements are completed.

II. The Commander-in-Chief is forced to call the attention of Brothers once more to the financial condition of the Order. It is important that we clear ourselves from debt as soon as possible. There is no reason why this should not be done *at once*. A contribution of ten cents was asked from every Brother in the Order (see Circular No. 1, dated September 25, 1883). Up to

this date only \$200.05 has been received by the Quartermaster General. Only fifty-eight Camps—about one-sixth of the Brothers—have responded to the call. This is hardly fair, as the burdens should bear equally on all. In most cases this has been the fault of Camp Commanders in failing to properly bring the subject before their Camps. This contribution is not for the benefit of one man but for all. The amount thus far received has been paid to Past Commander-in-Chief Kowley and Major Davis, in part payment of their bills. If all the Camps that have not responded would send in their contribution of ten cents per member, we should realize about \$1,100, which would enable us to cut down the per capita tax from fifteen cents to six cents a year. Brothers, will you not consider this matter and send in your contributions promptly. It certainly is not right that a few Brothers should carry the debt for a large and prosperous Order like ours. Contributions should be sent direct from Camps to Quartermaster General John C. Blake, Auburn, Maine, who will return a receipt for the same and publish the amount in General Orders.

III. The semi-annual reports due at these headquarters January 31, have not yet been received. This, undoubtedly, is largely the fault of Camp Commanders in not making prompt returns to the Division Adjutants. This is a very important matter. The success of the Order depends upon a prompt compliance with the requirements of the Rules and Regulations. If they are wrong, they should be obeyed until our next National meeting, and then changed. Discipline is the corner-stone of our Order; without it the structure can not stand. Assistant Adjutant Generals are requested to give this matter their prompt attention, and report progress to these headquarters.

IV. Attention is called to the importance of sustaining the several papers published in the interest of the Order. As a means of communication between Camps they are of great benefit, and are worthy the support of all Brothers.

V. Fred. H. Bean, Portland, Maine, is hereby appointed Assistant Inspector General on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief. He will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By order of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
AUBURN, ME., April 27, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 5.

I. On May 30, the Grand Army of the Republic will for the sixteenth time observe the beautiful custom of strewing with flowers the graves of their dead comrades.

II. In accordance with Article III, Sections 1 and 2, page 4, Rules and Regulations, all Camps of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., wherever located, are hereby urgently requested to tender their services to the different Grand Army Posts to which they are attached, for the purpose of aiding them in performing this solemn duty. The time is not far distant when this duty will devolve wholly on us; it is well, therefore, that we learn from our fathers the significance of this annual floral offering, to the end that we may be better fitted to carry on the work when they are mustered out of service. It is expected that all Brothers will consider it not only a duty but a privilege to assist in this ceremony.

III. Division Commanders should see that their commands are supplied with badges, and so far as practicable, with uniforms. The regulation cap at least should be worn on all parades.

IV. As a source of information, Orderly Sergeants of Camps will, on or before June 10, forward to these headquarters, a correct report of the number of members participating in the ceremonies.

By order of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

FRED. L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. }
AUBURN, ME., May 20, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 6.

I. In accordance with Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 Rules and Regulations, an inspection is hereby ordered in this Commandery-in-Chief, before July 1, 1884.

II. Inspector General E. H. Gilkey, Columbus, Ohio, is charged with the execution of this order. He will cause to be appointed such Assistant Inspectors in the several Divisions as may to him appear necessary for the proper performance of this duty. He will also furnish all necessary blanks and papers, and establish such regulations (in conformity with general Rules and Regulations), as may be needed. It is of great importance that this inspection be thorough, and the exact condition of every Camp reported. Camp Commanders will furnish Assistant Inspectors with all information called for, and open the Camp books for their inspection.

III. By the advice and with the consent of the Council-in-Chief, the per capita tax has been reduced from 15 cents to 6 cents per annum. One-half of this (3 cents) was due at these headquarters February 1, 1884; the balance will be due August 1, 1884.

The delay in receiving this tax at these headquarters is the cause of much annoyance in meeting the necessary expenses. Hereafter no Grand Division, Division or Camp Officer will be installed until all moneys due for per capita tax have been paid over to the next higher branch of the Order. The semi-annual reports must also be made out, and properly signed and turned over to the installing officer at the time of installation.

By command of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED. L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
AUBURN, ME., June 24, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 7.

I. The arrangements for the Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, United States of America, to be held at Philadelphia, August 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, are progressing as rapidly as circumstances will admit. Our Brothers in Philadelphia are arranging to make the stay of delegates and visiting Brothers as pleasant as possible. Liberal reductions in hotel rates have been secured, and negotiations are now pending

for reduced rates of fare on railroads and steamboats. In order to secure the best rates possible, it will be necessary for the Transportation Committee to know, as early as possible, how many Brothers besides the regular delegates intend to make the trip. Brothers in the New England States, including the regular delegates, will send their names and location to John C. Blake, Quartermaster General, Auburn, Maine. The Middle States will correspond with Colonel R. M. J. Reed, West Philadelphia, and the Western States with Colonel E. H. Gilky, Columbus, Ohio. Every effort will be made by the committee to secure the lowest possible rates on trunk lines, but Brothers at remote points will be obliged to arrange for transportation to central points, and there purchase tickets at reduced rates. The New England delegation will leave Boston Monday evening, August 25th, via Sound Line Steamer to New York and proceed by rail to Philadelphia. It is the desire of the Commander-in-Chief that, as far as convenient, the New York and New Jersey delegations join the New England delegation in New York, and go by same train to Philadelphia. Place of meeting to be announced in future General Orders.

II. It is expected that ALL delegates will attend the meeting unless detained by sickness, in which case the alternate should be notified in season to arrange to attend. In addition to the regular delegates it is expected and urged that as many Brothers as can possibly leave their business attend the meeting. All Brothers of the Order will be allowed a seat in the meeting, but only delegates will be allowed a voice or vote. As has been urged before, Brothers should take their vacation at this time, and let us show by the large number present that the spirit which actuated our fathers to rally at the call for three hundred thousand more, still lives in the sons.

III. It being evident that changes in our Ritual and Rules and Regulations are needed, and will be called for at this meeting, all officers and Brothers are requested to give the matter careful consideration, and send to Fred L. Edgecomb, Adjutant General, Auburn, Maine, such changes as to them seem called for. These will be printed and forwarded to all the Camps previous to the National meeting.

By command of

Official:

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AUBURN, ME., August 13, 1884. }

GENERAL ORDER, No. 8.

I. At the coming Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, to be holden at Philadelphia, August 27, 28, 29 and 30, headquarters will be established at the Washington House, 709 Chestnut street, at 1 o'clock P. M., Tuesday, August 26.

II. In accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, page 51, Rules and Regulations, there will be a meeting of the Council-in-Chief, at headquarters, at 2 o'clock P. M., Tuesday, August 26. It is expected that all members of the Council-in-Chief will be present, if possible, as business of importance will come before the meeting.

III. The Commandery-in-Chief will be called to order in Independence Hall, at 9 o'clock A. M., sharp, Wednesday, August 27. The Commander of Anna M. Ross Camp, No. 1, Philadelphia, will detail a competent non-commissioned officer to act as Sergeant of the Guard, and one to act as Picket Guard. The Commander of S. C. Potts Camp, No. 12, Altoona, will detail a

Corporal of the Guard, and the Commander of Gen. John F. Reynolds Camp, No. 4, Philadelphia, will detail a Camp Guard, to act as such during the Encampment.

IV. Delegates, upon their arrival, will report at once to H. L. Wright, Chief of Staff, at headquarters, and hand their credentials to Adjutant General Fred. L. Edgecomb.

V. It being virtually settled that numerous changes to the Rules and Regulations will be made at the coming Encampment, the Brothers are cautioned to give all such proposed changes careful thought and study before presenting them to the meeting. Bear in mind that changes should not be sought after simply for a change, and only those should be changed which experience has shown to be needless or impracticable. Every facility will be afforded delegates to present such resolutions as they see fit, but in order to facilitate business, the time to present resolutions for changes to the Rules and Regulations or Ritual, is limited to the adjournment of the meeting, August 27th. All resolutions or propositions will be referred to the proper committees and reported on as soon as practicable.

VI. Delegates will appear in full regulation uniform, and will, during the encampment, wear upon the left breast of the coat the regulation badge of the Order. The wearing of shoulder-straps or rank badges while going to or coming from the Encampment is not approved by the Commander-in-Chief, and should be discouraged, as tending to bring the Order into disrepute among members of the Grand Army of the Republic. During the Encampment shoulder-straps and rank badges should be worn in their proper position.

VII. The following Brothers are appointed as additional Aides-de-Camp, for meritorious service in establishing Camps: Fred. L. Donnell, Newell Camp, No. 26, Richmond, Maine, and J. P. Wescott, Shepley Camp, No. 4, Portland, Maine. They will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By command of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED. L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
AUBURN, ME., August 28, 1884. }

SPECIAL ORDER, No. 1.

I. Hereafter Assistant Quartermaster Generals of the Grand Divisions will order regulation badges and ribbons direct from Bailey, Banks & Biddle, Twelfth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, Penn., at the reduced rates of \$7.80 per dozen for badges, and \$1.25 for ribbons. To get this reduction, badges and ribbons must be ordered in lots of half dozens or more, as Bailey, Banks & Biddle will not furnish less than half dozens at less than \$1 per badge, and 15 cents per ribbon. The prices which Grand Divisions are required to furnish badges to Divisions is set forth in the official price list.

II. Grand Divisions will be required to make monthly statements of all badges and ribbons ordered by them, and a royalty of five cents per badge and one cent per ribbon will be forwarded to the Quartermaster General, John C. Blake, at Auburn, Me.

By order of

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED. L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AUBURN, MA., September 25, 1883. }

CIRCULAR, No. 1.

The following extract from the proceedings of the National Encampment, held at Columbus, Ohio, August 6 and 7, 1883, is published for the information of the Order:

REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, August 7, 1883.

To the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans of the U. S. A.:

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve the following bills presented to us for approval:

Bill of Past Commander-in-Chief H. T. Rowley—

To expenses, incidentals for terms ending August 6, 1883 . . . \$500 00

Bill of Colonel H. A. Davis—

To expenses, incidentals for terms ending August 6, 1883 . . . 200 00

Total \$790 00

In accordance with Rules and Regulations, Art. I, Sec. 5, we do hereby recommend that each Division pay to the Grand Division a charter fee of \$15, and each Grand Division pay to the Commandery-in-Chief a charter fee of \$25. Also, we recommend that the Commandery-in-Chief furnish all supplies appertaining to the Order, the price of which shall be fixed by the Commander-in-Chief at a price above the actual cost of manufacture. These prices shall be published in a price-list to be furnished to all Camps in the Order without charge. A discount of 25 per cent. shall be allowed all Grand divisions, which shall in turn allow a discount of 20 per cent. to all Divisions, they to conform strictly to the list in supplying Camps. This list shall not include badges, which shall be furnished Grand Divisions at 15 per cent. off, they to furnish Divisions at 10 per cent.

We also recommend the assessment of a per capita tax of 15 cents on all Grand Divisions, due and payable January 1, 1884, and we also request a special contribution of 10 cents from each member in good standing in every Subordinate Camp.

The money to be forwarded immediately to the Quartermaster General of the Commandery-in-Chief.

This contribution to be used to liquidate the present indebtedness, and placing the Commandery-in-Chief on a sound financial basis.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK P. MERRILL,
HORACE L. WRIGHT,
EDGAR R. VINCENT,
EDWARD J. THORNTON,

Committee from Council-in-Chief.

The report was unanimously adopted by the Encampment.

In addition to the above, there is due the firm of Merrill & Moore, printers, Auburn, Maine, for printing rituals, rules and regulations, blanks, cards, orders, etc., the sum of \$327, which makes the total indebtedness of the Commandery-in-Chief \$1,117. Since the organization of the Order the Commandery-in-Chief has never received one cent towards defraying the expenses of printing, postage, and incidental expenses, the money having been advanced by the past officers. The present officers feel that this debt should be paid, or nearly so, at once, and we earnestly call upon every member of the Order, wherever he may be, to send us the small sum of ten cents, to aid

us in lifting this debt, and placing the Commandery-in-Chief on a sound financial basis, thus enabling the officers to carry on our noble work on correct business principles. We have between nine and ten thousand members in the United States, and if every member contributes the amount asked for, the sum realized will enable us to carry on the work successfully.

The contributions should be promptly collected by the Quartermaster Sergeant of each Camp, and forwarded at once direct to the Quartermaster General, John C. Blake, Auburn, Maine, who will promptly return a receipt for the same, and on November 1st a circular will be issued giving the name of each Camp and the amount contributed. Now let all Brothers who have the success of the Order at heart, cast their mite into the treasury, and thus enable us to reimburse our Brothers, who so willingly put their hands in their pockets when the Order was in its infancy and its success doubtful. It is asking too much of them to carry this debt, when by a small contribution from each one of us, it can be wiped out. Will the Captains of Camps please bring this matter up at their next meeting, and instruct the Quartermaster Sergeant, or some other Brother of the Camp, to solicit contributions and forward them as before stated on or before October 25th?

Hoping to receive a generous response,

I remain, fraternally yours,

FRANK P. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S DEPT., AUBURN, ME., NOV. 1, 1883. }

CIRCULAR No. 2.

I. Having been appointed Quartermaster General of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America, on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, I have assumed control of that department, with headquarters at Auburn, Me.

II. In accordance with the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief at the recent National Encampment, all supplies must be furnished from these headquarters, through the regular channels. Assistant Quartermaster Generals of Grand Divisions and Quartermasters of Divisions will keep constantly on hand a sufficient quantity of supplies to fill all orders promptly. The prescribed forms should be used in making requisitions. Quartermaster Sergeants will make requisition on the Division Quartermaster. Division Quartermasters on the Assistant Quartermaster Generals of their respective Grand Divisions, who will draw on the Quartermaster General of Commandery-in-Chief. A printed price list will be furnished Camps at an early date, free of cost. A discount of 25 per cent. will be allowed to Grand Divisions, 20 per cent. to Division, they to conform strictly to the list in supplying Camps. This discount will not apply to badges, which will be furnished at 15 and 10 per cent. off list price.

III. The attention of Grand Division and Division Commanders is called to Circular No. 1, from these headquarters, in relation to charter fees and per capita tax. It will be necessary for them to take action in the matter at once, in order that the recommendations of the Council-in-Chief may be carried out.

IV. In Circular No. 1, a contribution of ten cents was solicited from each member of the Order in good standing, to assist in paying the debt of the Commandery-in-Chief. While the sum thus far received is not as large as it should have been, it nevertheless shows that if all the Camps in the Order will do as well as those whose names appear below, the sum realized

will be nearly sufficient to liquidate our present indebtedness. It is earnestly hoped that every Camp in the country will respond with a generous contribution before November 25, in order that their names may appear in the Circular to be issued December 1.

V. Below we give the amounts thus far received, with the names of the donors:

FIRST GRAND DIVISION.

Maine.

Daniel Chaplin Camp No. 3, Bangor	\$4 70
Shepley Camp No. 4, Portland	6 40
Ingraham Camp No. 15, Harmony	1 50
Garfield Camp No. 1, Waterville	3 50
Lowell Camp No. 11, Foxcroft	2 00
Ellsworth Camp No. 8, Livermore Falls	2 50
A. C. Pray Camp No. 2, Auburn	10 00
Custer Camp No. 9, Lewiston	7 00

New Hampshire.

Wm. S. Leach Camp No. 3, Meredith Village	1 90
Levi Dolloff Camp No. 8, Gorham	1 50
W. W. Brown Camp No. 1, Manchester	2 80
J. S. Durgin Camp No. 7, Penocook	1 75
O. W. Keys Camp No. 5, Ashland	1 30

Massachusetts.

Lieutenant Commander W. A. Pickett, Worcester (personal)	10 00
A. A. Goodell Camp No. 2, Worcester	10 00

SECOND GRAND DIVISION.

Pennsylvania.

General S. P. Spears Camp No. 47, Hanover (E. Pa.)	1 60
Ewing Camp No. 13, Sharon (W. Pa.)	2 70
— Camp No. 3, Lock Haven (E. Pa.)	3 10
Davis Camp No. 1, Pittsburgh (W. Pa.)	5 00
Lieutenant J. L. Lisle Camp No. 2, Allegheny City (W. Pa.)	5 00

Ohio.

Governor Dennison Camp No. 1, Columbus	6 30
Jas. S. Carter Camp No. 14, Canton	2 00

THIRD GRAND DIVISION.

Nebraska.

Garfield Camp No. 3, Dorchester	2 70
Weeping Water Camp No. 1, Weeping Water	5 00

Missouri.

Lyon Camp No. 1, St. Joseph	3 00
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FOURTH GRAND DIVISION.

Colorado.

A. Lincoln Camp No. 3, Leadville	5 00
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Total \$108 25

This amount has been sent to Past Commander-in-Chief Rowley, and leaves the present indebtedness of the Commandery-in-Chief at \$1,008.75.

VI. I am now prepared to furnish electrotype cuts of Coat-of-Arms and Badge (large or small), at \$1 each. It is advisable that every Camp possess one or both of these cuts for use on their Camp printing.

Fraternally yours,
JOHN C. BLAKE,
Quartermaster General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, }
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. }
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, AUBURN, ME., Dec. 1, 1883. }

CIRCULAR No. 3.

I. The attention of Orderly Sergeants of Camps, Adjutants of Divisions and Assistant Adjutant Generals of the Grand Divisions is called to Article II, Sections 2 and 3, pages 56, 57 and 58, Rules and Regulations, in regard to semi-annual reports and returns. It is of the greatest importance that these reports and returns be sent in promptly. Commanding officers will at once give their personal attention to this matter.

II. The Quartermaster Sergeants of Camps, Quartermasters of Divisions, and Assistant Quartermaster Generals of the Grand Divisions, will see that their reports are ready to be forwarded with the Orderly Sergeant's, etc., of their respective branches of the Order.

III. The Surgeons throughout the Order will make no report for the term ending December 31, 1883. But thereafter all Surgeons will see that their reports are ready at the same time as those referred to in the preceding articles of this circular.

IV. Of the returns of Division Adjutants called for in Article I, General Order No. 2, these Headquarters, dated November 12, 1883, very few have as yet been received. Division Commanders will see to this, as they must be sent in at once.

V. The amount of money received by the Quartermaster General for the month of November, as a voluntary contribution to enable the Commandery-in-Chief to liquidate the debt with which it is now encumbered, was \$47.60, making \$155.85 received to date. No circular will be issued from the office of the Quartermaster General until January next, and it is sincerely hoped that before that time every Camp throughout the country will have responded, that their names may appear in said circular.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

FRED L. EDGECOMB,
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS. }
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 OFFICE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, AUBURN, ME., Jan. 15, 1884. }

CIRCULAR No. 4.

I. The following Camps have contributed toward paying the debt of the Commandery-in-Chief, since the issue of Circular No. 2:

FIRST GRAND DIVISION.

Maine.

Wardsworth Camp No. 5, Gardner	\$2 60
Harry M. Stinson Camp No. 6, Augusta	4 20

New Hampshire.

Eldridge E. Webster Camp No. 2, Lake Village 2 10

Vermont.

Edward F. Reynolds Camp No. —, Rutland 1 50

SECOND GRAND DIVISION.

Eastern Pennsylvania.

Anna M. Ross Camp No. 1, Philadelphia 10 00

Gen. D. B. Birney Camp No. 13, Philadelphia 2 25

Col. G. J. Thornton (Personal), Philadelphia 2 00

Geo. G. Meade Camp No. 16, Reading 10 00

John M. Styer Camp No. 25, Berwick 1 00

George Washington Camp No. 12, Shomokin 5 60

Edgar M. Ruhl Camp No. 33, York 1 00

Captain Beatty Camp No. 35, Carlisle 2 30

Amos B. Rhodes Camp No. 36, Williamsport 2 00

John Bradigan Camp No. 51, Northumberland 1 15

Western Pennsylvania.

Garfield Camp No. 3, McKeesport 5 00

R. B. Hayes Camp No. 4, Pittsburgh 3 00

Thos. H. Lapsley Camp No. 9, Braddock 4 00

Lieutenant S. C. Potts Camp No. 12, Altoona 2 90

Potomac.

Geo. A. Custer Camp No. 1, Washington 3 00

Ohio.

General Garfield Camp No. 3, East Liverpool 4 00

W. G. Webb Camp No. 13, Logan 80

THIRD GRAND DIVISION.

Minnesota.

Geo. N. Morgan Camp No. 4, Minneapolis 2 00

FOURTH GRAND DIVISION.

Colorado.

J. A. Garfield Camp No. 1, Denver 2 00

Farragut Camp No. 5, Denver 1 30

Total \$74 70

II. The contributions received to date leave the indebtedness of the Commandery-in-Chief at \$934.05. Thus far fifty Camps have contributed, and if the remaining Camps in the Order will do as well, the sum realized will be nearly sufficient to liquidate our present indebtedness. Let us hear from every Camp.

III. The price list is issued at this date and herewith promulgated. It is expected that Camps will consult the same and keep themselves supplied with everything needful.

JOHN C. BLAKE,
Quartermaster General.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

To *Fred. L. Edgcomb, Adjutant General Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:*

SIR AND BROTHER:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the financial transactions of the Commandery-in-Chief for the term now ending, August 27, 1881. (Refer to balance sheet.)

Of the amount received from voluntary contributions, \$108.25 has been paid to Past Commander-in-Chief Rowley, and \$74.70 to Major A. P. Davis, leaving the amount due, \$482.75 to Past Commander-in-Chief Rowley, and \$125.30 to Major A. P. Davis. The remainder (amounting to \$41.65), of the total amount received from this source, has been used in general expenses.

There is also due Commander-in-Chief Merrill \$59.07, leaving our debt at \$667.12.

Two circulars have been issued from my department, giving the names of the Camps and individuals, who have contributed in response to Circular No. 1, to the sum for the liquidation of our indebtedness.

The following Camps have contributed since the issue of Circular No. 4:

FIRST GRAND DIVISION.

T. W. Hyde, Camp No. 10, Bath, Me.	\$3 50
Anderson, Camp No. 7, Rockland	3 00
Henry L. Richards Camp No. —, Portsmouth, N. H.	2 40
T. S. Peck Camp No. 1, Brandon, Vt.	3 00
Capt. Forrest Roy Camp No. 4, Bennington, Vt.	2 20

SECOND GRAND DIVISION.

Col. Joseph Hillman Camp No. 10, Youngstown, O.	1 50
Sims Camp No. 21, New Straightsville, O.	2 00
Henry Yeager Camp No. 22, Pine Grove, E. Pa.	2 00
J. A. Garfield Camp No. 34, Mt. Connel, E. Pa.	1 00
Gen. E. C. O. Ord Camp No. 54, E. Pa.	3 00
S. Hepburn Pollock Camp No. 21, Milton, E. Pa.	4 70
True Blue Camp No. 29, Williamstown, E. Pa.	2 00
Perry Forman Camp No. 17, Port Chester, Y. Y.	1 80
Veteran Camp No. 15, New York, N. Y.	2 20
R. G. Shaw Camp No. 17, Stapleton, N. Y.	1 00

THIRD GRAND DIVISION.

D. S. Villum Camp No. 15, Baraboo, Wis.	2 40
Sidney Morgan Camp No. 1, DeWitt, Iowa.	1 15
J. N. Newbold Camp No. 5, Wyoming, Iowa.	2 20

Total \$41 05

Upon assuming the duties of the office I found but few blanks on hand, and it was necessary to incur a considerable debt to stock up for business. Happily, all debts incurred during the year for printing supplies, etc., have been paid.

To show the difference between the amount of supplies on hand at the beginning of the year and the stock we now have, I will say that a small bundle and Commander-in-Chief Merrill's valise held them all. Now it takes four large boxes to transport them.

We now have all blanks in print which we really need, with few exceptions, and in this connection I would recommend that some of the blanks be revised.

Ribbons.	Badges.	B. H. Dec.	Iron Cross.	Elec. cut large badge.	Elec. cut sm'l badge.	Elec. cut coat-of-arms.	Received for supplies.	Rec'd for royalty on badge and ribbons.	Rec'd for special contribution, 10 cts. per member.	Received for per capita tax.	Total.
195	336 60	22	6 24	26							
122	168 20	1	5 7	11		\$161 00	\$48 82	\$94 35	\$97 98	\$702 15	
21	132	1	1 2	2	13	139 17	58 65	102 90	181 25	481 97	
12	12 24			1	1	309 69		18 45	1 32	329 46	
158	312 44	2	6 23	14		27 01		8 50		35 39	
8	20 16			1	3	\$936 87	\$107 47	\$224 00	\$280 55	\$1,518 87	
29	4			9							

EXPENDITURES.

\$722 47
 276 76
 42 00
 37 04
 426 38
 40 45

\$1,545 10
 3 79

\$1,548 89

\$163 52

Form No. 5, application for Camp charter, should be changed so as to admit the name of the father. Several others should be simplified.

I wish, in this connection, to acknowledge the deep obligation I am under to Post Commander Bangs, of the First Grand Division; Commander Ross, of the Second, and to Major Davis, our noble founder.

I am indebted to Brother Parsons, of Foxcraft, for our excellent forms of bonds.

I would recommend the more general adoption of our "sets" of supplies for new Camps. Every Division Commander should keep these "sets" on hand, and when a new Camp is formed the mustering officer should supply the Camp at the time of muster.

I would recommend that the "requisition for supplies" blank be more generally adopted in ordering, as it greatly simplifies matters for the officer receiving the same.

Experience has shown me that it would insure greater promptness, save handling, express charges, etc., if Divisions should obtain their supplies direct from Commandery-in-Chief headquarters.

I would also recommend that the Commandery-in-Chief contract for badges in large quantities, and have full control of the same, and that the retail price be reduced to seventy-five cents, as early as practicable.

The first few months of the year, some difficulty was experienced in supplying promptly the different branches of the Order with the necessary blanks, on account of the lack of some, and the time required in getting ready and printing. After the issue of our price-list in January, but little difficulty of this kind was experienced.

In concluding, I wish to extend my thanks to Commander-in-Chief Merrill for the assistance he has rendered me in discharging the duties of my office.

To the officers and Brothers with whom I have had dealings, I also wish to extend my thanks for the uniform courtesy shown me at all times.

In performing the duties of my office, I have devoted nearly my whole time outside my regular business, and while it will relieve me of considerable care and labor to retire, it is with a feeling somewhat of regret that I sever my connection with the office, and trust that my labors will benefit the Order as much as they have been pleasing to me.

JOHN C. BLAKE,
Quartermaster General.

REPORT OF VICE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

PHILADELPHIA, August 27, 1884.

To the Commander, Officers and Delegates of the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BRETHREN—According to the Rules and Regulations, I am required to make a report as an officer of this body.

On assuming the responsible position of Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief I found that to make our Order a success it would require constant communication with the other officers of the Commandery, so accordingly I placed myself in communication with the Commander-in-Chief, and by so doing I opened up new channels of communication, some of which proved beneficial to us.

Let me call your attention to the formation of our branch of the Order in Hillsdale, Michigan. After several communications with the worthy Brother who was successful in organizing a Camp at that place, we were amply repaid for our trouble, for the opposition were also struggling with the

Brother to push their claim; but after persistent endeavors we were successful. One or two other places have been communicated with, but not with the success that attended the Hillsdale organization.

Your Vice Lieutenant Commander has attended and helped in the mustering of three Camps from the opposition, two in the State of Delaware and one in the City of Philadelphia, and also helped in the mustering of one of the best Camps that is in the Order to-day, Camp No. 56, of the Eastern Division of Pennsylvania. I have also attended and kept myself constantly posted as regards the workings and condition of the Camps in this immediate vicinity. I have also visited several Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in the interest of our beloved Order, and in every instance I have received encouragement.

I would therefore call your attention to the fact that while I have done comparatively nothing, in a way, still there has been something done. No matter how small that something is, it has proved beneficial to us, and shows that, although I am but one, I have contributed my small share to help build up the rightful organization and pull down the wrong.

Let me call your attention to the fact that there should be some definite action taken in regard to the consolidation of the two factions of our Order, as I understand there is a growing tendency in that direction among the opposition here in our city, and as they are constantly getting rid of the "dead wood" that caused a great deal of the trouble, I believe something could be done that would lead to a joining of hands into one faithful brotherhood.

And now, let me say, let us be thankful for the success that has attended our labors the past year, and let us hope that the coming year may prove still more of a success to our beloved Order, which has for its principles the maintenance of our glorious country, for which our fathers fought and died. And let us still remember the Grand Army of the Republic, whose memories we are to perpetuate, and let us in all our dealings with them be mindful that they are the men who saved us and the Nation from treason in its worst form.

Allow me, therefore, to extend my thanks to the Commander and all the Brothers with whom I have had any dealings or communication.

Most respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

CHAS. C. MORTON,

Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief.

The chair appointed the following committees:

Constitutions, Rules and Regulations.—F. H. Challis, E. R. Vincent, W. E. W. Ross, C. Day Rudy and J. C. Foote.

On Officers' Reports.—Geo. W. Penniman, E. Z. Dow, F. W. Rowison.

On Ritual.—C. M. Cott, W. C. Reem, J. B. Maccabe.

Recess voted until 9 A. M., 28th.

PHILADELPHIA, August 28.

Encampment called to order 9:45 A. M., Commander Merrill in chair.

Moved and seconded, that roll call of members be dispensed with. Carried.

Committee on Reports of Officers submitted following:

Your committee to whom was referred the reports of officers, respectfully submit the following suggestions:

1. That as much of the reports as relates to finance be referred to a Committee on Finance, to be appointed.

2. That so much of the recommendations of the Adjutant General as contemplate constitutional changes, be referred to the Committee on General Rules and Regulations.

3. That the subject of the abolishing of Grand Divisions, as suggested by the Adjutant General, be referred to the Committee on Commandery and Grand Divisions.

4. That the subject of compensation for the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General be referred to the Committee on Finance, which we recommend be appointed.

5. That all other matters not covered by the preceding recommendations, be referred to the Committee on Commandery and Grand Division.

In this connection we would congratulate the Order upon the very favorable auspices under which we are assembled, and recommend that the reports of the officers be accepted.

G. W. PENNINGMAN,
F. W. ROWLSON,
E. Z. DOW,

Committee.

Moved by J. B. Maccabe, of Massachusetts, that credentials of Chas. S. Knight, of Massachusetts, be admitted and his name placed on report of Committee on Credentials, and that he have a vote in the Encampment. Carried.

Recess of five minutes declared by chair, to ascertain when Committee on Constitutions, Rules and Regulations would be ready to report. Said committee sent word that they would not be ready to report before 11 o'clock.

Report of Committee on Unwritten Work called for. The committee (Dr. W. S. Eldnoge) submitted a verbal report, and suggested that the grip be changed, it now being known by persons not members or eligible. Moved, seconded and carried, that report be referred back to committee, with request that it be made in writing, and with suggestion of grip or grips to be adopted.

Committee on Ritual presented copy of one adopted by Second Grand Division.

Report of Inspector General read and referred to Committee on Report of Officers.

Roll call of Divisions was gone through for reports. None were submitted, it being announced that each Division had indorsed the reports and recommendations of the Grand Division under which it worked.

A resolution was presented by E. J. Thornton, and read, viz:

Resolved, That the efforts of Bro. George S. Brown, Camp No. 26, Eastern Division of Pennsylvania Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., are hereby appreciated by this Commandery-in-Chief, and that his work for Ladies' Aid Societies be heartily indorsed and recommended to the various Camps under this jurisdiction.

Signed,

E. J. THORNTON.
C. J. MILLER.
C. DAY RUDY.
ALBERT FRITZ.
H. W. ARNOLD.
W. C. HUNTER.
W. C. REEM.
J. H. CLOSSON.
C. C. MORTON.

Moved and seconded, that the resolution be referred to a special committee. Carried. Chair appointed E. J. Thornton, W. C. Reem and J. B. Maccabe.

Moved, to refer back to reports of committees. Carried.

Report of Committee on Reports of Officers:

PHILADELPHIA, August 28, 1884.

Your Committee on Reports of Officers report the suggestion that the reports of officers, past and present, of the Third Grand Division, be accepted and adopted.

G. W. PENNIMAN,
E. Z. DOW,
F. W. ROWLSON,

Committee.

Carried.

Voted, that the bill of Past Commander-in-Chief Rowley, and bill of Major A. P. Davis, be referred to the new Council-in-Chief.

Moved and seconded, that at 2:30 o'clock P. M. the nomination and election of officers of Commandery-in-Chief shall take place. Lost.

Moved and seconded, that at 4 o'clock P. M. order of business be suspended to proceed with nomination and election of officers for Commandery-in-Chief. Carried.

By vote of Convention, a recess was declared until 1:30 P. M.

Afternoon session called to order at 2:05.

Moved and seconded, to refer back to reports of committees. Carried.

Committee to whom was referred the resolution presented by E. J. Thornton and others, reported:

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief:

We, your undersigned committee, appointed to take action on the resolution of Past Captain Geo. S. Brown, Camp 26, Eastern Division of Pennsylvania, in reference to Ladies' Aid Societies, respectfully report in favor of the resolution as presented.

EDWARD J. THORNTON.
W. C. REEM.
J. B. MACCABE.

Motion made and seconded to accept report and discharge committee. Lost.

Moved, that the matter be referred to a committee to report at next National Encampment. Lost.

Moved, that it be referred to the original committee, striking out the name of G. S. Brown, and request the committee to report at as early a date as possible. Carried.

The reports of officers of Second Grand Division were read:

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF SECOND GRAND DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND GRAND DIVISION,
 SONS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES. }
 OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF, PHILADELPHIA, August 26, 1884. }

General Wm. E. W. Ross, Commander:

When, on May 1, 1883, you honored me with the appointment of Chief-of-Staff, I accepted the office, being deeply sensible of the high honor conferred, and promised you that I would be faithful to the duties imposed upon me, trusting not to disappoint you nor forfeit your fraternal regard, and being inspired by your unselfish devotion and untiring zeal in making this the banner Grand Division of our noble Order, I prepared at once to take the offensive, and encouraged by your example and the valuable assistance of other officers of your Staff, we to-day assemble in our first Annual Encampment, with solid and confident columns, challenging comparison with the best in our laud. While I have served you less efficiently than I wished, I have given you substantial and tangible evidence that I have endeavored to do my duty. I assure you that I shall take my place in the ranks and work in my Camp with as much pride as when I assumed charge of this office, and shall, as a Brother, labor with the same zeal to promote and advance the cause so dear to us all.

Let us press forward in the good work, ever doing our utmost to bring into our ranks every worthy son of him who wore the blue; those whose zeal and sympathies are confined and narrowed to the confines of their own welfare, and are indifferent to the demand of the less fortunate, we do not expect to seek admission to our ranks.

Had I, on assuming charge of this office, been satisfied with attending simply to the duties of the position and performing its routine work, the office of Chief-of-Staff would have been a sinecure; but, knowing that wider and broader fields of operation would at least introduce and bring to notice the aims and objects of the Order, I conceived the idea of addressing personal letters to comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic with whom I was acquainted. These letters have been sent to comrades in every State and Territory where a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic exists. Hundreds of answers have been received, asking for detailed information about how to organize Camps. The result in very many cases has been an application sent to the proper Division Commanders for a Camp charter. During my term of office I have personally written over two thousand five hundred letters. In addition, I have attended several Encampments, been present at many Camp meetings, and delivered a number of addresses in the interest of the Order. This, in connection with my own business affairs, has made this past year one of unceasing labor.

PROSPERITY OF THIS GRAND DIVISION.

As we look over the year that has passed and the work which has been accomplished in extending the influence and blessings of our Order, and the fraternal feeling which has characterized our work, it is proper and fitting that our hearts rise up in grateful acknowledgment to Him who doeth all things well. We may justly congratulate each other, my Brothers, upon the flourishing condition of the Order in general, and point with pride to the work accomplished in this Second Grand Division during the year just closed, which has never been equalled by any other new order in the history of secret organizations. The official report of the Assistant Adjutant General well

shows the progress which has been made in organizing Camps, and taken in consideration with the difficulties to be overcome and the prejudice to fight, we have every reason for being more than satisfied with our advancement.

OUR OBJECTS.

In this enlightened age the principles and objects of the Sons of Veterans ought to be familiar to every one, but if understood they are oftentimes misrepresented by those who desire to bring them into disrepute.

The Sons of Veterans are bound by natural and patriotic ties to the men whose sublime devotion and heroic deeds saved the Nation; and who wrote in letters of blood, whose characters are as ineffaceable as the stars of Heaven: This is a Nation! "A Government of the people, by the people, and for the people." We are united to perpetuate and cherish the memories of their arduous service, to give aid and comfort to needy soldiers, and the bereaved family of the fallen; in short, to commemorate and keep forever green the deeds of heroism, loyalty and gallantry of our Fathers.

We are not a political organization, and no one can with impunity use our Order for political purposes. Such an attempt would be a violation of our principles and would not be tolerated; and, without caring for religious or political creed, we welcome all worthy sons of the men who served and perpetuated the Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

At the seventeenth annual session of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Denver, Colorado, in July, 1883, the Commander-in-Chief, Paul Van Der Voort, in his address requested that the proper officers of the two branches of the Sons of Veterans should be present and harmonize, and that the Encampment should recognize one branch or the other. Our Order was ably represented by General William E. W. Ross and I. S. Bangs, who appeared before the following committee on the address of the Commander-in-Chief:

Charles T. Clark, of Ohio; Samuel Harper, of Pennsylvania; A. B. Valentine, of Vermont; William Warner, of Missouri; S. D. Puterbaugh, of Illinois.

The above committee, after a careful consideration of our purposes and objects, and reviews of our Ritual and Rules and Regulations, unanimously reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That we hail with pleasure all organizations having for their object the perpetuity of the principles which are dear to us, and we recognize in the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, one that is entitled to the confidence and support of all comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic."

That resolution was unanimously adopted by the Encampment.

MEMORIAL DAY.

I would earnestly recommend that a suitable burial and memorial service be prepared and printed so that Camps could be supplied at an early date.

Every precaution should be taken to prevent a departure from the original purpose of Memorial Day. The tender and hallowed memories of our departed heroic Fathers should make the day one of humble, unpretentious service.

Sometimes, in the confusion incident to imposing parades and ceremonies, some obscure grave has been neglected, and a sorrowful mother with tearful eyes and wounded heart has turned from that humble mound, pained because her boy's grave was forgotten; or some little child has wept bitter tears over

a father's neglected grave. It is not and must not be made a day for excursions, dances and other amusements. To me this desecration is revolting. Let us make it a day that long after each one of the mighty legions of the warrior dead has lost his identity, this great nation may for one day in the year cease the hum and whir of its industry and repair to the graves of its dead soldiers, and decorate with the flowers of springtime, and beside those lowly mounds silently, aye, reverently, ponder over the past, and remember the sacrifices and sufferings given for the Nation's life, turning from those graves better men—better Americans.

LADIES' AID SOCIETIES.

Ladies' auxiliary societies are not only efficient allies everywhere, but are in most cases indispensable to efficiency in relief work. I know of no Camp having such a society that is not strong and prosperous, and I urge each camp to organize one without delay.

CAMP FIRES.

A large number of open meetings and Camp fires have been an important factor in the success of the past year's work. No better nor more efficient method can be adopted to disseminate information concerning our objects and purposes. The good that has resulted from these meetings is so obvious that I hope all Camps will try the experiment. I should be alike unfaithful to the promptings of duty and a grateful heart did I fail to express my deep appreciation of the generous help, unvarying courtesy and kindness I have everywhere and at all times met.

The cordial co-operation and kindly help given me by members of Camps Nos. 1 and 56, of Eastern Division of Pennsylvania, and the guards of Camp No. 1, are deserving of especial mention. The result of the year, I trust, may prove eminently satisfactory to you and the Brothers of this Grand Division, and in this connection I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to Colonels Closson and Aimies, Majors Doyle and Young, Captains Hunter, Flint, Drake, Lowry and others for valuable help and assistance.

As our official relations are about to terminate, I desire to express my grateful appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me, and to tender you my warmest thanks and lasting gratitude for the many kindnesses and courtesies which I have been the recipient at your hands, and trust that my devotion to duty may, in a measure, atone for my shortcomings.

Fraternally yours,

R. M. J. REED,

Colonel and Chief-of-Staff.

OFFICE ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, SECOND GRAND DIVISION, }
 SONS OF VETERANS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 BALTIMORE, August 21, 1884. }

Gen. W. E. W. Ross, Commander Second Division Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

SIR AND BROTHER—I have the honor to submit herewith a statement of the transactions of this office since the organization of the Second Grand Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. By General Order No. 1, issued from these headquarters June 19, 1883, you assumed command of the Second and Fifth Grand Divisions, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and having honored me with the appointment as Assistant Adjutant General, I immediately entered upon the duties pertaining to the office, which, so far as I could without

detriment to my private business, have continued to perform to the best of my abilities, and I trust, to the satisfaction of all with whom I have been brought into contact officially or socially.

The Second Grand Division comprises the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio and the District of Columbia. At the time of your assuming command there was in existence in this Grand Division, nine Camps working under the jurisdiction of the Commandery-in-Chief, located in West Pennsylvania, Ohio and the District of Columbia. There were in the States of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Delaware and Maryland, a number of Camps composed of the Sons of Union Veterans, whose object was the same as our own, but owing to the want of proper organization and system there was no unity of action, and therefore neither prospered to that extent which an organization with such objects desired.

In obedience to your orders I obtained rosters of all the departments of the Grand Army of the Republic in the United States, and a circular having been prepared setting forth the objects of our association, a copy of the same together with instructions for the formation of Camps and a blank form of application for charter, was sent to every Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in this Grand Division, beside a large number to prominent Posts throughout the country at a considerable expenditure of time and money.

An arrangement was soon made with the Eastern Division of Pennsylvania to unite with the Commandery-in-Chief, and work under its jurisdiction, the State of Pennsylvania being divided into two Divisions to be known as the Eastern and Western Divisions of Pennsylvania, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., respectively, by this arrangement fifty Camps formerly connected with what was known as the Philadelphia branch, were mustered into this Grand Division up to and including July 5, 1883. Brother E. W. Alexander, of General Geo. G. Meade Camp No. 16, of Reading, was elected Commander at the first Encampment held July 4, 1883. Immediately after entering upon the duties of the office he commenced a thorough canvass of the Division which, with the assistance of the other officers and comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, resulted in adding largely to the membership of the Order in that Division. The same course has been pursued by his successor in office with the same results. The Division of Pennsylvania numbers at this time sixty-nine Camps. The following Posts have Camps working under their auspices, or have Comrades acting as advisory to the Camps in their vicinity:

Posts Nos. 2, 4, 5, 9, 16, 39, 41, 50, 36, 61, 72, 76, 91, 110, 125, 138, 165, 182, 176, 178, 199, 242, 278, 280, 303, 325 and 371, of the Department of Pennsylvania.

Posts Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 23, 24, 34 and 66, of the Department of New Jersey.

Posts Nos. 20, 4, 13, 24, 37, 45, 47, 50, 65, 112, 109, 128, 155, 271, 289, 303, 378, 391 and 436, of the Department of New York.

Posts 1 and 2, of Delaware.

Posts _____, of Ohio.

Post 22, of the Department of Maryland.

Post 5, of the Department of the Potomac.

The New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, which had been working under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia branch, availing itself of the agreement between the Commandery-in-Chief and Eastern Pennsylvania, was organized as the Division of New Jersey, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at Trenton, on June 4, 1883, with three Camps which has been increased to eight.

The Provisional Division of Ohio was working in conjunction with this Commandery-in-Chief, when you assumed command and had two Camps

under Comrade David Launing, an ex-soldier, also a son of a veteran, with Brother Wheeler C. Wikoff as Adjutant, when through the efforts of Comrade Dr. James A. Myers, of East Liverpool, the third Camp was formed and a Division meeting called, at which Brother Wheeler C. Wikoff was elected Colonel, who, by industry and personal application gave the Order a start in that State, and it now numbers — Camps, a number of which, by the efforts of the Division officers and the *Sons of Veterans' Gazette*, were brought over from the Philadelphia branch.

Maryland had three Camps working under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia branch, or what was known as the Eastern Division. On March 1, 1883, James A. Garfield Camp No. 1 was mustered into this Commandery in the city of Baltimore by you. This was the first Camp organized in the Division of Maryland, under the jurisdiction of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. Of the three Camps of the Sons of Veterans in the opposition Order, J. F. Reynold's Camp surrendered its charter, and was mustered into this Commandery on March 4, 1883. Farragut Camp No. 5, another of the opposition Camps was mustered into this Division by yourself aided by the Assistant Adjutant General and a committee of Wilson Post No. 1, and Burnside Post No. 22, Grand Army of the Republic. Notably among the membership was Brother Chas. E. Cole, late Colonel commanding the opposition Division.

This Provisional Division comprises now three Camps, but the membership is small, and must be attributed to the lack of material and not to want of exertion on the part of the Brothers, who, one and all, are working for the best interests of the Order in this State, looking forward hopefully to the time when all sons of veterans will be united under one head, and working together to carry out the great principles of our beloved Order.

At the time of the formation of this Grand Division, the Division of West Pennsylvania had already been organized, with Brother John H. Seierth as Commander. A number of Camps were organized and reported to this Division by you. It has now thirty Camps, and its rapid growth has been recent, and is attributable to the energy and application of the new officers, Col. H. W. Arnold and his efficient staff.

By General Orders No. 6, issued from these headquarters, the Grand Commander announced the formation of the Division of New York. This State presented a rather mixed condition of affairs, having participated in the formation of the Commandery-in-Chief at Pittsburg in 1882, and in the adoption of the present Rules and Regulations and Ritual, and working under an entirely different system from the one its representatives voted to adopt. Having been notified by General Orders No. 1, to report the names, number and location of its Camps, or Posts, as they were called, and failing to respond to correspondence, by permission of the Commandery-in-Chief you established the Camp system in New York State, ignoring the organization already existing there. The result has been gratifying and showed the wisdom of the action. Many of the so-called Posts disbanded and adopted the Camp system, bringing with them some of the leading officers of the opposition, so that a number of new Camps were formed, and on Tuesday, November 26, 1883, the Division of New York, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., was organized by yourself, assisted by the Chief-of-Staff, Chief Mustering Officer and Assistant Inspector General, with fourteen Camps thoroughly organized, which has been increased to twenty-five. This gratifying result was brought about in a great measure by the indefatigable zeal of a number of Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic in this State, and especially to Comrades Rodrego, Hatch, Carlyle and Anderson, to whom the thanks of the Division of New York and this Grand Division are due.

General Orders No. 9, issued from these headquarters, March 4, 1884,

announced the muster of two Camps in the State of Delaware and the severance of the Delaware Division, Sons of Veterans, from the Philadelphia branch (under whose jurisdiction it had been working), and its attachment to this Grand Division under the Commandery-in-Chief. This Division is still provisional, and reports directly to the Grand Division headquarters, but the promise of more Camps being fulfilled, it will soon be under its own government.

General Orders No. 9 also announces the formation of a Camp in the State of West Virginia, under the most favorable auspices. We believe this is the beginning of a good work in that State, the material of which the Camp is composed being excellent, and the interest manifested by its members so great that it is only a question of a very short time when Camps of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., will be established all over the State.

Difficulties attending all new organizations have embarrassed the Division Commanders, but none so much as the neglect of Camp Commanders to forward their Orderly Sergeant and Quartermaster Sergeant reports promptly. There is a certain time fixed by law for these reports to be made and forwarded, the penalty for not doing so is the withholding of commissions from the officers and the password and countersign from the Brothers, besides prohibiting delegates from such Camps representation in the Encampments. This matter is of the most vital importance to the Order, because delay on the part of Camps makes corresponding delay at Division and Grand Division headquarters, and the consequence is that Division Commanders who have sufficient pride in being prompt in their reports are held back by the carelessness and neglect of Camp Commanders. The fault is with the Camp Commander alone. He has full jurisdiction over his Orderly and Quartermaster Sergeants, and may remove them at his pleasure. There is no reasonable excuse that can be offered by a Commander of a Camp for not having his reports in the mail on the way to Division headquarters the day after the last meeting of the quarter in which such reports are due, and he has no right to have the password and countersign withheld from his Camp on account of his own apathy and negligence. A new password and countersign is issued under the law every six months, in January and July, and from the consolidated reports of Division Commanders, there are a number of Camps which have not received nor are they entitled to the countersign issued in July; which means that the Brothers of those Camps can not visit a Camp in good standing in the United States on account of the failure of their commanding officer to perform a simple duty. The Brothers are particularly interested in this, and if, in July and January a new countersign is not received by them, any one has a perfect right in the Camp rooms to inquire whether the required reports have been forwarded, and if not, to find out the reason why. No Brother should accept a position in a Camp unless he intends to familiarize himself with its duties and perform them—on failure to do which he should resign at once, so as not to be a drawback to the Camp and Order.

Just previous to the expiration of the last semi-annual term, a circular was prepared and sent to each Camp Commander through Division headquarters, and enclosing blank semi-annual reports, showing exactly how such reports should be made up, and impressing upon each the great importance of promptness. This circular was prepared at considerable cost of time and money, and still it had no effect upon the very class of people it was intended to reach. Camp Commanders who felt an interest in the Order, forwarded their returns promptly, and would have done so without this circular, and those who did not are unfit to remain in command, and it is to this class my remarks are addressed. I am aware that many of the Camps failing to make returns are small, and the officers are not much encouraged; but all Camps are small at their organization, but few mustering over twenty recruits, and

those have grown that have had officers who conformed to the law, while those who have not, remain small, and always will, until some bright, energetic young Brother is pushed to the front.

The password and countersign should only be given by the Camp Commander, or by his direction by the Sergeant of the Guard. Other officers and Brothers have no right to communicate the words to one another. They are not in any manner judges of who are in good standing and entitled to the word; it is a violation of their obligation to communicate the word.

There is not enough attention given to general orders, and in many instances they are not read in the meetings of the Camps. They are addressed to Camp Commanders by name, and are too often regarded by him as his personal property, and for his guidance alone. This is a mistake; they are the property of the Camp, and after being read in open meeting, should be carefully filed by the Orderly Sergeant for future reference, and Inspectors should see that each Camp has a file of general orders.

Consolidated returns for the last term were received and adjusted, and all reports due from this Grand Division have been forwarded.

These reports show a perfect understanding of their duties by the Division Adjutants and Quartermasters, and the Grand Division is to be congratulated on the general efficiency and attention to duty of your subordinate officers.

My business the past year has been peculiarly exacting, and I have had to depend greatly upon you to conduct the correspondence, only being able to give you assistance in the several details about the office. This fact has set a bad example in conducting official correspondence, and it is my duty to remark upon it here. All official letters from a subordinate branch to its superior, should be signed by the highest officer of that subordinate branch and addressed to the Adjutant or Assistant Adjutant General, not to the Division Commander or Grand Division Commander, and inversely all official communications from a higher to a subordinate branch, should be addressed to the *highest* officer of the subordinate branch, and signed by the Adjutant or Assistant Adjutant General, who really act as secretaries to their respective Commanders, and are supposed to have their confidence and consult with them in such matters as require the personal attention of their respective chiefs. A Camp may direct the Orderly Sergeant to communicate officially with Division or Grand Division headquarters, and he may *write* as directed, but the letter should be signed by the Camp Commander.

The preparation of a digest should begin at once, that Camps may have the benefit of rules of correspondence, general orders, etc. If the Order is to succeed, it must be by strict attention to system and discipline, as no business conducted slovenly ever succeeded yet.

The Inspectors report several contradictions in the Rituals, to which the attention of our representatives to the Commandery-in-Chief should be called.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

JOHN A. THOMPSON, JR.,

Assistant Adjutant General.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
SECOND GRAND DIVISION SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A., }
BALTIMORE, August 21, 1884. }

To Gen. Wm. E. W. Ross, Commander of Second Grand Division Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

I have the honor to make the following report of the Quartermaster General's Department of the Second Grand Division. I regret that continued sickness and threatened loss of eyesight prevented my giving attention to

many details, thus adding to your work and withdrawing your attention from matters of organization to which your time should have been exclusively devoted.

The agreement between East Pennsylvania and the Commandery-in-Chief, on the consolidation of the two Orders, made it compulsory on me to issue a large amount of supplies, without charge, and by your orders Constitutions were also furnished free to persons desiring them, for the purpose of inquiring into the Rules and Regulations of the Order, with a view of establishing Camps.

The assessment of only one cent per capita tax for the whole eighteen months was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Grand Division, owing to the neglect of many Camps to make returns. Under your directions everything has been done to encourage the Divisions and unlimited credit has been done to encourage the Divisions and unlimited credit has been allowed them for supplies until they were on a good financial footing. A small amount is still due by some Divisions and Camps, and judging from their promptness in the past it will soon be available to your successor. Altogether the financial showing is creditable as with supplies and assets, we are able to show a satisfactory balance, after working eighteen months without a dollar to commence business, and with only \$34.00 per capita tax in all, received for the benefit of the Grand Division.

I have not been able to make up consolidated Division reports for the semi-annual term of '83, because the Camps generally did not understand them, and Division Commanders failed to receive satisfactory reports. Reports for the semi-annual term ending June 30th, show a balance in Division Quartermaster and Quartermaster Sergeant's hands to be \$5,322.48.

All reports due to Commandery-in-Chief have been sent forward and the per capita tax for both semi-annual terms has been paid.

If Division Commanders would calculate about what quantity of supplies they would need for three months, and draw that amount a great deal might be saved in expressage. Some orders have been so small that express charges would have exceeded the profits to the Division; in such cases the goods were forwarded by mail and the expense paid by this office.

Messrs. Bailey, Banks & Biddle, have made three reductions in the whole-sale prices of badges, and corresponding reductions have been made to Divisions, I have no doubt with proper effort a further reduction can be secured as the demand increases. In ordering badges, Division Commanders would find it to their advantage to have them sent by registered mail and inclose ten cents for registry, and about twelve cents per dozen for postage, thus saving express charges which for long distances are considerable.

The following is an exhibit of receipts and expenditures.

AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM ALL SOURCES.

For badges	\$2,063 00	
For Commandery-in-Chief per capita	181 25	
For Grand Division per capita	33 68	
For proportion of fees	312 00	
For supplies	1,027 59	
		\$3,617 52
Expended as per Vouchers 1 to 145		\$3,617 52

ASSETS.	
Grand Division Seal	\$9 00
Chronometer Stamp	15 00
Supplies on hand	114 45
	\$138 45
Amount due by Grand Division in excess of amount due by Divisions and Camps	31 70
Balance in favor of Grand Division	\$106 75

Very respectfully in F., C. and L.,

MILES W. ROSS,
Assistant Quartermaster General.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND GRAND DIVISION, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }
BALTIMORE, August 21, 1884. }

To the Commandery-in-Chief and Representatives Second Grand Division S. of V.:

The failure of the Grand Army to provide for its own succession has rendered such an organization as ours necessary, and is a natural consequence of early training at the Camp fires and social gatherings of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the patriotism instilled into the young minds at such meetings, where the fathers took great pride in presenting their offspring, that they might hear and know, not of the great deeds and prowess of individuals, but of the great benefits derived from crushing one of the most gigantic rebellions ever known. As the boys grew older, the disposition to organize and form associations similar to their fathers', manifested itself in different ways, and in 1875 organizations of Soldiers' and Sailors' sons, under the names of Cadets and Sons of Veterans, appeared simultaneously in different parts of the country.

All efforts to consolidate these several organizations under one head have failed up to this time. The first real effort to bring the orders together was made at Pittsburgh, in 1882, where the several States were invited to send delegates. This invitation was responded to by the New York department, in the person of regularly accredited delegates, who were authorized to arrange finally all conditions of consolidation, and in conjunction with the Western Division of Pennsylvania (the Pittsburgh branch), the present Constitution was adopted, and Mr. Harry J. Rowley was elected Commander-in-Chief. It was only necessary then to secure the Eastern Division of Pennsylvania to bring the several orders under one head.

New York had many objectionable features in its constitution and ritual, notably the names and titles of its lodges, officers and members, which, as the Order increased, must necessarily create confusion. The lodges were called Posts, the States, Departments; the officers' titles were also similar to those of the Grand Army, and of equal rank, namely: Post Commander, S. V. Commander, Officer of the Day, etc. Upon the representations of its delegates that a little time was necessary to enable New York to do away with such features as were objectionable to Grand Army comrades, a provision to this effect was embodied in the Constitution. Nothing, however, was done at the succeeding *Department* Encampment of New York towards carrying out these pledges, and after several ineffectual efforts to have the Department abide by the pledges of its representatives, it had to be abandoned, and by permission of the Commander-in-Chief and Commandery Council I introduced the Camp system into the State, and established the first Camp at Kingston, New York, in April, 1883.

At a meeting of the Eastern Division of Pennsylvania (formerly known as the Philadelphia branch), in Harrisburg, in 1882, on account of dissatisfaction with the management of that branch of the Order by the National Officers, the East Pennsylvania Camps voted to withdraw, and did so in a body; the representatives of five of these Camps refused to be bound by the action of the other twenty-four Camps, seceded, and together with Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts, continued the Order now known as the Philadelphia branch.

The delegates of twenty-four Camps of East Pennsylvania then appointed a committee to wait upon the Commandery-in-Chief of this Order and make arrangements for consolidation.

The following conditions were mutually agreed upon, and were promulgated in General Order No. 2, of these headquarters:

1. That the State of Pennsylvania shall be, and is hereby, divided into two divisions, to be called the Eastern Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Divisions of the Sons of Veterans, and the following shall comprise the boundary lines between the two: All that part of the State east of the boundaries of the counties of Potter, Clinton, Centre, Huntingdon and Fulton, to comprise the Eastern Division, and all that part of the State west of the western boundaries of the counties of Tioga, Lycoming, Union, Millin, Juniata and Franklin to comprise the Western Division, providing that it is understood and agreed that Camp No. 12, located at Altoona, Pennsylvania, now a part of the Eastern Division, shall not become (unless they sooner so elect) a part of the Western Division prior to the first day of July, 1884, and that neither Division shall be allowed to establish or maintain any Camps within the lines of the other Division. Also, that the said newly-established boundary lines shall not hereafter be altered or changed, except at the request of the said two Divisions, made in due form to the Commandery-in-Chief.

2. That the Commandery-in-Chief, shall issue, free of all cost, charters to the several Camps of the said Eastern Division, thirty days from the receipt of the list of charter members of each Camp, and shall mail the same to their given post office address. Also, that the said Commandery-in-Chief shall, as soon as may be practicable, furnish to the said Eastern Division Headquarters, or to each Camp of said Division, the required constitutional number of Rituals, and at least one dozen copies of the Constitution and General Rules and Regulations now in force, the same to be furnished at the price established for each and all Divisions of the Order: *Providing, however,* That until said Rituals and Constitutions can be furnished to each Camp, they shall be at full liberty to continue to work under and use those which they now have.

3. That the said Eastern Division shall adopt and use the insignia and badge of the Order now used by the Commandery-in-Chief and its several subordinate branches, in the manner and form prescribed.

4. It is hereby mutually understood and agreed that both of the said Divisions are duly entitled to all of the rights and privileges of the Order, which are at present or may be hereafter granted to other Divisions, and that all shall stand on an equal platform and basis in due constitutional form regarding all details.

These conditions have been strictly adhered to, and on July 5, 1883, I mustered into this Commandery-in-Chief fifty Camps of East Pennsylvania, and installed Colonel E. W. Alexander, and the other officers elected at Lancaster, to command the new Division.

In March, 1883, the Division of New Jersey petitioned to come into this Commandery-in-Chief, and after the Camps were mustered a Division Encampment was held at Trenton, and the Division was duly mustered by me June, 1883, and Colonel Robert Crawford and other officers installed.

In February, 1884, the Division of Delaware made a similar application and was accepted, and it is now a provisional Division of this Commandery-in-Chief.

In 1883 the first Camp under this jurisdiction was organized in Maryland, and has been joined by two Camps of the opposition and is now a provisional Division.

The terms upon which these Camps and Divisions became part of the Commandery-in-Chief have been published in General Orders, and are as follows: The Camps to have free Charters, Rituals and Constitutions, and privileges of Past Rank (accorded to Camps organized originally by this Commandery), to be extended all their Past Camp and Past Division officers, and the Camps and Divisions to be placed upon the same footing as if originally organized and chartered by us. Camps in Ohio and Posts in New York are daily severing their connection with the opposition and joining our ranks, and notwithstanding the efforts of the officers in high rank in the other branch to prevent consolidation on equitable terms, the rank and file, realizing that our Order is the best, are fast becoming absorbed.

In New York a number of the Posts formerly in the New York Department, have thrown up their charters and joined with us. Past Colonel Jas. E. Purdy, of New York City, the present Colonel I. B. Stanton, of Amsterdam, as well as other officers of the present Division, were officers of high rank in the New York *Department*, and express themselves highly pleased with the change. When I assumed command of this Grand Division, January 16, 1883, there were but ten Camps in this jurisdiction, seven in West Pennsylvania, two in Ohio and one in the Potomac, and in the space of eighteen months we have in West Pennsylvania, thirty-six; in Ohio, thirty-nine; in East Pennsylvania, seventy; in New York, twenty-six; in New Jersey, eight; in Delaware, two; in Maryland, three; two in Potomac and one in West Virginia, showing a remarkable increase in a new Order, whose objects are but little understood, and which has been pestered with a factious opposition which has not hesitated to adopt all means that misrepresentation and malice could invent to retard its progress. Experience has shown that a number of changes in the Constitution and Ritual would be beneficial, and I would recommend for the consideration of this Encampment the following changes:

1. The Order being only semi-military, and generally without arms, the titles of the officers are too high-sounding, and, to an Order of this kind, meaningless. It would be better if the titles of Division officers were made to conform to the titles of the National officers, and that Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel and Majors be dispensed with, and Division Commanders, Lieutenant Division Commanders, and Vice Lieutenant Division Commander be substituted. I would also apply the same title to Camp officers, as Camp Commander, Lieutenant Camp Commander and Vice Lieutenant Camp Commander, and dispense with all rank, allowing the insignia of office to remain the same.

2. The wearing of swords, unless in charge of armed troops, should be dispensed with.

3. The insignia of rank should be worn on the collar of the coat, of miniature size, or on the breast, and the large shoulder straps abolished.

- 4th. All brevet ranks in the Order and the Grand Army of the Republic should cease, as the conferring of such rank in the Order will be looked upon as favoritism by those who fail to receive them, and as Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic who really take an interest in the Order on account of its principles and objects, need no further incentive. Camps should be allowed to select five Comrades of a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic as an advisory committee, if so desired, and in lieu of a com-

mission with rank, a Diploma of Honorary Life Membership without rank, should be issued by Grand Division Commander upon recommendation of the Subordinate Camps.

No Diploma should be issued to a civilian who never served in the Army or Navy during the rebellion.

5. Fines should be abolished altogether from the organic law, and left to the Camps to provide for in their By-Laws.

6. The name of a rejected applicant should not be sent higher than to Division headquarters.

7. The minimum muster fee should be reduced to one dollar for recruits, and Camps left free to fix their own Camp dues. In some localities on account of the interest and assistance of the Grand Army of the Republic Posts, Camps are under but little expense and the assessment of not less than \$3 per annum is a hardship and unnecessary.

8. All members of the Order in good standing in their several Camps, should be eligible to hold office in Division Encampment as well as in the Grand Division and Commandery-in-Chief.

9. Succession should be provided for, but it should be *direct succession* from Fathers to Sons and include *all* Sons, instead of only the eldest Son, and the English rule of descent in the collateral branches should be abandoned, as impracticable. This was a civil war, and in many parts of the Union the brother of a Union soldier adopted the Confederate cause, and the sister became the wife of Confederate Soldier, and it is not improbable that the sister of a soldier's son may have married an ex-Confederate, in which event the eldest male offspring would be eligible, if the soldier's son being a member of the first class should die without male issue, and as this Order is intended to perpetuate only the services of those who fought and fell in the cause of the Union, the extension of eligibility to collateral branches, would render eligible, not only the offspring of Union soldiers, but the sons and descendants of ex-Confederates. By striking out such provision, we effectually relieve ourselves of one of the most serious obstacles to consolidation of the two Orders, as the main objection of the opposition to unity with us as a body, is alleged to be that we accept nephews and cousins, etc., to membership.

10. The special committee of supervision should be dispensed with as its duties are similar to that of the Camp Council, and being appointed by the retiring Commander at the *last* stated meeting, to serve during the term of the *next* Commander, it really extends his supervision beyond the term of his office, which is unfair to the newly elected administration.

11. The terms of all officers should be one year instead of six months. A six months' term is so short that the officers do not fairly become acquainted with their duties before their term of service expires, and the roster of officers which should be kept at Division and Grand Division headquarters seems to be constantly undergoing a change.

12. The number to constitute a quorum of the Division, Grand Division and Commandery-in-Chief Council should be increased for a Division consisting of eleven members, from three to five; for Grand Division, consisting of thirty-two members, from seven to ten.

13. The name of Camp Council might be changed to Trustees and all rank of such Council abolished. They should all be elected annually at the meeting in December, and their term of office should be one year, expiring with the administration. They should be designated by the letter T in old English letter, on a blue field of miniature strap, otherwise, worn upon the left breast horizontally and next to the bar of the badge. Their duties should be as prescribed and the name should be changed, to prevent confusion with the Grand Army of the Republic.

14. The service stripes and gradual promotion of officers serving in one position for a long time had as well be abolished if the Order is to be made one of usefulness instead of rank.

15. The Grand Division and Division Commanders holding office at the date of a Grand Division or Commandery-in-Chief Encampment, should be made members of the Encampment by constitutional enactment as well as Past Division Commanders. They are equally interested in the proceedings, and they should be encouraged to be present at the Encampments, by giving them a vote and voice in its proceedings.

16. The Division appointed Staff, except Aides-de-Camp and Assistant Inspectors, should be members of the Division Encampments, and have a voice and vote, and should constitute a portion of the Division Council or Trustees.

A number of other changes are advisable, and are hereby submitted in proper form for recommendation to the Commandery-in-Chief. These proposed changes are the result of close observation and experience, and are made purely in the interest of the Order.

I desire to call attention to most flagrant violations of the provisions of the Constitution by officers in wearing the badge ribbon attached to a metallic miniature rank-strap in imitation of the Grand Army of the Republic. The badge of the Sons of Veterans is to be worn suspended by a ribbon from a horizontal bar of the same material as the badge (bronzé), and should never be detached from that bar. The insignia of *active rank* is worn on the shoulder or collar of the coat; the insignia of past rank, a miniature strap, should be worn diagonally on the left breast, a little above and to the left of the badge, and not half way down the ribbon, in imitation of the Grand Army. In all provisions of the Constitution every effort has been made to avoid similarity to the Grand Army of the Republic, so as to prevent confusion, and should be strictly enforced by Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors. There are two styles of buttons being worn, which should be looked after by Inspectors, and only the style provided in the Constitution should be allowed.

The failure of the Chief Mustering Officer to make a report is owing to activity of the Division Mustering Officer, and the assistance given by Grand Army of the Republic Posts in performing the muster work for the new Camps. He in company with myself and Chief of Staff, however, has been present, and assisted in mustering all Division Encampments and several Camps in New Jersey. The Assistant Inspector General has no report to make, owing to the fact that general inspections were impracticable on account of the expense, and this headquarters had too much work to attend to the selection of proper assistants in the several Divisions. A general inspection should be had about November next, just prior to the December election, and the standing and necessities of each Camp should be as well known at Grand Division headquarters as to the Division Commander.

In addition to the Camps mustered in this Grand Division, applications were sent through the favor of the *National Tribune*, Washington, D. C., to the following localities, and the several Division Commanders notified, which resulted in starting a number of Camps: In Portland, Hillsdale and Lowell, Michigan; Newport, Kentucky; Florence, Larned and Howard, Kansas; Bridgeport and Seymour, Connecticut; Elsie, Wyoming, Dixon, Patoka, Casey, Illinois; Yankton and Cavour, Dakota; Connersville, Rochester, Auburn and Warsaw, Indiana; Milwaukee and Albion, Wisconsin; Wyoming and Beaman, Iowa; Pawnee City, Tekamah and Hastings, Nebraska; Little Rock, Arkansas, and Korksville and Arbelia, Montana. We have been specially favored by the *National Tribune* in its efforts to advance our Order, and the thanks of the Commandery should be tendered in recognition of its valuable services.

The Grand Division is under obligations to Bailey, Banks & Biddle, of Philadelphia, and to White & Graham, Printers, Baltimore, for courtesies and favors extended. Except for the assistance of these firms, whose confidence you enjoyed, the Assistant Quartermaster General would have experienced great difficulties in furnishing Divisions promptly with supplies, and extending credit to them so necessary in their first organization.

I cheerfully commend to the Brothers of the Order the papers issued in our interest by enterprising Brothers: *The Sons of Veterans National Gazette*, Columbus, Ohio, and *The Reveille*, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As a medium of communication between Camps, Divisions, etc., they are invaluable, particularly in publishing in full all General Orders emanating from each headquarters. These papers are well edited, but have not proven a success financially, owing to the failure of the Brothers generally to subscribe, and less enterprising Brothers would have abandoned the publication; but the publishers realize, as I do, the necessity of such a medium, and still continue, hoping in the end their efforts will be appreciated and a good source of information saved to the Order.

A word or two of myself and I have done. I assumed command of this Grand Division upon the invitation of the founder of this Order, Comrade Major A. P. Davis, of Pittsburgh, whose labors in your behalf have been assiduous, and to whom the Order must forever rest under a debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts to establish it upon a firm and lasting basis, and General I. S. Bangs, my colleague in the Grand Army of the Republic, my comrade and my friend, the provisional Commander of the First Grand Division, whose unselfish labors established the Order in the Eastern States, having to fight his way in the face of the most stubborn opposition, working day and night, in season and out of season, until he succeeded in establishing a Grand Division of which we all have reason to feel proud.

When I accepted their invitation to enlist in the cause, I did so with a full knowledge of the difficulties that surrounded the organization of a new Order, without a dollar in the treasury and without credit, but with a determination to do the best I could to assist you, and to devote my energies to your success for one year. I have done so, gladly, willingly. I have never for one moment felt the least regret in accepting the responsibility. My labors have been a pleasure to me, and my intercourse with all the members of the Order has been gratifying in the extreme. I feel proud of the acquaintances I have made, and of the respect, confidence and obedience of all whom it has been my pleasure to command. I have received a hearty support from all my Division Commanders, and they have had as much to contend with as I. Their position has been no bed of roses, and in after years, when thorough discipline and system have been established throughout the Order, and Division Commanders have little to do except attend to ordinary routine and command, the labors and sacrifices of the original Division Officers should not be forgotten. To their devotion and application to the duties of their office, the success of this Grand Division is mainly due.

To my Chief-of-Staff, Colonel R. M. J. Reed, whose active support I have had from the beginning, I can not sufficiently express my thanks. Coming to me a stranger, except for that inexplicable tie of comradeship in the war, which makes all Comrades friends at first sight, but personally unknown to me, I invited him to become my Chief-of-Staff, and his acceptance brightened my way and lessened my labors. He has not only been a willing assistant, ready at all times to do what he was asked, but he has been a judicious adviser, and I have learned to defer to his mature judgment, and seldom made an important movement except after consultation with him. He has been my subordinate only in name, and is entitled to a full share of credit for any success that may have been attained. To my other staff officers who have rendered assistance in the good work, I return my heartfelt thanks.

To Chief Mustering Officer Rodrego is due the establishment of our Camp system in New York City, the headquarters of the opposition, and to Assistant Inspector General Jas. H. Hatch, of New York, and to Commander Carlyle, the blind soldier, Vice Commander Department of New York, and to Commander R. W. Anderson, of Pratt Post, Kingston, New York, is due in a great degree the extension and progress of the Order in that State.

In every State Comrades of the Grand Army have flocked to our standard and shown great zeal in assisting to establish our Order. A large number of Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic have representative advisory committees attached to Camps of the Sons of Veterans, and many of them have Camps working under their auspices. The success of the Order in the future depends largely on the support and encouragement of the Grand Army of the Republic, and every effort should be made by Camps to obtain the active support of the veterans of the war. Grand Army Comrades do not seek to hold office in the Camps or Encampments of the Sons of Veterans, and the Order is sufficiently intelligent to hold its own command and do its own voting, and I am unalterably opposed to continuing Grand Army Comrades longer in active command. The necessity for such is past. Through the active assistance of a number of Comrades, the Order has been assisted on the road to success, and they should be permitted to retire from active command as soon as their respective organizations are completed and made permanent, and act only in advisory capacity when such service is needed.

In retiring from command of this Second Grand Division, I ask only the same consideration and courtesy for my successor as has been so generously bestowed on me.

Faternally,

WM. E. W. ROSS.

Commander Second Grand Div. Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Report of First Grand Division was presented by Commander Challis :

HEADQUARTERS FIRST GRAND DIVISION SONS OF VETERANS, }
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 MANCHESTER, N. H., August 2, 1888. }

To the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. :

From December, 1882, till December 21, 1883, the First Grand Division was under the provisional command of Brevet Major General Isaac S. Bangs, of Waterville, Me., to whose untiring efforts it owes very much, and who will always have the sincere esteem of the members of that Grand Division. Under his administration the Order grew from two Camps—one in Maine and one in New Hampshire—to forty-two Camps and permanent Divisions in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, with provisional organizations in the three other New England States at that time. At the meeting of the Grand Division held in Manchester, December 27, 1883, the undersigned was elected Commander, and the same has been under his charge ever since that time.

I have the pleasure of reporting to the Commandery-in-Chief a substantial and very gratifying growth in the Grand Division in the last few months. The Division of Massachusetts was permanently organized in February, and since then has made rapid progress, not only in instituting new Camps, but in obtaining accessions from the opposition. Connecticut, also, has joined the circle of permanent Divisions, and at its Encampment held August 19, doffed its swaddling clothes of G. A. R. leadership, and elected a son of a veteran to its chief office. Rhode Island alone of the New England States remains in a provisional condition.

I wish to testify to and gratefully acknowledge the very general disposition of Division officers to make the reports required by law, and to the efforts they have made to secure the prompt payment of the per capita tax.

Returns have been made by each Division—not complete in all cases—but sufficient to give reliable data of value to the Order. From the reports submitted I make the following summary for July, 1884:

Maine—28 Camps; 18 Camps reported 532 members, 10 not reported; estimated membership, 388. Total membership, 920.

New Hampshire—18 Camps; 16 Camps reported 321 members, 2 Camps not reported; estimated membership, 55. Total, 376 members.

Vermont—19 Camps; 16 Camps reported 331 members; estimated membership, 400.

Massachusetts—11 Camps; 335 members.

Connecticut—5 Camps; 156 members.

Rhode Island—1 Camp; 40 members.

Since July 1 there have been mustered nine Camps—three in Massachusetts and two each in Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut—which, with the natural increase of the Order gives the First Grand Division at the present date a total of 91 Camps, with a membership of 2,500.

The present condition of the First Grand Division is such as affords great satisfaction to its officers, who believe that the coming term will witness a large increase in membership, and a better showing in the filling out of returns and payment of the tax. In this connection it is not out of place to state that the two Camps returned as not officially reported in New Hampshire have in reality filed a report, but not entirely in proper form, owing to misunderstanding of General Orders.

The Commander believes that the First Grand Division will be found paying a per capita tax on 2,500 members for the year 1885.

In order to get the sense of the members, the Commander issued a Circular to Camps requesting a vote on a proposition authorizing and assenting to such changes in the Constitutions, etc., as might be enacted by this session of the Commandery-in-Chief. Replies have been received from a large proportion of the Camps, and in every case a favorable answer has been received.

The Commander desires to acknowledge the assistance of Brevet Brigadier General W. H. Pierpont in organizing the Connecticut Division, which service has culminated in turning over the same to the charge of a son of a veteran, with a Division of seven Camps.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK H. CHALLIS,
Commander First Grand Division.

Report of Third Past Grand Division was read, as follows:

OFFICE THIRD PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDER, }
SONS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
CHICAGO, ILL., August 22, 1884. }

Gen. Frank P. Merrill, and the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief in Convention assembled at Philadelphia, Pa.:

GENTLEMEN—I regret my inability to be present with you at this most important meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief in Philadelphia, on August 26 and 27, 1884. I know that suggestions for the good of the Sons of Veterans of the United States are in order in your Encampment. My experience as Commander of the Third Grand Division has taught me that improvements

in our present laws are needed, and that members hereafter to be identified with us may grow up in the Order, more closely entwined and more near to the National supremacy.

When I assumed command of the Western States there was not one Camp therein established. The work to me was a labor of love. Hours, days and months became tedious, as I printed circulars and sent them broadcast over the West. Thousands of missiles of love for the Order fell in barren ground, and though I felt many times unwell from the labors attached to the office, I never relinquished the belief but that the "Sons of Veterans" would come to the front; that they would embrace the life, the wealth, the industry, the intelligence, the influence and patriotic spirit of loyalty to flag and country. Yes, an army of "Sons" that would in time be the substitute for State militia and standing armies, and whose presence is a symbol of peace, of power, and of security to the Nation.

When circular-letters failed to reach the desired end, I traveled to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and through Illinois, that the work I began might end well, no matter the expense or time lost, or the inconvenience it caused to my business or family interests. However, I am well satisfied with what I have done, for there were one hundred and twelve Camps organized in my territory at the close of the Grand Encampment, and eight others at that time were ready for muster, making a total of one hundred and twenty Camps, with promises of many more. I retired, as did the farmer, who, twenty years ago settled on a woodland farm, for as he retired the son became the possessor of the land cleared, and no allowance for the father's twenty years labor.

SUPPLIES.

It is not known to many "Sons" that until February of this year that supplies could be furnished to Camps. The system now in vogue should be somewhat altered, or so amended that supplies could be sent direct to Camps from the Quartermaster General. The present grades of prices are not entirely proper, for the Grand Division receives supplies twenty-five per cent. off from regular price. The Division procures goods at twenty per cent. off from regular prices, and those goods being sent by mail, adding their expressage and postage, the five per cent. allowed Grand Divisions does not cover the difference of the mentioned express charges and postage. What is the remedy? Let the goods be sent direct to Camps, and the profits, if any, go to the support of the Commandery-in-Chief.

GRAND DIVISIONS.

The subject of abolishing the Grand Divisions should be carefully considered. There is one point of information comes clear to my mind. It is this, that now each State in the Union being properly organized, well disciplined, with officers possessing the knowledge of military science, and who are obedient to the laws, those Division officers can readily perform the duties imposed on them, and deal direct with the Commander-in-Chief as to all laws, supplies, and for such other information as is desired from time to time between Commandery-in-Chief meetings.

DEBTS OF THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF.

It is known to all of us who attended the National Encampment meeting at Columbus, Ohio, in 1883, that a large sum of money was due to the organizers and promoters of our beloved Order. While an itemized account may not be furnished at this meeting of said indebtedness yet we should recognize the amount claimed as correct, and pay the bill at an early a day as possible.

General F. P. Merrill made strenuous appeals by circular and general order for donations of ten cents per member to pay this claim; but the youth of the Order and the indifference of the members towards contributing to pay an indebtedness which was not contracted by them, caused many to refrain from paying the ten cents. If Grand Divisions are abolished, the pro rata share of the charter fee received by Grand Divisions from Division Commanders could be applied to a fund to be general, and appropriated by the Commander-in-Chief to liquidate the indebtedness.

PER CAPITA TAX.

During my administration I called for a per capita tax in January, 1884. Complaints reached me from Division Commanders that as Camps were young and only just organized, that it would be improper to impose a tax. In answer to my call, four Camps in Illinois, one in Minnesota, and one in Indiana, responded; while Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Iowa failed to respond for the reasons above mentioned. The next call for a per capita tax was on July 1st, and as the Grand Division Encampment met on July 8, I decided that, as I was retiring from the command, my successor should be allowed to call on his general order for the per capita tax—a tax which I know will be paid—for the membership of Camps are not boys, but men, and will obey any lawful commands.

THIRD GRAND DIVISION'S CONDITION FINANCIALLY.

As it is known that the formation of Camps in the Third Grand Division began without capital from any source, and as there was a continual demand for Rituals, Rules and Regulations, applications for Camp charters, printed information in relation to the "Sons," which were all solicited and given free, and, as the writer, who traveled far and near, regardless of his business interests, it was not expected that money or supplies would be on hand. The Commandery-in-Chief is therefore informed that though this Grand Division is in debt to the Quartermaster General in the sum of \$25, I am pleased that supplies to more than the amount due are now on hand in the possession of my successor, who agreed to pay the amount when the supplies were received by him. There are a few items of supplies yet due some Camps, but owing to business relations they have been somewhat delayed, but will be forwarded in a few days.

THIRD GRAND DIVISION ENCAMPMENT.

The Third Grand Division Encampment was held during July 8 and 9-1884. The following States had Camps at that date as follows: Kansas, 23; Indiana, 20; Nebraska, 18; Illinois, 16; Iowa, 12; Wisconsin, 9; Michigan, 10; Minnesota, 5; Missouri, 4, and Dakota 2. The Encampment was a success, there being no ill-feeling. The meeting was harmonious, and closed with a grand banquet.

CLOSING REPORT.

I trust this lengthy report will not disturb the harmony of your meeting. I only wish to show that the labors began by me proved fruitful, and that from now onward the growth will be natural and not subject to the trials and expenses of early life. I further trust that the treasury of the Commandery will be so enriched as to recompense the present Adjutant General and Quartermaster General, for their time has been given to the Order, and they deserve recognition.

Fraternally,

W. J. MASKELL,

Third Grand Division Past Commander.

Report of committee on resolution referring to Ladies' Aid Societies was here presented and read, viz.:

Resolved, That the efforts of the Ladies' Aid Societies are truly appreciated by this Commandery-in-Chief, and that their work for Ladies' Aid Societies be heartily indorsed, and recommended to the various Camps under this jurisdiction.

EDWARD J. THORNTON.
CHAS. J. MILLER.
W. C. HUNTER.
C. DAY RUDY.
W. C. REEM.
ALBERT FRITZ.
J. H. CLOSSON.
H. W. ARNOLD.
CHAS. C. MORTON.

PHILADELPHIA, August 28, 1884.

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief:

We, your undersigned committee, appointed to take action on the resolution in reference to Ladies' Aid Societies, respectfully report in their favor and extend to them our hearty support.

E. J. THORNTON.
W. C. REEM.
J. B. MACCABE.

Moved and seconded, that the report of the committee be accepted and adopted and committee discharged. So voted.

By vote of Encampment, a recess was declared until 3:55 o'clock.

Rapped to order at 3:55 o'clock, and it was voted that the reports of First and Second Grand Divisions be received and placed on file for future reference.

Voted, that a committee of three be appointed by Chair to receive, sort and count ballots. Chair appointed Brothers Hill, of Connecticut; Cott, of Ohio; Rudy, of Pennsylvania.

The following nominations for Commander-in-Chief were made: E. W. Alexander, of Reading, Pa.; by J. M. Closson, seconded by W. C. Reem. G. W. Penniman, of Minneapolis, Minn.; by J. B. Maccabe, seconded by L. J. Webb. H. W. Arnold, of Johnstown, Pa.; by W. S. Payne, seconded by C. D. Rudy.

Voted, that nominations close.

Voted, that the Encampment proceed to election of Commander-in-Chief before further nominations.

Voted, that each member vote as his name is called.

Voted, that the ballot-box be placed upon the altar; that the Sergeant of the Guard inspect the ballot as deposited, upon roll-call by the acting Adjutant General.

The roll-call proceeded and result announced by Chair, as follows:

Whole number of votes cast, 38; necessary for choice, 20.

E. W. Alexander had	10
H. W. Arnold had	10
Geo. W. Penniman had	18

And there was no choice.

Name of E. W. Alexander was withdrawn by J. H. Closson.

Roll-call of second ballot called and result announced by Chair, as follows:

Total number of votes cast, 38; necessary for choice, 20.

H. W. Arnold had	20
Geo. W. Penniman had	18

And H. W. Arnold was declared elected.

On motion of J. B. Maccabe the election of H. W. Arnold was made unanimous.

Motion made and seconded that the acting Adjutant General be instructed to deposit one ballot for the Encampment for Geo. W. Penniman, of Minnesota, for Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. Carried, but Brother Penniman declined.

F. B. Perkins, of New Hampshire, was nominated by Geo. W. Penniman for Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief.

Voted, that acting Adjutant General be instructed to deposit one ballot for Encampment for F. B. Perkins, of New Hampshire, for Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. Ballot deposited, and Brother Perkins declared elected.

A. E. Case, of Illinois, placed the name of J. B. Maccabe, of Massachusetts, in nomination for Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief.

Voted, that the acting Adjutant General deposit one ballot for the Encampment for J. B. Maccabe, of Massachusetts, for Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. Ballot deposited, and Brother Maccabe declared elected.

J. H. Closson placed name of A. E. Case, of Illinois, in nomination for Chief-of-Staff.

Voted, that the acting Adjutant General cast one ballot for A. E. Case for Chief-of-Staff. Ballot deposited, and Brother Case declared elected.

Moved and seconded to proceed with election of officers. Carried.

Moved and seconded, that as the Council-in-Chief is made up of three representatives from each Grand Division, that the First, Second and Third Grand Divisions, the only ones practically organized, retire and nominate for Council-in-Chief, the remaining six to be appointed by Commander-in-Chief. Carried.

Commander Merrill declared a recess of ten minutes for such conference, and at expiration of time called for nominations.

The First Grand Division named H. P. Kent, Massachusetts; Geo. E. Cox, Connecticut; John C. Blake, Maine.

Second Grand Division named J. H. Closson, Pennsylvania; H. F. Guerin, Ohio; C. L. McBride, New York.

Third Grand Division named Geo. W. Penniman, Minnesota; F. W. Rowilson, Michigan; R. N. Mallory, Illinois.

Moved, that the acting Adjutant General be instructed to cast one ballot for the convention, bearing the above names as nominated for Council-in-Chief. Carried. Ballot deposited, and Brothers Kent, Cox, Blake, Closson, Guerin, McBride, Penniman, Rowilson and Mallory were declared elected.

Voted, to take recess until 8 A. M. 29th.

FRIDAY, August 29, 1884.

Commandery called to order at 9 A. M. by Commander Merrill.

On motion of Gen. Rose it was voted to close under head of New Business and open under head of Reports of Committees.

Bro. Challis presented the report of Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and moved the adoption of the following resolution, which motion was recorded, and the motion was carried.

Resolved. That the Constitution, Rules and Regulations shall be considered *seriatim*, on the basis of the report of the committee on the same, and that debate shall be limited to two-minute speeches, and no member shall speak more than once on the same subject, except by unanimous consent. As the action of the committee on each section is reported, if there is no objection, the Commander-in-Chief shall declare the section adopted. Should there be objection or amendment offered, the same may be debated, but a call made and seconded for the previous question shall close debate, and the question shall immediately be put.

Brother Ross moved the suspension of Article X, Commandery-in-Chief Constitution. Seconded and carried.

Brother E. J. Thornton requested to have his vote in the negative recorded in the minutes.

Title Page.

Article I.

Article II, Sections 1, 2.

Article III, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article V.—Brother Webb moved to amend this Article as submitted, to insert "18 years," in place of "21 years." Lost. Sections 2, 3, 4, struck out.

Chapter II, Camp Constitution :

Article I, Sections 1, 2, 3.

Article II, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Section 8.—Amended by adding after "one dollar," "which shall accompany application." Section 9.

Article III, Sections 1, 2.

Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article V, Section 1.—Amended to add "elective" before "officer." Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Article VI, Section 1.—Brother Webb moved to strike out the words "Camp Commander," "Lieutenant Camp Commander," "Vice Lieutenant Camp Commander," and insert therefor: "Captain," "First Lieutenant," and "Second Lieutenant." Argument *pro* and *con* by Ross, Webb, Miller, Payne, Vincent and Cott. Motion to amend carried. Section 2.—Struck out.

Article VII, Section 1.—Brother Morton moved to amend by adding "Quartermaster Sergeant" to list of elective officers; lost. Motion by Brother Cott to amend by striking out "chaplain" from list of elective officers; carried. Motion by Brother Soule to amend by striking out "December" and insert "June," also strike out "January" and insert "July;" lost. Sections 2 and 3. Section 4.—Struck out.

Article VIII, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Article IX, Sections 1, 2, 3.

Article X.—Struck out.

Article XI.

Article XII.—Struck out, and insert (see draft).

Brother Reed moved to suspend order of business, and Encampment proceeded to choose a place of meeting of next annual Encampment. Carried.

Brother Case nominated Chicago, seconded by Brother Ross.

Brother Penniman nominated Portland, Me.

Brother Vincent nominated Detroit, seconded by Brothers Payne and Cott.

Upon roll call Portland had 1, Chicago 9, and Detroit 16 votes, and Commander Merrill announced that the Commandery would hold its next Encampment at Detroit.

Brother Penniman presented a book containing odes, which was on motion referred to Committee on Ritual to report immediately.

Resumption of reading report of Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

Article XIII.—Struck out, and new one offered. Brother Payne objected. Brother Thornton moved to amend by striking out "six months" and inserting "three months;" lost.

Article XIV.

Article XV.—Struck out.

Article XVII.—Struck out.

Article XIX.—Struck out.

Article XX.

Article XXI.

Article XXII.

Article XXIII.

Article XXIV.

Article XXV.

Article XXVI.

Brother Maccabe moved to suspend the rules to receive a resolution. Carried.

Brother Maccabe offered the following:

Resolved, That the *Sons of Veterans National Gazette* be adopted as the official organ of the Commandery-in-Chief, and that the *Keystone Revue* be recommended to the favor of the brothers of the Order.

Chapter 3, Division Constitution:

Article 1, Sections 1, 2.

Article II, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Article III, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article IV, Section 1.—Brother Webb moved to amend by striking out "Division Commander," "Lieutenant Division Commander," "Vice Lieutenant Division Commander," and all other designations, and insert same as in old, except Surgeon and Ordnance Officer. Lost. Section 2.

Article V.

Article VI, Section 1.—Brother Morton moved to insert "Quartermaster Sergeant." Withdrawn. Sections 2, 3, 4.—Brother Maccabe moved to amend by striking out "First Lieutenant," and inserting "Second Lieutenant, for rank and Aide." Lost. Section 5.

Article VII.

Article VIII.

Article IX.

Article X, Sections 1, 2, 3.

Article IX.—Struck out.

Article XII.

Order of Business, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

Chapter IV. Grand Division Constitution.

Article I.

Article II.

Article III, Section 1.—Brother Thornton moved to amend by inserting "Sons of Veterans, not Grand Army men who are not Sons of Veterans." Brother Challis offered the following amendment: "Resolved, That Brothers Wm. E. W. Ross, John A. Thompson, Jr., A. P. Davis, R. M. J. Reed, John A. Rodrigo, I. S. Bangs and Wm. H. Pierpont be declared members of the Commandery-in-Chief, and entitled to voice and vote therein."

Brother Challis moved that Vice Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief be installed. Carried.

Brother Maccabe was installed by Brother General W. E. W. Ross, at the request of the Commander-in-Chief.

Resumption of reading report of committee.

Chapter V.—Commandery-in-Chief Constitution.

Brother Miller moved that so much of that section as relates to Commandery-in-Chief be stricken out; carried. Brother Cott moved to return to Section 1; carried. Moved to amend by striking out the word "September" and insert between "August 1 and 2." Brother Case amends to insert between "June 1 and September 30." Amendment to amendment lost. Amendment adopted.

Brother Ross moved that the Report of the Committee on Constitution be adopted as read and amended. Carried.

Voted to take recess till 1:30 P. M.

Afternoon session rapped to order at 2 P. M. Commander Miller in the chair.

On motion of General Ross, it was voted to proceed to installation of newly-elected officers. The obligation was rendered by General Ross. Our Commander-in-Chief Arnold was conducted to the chair, when the command was turned over to him by Past Commander Merrill.

The Encampment then proceeded to receive the report of the Committee on Changes to Rules and Regulations:

Article I, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Article II, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Sections 9, 10, 11.—Struck out. Section 12.

Article III, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4.

Article VI, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Article VII, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Article VIII.

Article IX, Section 1.

Article X.

Article XI.—Struck out.

On motion of Brother Ross, it was voted to insert a new Article here, as follows:

Article XI. All Past Commanders-in-Chief are entitled to wear the Gold Star; Past Grand Division Commanders, the Gold Cross; Past Division Commanders the Silver Cross, and Past Camp Commanders, the Iron Cross of the Order.

Brother Morton moved to insert a section providing against the plating of membership badges.

Brother Case offered amendment (accepted) that the section shall provide against any alteration from the condition in which first received. Carried.

Moved and seconded that the Commander-in-Chief accept the offer of Brother R. M. J. Reed to furnish a complete description of the different ribbons of the Order and their respective relation to the Divisions, the same to be inserted in the Rules and Regulations.

Moved and seconded to strike out Section (old) 7 of Article XII. Lost.

Article XIII.—Struck out.

Article XIV.—Struck out.

Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill, craving the indulgence of the Encampment, moved that the name of Dr. W. S. Eldridge be added to the list of Grand Army members, previously voted constitutional life members. Passed.

Resumption of reading report:

Article XV, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Moved by Brother Challis that Section 8 of Article (old) XV be struck out. Passed.

Articles XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII.—Struck out.

Articles XXIII, XXIV, XXV.

Moved by Brother Ross that the Constitutions, Rules and Regulations as read from the report of the Committee be adopted, with such changes as will carry out the spirit of the report, and that they be printed by the Commandery-in-Chief and distributed at cost price for the next six months, and after that at regular price, as laid down for Constitutions, Rules and Regulations.

Brother Challis offered an amendment, which was accepted, that said Constitution, Rules and Regulations go into effect immediately, provided that all officers of Grand Divisions, Divisions and Camps hold their commissions until the expiration of present terms. Carried as amended.

The Committee on Ritual then presented its report.

Moved that the same resolution presented by Brother Challis regarding debate, etc., apply to this report as was adopted as applying to the previous report.

The reading of the report of the committee was begun, and it had covered but little ground ere it became evident that every member had ideas pertaining to a Ritual peculiar to himself, and he immediately delegated himself into a special committee with full lung power. Suggestions followed themselves in quick succession, and motions without seconds were made the order of the hour. Finally, in the midst of the uproar, a motion was made that Brother Ross be permitted to take the desk and exemplify the Ritual as laid down in the report. A second was heard, and the motion was carried. Things moved smoothly for a few minutes; but it was evident that turmoil again threatened the Encampment, when New Hampshire sprang to the floor and moved that Brother Perkins (not a member), of that State, be permitted to favor the Convention with his views as pertinent to the business in hand. This motion was seconded and also carried. Considerable valuable time was then wasted in a vain endeavor to present matters in a way as proper to be adopted. This, like previous efforts, led to a failure, and it was finally declared that the report be laid on the table until the evening session, and that when the Encampment took a recess it meet again at Camp-room of Camp No 1.

The effect of this decision was to quiet the session to such an extent that Brother Rudy obtained the floor and presented a resolution:

Resolved, That on and after the adjournment of this Encampment, no person not a son of a veteran shall be admitted by resolution or a vote as a constitutional member of this Order.

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted and spread upon the records.

Moved and seconded that the Encampment proceed to the election of such officers as have not yet been chosen. Carried.

The name of Geo. W. Penniman, of Maine, was placed in nomination for Mustering Officer-in-Chief. Acting Adjutant General instructed to cast one ballot. So did, and Brother G. W. Penniman declared elected Mustering Officer-in-Chief.

For Chaplain-in-Chief, Brother R. M. Linton nominated C. Day Rudy, of Pennsylvania, and Brother F. P. Merrill nominated C. F. Hayford, of Maine.

In reponse to roll-call:

Number of votes cast, 25; necessary to a choice, 13.

C. Day Rudy had	11
C. F. Hayford "	14

Brother Rudy moved that the election of Brother Hayford be made unanimous. Seconded and carried.

For Judge Advocate General, Brother Soule, of New Hampshire, presented the name of Brother F. W. Rowison, of Michigan. There being no

other nominations, the Acting Adjutant General was instructed to deposit one ballot for F. W. Rowson for Judge Advocate General. Ballot cast and Brother Rowson declared elected.

Brother Challis, of New Hampshire, introduced the following :

WHEREAS, The Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., are indebted to the Select and Common Councils of Philadelphia for the unprecedented favor, for their deliberations, of the use of the building in which the Declaration of Independence was signed; therefore

Resolved, That, for the courtesy extended, the Commandery-in-Chief extends its thanks and the thanks of the Order to the honorable Council of the city of Philadelphia.

Which was unanimously adopted.

Moved that pamphlets--proceedings of first and second Encampments of Commandery-in-Chief, etc.--be placed in the list of supplies and sold at ten cents per copy. Carried.

Moved that the proceedings of this Encampment be printed and sold at ten cents per copy. Carried.

Brother Webb, of Kansas, offered the following :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., are hereby tendered to Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill for the valuable and efficient services rendered our Order.

An amendment was introduced, that the resolution include his efficient Adjutant and Quartermaster Generals. Amendment accepted, and the resolution as amended adopted.

Moved and seconded that the Encampment take a recess until 8 o'clock P. M. Carried.

Evening session opened at Camp-room of Camp No. 1, and rapped to order by Commander Arnold in the chair.

The report of Committee on Ritual was taken up and considerable time occupied in a discussion of same, and an endeavor to exemplify. Finally the business was disposed of by referring it to a special committee of three, consisting of Brothers Perkins, Soule and Challis, of Camp No. 1, of Winchester, New Hampshire, they to commit the work as referred, and exemplify at the next annual Encampment.

Moved and seconded, that a special committee be appointed to propose and draft a suitable funeral ceremony to be adopted by the Order. Passed.

By vote, the Commandery-in-Chief further recommended that as soon as practicable the charges of the officers be exemplified and improved.

Moved by Brother Closson, that Davis Camp No. 1 be allowed to carry a yellow flag. Seconded. This brought to the floor Brother Challis, who still held to his opinion that this should not be allowed. Considerable discussion

followed, and after it being understood that the provision was simply verbal, and should not appear in the nature of a constitutional provision, the motion carried.

Moved by Brother Reed that the bill presented by the Committee on Transportation be paid from the first moneys in the hands of the Commandery-in-Chief. Seconded and passed.

Moved by Brother Cott that the Commander-in-Chief take into consideration and devise a plan by which a new and improved charter may be provided and present to next Commandery-in-Chief. Passed.

Moved and seconded that the Encampment do now adjourn to call of Commander-in-Chief. Motion obtained a passage.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
OF
Council-in-Chief, S. V. U. S. A.,

HELD AT

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN HOUSE,

Philadelphia, August 26, 1884.

Council called to order by Commander-in-Chief F. P. Merrill, with the following members present: C. C. Morton, Pennsylvania; H. L. Wright, Maine; F. H. Challis, New Hampshire; J. B. Maccabe, Massachusetts; E. J. Thornton, Pennsylvania; E. R. Vincent, Ohio.

The accounts of Quartermaster General Blake were submitted, audited and approved.

The bill of Past Commander-in-Chief Rowley was taken up and discussed. It transpiring that Brother J. W. Hague, of Pittsburgh, was present in behalf of and representing Brother Rowley, he was invited to state the case as held by his client. This he did, submitting a sworn statement of Brother Rowley, which he said contained all the data that it was possible to produce. That the money was expended in such manner and at different times when no record was taken of same, and, in short, that it was impossible to produce an itemized account. The feeling of those present was not favorable to a settlement of the bill as it stood, and after a lengthy argument it was voted to lay the matter on the table until the 27th.

A bill was received from Major A. P. Davis, amounting to \$34.96, consisting of items of expense for postage principally. Same considered, and finally voted that the same be not entertained.

A motion that a recess be taken till 9 A. M., 27th inst., was carried.

Council opened at 9 A. M., 27th. Commander-in-Chief in the chair.

Brother Hague was asked if he had anything further to present in the matter of the bill of Brother Rowley. Some further discussion followed, in which it was revealed that Major Davis had an account of \$200 against the Order, and which he supposed was included in the bill of Brother Rowley. A long time was consumed in considering the matter without coming to an understanding, and when Brother Hague said he would withdraw the statement and produce another, which he thought would be more satisfactory to the Order, the matter was referred to a special meeting of the new Council-in-Chief.

Executive session.

Moved by Brother Challis that a per capita tax of six cents be levied by the Commander-in-Chief, one-half to be paid December, 1884, and one-half June, 1885. Seconded and carried.

Moved by Brother Morton that all supplies, *i. e.*, blank forms, badges, etc., etc., prescribed by the Rules and Regulations be purchased direct from the Commandery-in-Chief, through the proper channels. Seconded and carried.

Adjourned to call of Commander-in-Chief.

The foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of all that portion of the proceedings of the Third Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., found on file in these headquarters, and turned over to me by my predecessor.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,

Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:

C. A. BOOKWALTER,

Adjutant General.