

ROBERT BOX HELM

Contributed by Melinda Meyer



**Robert Box Helm,
Company E, 79th Illinois
Volunteer Infantry
Camargo, Illinois.**

**Prisoner of war at
Andersonville Prison.**



Robert Box Helm enlisted in Co. E. 79th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Captain Lowe and Colonel Guinup commanding. Mr Helm participated in the engagements at Liberty Gap and Chickamauga as well as numerous skirmishes and was captured at the latter place on September 3, 1863. He was sent first to Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia and

from there to Danville, Virginia and then for a year was confined at the infamous Andersonville Prison in Georgia. Mere words cannot describe the agonies of mind and body which he and his comrades endured. While in prison he would ask the guards to give him bones, carving many odd trinkets from them. On April 12 1865 he was taken to Union lines and released and in August 1865 was mustered out and discharged at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois.



Andersonville Prison

The photo above shows some of the items Bob Helm carved and wove from human hair. One of his occupations at Andersonville was cutting hair in exchange for what ever was available to sustain himself and his comrades.

Civil War Diary of Robert Box Helm

September 1863

19th Our Brigade went back to where we lay a part of the day before and drew some rations. Then started to march toward Chattanooga. Traveled 10 or 12 miles (commanding off to our right and a little to our right ahead of us all the time) then files off to the right and were ordered to take off our knapsacks. Then we double quicked a part of the time for a mile and into the battle we went, it being about 2 PM. We drove the rebs back about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile then we fell back a little and lay in line through the woods about sundown. The rebs made an attack. We stopped them then a little after dark they flanked our right, our line being too far in advance, and they took 16 of our Company E prisoners, 6 of us were taken back to the rear about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles where we were kept with several others overnight.¹

20th Sunday. They moved us out about 3 miles, then took all of our names. The other 10 of Co. E came up there. We started from there about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ PM, landed at Ringgold, 6 miles on the railroad, about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ marched on till 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ and camped, having to wade a creek 3 times and it a very cold night. Hardly any of the boys had any rations.

21st Started 7 AM and marched down the railroad to a station by the name of Tunnell Hill (3 miles from Chattanooga). Lay there till 5 PM when we drew a little piece of meat and got on top of some box cars and ran down to Dalton. There about 2 hours then started again. Ran past Adairsville about 6 or 8 miles and to back out on the account of other cars coming up the road.

¹ In the Douglas County courthouse, GAR room, there is a piece of limb that was brought back from the Chickamauga battlefield by Jefferson Perry, Helm's friend. Perry took it from the site where he saw his friend captured.

22nd Left Adarsville 10½ AM. Landed at Atlanta, Georgia, 5½ PM and were marched to the NE side of town and a line of guards placed around us. About 9½ PM we drew a half loaf of bread and a little piece of meat to the man. Pretty cold and no wood.

23rd We drew 2 crackers to the man about 10 AM About 4½ PM we were moved into the Barracks or prison, and as we went in we were searched and our blanket, canteens and pocket knives taken from us. Drew about 3 days rations of meat in the evening.

24th Got in cars at 6 AM. Drew ½ loaf of Bread. The cars started at 7½ AM Camped in a church yard. Very chilly and no wood for fire.

25th Drew 2 loaves of bread or 10 crackers to the man and took the cars at 7½ AM Passed Branchville where we left the Charleston road to the right 2PM. 74 passed Hayesville at dark. Camped 1 mile of Columbia 9½ PM.

26th Took the cars at 7AM. Ran up in the edge of town and tarried till 11AM. Camped in the edge of Charlotte, N. C.

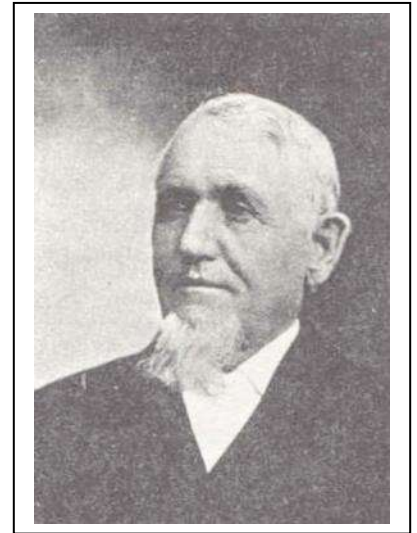
27th Sunday. The cars started 6½ AM. Camped in the edge of Raleigh 11PM. The country appears to be a little better than back through Georgia and S.C. Drew 6 crackers.

28th Started 11PM. The 1st train went out at 9 AM.

29th Landed at Weldon 7½ AM where we found the first train. We drew 6 pea crackers and changed cars and started at 9 AM. Landed at Petersburg 4 PM. Changed cars and rolled on for Richman. Landed there and were put in Libby Prison 8 PM. We drew 3 pea crackers. The night pretty cold. No fire. No blankets.



Libby Prison



30th Left Libby Prison 10 AM and were put in another house about ½ mile NW of Libby.

October 1863

1st Thursday. We were moved again and put in a house across the street from Libby.

2nd We were formed in squads of 27. There were 10 squads making 270 men in our room. Misted rain all day. I wrote a few lines to send home.

3rd Cleared away in the morning. 7 more added to each squad making 340 men in our room, which is about 40x400.

4th Sunday. Preaching at 1 ½ PM by a Chaplin of the 5th N.Y. Cav. Nice clear day.

7th They took our names, rank and where we belonged. Rained a little after dark.

8th Some talk of leaving the prison shortly.

11th Sunday. John Welliver² came in and was put with rest up in the top story.

19th Misted rain in the morning. We scrubbed the floor for the 2nd time. Clear away about noon.

20th I got some sugar for Post.

21st Lieut. Albin passed on the Lt.(left?) about 2½PM walking on crutches going to the Hospital. Sugar riot at night. I got Plenty.

22nd Cloudy and warm. The lower floors rations were taken off at noon. The rebs Negroes haul sugar away all day. They keep the basement lit up all night. The lower floor drew a full days rations at night.

OLIVER PERRY HUNT

From Douglas County History, 1900 and letters donated to the Urbana Archives by Lida Jane Hunt.

Oliver P. Hunt was a G.A.R. member and Commander of Camargo Post when it merged with Tuscola. He was a Lieutenant in Co. K, 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and a brevet Captain of the company. He was called Captain after the war. He taught school in Indiana and Vermilion County Illinois. His wife also taught. He studied law and started his practice in 1858. His wife was the Granddaughter of David Yarnall. She inherited 100 acres of land in Douglas County. They moved on it after the war. They added 315 acres. O. P. Hunt was elected States Attorney for two terms and County Judge for one term. Then he went back to farming and practicing law.



Flag of the 125th Illinois
Volunteer Infantry

Oliver P. Hunt's family came to America from England in 1779 or 1780. His father, Miles Hunt, and wife, Mary L. (Botkins) Hunt came from Kentucky and Tennessee. Miles died in Logan County Oklahoma at his youngest son's home in 1893.

There were four brothers who came from England – one was killed in the Revolution – one settled in Maryland – one settled in Virginia – and Basil, Grandfather of Oliver P. Hunt, settled in Fleming County Kentucky then moved to Indiana. His youngest son, Miles Hunt, father of Oliver, platted and laid out Huntsville Indiana.

Oliver also had two brothers in the Civil War – Bazelleel and Henry C. Hunt who enlisted in the 69th Indiana Voluntary Infantry Regiment in 1862. Henry C. was wounded in the battle of Richmond Kentucky. Bazelleel stayed with him and was captured, but was paroled. Bazelleel died in Bowdre Township in August 1869. Both of them studied medicine after the war and became doctors. Henry remained in Montpelier, Blackford County Indiana. Oliver P. and his wife Eliza Jane had six children, all living in 1880 census: son Ora B. 17 years – Emma M. 14 years – William T. 11 years – Henry C. 8 years – Burt 6 years – Ella 3 years.

Oliver P. was 47 years and Eliza Jane 43 years in 1880.

125th Illinois Infantry

Dyer's Regimental History

Source - "A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" by Frederick H. Dyer
Organized at Danville, Ill., and mustered in September 3, 1862.

Moved to Covington, Ky., September 25, 1862.

Attached to 36th Brigade, 11th Division, Army of the Ohio, to October, 1862. 36th Brigade, 11th Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, Centre 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, 14th Army Corps, to June, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Reserve Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 3rd Brigade. 2nd Division, 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, and Army of Georgia, to June, 1865.

SERVICE - Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky October 1-16, 1862.

1. Battle of Perryville, Ky., October 8. March to Nashville, Tenn., October 16 - November 7, and duty at Nashville till June 30, 1863.
2. Moved to Murfreesboro, Tenn.. June 30.
3. Return to Nashville July 18 and duty there till August 20.
4. Moved to Chattanooga. Tenn., via Brentwood, Columbia, Huntsville, Ala.. and Bridgeport, Ala., August 20 - September 16.
5. Battle of Chickamauga, Ga., September 19-21.
6. Siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., September 24 - November 23.
7. Ringgold September 26.
8. Chattanooga - Ringgold Campaign November 23-27.
9. Orchard Knob November 23.
10. Tunnel Hill November 24-25.
11. Mission Ridge November 25.
12. Pursuit to Graysville November 26-27.
13. March to relief of Knoxville, Tenn.. November 28 - December 17.
14. At Lee and Gordon's Mills till May, 1864.
15. Demonstration on Dalton, Ga., February 22-27, 1864.
16. Tunnel Hill, Buzzard's Roost Gap and Rocky Faced Ridge February 23-25.
17. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 1 - September 8. Tunnel Hill May 6-7.
18. Demonstration on Rocky Faced Ridge May 8-11.
19. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9.
20. Battle of Resaca May 14-15.
21. Rome May 17-18.
22. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25 - June 5.
23. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10 - July 2.
24. Pine Hill June 11-14.
25. Lost Mountain June 15-17.
26. Assault on Kenesaw June 27.
27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4.
28. Chattahoochie River July 5-17.
29. Peach Tree Creek July 19-20.
30. Siege of Atlanta July 22 - August 25.
31. Utoy Creek August 5-7.
32. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30.
33. Battle of Jonesboro August 31 - September 1.
34. Lovejoy Station September 2-6.

35. Operations against Hood and Forest in North Georgia and North Alabama September 29 - November 3.
 36. March to the sea November 15 - December 10.
 37. Louisville November 30.
 38. Cuyler's Plantation December 9.
 39. Siege of Savannah December 10-21.
 40. Campaign of the Carolinas January to April, 1865. Averysboro,
 41. Taylor's Hole Creek, N. C., March 16.
 42. Battle of Bentonville March 19-21.
 43. Occupation of Goldsboro March 24.
 44. Advance on Raleigh April 10-14.
 45. Occupation of Raleigh April 14.
 46. Bennett's House April 26.
 47. Surrender of Johnston and his army.
 48. March to Washington, D.C., via Richmond, Va., April 29 - May 19.
 49. Grand Review May 24.
 50. Mustered out June 9, 1865, and discharged from service.
- Regiment lost during service 9 Officers and 88 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 104 Enlisted men by disease. Total 204.

Letters of Lt. Oliver Perry Hunt, 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

Spelling and grammar are as they were in the original letters

November the 3rd 1862

Bowling Green KY

Well Jennie

I received your letter this evening mailed October the 29th and you had better believe I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you are in Reasonable health, as it relates to my health it is at times a good deal better at others not quite so well. But I am much better than I was when I left home and I think by proper care that I will get fat I have taken some Cold and last night we had a big Jack frost. I left every thing in my trunk at Louisville Except three shirts and my socks and shall(1), that quilt was too heavy for me to carry, I believe I told you where I left it. But I will state it again for fear that I did'ent James B. Gulley on Market street between first and Brook Louisville KY I don't know I am going to see tomorrow and if we get any way of transportation or I see any chance to get to keep it along with me I allow to send for it tomorrow (the Rail Road is Running again from here to Louisville & S.(2) for I need my quilt tho I have made out very well

(1) Shawl; (2) & S probably means "and so forth" or "etcetera."

the Captain has two blankets & we sleep under them and lay on mine. But we have had some pretty Cool Nights. Notwithstanding, I am glad that you did not quarrel with the Old Woman, and that you told her what you did. There appears to Be a general Rejoicing over the Democrat Victory in Indiana, Ohio & Pennsylvania among the troops I do hope that tomorrow will shed a bright luster over Illinois and that Abolitionist may be made to feel and know that the People have discovered there Rottenness and that

Republicans may by their Actions say that they ask God to forgive them for the blood they have caused to be shed. I look upon a Compromise being the Only chance to settle Our difficulties and restoring peace, But I fear that if we was to offer to Compromise that the South would not hear to anything but a government of their Own. The Boys are all, That I have heard say any thing about it in hopes that Illinois will send Good Democrats to Congress Tuesday the 4th well Jennie I did not get to finish your letter last night for their was some Clothing come and I had to stop writing and help distribute them and we got

3

through that about 11 Oclock at night and then there was an Order came for us to be to March against five O clock and this Evening finds me very tired and dusty and about 20 miles south of Bowling green on the Nashville Pike. My Cold is some better this evening. I Bought me a Blanket last night and you need not be uneasy about me. The days are very warm Nights Cool I was sorry to hear that the prospect for wheat is so poor But I feel in hopes that you will have warm weather Enough to bring it up. I wish you were here to get supper for me. Bolliver Bishop (3) is cooking for us and he is not a very good cook O yes may be you would like to know what we are going to have for supper Wel Crackers fried (fresh) Beef stewed Peeches Rice and Coffee. (the Peeches are a rairity for me bought them of a farmer. But I will have to close as it is getting so dark that I can not write. Kiss Johny for me and tell him I want to see him and tell him to say "yes" as ever yours O. P. Hunt

(3) Refers to Austin B. Bishop, Pvt. From Georgetown, Illinois

4

NB(4) supper Over and I will write a little more I expect that you had better direct your letter to Louisville Kentuckey and the letter will follow the Regiment. I think we are going to Nashville Tennessee But it is all guess work for not even our Brigadier General knows where we are going , every thing is kept a secret. Tell Will Mc that if he is going to get married to write and let me know and I will come home to see the knot tied and tell John and his Brother in law (Ramsey(5)) is well you may tell [symbol] said that her fellow is sick William Stunkard(6), I rote to his father about it & Tip Barnette(7) has got the measles and is at the Hospital at Leabonon, the man that I sent back to wait on him says that he is getting along fine I look for them all up before long. Tell Tip & Jim that I will write them before long. But you need not be uneasy if you don't here from me for three or six weeks I don't know when I will get a chance to mail this Will Gallaway(8) is not very well this evening Ague(9) I think. Write soon I have a poor chance to write I am your O. P. Hunt to Jennie and John

(4) Probably *nota bene* (Latin) meaning note particularly or take special note.

(5) Private Joseph Ramsey, 125th Illinois Co. K from Indianola, IL

(6) Private W. N. Stunkard, 125th Illinois, Co. K from Indianola, IL

(7) May refer to Private Thomas Barnett 125th Illinois Co. K from Dallas, IL

(8) Sergeant William B. Galloway, 125th Illinois, Co. K. from Dallas, IL

(9) "Ague" is a fever

*Nashville Tennessee
Sunday April 12, 1863*

Well

Jennie!

I have to resort to the pen & Ink to talk awhile with you (as my papers Returned informing me that I can not have or get a Leave of Absence at present.) So you know that is the military of it. I have nothing much to write further than I am able for duty and we are expecting a Battle in front. Our Regiment is Out on a Scout it has been out five days. They sent in this morning for five days more Rations We only have about 100 men left in Camp and it takes all of them to do the duty there is to perform. We send a squad of men every day to guard the train to Murfreesborro a squad to guard the train to Franklin. The Rebels Captured our train day before yesterday on the Murfreesborro Road and burnt

2

thirteen Cars. Killed some of our men and took the Balance prisoners, But as luck would have it none of them were out of Our Regiment. On the same day I went with a squad of men to guard the train to Franklin. We arrived there all safe Stacked Arms, at the Depot The Train Ran Back on the other side of the River where the soldiers were Camped. When the stillness of the hour was broke just 10 minutes before One O clock by firing south of town. I first thought perhaps it was pickets firing off their Guns but I was soon Convinced that it was men engaged in trying to kill one an other and in 25 minutes after the firing commenced there was a general stampeed in town The train started after us but turned and went Back we were in Rather a ticklish place as we were between the two fires, so I had my men to fall Back a cross the Rail Road Bridge where our line of Battle was being formed. On came the Rebels through town but there was not many got to go back. Our Cavalry

3

in the mean time fell in there Rear and rumor says that we made a nice thing out of it after all. But I will say this for the Rebels (for I believe in giving the Devil what is due him) That a bolder dash was never made than when they Charged through Town, they came under full whip. There was not a grate many of them it said our loss in killed & wounded will not exceed a hundred while that of the Rebels is much larger. And Rumor says we got four hundred prisoners But I don't think over half that many. I will now bring this to a close Hoping it may find you well and doing well. I want you to write me soon and give me all the news & remember that you are not any more disappointed by me not coming home than I am. I have not thought of Name yet for my boy But will-before Long.

As ever your unworthy husband

O. P. Hunt

Jennie Hunt

& the Babys

Columbia Murry(1) Co. Tenn

August the 29th/63

Well

Jennie

I received your letter that you wrote after you went to Danville, in which James wrote some, and was glad to hear from you & the balance of the folks. But I would have been glad if you could have got the Babys Pictures taken, you did not say whether you got the money I sent to Danville or not, I am anxious to hear. But I suppose that it is all wright. I have stood the march so far very well. There are not any Union Citizens in this part of the Country to amount to any thing Tho they acknowledge that they are whipped. There are a good many Gurrillas through here we caught a Rebel yesterday. We leave here in the morning at 4 O'clock for Athens Alabama, some 65 or 70 miles from here. Everything is very high here I have just been down in Town and priced some of their goods Prints are \$4.00 Dollars per yard.

(1) Columbia is the county seat of Maury County, Tennessee

2

Ladies Common Shoes \$30 to 40 Dollars per pair Mens Boots from 60 to 75 Dollars in Confederate Money. (Negroes are not so high.) But every thing else is in proportion. For 10 cents in Green Backs you can buy One Dollar of Blue Backs or Confederate Money (I am told)

*My health is only tolerable but I think I will get along. We left Capt Cook sick at Nashville But he came up last night and is in good health again. I hope this may find you and the Babys well and doing well,
As ever your devoted*

O. P. Hunt

*Jeannie &
The Boys*

NB(2) I understand that the People are having some warm times in Old Vermillion. Tell them if they want to fight or kill any Body they had better Volunteer and come to War. Give my Respects to the Boys and your Father and tell them it is an old maxim the least said the easiest mended. But to be firm and decisive on all questions of Liberty

*Writ me soon
& often, so anon(3)*

(2) Probably *nota bene* (Latin) meaning not particularly or take notice

(3) "anon" meaning "until another time."

Head qurs Co. K 125th Regt. Ill.

Colwells Foard(1) Tennessee

Dec 22nd A. D. 1863

Well

Jennie after resting a day or two I feel it my duty to write what little know about the Battle & our Campaign in East Tennessee. & I know of no One that I have or would rather write to than yourself.

On the 23rd of Novem/63 Our line advanced from Chattanooga in the afternoon driving the Rebels abut one mile and while the Enemy was watching that portion of Our

line. Our Pontoons that were anchored in North Chicamauga(2) were let out into the Tennessee River about 1 O'clock at Night. Some three miles above this and the 8th Missourie were landed on the Opposite Bank and finding all things wright they Commenced takeing in the Rebel Pickets & 120 Pontoons filled Yankey Soldiers Came floating like so many Ducks down the River while the 8 Missourie were comeing a long the Bank. Taking in the Rebel Pickets, which was a complete success, for there was not a Gun fired, Three of the Rebel Pickets dodged off in the

-
- (1) Colwell's Ford or Crossing was also known as Caldwell's Fort, Tennessee. It probably referred to an unnamed fort four miles North of Chattanooga on the Tennessee River.
- (2) North Chickamauga and South Chickamauga refer to two creeks that empty into the Tennessee River near Chattanooga.

2

Brush, but afterward came back and gave themselves up. And when the morning of the 24th Opened One half or more of General Shermans Corps (15th) were on the other side of the River & it Being rainy & foggy it was 8 O'clock Before that we were Over and about to flank them, Chilly was the morning & very disagreeable, But a grander Sight was never seen. Our lines now three deep and (2)two miles in length moving sure but slow, & by the time the whole of Shermans forces Crossed there was a perfect line of Breast works thrown up. In the mean while Fort Wood & Other Forts at Chattanooga were letting their Bull Dogs Bark & were sending deadly missels or hurling bom shells at the Enemy & it drawing his attention helped to perfect the Crossing it being a Compleet success. Shermans line at sundown had gained the first bluff or the North End of Missionar[y] Ridge. While back to the West or South West could be heard a Continual Roar of Musketry which told to well that the Brave boys were Offering up their lives for their Country. One would have thought night would stop

3

the Bloody Conflict but darkness appeared only to add strength & vigor to the Bloody Drama & Grate was the suspense with us small fish for we did not know whether it was friend or foe that was to win the day, (or night)for it was Eleven O'clock at night before I fell a sleep & the musketry was still heavy. But next morning, what joy, when the News flew from tongue to tongue Lookout Mountain is Ours. Hooker tooke it he Charged them seven times & the 7th they gave way, and up, Now we had a point from which we could see the whole Rebel Army. Now Our lines moved forward and Engaged the Enemy 8 O'clock AM (25th Wednes) firing heavy for a few minutes with musketry and then Artiller[y] & some times Both – at night we had gained a good portion of the Ridge & taken some Artillery & a good many Prisoners, (here I will have to Omit a good portion as I have not Room) But suffice it to say that Bragg was doing his Best to get himself in Shape so he could retreat. Shermans Troops were Ordered to Cross South Chickamauga, and about 2 O'clock in the morning we crossed (our Devision including the 125th Regt Being temporarily under his command.)

4

But it Being very foggy we had to halt until day light. Then moving forward we fund the Enemy was Retreating Skirmishing Occasionally with the Enemys Rear Guard and just at sundown, some two miles and a half from Graville(3) the 125th were Ordered

up on double quick to support our skirmishers the Enemy having Opened a Battery on us. Our Battery soon Silenced them, here there were only five or Six Wounded in our Regt. (125th) Two in Co. "K" George Guthrie slightly in the Calf of the leg, & A M foster(4) severly in the knee. (But he is getting along fine) We lay here until next morning when we moved forward, at night camped in two miles of Ringold(5) We our Brigade had 132 prisoners at Ringold Thomas(6) met the Enemy again and put him to flight But at no small loss for the length of the Battle. I say Battle for it was to severe to be cald a skirmish.

On the morning of the 28th we (Shermans Troops) took up their march to Reinforce Burnside. Suffice it to say it was a long hard march. Men without blankets Shirts or shoes some of them, But all praise is due them for their fortitude and nothing short of the Crisis would have nerved them for the task

As ever your Husband

O. P. Hunt

(In margin on top of Page 4)

Capt. Cook has put in for a Leave of Absence & if he should go home and you can send me a shirt or two it will not come a miss & S.(7)

(In margin on side of Page 4)

The 25th and 35th Ills are at Noxville & all the Boys that were left six are ordered to that place.

(3) Graysville

(4) Discharged Feb 15, 1864

(5) Ringgold

(6) General George H. Thomas

(7) &S means "and so forth" or "etcetera."

Head Qurs. 2nd Divs. Amb. Corps

McAfees Church Ga

March 27th/63(1)

My ever dear

Wife

I received a letter from you on the morning of the 23rd last and was glad to hear from you if it was an Old Letter (dated Novem 8th 1863) the morning I Received your letter this Devision (Davises(2) was Ordered out – in Short it was a Recanoisance(3) in force to feel the Enemy, the first day Davis made his head quarters in Ringold the 2nd Day (24th) in tunnel Hill Driving the enemy, (Skirmishing more or less all day with him) three miles beyond Tunnell Hill; Where we Rested for the Night. The loss of Our Devision being none But One Or two Wounded. On the 25th the Ball Opened before daylight pretty heavy; but did not last long and continued all day; Our Boys Drove them in to their strong hold; - and did not advance any further until about 4 Oclock in the evening

(1) Probably March 27, 1964. O. P. Hunt seems to have misdated this letter. The evidence for this can be found in the letter itself – page 1 line 4 in which he refers to a letter Jennie wrote him dated "Novem 8th 1863; in the last line on page 4 Hunt mentions mailing the letter on "March 1st/64.

- (2) Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis, Division Commander, 2nd Division of 14th Army Corps.
- (3) reconnaissance

2

When Morgan(4) Ordered his men forward to Charge their (Rebels) Works But he had not gone far until the Enemy Opened masked Battery on Both flanks & in front so he had to fall Back to his Old Position (the One he Occupied all day) with Considerable loss (about 60 wounded Y twenty 20 killed & taken prisoners making in all 100, the 10 Michigan Regiment & the 60 Ills were the Regt that made the Charge; McCooks Brigade lost some few in Wounded & two killed but the 125th were luckey as usual they did not loose a man; (unless it was some straggler) nor did not fire a gun. But was under fire more or less all day; - I will have to leave of my story and go to Bed as I have been up two nights nearly all night.

Slep sound last night – this is a Beautiful Sunday morning – a little to windy to be pleasant = We had very nice weather to feel the strength of the Enemy.

We accomplished all that we expected to do the Rebel troops that had started to Mobeal(6) had to Come Back to keep us from taking Dalton(7); Which doubtless has let our General (Sherman) Occupy Mobeal; We came back to our Winter quarters yesterday; The 3rd Devision (Bairds(8)) of our Corps will Remain at Ringold(9)- There has Been Big Battles

(4) Brigadier General James D. Morgan, 1st Brigade, 2nd Division of 14th Army Corps.

(5) Colonel Daniel McCook, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division of 14th Army Corps.

(6) Mobile, Al

(7) Dalton, GA

(8) Brigadier General Absalom Baird, 3rd Division of 14th Army Corps.

(9) Ringgold TN

3

fought during this war But in my Opinion there will be some desperate Battles yet Before the troubled Waters are stilled

I sent you some money by Jesse Wilson-did you get it? What are you going to do this Spring? Do you intend to try to Raise a Crop Give me the program and I will let you know if I approve it. How does friend Gray's McQueens Wm. Blacks B Coles Mrs Starkes and all the Rest of the Neighbors get along? Have you enough Corn to do you? Or do you have Buy Why don't Tip Write me?

I will now come to a close hoping this may find you enjoying good health and that my Boys are fat & saucy and that all may be doing and going Well at home and last But not least that I may hear form you soon
As ever your husband

O. P. Hunt

Jenny

Johny NB

& My health is good

Ora Hunt

4

As you are doubtless growing impatient about the Gold Ring I will send you a Wooden Ring (made out of Laurell(10) Root) of Chicamauga Battle field

Monday = it is raining this morning and is very disagreeable; Some talk that we will make an other move before long; - I neglected to mail this yesterday – But I will start it this Morning March 1st/64 (11)

(10) laurel

(11) Probably April 1st, 1864. At the beginning of the letter, Hunt dates the document March 27.

Near Atlanta GA

August 20th 1864

Well Jennie

I have just got through transferring Government Property & ther fore I am Relieved from duty (and the Responsibility ;) and I will Return to my company as soon as I make my Reports to Washington City; which will take me four or five days. Jennie I would like very much to see you & perhaps if nothing happens; when this campaign is over I may be permitted to have that pleasure, if not, remember me as you Husband in prosperity and adversity:--But perhaps you think that I am over excited. But kiss the babys and remember that it is human to error Turn Over (&keep this till I see you or for your & Children's benefit)

2

Pay is due me from 31st Day of December 1864; I am in debt to the Commissary of the Division to the amount perhaps of \$30 Dollars. I have Titus S Heyer's(1) note for \$21 Twenty One Dollars) be belongs to the 108 Ohio, V. Inf & on settlement; I expect that he will be in debt to me over \$30 Dollars:-- For Commissary Stores (or in other words (Bread Bill))tho that is small matter But: I feel it my duty to state to you my financial affairs: - Tho the first time that I have ever been impressed with such duty or feelings;

I wrote you a few days ago & you have doubtless Received it ere(3) this – I have nothing

(1) Titus S. Heyer was 2nd Lieut. in the 108th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company B. He was promoted to First Lieutenant, Company E, on March 31, 1864

(2) "ere" meaning "before"

3

of any import to Relate

There are many moves taking place whether it is strategy on our part (or marching the Corners) is a question that will develop its self in the future

My health is as good as it ever was at this season of the year.

Give my Compliments to all the friends & tell John & Will, Tess & Jim that I will answer there many letters in person (When this Curel War is Over) no preventing providence – again kiss Kiss the Babys and good night to your self as I am tired

As ever your Husband

O. P. Hunt

Jennie & Boys

GEORGE WASHINGTON JONES

Contributed by Dr. Wm. J. Jones, Great Great Grandson

George Washington Jones of Rockcastle County, Kentucky was a successful agriculturist in Kentucky. He owned a finely cultivated farm of 280 acres. Family tradition states that on July 5, 1862 George W. joined Company B, 65th Regiment of Cavalry 7th Battalion, North Carolina in Hayesville, North Carolina. In 1863 this became the 6th Regiment North Carolina Cavalry (65th State Troops.) George W. left them on July 20, 1863 due to illness. He later became a soldier in the Kentucky Infantry Regiment Union Army during the Civil War. . He was carried as a deserter on the company rolls of the 65th North Carolina Cavalry. No proof is available as to his service in the Federal Army, he received a land grant in Rockcastle County, Kentucky for service in the Union Army.

He married Mary Baker, daughter of Adam Jackson Baker and Marjorie Baker of Cherokee County, North Carolina. She was born July 6, 1838. They had the following children: Joseph Jackson of Villa Grove - William Harrison of Wildie, Kentucky -Lizzie, wife of George Barkley of Iowa (5 children) - Emma V. who died at age 18 in Kentucky - Lily Iowa, wife of Ezekiel Hill of Kentucky (7 children) - Martin Riley, married Elizabeth Wright (5 children) -Fannie Malissa, wife of John Arnold of Villa Grove (4 children) - and Nannie Bell, wife of John Vaughn of Villa Grove (4 children).

George W. was visiting his son, Joseph Jackson, in Villa Grove when he suddenly became ill and died April 4, 1905 at his son's home. His wife remained in Camargo township until she died on December 27, 1915. George Washington and Mary are both buried in Jordon Cemetery, Fairland, Illinois.

Joseph Jackson Jones (Mar. 2, 1860 - Apr. 1, 1949) married Mary Eliza Kelly and had one daughter, Liza, the wife of George Smith (7 children). Joseph Jackson Jones married a second time to Mollie E. Brock (3 children - Emma, wife of Frank Tucker of Villa Grove - George W. who married Grace Odle (1 daughter) - and Walter Jackson (Dec. 24, 1888-1918). Walter was killed during WWI in France, Battalion 775 A 4th Division A.E.F. The Villa Grove Veterans of Foreign War Post #2876 was named after Walter Jackson Jones.

Martin Riley Jones married Elizabeth Jane Wright daughter of William Winter Wright of England. They had 6 children: Fitzhugh, Emily Vivian, Mary Flora, Joseph Herbert, Evelyn Francis, and William Martin. William Martin (Feb. 22, 1903-1987) married Sibba Isabelle Davis (July 22, 1912) and they had 3 sons: Dr. William Jackson (3-12-39) of Villa Grove, John Davis (1-25-43) of Villa Grove, and Rev. Thomas Martin (1-25-43) of Paxton, Illinois.

Below are letters sent to his wife Mary Jones.

GW Jones No. 1 letter

GW Jones October 11, 1862

Knoxville, Tenn. Oct. the 11, 1862

Mrs. Mary Jones I can say to you that I landed safe and am well. Hoping these pen lines will find you all well. We have a dry dusty time. I am now detailed to guard Yankee prisoners in Knoxville. I have to start now and Henry Green will finish my letter. There is a great many sick people here. There is as average of 8 deaths each day in the General Hospital so we learn. We hear the death bell frequently. The water is very bad

here. Mary, I send you my saddle & bridle & belt, 50 cents in stamps & 8 sheets & 1 paper of pins. You must take good care of your pins for I gave 75 cents for them.

G .W. Jones says give his respects to Father & Mother and all the rest of the family & friends. They will not furlow nobody now. We will not stay here long. We will probably go to Kentucky in a few days. That is the talk now. If men are healthy they don't care if they are drilled or not. George says tell Mary to do the best you can for your self. I will do the same. Write to me as soon as possible for we may not be here long. You must excuse me Mary for I have 4 or 5 more letters to write. The wagons will soon start. Mary I will have to close. George is tolerable civil. We have prayer at our tent. So nothing more.

Yours truly, G . W .Jones

By J. H. Green

Mrs. Mary Jones

GW Jones No.2 letter

G.W. Jones Oct. 12, 1862

Knoxville, Tennessee Oct. 12, 1862

Camp Polk Oct. the 12

Mrs. Mary Jones, dear wife I now take the pleasure of taking pen a few lines to let you know that I am in common health. Hoping these few lines may come safe to hand and find all you in common health and eating well. I would like to see you and my sweet little babies. But you know how that is. I have had good health. I had a letter wrote to you. Henry Green wrote it for me. I was out on escort. I sent you some paper and some pens. Everything is high here. A hat just a common wool hat cost 15 dollars. Corn cost one dollar per ear.

We have had hard times. We still only get 6 ears of corn a day & no hay & for ourselves we done 2 days without anything. But we get a plenty now. But I don't know how long it will last. But I hope we will get a plenty all the time. I have paid rite smart money for something to eat since I have been here. It takes a heap to buy a little. I will give you some of the prices: Sweet potatoes 5 dollars per bushel, green apples 2 dollars a bushel, flour 10 cents a pound. I tell you what we draw to eat. We get one pound of beef and a half a pound of chicken to the man to do him 2 days. 2 pound of flour a day to the man & a pound of rice to 6 men a day. A pound of sugar to 6 men 3 days.

The men is all well. We expect to move from here & go up in Jonson County or some other place, away above Greenville next to Va. And I hope we will go some where else for this is a sorry place. There is one hundred and 50 thousand soldiers here, 25 hundred in the hospital. I am as well satisfied as I expected. I pass off the time as well as I can & I believe I get along as well as any of the boys. I am at prayer meeting every other night. I have not swore an oath since I left you. I intend to do better than I ever have. I want you to do the best you can.

I will come home as soon as I can. I want to go to Virginia. If we go up where we are ordered I think I will get to go home this winter to stay. For I think the war will end but we hear nothing only what the officers say. Col. Polk says we will get to go home time enough to make a crop. I hope we will. I hope we will have drawed our arms. They

say we will draw our money next week & if we do I will send you my likeness. But if we don't draw I can not send it for the want of money. But I think we will get that.

Do the best you can answer my letters. Let it cost what it will. I will try to send you money enough to fill the jar & a little more if I can. Mary I will write to you as long as I can stay where I can get them to you & when we get to Ky. You must not think hard of me.

So I will say a few words to father & mother & brothers & sisters. You do not know how I want to see you all but I want to see my woman the worst of all. You may know I do not want none of you to think hard of me for not naming you all separate for I am pesterable so I can hardly write. I want you all to write to me for I want to hear from you all the worst I ever did. Father I want you to take good care of my stock & especially my filey & above all my wife & little ones. If you think you can not keep the stock sell some of them. But you will know best about that. I am going to send my saddle by Woldrupe he will leave this morning. It hard to get it in & the other wagon is sold. I will quit writing soon. A words only. GWJones. Mary Jones & all the rest.

GW Jones No. 3 letter

GW Jones October 21, 1862

Addressed to A Y Baker and or Mary Jones Fort Clay County, NC

This 21 Of Oct 1862

Mrs. Mary Jones

I take present opportunity to let you know that I am unwell at the present time. I taken the mumps about one week ago & have not eat but one meals vittles since. But I am a little better this morning. I have been traveling all the time since I taken this. I think I should get to go up to Father this morning. I am at Greenville now & the battalion leaves here this morning to travel for next 5 days. I sent my saddle & bridle by Wm Waldroop & paid him for it. Since I began to write I got a Furlow to go to my Fathers tomorrow if possible & get well. I must bring my few lines to a close.

GW Jones Wrote by JCJ Brown

GW Jones No.4 letter

GW Jones December 15, 1862

Smyth County, VA

December the 15, 1862

Dear Wife & family,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am still numbered with the living but not very well. I have been up here in VA ever since the 21 of Oct. I expect to start back tomorrow. I don't know whether I am able to stand the service or not but if I ain't, I reckon they will let me go home.

I have wrote to you several times & never have got a letter from you yet. I have not heard from the Company since I left them. I don't know where they are. If you know write to me there & I will get to the Company before this gets to you. If I ever do get some body to reply back to the letter that understands it. I want to hear from home so bad I don't know what to do.

Hug & kiss George & "bidey" for me. Save a good shier for your self. Write to me what you can with the help & how you are getting along & where you live. Everything is high and hard to get here. I will give you some of the prices. Corn three dollars, flour 10 dollars a hundred, pork 30 dollars, beef 12 dollars, salt 20 dollars at the works, shoes from 15 to 25.

Father's is all well. He has raised more grain than it will take to do him. John Boldin is at home wounded in the leg. He was wounded in the Richman Battle last spring. Granney is well. The diphtheria is raging here & the smallpox. Many have them around about the seven mile ford.

I name some of the men that has never been to war. Elick Black, & Dave Lee, young Crig Parsons, Rob Mulkey, all Black John Parson's boys & several others. John Colwell & his brother has ran away to west.

I have the headache so I will have to quit for the night. I will write more in the morning if I live. I will not start 'til 5 o'clock tomorrow evening. I will try to write some more tonight for I have to go & get some leather & and have me a pair of shoes made tomorrow before I start. Mary do the best you can. I return home as soon as I can. I think I will get a discharge. The Doctors here say I will never be able to stand service. Write to me. Tell Robert Chagler and Nancy Birom to write to me. I have write to them 'til I am tired of writing. Without they would respond to my letters.

Direct your letters to the Company if you know where they are for I don't. But I am going to try to find them. Give my love to all inquiring friends if there be any. If not I can't help it. Remaines your lover until death, Mary Jones. G W Jones. A few lines to father Mother & all the rest & Riley & family. I would like to see you all but you know my chance. I do not hear from you its self let alone seeing you. But I hope I will live to see you all yet before I die. I have not heard from you since I left home. Write to me and give me all the news you think I will want to hear. How my filey is a doing. I don't know how my mare is a doing for I have not heard from her since I left her father. Do the best you can with my family & stock & I will be in debt to you atreat. When I come I will quit for for my mind is pestered so I can't word a letter write nor spell nor write mother C... A.J. Baker, Mary Baker and family Riley Baker, Melanine Baker & family.

G.W. Jones

GW Jones No. 5 letter

GW Jones - March 20, 1863

Camp Golewhoper Mar 20, 1863

I take my pen in hand to let you know I am well. Hoping that these few words will find you all well. I have suffered a good deal before I got to Campes. My leg is sore

and the doctor examined me this morning. He said he could not cure me without I go through a course of carving & I told him I would see him in Hell first. Most of the men think I got to have a discharge but I don't know what about it. I was on the road 7 days. It cost me \$10. We think we will get to come home in the course of 2 or 3 years but I don't know whether we will or not for we are expecting a battle here now.

You hug & kiss the boys for me. Give my best respects to Mr. Morton & family & to Mr. Thompson & family & to Mr. Hagons. I don't know what more to write. You must write to me soon & often. James Mathason got to camps the day before we did. He is well you can tell his folks. I was offered two hundred & 50 dollars for my mare & nothing more at present.

Mary Jones. G.W. Jones.

Father, Mother & brothers I will say a few words to you all to let you know I have not forgot you yet nor never. That I want you all to write to me & I will write more next time. Direct you letters to Galacoffer Depot 65 Reg. N.C. Troops Co. B. G.W. Jones

Write soon & often & fail not for I want to hear from home so bad I don't know what to do.

Mary Jones George W.

GW Jones No. 6 letter

GW Jones April 10, 1863

Greenville.. Co .. Tenn April the 10/63

Dear Wife after some delay I write to you a few lines to let you know that I am still numbered with the living but not very well. That sore on my leg is worse and I came to the hospital this morning. All except the names below of our Company Carroll M. Patterson, Isac Prater, Wm S. Brindle, Joseph McClure would stay with the Regt. But they are going to move and I don't know where but I expect they will go to Ky. that is the talk but I don't know about it.

I received a letter from you by Mr. Morton. I had wrote you a letter before he got here to you. I got him to write a few lines in his letter to you. In his letter you wanted to know about planting corn. I want you to have some planted and I think I will be there in a month if I live. I am not able to write much. I send you some stamps in this letter.

Dear Father & Mother I can say to you I have not forgot you. Tell the boys I want to see them but I want to see my boys Ma a little the worst. Joseph I you & Noah to be good to Mary & the children. Father I want you to treat my filly well for I have no horse here. I got so I could not ride & I sold my mare. Sater give his away. I will write more next time. Direct your letter to Greenville, Tenn. Matison Hospital ward No. 5, to George W. Jones.

Mary Jones, George & Bille, A.E. Baker & all the family.

GW Jones No. 7 letter

GW Jones April 19, 1863

Green Co. Greenville..E..Tenn., April the 19(63.

Dear Wife, I take the present opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know I am not dead yet. My leg is better but my arm is very sore. I think the Doctor will cure me. I got a letter from Sister the other day that was all. Well I hope you will write to me. I have got one letter from you. Mr. Morton fetched that. I want to hear from you the worst in the world. I could get to come home. The Dr. said he would furlow me but they passed a law for no more furlows to be granted 'til July. But the Doctor thinks it will be all together according to the movements of the armies. He thinks he can let me off some.

I sent you some stamps in the other letter. I will send you some pens and a pencil. I want you to plant the beans. I put up a long pole for them to grow on. They had growed a yard long. I want you to take good care of my beans and try to make seed. I have just returned from meeting. Though there was not much preaching. It was an Episcopalian meeting. There very nice music but a great deal of formality.

I will tell you the balance when I get home if I ever do get there. I hope I will. I think I will have my ambertype taken tomorrow if the weather lets me & the gentlemen from halafacks. Give my love to all the family. Direct your letters to E. Tenn. Division No. 5.

G..W..Jones..Mary Jones.

Father, Mother & all the rest I will write to you next time. I have not time now.

GW Jones No. 8 letter

GW Jones May 7, 1863

May the 7 1863

Dear wife I can say I received a letter from you yesterday for the first I ever got from you by mail. It was wrote May the 1 & mailed the 2 & I got it the 6. I was sorry to hear Noah was dead. Me & Martin & Riley all wrote to you all yesterday. For fear you don't get them letters I will say something about them. They was well yesterday & I was over at their camps yesterday. They said they would come over this morning but they have not come yet. You wanted to know if I was coming home. My will is good to come but I can't get off. I think the war will end against fall. I want you all to do the best you can. I will come home as soon as I can.

I will tell you what I have sent you. I sent you a pen. Come in a letter. Next I sent 35 dollars & 70 pins by the lieutenant Crinago. I sent some bolips butchered & 80 pins by Charley Anderson. I want you to send dad to Hiram Green & get my canteen. Henry sent it to me by him. When I was at home I sent Pa stamps in a letter. I will try to finish my letter May the 11. I would a wrote sooner but I heard our Regt. Was ordered to Knoxville & I waited for them to come on through here.

They just started here on Saturday night. Mr. Martin was well. He has not bought a horse yet. You wanted to know who I sold my mare to. I sold her to James Crawford for 175 dollars. I bought a mare the other day. It's 5 year old for \$120. I sent her on with the Company. I am going down on the cars Friday if no bad luck. There is

no chance to get a furlow here. The Captain said he thinks he can get me off. The Doctor says he can't cure me so I am as well as I ever will be. So I will go back to my Company Friday.

I don't know when I will get to come home but I don't think it will be long. Kiss the boys for me. Tell George Riley & you all to be good boys til I come. I got the letter you sent by O Wenby last Saturday Father. I wish I could be there to help you with your work for I know how it is. Mother I would like to be at your house to get a mess of greens. Mary I would like to be at your house to get milk & butter. Pa I would like to be there to go to the mountain with you & Mr. Martin. Give my love to all inquiring friends if there be any. Be sure to send to Hiram Green & get my canteen.

Direct your letters to the Regt. Wherever Mrs. Martin directs hers to. I expect to Knoxville. If she has got no letter from Mr. Martin direct to Knoxville. He said he had a letter ready to start. He is in good health.

G..W..Jones Mary Jones & all the family.

GW Jones No. 9 letter

GW Jones May 24, 1863

May the 24, 1863

Dear Wife I will drop you a few lines to let you know where I am and how I am getting along. I left Greenville and returned to the company. I started with them 3 days & took the rheumatism. My leg swelled & pained me so I could not walk. I went on crutches a while but now I can go on one. I think in a few days I can go without any crutch. Captain sent up a furlow for me but I don't know what the General will do. Whether he will approve it or not. I hope he will. I had to come to the hospital and our men was ordered to Ky. & I could not go.

I wrote to Mr. M & offered to sell my mare. Since I left them I don't know whether he has sold her or not. Mr. Martin was in good health when I seen him last. I think they will come back before long if I hear the truth.

Dear I think I will get to come home some time they claim maybe in 2 weeks. I can't tell. Do the best you can and I will come as soon as I can. You may know I want to know about my filly if you please. I received a letter when Robert Andrewson came & same for Riley. I sent his to him. Riley & Mart was both well when I left Greenville.

Father, Mother, & Joseph I will say a few words to you all. I would like to see you all. I would like to be there to bear my part of the hard work if it was so I could. I hope I will be there before long. Do the best you can 'til I come. If I live I will get there some time. I would like to see my boys as well as the rest of you. Tell Riley I want to kiss the foil. Joes tell George I want to bite him and hear him holler. Mary I would love to see you & lay my arms around you if it could be so. Melvine I would like to see you & talk a while but I don't want to see you when Kit makes you mad. I will wait til morning to finish if I live I will finish then.

May the 25. I will try to close. I have nothing new to write only I was blessed to live another night & feel like I am on the mend. I will say no more. Write soon & often.

Direct your letters to G..W.. Jones Knoxville, Tenn. College Hill Hospital Box 230.

Give my love to all inquiring friends if there be any. Save a good share for yourself & boys.

Mary Jones / A..J..Baker & all the family & my boys too. From G W Jones

GW Jones No. 10 letter

GW Jones June 24, 1863

Hospital Jun the 24 /63Athens, Tenn.

Dear wife I will write you one more letter as I have moved and see if I can get a letter from you since I have not got a letter from you since I left Greenville and I want to hear from home the worst I ever did. I have nothing of importance to write at the present. I am tolerable well.

They moved us down here yesterday on account of the Yankees. I was in the battle at Knoxville. They expect them in again so they sent the sick here. A part of our Regt passed through Knoxville last Sunday. I seen Mr. Martin you can tell his wife he is well. Said he would write home as soon as he got time. There was only 35 of our /co/ along. The rest was left with the wagons. I did not see the Capt.

I will not write much as I have not got but one letter in a month and that was from (Va). I sent you some paper & one dollars worth of stamps. Write me word whether you got them or not. Give me all the news of how crops looks. You need not make me any clothes 'til I write to you. I have got three pair of slacks and 4 shirts. I would write more but I don't no whether you get my letters or not and I can't get no answer. Father I want you & Mother to write to me. Write about up there. Give me all the news. I will write more if I ever get a letter from you. Direct your letters to Athens, Tenn. in care of Doctor Franklin.

GW Jones

GW Jones No. 11 letter

GW Jones June 28, 1863

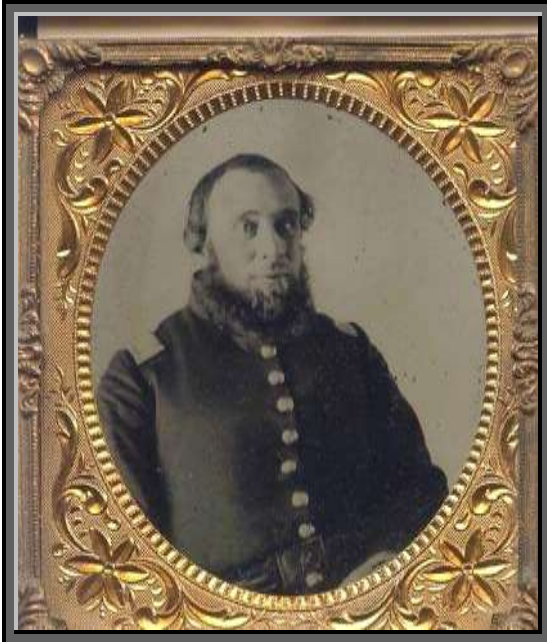
Athens Hospital June 28 /63

Dear wife I wrote you a letter the other day. I said for you to direct your letters to Athens. But you may back them to the Regt. You can hear where they are. Mr. Martin said he would write as quick as he got time. So you can hear where they are. I am going to them today. I would like mighty well to get a letter from you as I have not got one in 2 months. I am not well but the fare is so bad here I will not stay. I am not very sick but I am so weak I can hardly walk. Give my love to father and mother & so to all inquiring friends if there be any. Kiss the Boys for me.

Direct your letters to G.W. Jones / Co / B/ 65 NC / Regt in care of Col. Polk.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REED

Contributed by Melinda Meyer, Great Great Grand daughter



Benjamin Franklin Reed of Camargo, Illinois.

Died from wounds received at Chickamauga, Tenn.

Grand Army of the Republic Post in Tuscola was named after him as was the successor post of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Benjamin Franklin Reed was born in Bourbon Co., KY, on Nov. 6, 1824. As a child, he would have grown up hearing Revolutionary War stories from his maternal great-grandfather, John Whayne and his paternal grandfather, George Reed. The Reed's and Whayne's emigrated to Edgar and Vermillion counties early in the state's history. His parents, Daniel and Mary Whayne Reed, ran the roadhouse at Palarmo, IL and started the first school at Hickory Grove. "Frank" was the third of twelve children. His mother died in 1844 leaving a household in need of a maternal touch. Daniel remarried the widow Polly Yarnall Barnett and she came with her three children. Her youngest daughter, Delilah Catherine married Frank in 1847. They began farming the Barnett/Yarnall land at Hugo along the Brushy Fork. His young wife died in 1855 leaving Frank two children, William Daniel and Sarah Margaret. Frank remarried the young Martha Daniel in 1857; she would bear him three children and die in 1868.

Reed was a political man and probably had many concerns about the identity his newly formed Douglas County would take.

The following letters are written to a neighboring landowner and farmer, Charles Welliver. Charles was faithfully taking care of Reed's business and farm when he went to war at age 37. Many letters deal with suing for payment on land that was sold, title work, taxes, etc. Following are excerpts from these letters with spelling and punctuation corrected.

Captain Benjamin Franklin Reed was wounded so badly in the Battle of Chickamauga that he died on September 17, 1863 on the battlefield. He was married twice – 1st to Delilah C. who died February 18, 1855 at the age of 24 years 1 month 23

days, no children; 2nd to Catherine Barnett who died October 31, 1868 at the age of 31 years 11 months 23 days. She was the daughter of William Barnett, and the sister of John Brown's first wife. William lived in Camargo Township.

LETTERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REED



Camp Grant, June 5, 1861

*Mr. Charles Welliver,
Camp Grant, June 5, 1861*

Mr. Charles Welliver,

Sir We want about 10 or 15 men from Douglas County. We would like you to use your influence in our behalf to get large double fisted fellows that would go a good ways in filling up a ditch. If the boys succeed in getting some recruits, send them down in a wagon or on Walkers line.

I have nothing of importance to write you. The health of the Regiment is very good. I think we can hold about 50 or 55 men in our company for the long term. Douglas County must and shall be represented in the army to revenge our insulted Country.

I want you to come down with the boys if you can to assist in getting the boys right on the question of the goose.³ I Shall try and make the trip to the best of my ability.

Better die on the field than have no government. What say you?

B. F. Reed

***Headquarters 21st Ills Volunteers
Ironton, Iron County, Mo., Oct. 15, 1861
Special Orders No 85
Ironton, Iron County, Mo., Oct 18, 1861***

Mr. Charles Welliver

I have Just read your letter. It is the first news I have had from home notwithstanding I writtend some three or four letters.

³ "The question of the goose" was where one stood on the question of slavery and was an anti-abolitionist phrase.

Well, I am so tired I can hardly write. We have Just returned from Fredricktown, [Missouri]. The 21st Ill. left camp yesterday (Thursday) morning at one A.M. for Fredricktown, a distance of 23 miles, having 450 able men all told. Some of the companies had but 35 men. Our company numbered 65 able men, having the largest Company in the Regiment by 15 men.

Well, I will tell you about the fight on the evening of the 16th Wednesday. 400 cavalry of the 1st Indiana (under Major Gavitt) left this place for Fredricktown, some seven hours before we left, to draw the enemy from their position. They [the cavalry] arrived about four in the morning. They marched to the Little St Francis bridge, one mile from town, where they found 4 large cannon mounted (24 pounders). Well, they double quicked 4 miles to meet the 21st, after having one man killed and 3 wounded.

We advanced the 21st in front, the cavalry in the rear, with one piece only (24 pounder). We arrived within 1/2 mile of the bridge where we found the enemy fortified in large numbers, about six thousand strong, with four 24 pounders, we having only one. Col. Alexander and Major Gavitt made to the top of the hill within 1/4 mile of the enemy, took out their spy glasses and made an examination. I would have liked very much to have gone up, but, being the only commissioned officer in the company, I could not go. Remember that there was a big hill between us [and the enemy].

Well, the Col. returned to the regiment and ordered all the commissioned officers, both infantry and cavalry, to the front for to hold a council of war. I went forward to represent your county by not saying one word either way, thinking the field officers would fix the matter their own way.

Any how -- attention Battalion -- left face -- forward (quick) march. -- some swearing we could whip them; others swearing we would be cut all to pieces.

Our object in retreating was to draw the enemy out and get help. We had retreated about 2 miles when the secesh⁴ Cavalry fired and shot one of our men through the calf of leg. We went on and so did they. Finally, we threw out three companies on the right of the road (Company D was included) in ambush. The balance of the Company marched on to a short turn in the road, making the turn just as the enemy saw our rear after turning.

We planted our cannon. The secesh seeing us make the turn on double quick time thought they would make the turn before we made another to get a shot. Just as they got opposite to us in ambush, they see the cannon. The officer in front gives the command -- right about, march.

We opened up on them. Of all the running I ever saw, they made the best time. There was three hundred of them. How many we killed, I don't know. As we filed past, dead men and horses lay thick in the road. Many were wounded. We left them lay for their own friends to bury.

Hoping to draw them on again, but they would not bite the second time. When we commenced to retreat, Col. Alexander sent a messenger to Col. Carlin, Commandant of this post, for reinforcements. We marched five miles and halted for further orders from Col. Carlin. The order came about 4 o'clock p. m. to retreat to the bridge across the Big St Francis river, midway between this place and Fredricktown where he would meet us with his and the Normal Regiment (Col. Hovey) and two pieces of cannon. We arrived at the bridge about dark, now having been on post 10 hours, the men carrying their

⁴ Secesh was a slang word for secessionists.

knapsacks, muskets, forty rounds cartridge each, canteen and haversack. Col. Carlin came out with two regiments within four miles of us [and] turned back to camp, leaving us at the bridge and the Cavalry not stopping with us. As orders came at midnight to return to Camp, I was notified to get the Company ready immediately; and, as I was the advance guard, the boys were soon ready and we moved forward in advance of the Battalion some two miles. We arrived at Camp just as day was breaking. The boys are sleeping at this time.

Mr. Welliver, I am considerable worried over matters. If we had a good General to plan and lead us on, we would soon whip them out in this part of Missouri. Just think of Col. Carlin, a little Buck fart Captain in the regular army, commanding a brigade. Col. Alexander is a much better man in every respect.

Please say to the friends in Douglas County, during all the excitement on yesterday, not a pale cheek was to be seen in Company D. They obeyed all commands quietly and promptly. I hope we will soon move from here. I have just received orders to draw seven days rations for the Company. What is up, I don't know.

I shall direct this letter to Mart⁵ as you will get it some 3 days sooner. We would like to have the potatoes very much. If we move, we would not get them. Write soon,

Yours in haste B. F Reed

Feb 20th 1862

Headqr Company D, 21st Regt Ills Vol, Greenville Missouri

.....

My wife says Cud⁶ and Mart are going to Pike's Peak in the Spring. I think they can be spared as well as any two young men in that community. What say you? They both owe service to their country and should be made to render it, especially C. Anderson Porter.⁷

Charley, it looks hard that I should have to sleep on a blanket on the cold ground, eat hard crackers, fat bacon, sit up with the guard night after night... I am on duty at this time as officer of guard. Now one o'clock AM [and] not allowed to sleep one minute. At the same time, we have men in Douglas County who are living in the finest style, sleeping in warm beds with good-looking women. As Mr. Douglas⁸ would say, living in one of best Governments under the shining sun. Who do you suppose I have reference to? Well, such men as Frank Williams, Samuel Williams, Spears, Statler⁹, that feller what was squire over the river, and numbers of others I could name in our county. O such men and how glad how their Spirits would revive if they could only hear of the defeat of the Union troops once more. Poor fellows! They are doomed to disappointment. How do they look I see our way clear, but the Union is safe beyond all doubt. We will be victorious in every struggle with the rebels. Gen. McClellan at Washington will hold the rebel Jeff

⁵ Martin Van Buren is the younger brother of Reed. He is taking care of the farm. Reed and his first wife raised Mart after the death of their mother, Mary Wayne Reed. At the outbreak of war, Mart is between 21-26 years old.

⁶ C. Anderson Porter

⁷ Apparently this journey never took place. Reed had considerable frustrations with his little brother's irresponsibility.

⁸ Stephen A. Douglas. Reed's Douglas campaign ribbon is on display in the G.A.R. Room at the Douglas Co. Courthouse.

⁹ Michael Statler, a large landowner near Reed, originally from Ohio.

Davis in check, while we skin the balance. Tell poor Cud and old man Gorden [that] they must bear it with a Christian fortitude.

All the men I have spoken of are Democrats or say they are. If they are the true representatives of the Democratic party, I am not a Democrat. There is another party, or rather a small portion of a party, I would like to speak about. Not having space, I will omit to do so on this occasion. Don't criticize.

If Mart is going to leave, tell him to write to me soon. If he leaves, you will rent the ground to the best advantage. McNeal McCumber is to have 15 or 20 acres next to Helms. It is impossible for me to come home before the war closes.

Please excuse bad writing orthography, Yours B F Reed

March the 3, 1862

Headquarters Co D, 21st Regiment Ills. Vol, Greenville, Missouri

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

.....

One word about our mutual friend, David W. Barnett.¹⁰ Deer has become scarce. Dave has commenced killing hogs. So the boys say he pressed in a good rifle from one of the natives. He keeps it hid outside the guards as soldiers are not allowed to carry their guns outside camp. Dave goes out hunting every day, bringing in a turkey or some fresh pork. The boys have told Dave there is plenty of bear about 40 miles from here in the swamps. Dave is trying to talk me into giving him a furlough for a week. I finally told him I had seen the Colonel and he had better go and see him. It was all right. David went down and talked with the Colonel. Dave thinks I stretched the blanket. He often speaks of you. I have to make him wash his face and hands every day. Dave has been a member of every mess in the company. Corporal Welliver¹¹ has him in his mess at the present time.

Ripley County, Missouri, April 8, 1862

Camp of the 1st Brigade, Steele's Division

Col. Charles Welliver,

Sir, Once more my respects to you and family before we fight the battle of Pocahontus. This Division is within 28 miles of Pocahontus, where it is said several thousand rebels have collected to give us battle. We are encamped on the bank of Current River at a little town Called Doniphan, the County Seat of Ripley County and the home of Col Lowe, who fell at Fredricktown. We had to build a boat to cross the river. Commenced crossing today. The Secesh having destroyed every boat on this river to keep the abolitionist from crossing.

I wish I had talent and language to describe this country and its people. I was in town last evening, returning to camp. I meet 5 or six mulattoes, at least they were one-

¹⁰ David Washington Barnett was one of the "Brushy Fork Boys," a son of James D. Barnett and Sarah Yarnall. He was a double cousin to Reed's first wife, Delilah Catherine Barnett and aged 26 at this writing.

¹¹ John Welliver was the son of Charles Welliver. John is also referred to in Reed's letters as "The Corporal"

half white. You need not be surprised if I return to Illinois a follower of Owen Lovejoy. Though don't say any thing about this remark because it may injure my chances for presidency in 1864.

We have to depend on this country for our provisions. There is but little. This country is not more than the woman and children should have but as their husbands have gone to the Confederate army. We take a little from all. Though people here think it is rather hard to have to feed both armies. If we can't whip them out, we can eat them out.

This Brigade consists of a regiments infantry, the 21st and 38 Ills, the 16th Ohio Battery (6 pieces, 4 rifled). Cavalry is to be here after assigned. We are commanded by Col. Wm. P. Carlin, who outranks Col. Alexander 8 days. This I regret, from the fact that Alexander is the best officer. This Division numbers about 6000 men under the command of Brigadier General Steele, who led the Regulars so bravely at the Battle of Wilson Creek. Capt. McConkey and Si Gifford are here. The captain makes a fine officer. His men like him very much.

Si is doctoring horses at 15 dollars per month. I see many here I knew in Illinois. Mr. Welliver, render my family all the assistance you can without neglecting your own business. For this favor, I believe I can appreciate highly as any man living. The Corporal is well. In fact, the health in this regiment was never better Lt. Col. Peck will resign on account of bad health; he has the consumption. Major McMakin will fill his place -- a fight for major.

Yours truly B.F Reed

[top of page and upside down]

it is now sun Set and we have not found Perry

Pitman's Ferry, Arkansas, May 14th 1862

Col. Charles Welliver,

It was hard news to hear of the death of Johnson White.¹² The letter did not state how he was poisoned. I wish you would give me the particulars. It does seem to me that I receive some letters from friends that would be as well to send them blank. You think right when you say there is a good opening for a preacher in a certain locality. Tell the little Christain, J. Horsby Williams¹³, that the one dollar and 25 cents is all right and, if I live to return home, I shall put him to work.

.....

While I write, the boys are wading the river. The word comes to me (now three o'clock p.m.) that Abner Perry drowned. The boys have formed a line across the river 2 miles below to catch his body as it passes down. The water runs very rapid. I must go to the place and assist all I can to recover his body. I will finish when I return.

We have not succeeded in finding the body. I may succeed before we leave, which will be in the morning. While out looking for Perry, I found the 38th diving for one their men who went under today. This has been a good day for the business. Some three or

¹² Reed's sister, Amanda, married Johnson White (a Veteran of the Mexican War). They ran the saw mill at Hugo, IL.

¹³ J. Hornsby Williams was a minister.

four have died in the last three weeks in the regiment with confluent small pox. Company D has not had one case as yet, but how soon it may break out among us is hard to tell.

***Cape Girardeau, Missouri,
May 22nd 1862***

Charles Welliver,

.....

The 21st are now aboard of the Steamer Adriatic, bound for Pittsburgh Landing, where I suppose we are to act our part in the Great Battle at Corinth. Look to the Lord and keep your powder dry.

I have been vaccinated some ten days ago. My arm is badly swollen. It threw me into the ague. I feel much better this morning. The sun is just rising. We leave in a few minutes. Direct your letters by the way of Cairo. I have nothing to write that would interest you. They are all left at this place ten regiments are here from Gen. Curtis's command. Our Brigade is the first to leave for Corinth. Write often. John is well.

Yours,

B. F. Reed

***Near Corinth, Miss.
May 27th 1862***

My Dear Wife

The 21st arrived here last evening within 3 miles of Corinth. We are in the left wing under Gen. Pope. I heard the cans whistle this morning. It sounded as though they were not half a mile from us. I visited the battlefield of Shiloh yesterday morning before marching. I have no language to describe what I see. The dead were buried so shallow the dirt was cracked so you can see the maggots working out. You can smell the dead for miles around. I am well. I hope you are all in good health. I sent you and Sarah 15 dollars to Tuscola.

B.F. Reed

Near Corinth, Miss., May 31st 1862

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

Sir, the rebels vacated Corinth yesterday morning burning all their military stores that they could not take with them. They burned all the cotton in and about Corinth. I think if the rebels had not raised such smoke, Gen. Halleck would not have found out they had left for two weeks.

It is rather bilious to march in pursuit under a scorching sun. I can't tell if we had better lost 30 thousand men in battle than lose 60 thousand with disease. Our Brigade leaves this morning. Thousands have gone before us. Such an army no man on this continent ever beheld as we have here. If the rebels had been whipped at this place, the rebellion would have been at an end. I had made my calculations to come home if I

got through at the Battle of Corinth. Now will have to march one year longer. We have traveled over Missouri and Arkansas. We will now try the cotton States.

.....

Yours, B. F. Reed

June 6th 1862

Camp nine miles south of Corinth, Miss.

Col. Charles Welliver,

Sir, I have the Great pleasure of writing you a few lines in answer to some nine letters I have received in the last two days. My health is fine. Hoping this may find you and family well.

The 21st has been engaged for the last two days building bridges across the Tuscumbia River and other small streams. The rebels burned bridges as they retreated. I think there has been troops enough passed in the last 24 hours to whip all the rebels in the South.

You speak about Jones' son being killed at Farmington. Our boys were at his grave. They found his name cut on a tree near the grave.

.....

I was down to Hamburg [Landing] 3 or 4 day ago with the train of the 21st -- 25 wagons. We left Camp at noon, drove to the river a distance of 25 miles by sunset, loaded the next morning with grub and arrived at Camp the same day at 8 o'clock p.m. The quickest trip on record. As to war news, you are as well posted as I am here. If you want to see soldiers, cannon and army wagons, just come down here.

I have seen 200 Generals in the last ten days. The day after we arrived at Corinth, General Grant and his staff came five miles to see us. I had the great pleasure of shaking hands with him, which will be an honor to me and my posterity.

For the benefit of J Hornsby Williams just say that Corporal Welliver is a full average in his church, a true follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. I send my love to all, hoping soon to return to the bosom of my numerous friends. It is growing late; therefore I close.

B. F Reed

.....

My wife complains she does not receive enough letters from me. I write 2 letters a week to some of the friends. If that is not sufficient, I will have to employ a clerk to write. See my wife and convince her that once a week is often enough to hear from me.

Camp of the 21st Ills Vol near Jacinto, Miss., June 25th 1862

Col. Charles Welliver,

.....

I have some notion of resigning and coming home. But as you are somewhat of a military man, I will take your advice in the matter. I have served my country faithfully 14 months, and, for want of confidence in our military leaders, I feel like going home. If we had such a man at our head as Gen. Beauregard, this rebellion would not last three months. We are moving about from place to place at night as though there was an enemy

in the neighborhood, when there is not one in 60 miles of this place. Why not move right on the enemy, rout them, and keep in their rear. Give them no peace day or night and not do as Gen. Halleck did at Corinth -- wait till the enemy vacates then move on Corinth. Better to have lost 2000 men in battle than to have thirty thousand die with disease.

One word in regard to our Company since we left Springfield. Eight men have died and four have been discharged. I will give you the names of those who have died and discharged. Died: S. Daniels J. Lyons, Thos. Keaton, S.W. Gilbert, James Coslett, George Helmick (at home), A. Perry drowned; Thomas Owings. Discharged: Thomas Hoffman, I.D. van Metre, Samuel Clubb, R.P. West, correspondent of the Tuscola Shield, making 12 men. We yet have 93 men, 3 commissioned officers, aggregate 96. Some 2 or 3 men should be discharged.

.....

Now as to resigning, it is not from any difficulty with officers or men. I am on the best of terms with all from the Colonel down. I am getting tired of Camp life, although \$110.25 per month is quite a stimulus to remain. Your son is well socking around. I told him the other day I had a notion to leave them for good. He went and told the Boys. They came en mass to see about the matter. I told them it would make a vacancy in the Company. They said they could not all be 1st Lieutenant. Now if was not for my friends in the Company, I would not serve in the capacity of First Lieutenant 24 hours from causes best known to my self at the present. There will be a day I can speak of the part. C. A. Coykendall is First or Orderly Sergeant of Company D; Wint Watson is 5th Sergeant; Jacob Good is a Corporal; -- all from my precinct. It made the Tuscola clique set up a howl.

George Barlow is not worth the powder that would blow his brains out. He caught the clap last fall and has had it ever since last winter. When we left Ironton, I left Barlow at that place. They put him in Commissary to issue rations to those who were not able to travel. He sold about one hundred dollars worth of provisions. He was caught. The Colonel reduced him to the ranks and will not give him a discharge.

Yours B F Reed

***Camp of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, Army the Miss.,
Sunday July 27th 1862***

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

.....

I feel well satisfied with all your business transactions with my affairs, hoping some day I shall be able to return the favor. The Corporal continues to move with celerity and sends his best wishes to all.

Well. the Democracy seem and the church seem to be in trouble. If I could be at home a few days, I think I could still the troubled waters. Ambrose seems to be in trouble with both church and his party. If the Democrats ever had or held such meetings in Douglas County, it is news to me. Though they may have had such meetings, I do think politics should be kept down as this is the most critical moments in our government we have had since the rebellion began. It will require the best energies of all men to save

the Union. I see in the Shield your party¹⁴ are to reorganize for the fall election. That will save the Union. I see the names of Mr. Hancock and John Yeager benounced as candidates for sheriff of Douglas County. Either of the gentlemen would make an efficient officer.

Well, I will close. As to movements of our army here, you just know as much as I do. In fact, more, as you see the papers 5 or 6 days before we do. I have not been paid yet. If Mart will pay Porter, I will replace the money soon. Give Mart my note. The Boys are in good health, never better.

Yours Respectfully, B. F Reed

***Camp 21st Illinois Regiment, Nashville
December 21st 1862***

*Friend Charles,
Dear Sir,*

I arrived at Nashville last Friday [letter torn] that the 21st was about 7 miles so [letter torn] town but put up in Town for the night and joined the Regiment the next morning. I found the Boys all well and in fine Spirits and seemed very glad to see me. I arrived here precisely three weeks after leaving Home. I was detained some 18 days in Springfield.

I had to leave my accounts unsettled. I received no pay from the Government other than commutation for Quarters. Hence the reason I sent no money home. There is now due me from the Government 6 months pay, though the probabilities are not good for getting it soon.

I feel very much discouraged in regard to the Victory at Fredricksburg and think a few more such will end the war. Everybody seems to think that things look dark. Very [d]ark now and I don't see much prospect of its looking better soon. It was in my opinion very bad policy in removing McClellan. The President was satisfied with Mac but was forced by public opinion and outside pressure to remove him. And put in a man who twas thought would fight. Burnside knew why he was placed in command, knew he was expected to do so and did at the first opportunity and what has been the [letter torn] ng as he has done the nation finds fault. Had he declined to give battle, it would have brought upon him the curse of Millions and brought his capacity for commanding in disrepute. They are all a set of damned fanatics and fools -- I am going to write to Abe in regard to the matter. What say you?

There is nothing of much importance to write about here. Everything seems quiet, though the enemy are reported in force but a short distance in our front. The Pickets skirmish a little, sometimes so they exchanged some two dozen 12-pound shots. Last evening, with each other, both parties seemed satisfied and convinced the other was there and so they let the thing rest -- rather a scienced affair. Nobody hurt. We have to get up occasionally at 3 o'clock in the morning and stand under arms until daylight, which of course goes a little across the grain of a cold morning--

This leaves us well -- may it find you likewise -- write soon. Direct to 31st Brigade, 9th Division, Army of the Cumberland via Nashville.

¹⁴ Welliver was a Republican.

Yours w[letter torn]

[letter torn] Reed

***Camp 21st Ill Regiment, near Murfreesboro
January 8th 1863***

Friend Charles,

I drop you a line merely to let you know that I passed through the battle safely as did John also. Our loss was severe. There was 36 killed wounded and missing in Company D. The boys stood up to the work like men. They did themselves and their cause honor. Other companies suffered as bad in proportion as mine; see the Shield for the list of killed and wounded. We went into the fight 68 strong. I have now the honor of commanding 31 men. My health is not the best, but I am not down yet. The boys are in good cheer and health. I must close -

Very Respectively,

B. F Reed - -

***Camp of the 21st Ills Vol, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Right Wing, Army of
the Cumberland near Murfreesboro
January 12 1863***

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

The great Battle of Stone River is over. All is quiet. Company D suffered terribly on 30th and 31st. You have already the report. I have 32 men in the Company for duty.

I have not been paid for months. I will express to you as soon as I am paid. John wishes you to buy the land for him. You can see all the particulars in the Shield. My health is not so good. We had to lay out in the rain for 4 days and nights without fire. Who would be a soldier?!

My regards to all,

B.F Reed

All the companies are represented here since the Battle, their friends having come down to take care of the dead and wounded. Little Douglas is the ass end of gods creation as far as the people are concerned. If the devil was [to] select me to locate hell, Douglas would be the Spot.

B F Reed

***Camp 21st Ills Vol, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Right Wing, Army of the Cumberland
near Murfreesboro, Tenn***

January 28th 1863

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

I have not heard from you since I left Tuscola but suppose you are well and doing well. Martin was here but left while I was on picket duty. I wanted to send a letter to you by him. He said you had not rented the land when he left you. Make such disposition as you think best. I wish you would request M. V. B. Reed to place a roof over my corn or haul it up home and put in the crib. Money I have none to send you but will send when paid.

I see by the papers that the President has signed a bill for the issue of one hundred million dollars legal tender, worth 50 cts to the dollar. I don't know how much or how little I will receive, but if paid up what is due me I can send you seven hundred dollars, equal to three hundred and fifty dollars. If you can buy railroad land with the money at its face, you can do so. I want 80 acres of good prairie land for my son William Daniel Reed. You can select it for him, but wait till you get the money. Then buy the land.

Since I last saw, you we have fought a great Battle and won a great victory. The 21st regiment lost a greater number in killed and wounded than any regiment in this army corps. The regiment went into action with 662 men on Tuesday evening, the 30th of December. The 21st Illinois and 15th Wisconsin made a charge on a battery and about 5 to one in infantry posted behind breastworks. We had to retire, the 21st losing 132 men in the charge. I went into the fight on the 30th with 65 men, losing in two days 34 men killed and wounded, one missing, losing over one half our number. The regiment lost 303. General Rosecrans has complimented our regiment very highly. He says the 21st Illinois has the brightest record of all the regiments in his command. We supported the Battery of our Brigade, not losing a gun. Our men had to take one gun off the field by hand. Our Brigade and Division commands are raising a breeze about their reports of the Battle. Let them rip.

Your son, Sergeant John R. Welliver, is well and talks fluently about Samuel F Boudurant and Aaron Britton not being in the fight. You can guess the balance. John has just returned from the 79th [IL]. He says every man in that regiment he talked with killed a Colonel.

Wm. Smallwood died the 14th and Corporal Jacob Good the 23rd of wounds received in Battle. One by one they go. Will the good people of Douglas send men enough to fill my company? I know they will. I have 40 men for duty. One more Battle and we will be out of the service.

My respects to Mrs. Welliver,

Yours

B.F Reed

**Headquarters Co D 21st Ills Vol 2nd Brigade 1st Divs right wing
20th Army corps Army of the Cumberland near Murfreesboro Tenn.
Feb. 15 /63**

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

Dear Sir, I had just mailed a letter to you, ate my dinner, bought the Cincinnati Commercial of the 12th, read all the news and fell asleep. Lt. Taylor came in, woke me up and gave me four letters, three from you and one from my wife. Yours was dated as follows: Jan 11th, Feb 2nd, and Feb 8th; the one from my wife, Feb 8th. It was quite a treat to hear all the news at home. In my letter to you of yesterday, I forgot to say any thing about apple trees. You can buy the trees if it will not be too much trouble. It will be a good investment. Buy any number you think best. You also spoke about timber, dead and down. Take all you can find.

We are much discouraged with the course the people have taken on the war question in the Northern states. You would say loyal states. Where do those states lie if men at home are not ready to help us? We had better come home. They should at least be right in sentiment. The Rebels know the people in the North are divided on the war question. That gives them new courage.

I was pleased to learn my friends was getting up a revival. I thought when at home they were getting cold in the good Cause. I think Kansas would be a good opening for a preacher.

.....

Yours Respectfully

B.F. Reed

[top of page upside down]

We were out foraging yesterday. Had a skirmish. Nobody hurt.

***Camp of the 21st Regiment near Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Feb 22 1863***

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

Dear sir, I have the Honor to acknowledge your letter of February 12th 1863. Your letters have all been received. You have rented the land well under the circumstances, but I don't like for g_d d____d rebels to live on my soil. I have nothing to do with old Stevens. I am very glad you had nothing to do with him. For godsake, don't let any more trash accumulate in Kansas.¹⁵

Jacob Good, having died of wounds, leaves a note on you for twenty dollars. I advised your son, Sergeant John R. Welliver to pay the note. He will do so when paid. I could get all the money if I would take at six per cent but don't want to borrow even at that rate.

I was truly rejoiced to learn my Brother M. van Buren Reed was fast recovering from his late illness. May his shadow never grow less. I was sorry to learn Mrs. White was in bad condition with her eyes. You will have to act in fairness as you think best. I do think that Mrs. White's home relatives should furnish her money and not call on me. It will be as much as I can do to keep my own family supplied with money, but nevertheless she must have the money. I don't see how she can leave home with those 2 little babes - the less Townsend¹⁶ treats her eyes the better she will be. I bought Mart's

¹⁵ Kansas, IL. Reed had land there that was inherited from his mother's family, the Wayne's.

¹⁶ The doctor.

corn at twelve and one half cts per bushel to be delivered in the crib. He claimed at least one third more bushels than he had. I am disposed to do right in all business transactions but don't want to be skinned on all sides by my relatives.

I see by your letter the church is flourishing. Bully for them. When you think they are just right, send them down here. The rebs will do them a great kindness by merely slipping their wind. Don't wait ten days after the [camp]meeting adjourns.

The health of the Regiment is good; never better. After our heavy loss in the Battle of Stones River, we yet have over four hundred men for duty. Three commissioned officers of the 21st resigned this week. We have but one of the old original captains in the regiment. In fact, very near all the old officers have resigned and gone home. Please write soon. Give me all the news -- I remain your most obedient servant,

B.F Reed

***Camp 21st Ills Vol near Murfreesboro, Tenn
March 4th 1863***

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

The Regiment left camp this morning at five to make a reconnaissance in the direction of Shelbyville. We marched 12 miles, captured 4 rebel pickets, and returned to camp at 5 P.M.

The mail had failed to come on time. The train ran off the track between Murfreesboro and Nashville. But pretty soon after arriving in Camp, I see the mail going to Brigade headquarters. I repaired to that place in great haste and after a careful examination found none of my numerous friends had written to me.

I have been quite unwell for some time with something like chills. But so as not to incapacitate me for duty, I am taking quinine in large quantities at Uncle Abe's expense. Hope I will soon be restored to my former good health. As to news, you are better posted than I could possibly be. I mean war news. The Army of the Cumberland is in camp, drilling, scouting, foraging, having a good time generally. It will be impossible to move this large army through to the Tennessee River. Navigation will have to be first opened up on that river. Then the heroes of Stone River can safely make a forward movement. The papers bring the sad news that the Federals are defeated at Vicksburg, Mississippi. I do hope it is false; a defeat at this time will not advance the Union cause. At this critical moment, it is quite refreshing to the old regiments to learn that Father Abraham is going to conscript six hundred thousand men. Just what he should have done six months or one year ago. Go it Abe!

It does my soul good to think those croakers and refugees from other states who are breathing the pure free air of Illinois and talking about constitutional rights will have to fight for the those rights which are so near and dear to them. They will tell you about the negro depriving the slave holder of their constitutional rights. I don't understand they have any rights in the government as long as they are in arms.

I have received letters of late asking me what I think of the President's Proclamation. I will say to those friends that old Abe is running the Government and I am trying to command Company D. I will further say to my friends, if the question is slavery or the government, I am for the government. But if the Union can be preserved

with the institution of slavery, all right as far as I am concerned. You know I have no conscience scruples on the slavery question. Well, I am done with this subject.

We of the 21st have not received our wages from the government but Uncle Sam is solvent as long as rags are plenty. It is now ten o'clock and as cold, yes, colder than it has been this winter. Hoping soon to hear from you. I will close,

B.F Reed

John is in my tent reading the papers. He would like to have furlough. I will get him a leave of absence at the earliest opportunity. Gen. Rosecrans is about to or has issued an order allowing 5 per cent of the old regiments to visit their homes; if it proves to be a fact, you look for John home this Spring. Enclosed find order No. 30, Department of the Cumberland. Lt. Seth L Woodworth is from Douglas County Illinois, Capt. van Darens Company. Please read the order. Rosey is O. K.

***Camp of the 21st Ills Vol near Murfreesboro, Tenn
March 7, 1863***

Friend Charles, your letter of the 28 ult is at hand. I hasten to reply. We left camp yesterday morning taking the Shelbyville Pike. We marched eight miles and had quite a skirmish with the Rebs, losing one man killed and 2 wounded of our regiment. Night came and Company D had to go on picket. It rained. My god, your rain in Illinois are showers compared to last night. We were not allowed to have fire. At three o'clock this morning, an officer informed me the Brigade was marching to Camp and that I was ordered to call in my pickets and bring up the rear, all of which I performed in good order arriving in Camp at day light.

.....

I am fighting through pure patriotism. You wish to know my opinion of those resolutions. I fear the Democrats have left me or those of them that endorse such sentiments as are contained in the Bagdad Resolutions. I will close by saying I will devote one entire letter to you defining my political sentiments. In great haste, I close.

Your friend

B F Reed

.... Look out for my political letter. We of Company D are going to hold a meeting and pass resolutions expressing our opinions on the War. The Sergeant is well. Health good in the Regiment.

*Camp at Murfreesboro Tenn March 24th /63
Charles Welliver Esq*

Your letter of the 20th is at hand; glad our money went safe. I wrote Mart a letter last night. We have moved our tent, not the camp because we have not been in Camp one day in the week since the battle. Hope now we will have some rest as the camp of the division is laid off in regular order. I am pretty well worn down but will have to stem the tide. It won't be long. I wish I was at home a few days to trim up that shot gun party that has proved traitors to their country and party. Just think of men breathing the pure air of

Ills, enjoying all their constitutional rights, then side in with traitors who are trying to break down the very Gov. that is protecting them. What do you think of those refugees who have run from the south to the loyal States for protection? They are a set of cowards. Should be made to leave the state or shoulder a musket and fight for their rights. If there is any trouble at home when the draft comes off it is my greatest desire to be among you. If I had Co D in Douglas in such an event I think I would have a soothing affect. I [would] rather fight those traitors at home than these rebels down here There is a marked difference between the two localities. I hope my old party will yet see the error of their way, repent and be saved from everlasting disgrace. I will close

B.F. Reed

***Camp of the 21st Ill Vol, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, Murfreesboro, Tenn
April 2, 1863***

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

Your letter of the 20th ult came to hand in three days. I was pleased to learn our money went safe.

This leaves me in bad health, but as my Country needs my services, I will not quit the service if I knew I would lose my life. I feel more like fighting the Rebels than ever I did.

I am sorry you had my letter published in the Shield, but not because I am ashamed of the Sentiments it contains. It was written in great haste not thinking it would ever meet the eyes of the world.

I send you thirty dollars by Express. You will buy some fine hogs, as my brother Martin has written to me that our stock of hogs had run out. I don't think we could invest money to better advantage. One good male hog would do us both. You could have the use of him as well as not.

Tomorrow my friend the Chaplain goes to Nashville. I send the money by him. I have written to Mart the course he should pursue. Ask him to see the letter. It is reported here that Mart and other young men of our locality belong to the Knights of the Gill.¹⁷ I can't believe that it is the case. You will inform in your next letter if such is the case. I do hope it is false. I fear we have some bad men in Douglas County. Lord God, how I would like to be in your country and have an opportunity to trim up those Democrats who have left their old party and gone whoreing after strange Gods. The Democratic Party has been the War Party heretofore and should be in this trying hour. But if they will desert the old flag, let them go. The sooner the better.

Well, the 21st is loyal to the core. Not a man in Company D that but says he will fight to the last. The army here is in fine spirits (not ardent) and will serve during their life if need be.

A fair lady of my locality at home has written a letter to her brother in my company advising him to desert and come home. He would be protected if she writes another such a letter. I will have it published in the Shield. The boy is loyal to the core.

¹⁷ Shiloh Gill farmed near Reed east of Hugo. Apparently, he was an active participant in an ongoing local church struggle in which Reed disagreed with him. The cause of this struggle is never made clear in the letters.

He sent his sister 20 dollars. You paid her the money. If she would wash herself and keep clean, she might marry again. You will please see if Oliver Bagley's¹⁸ family needs assistance. If they do, help them at my expense. Your son is looking fine. I tried to get him a furlough but failed. Old Rosey says he has not been officially notified by the Secretary of War that 5 per cent of the old regiments are to be furloughed. When he is, he will issue an order regulating the matter. Congress has passed such an act. I think Rosey doesn't like to lose his men.

Our division (the 1st) was inspected and reviewed by old Rosey the other day. He gave the 21st the praise. Eleven regiments compose the Division. The Boys like old Rosey. If they see an officer in the distance riding along, they will say yonder comes old Rosey. They will straiten joints that were never before strait. You can't hear an officer or soldier say a word against Gen. Rosecrans. He is a good man. His countenance will prove what I say. I am for Rosey for the next President. Have the Shield to have his name. He was a great friend to the lamented Douglas.

It is getting late. I must close. My respects to Mrs. Welliver and all inquiring friends. Hoping you will prosper in all your efforts to do good for yourself and country

Yours,

B.F Reed

I have the finest Company from Douglas County and don't care who knows it. The finest in the Regiment in the Brigade. So say the commanding officer.

***Camp of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Right Wing, Army of the Cumberland,
Winchester, Tenn.
July 11th 1863***

Mr. Welliver,

Your letter of forgotten date was received some ten days ago. I have not had an opportunity to answer. Was glad to hear of your good health and prosperity. As to news, you have a much better opportunity for getting than I have. I have not secured a paper since we left Murfreesboro the 24th last month. We have cheering news from Vicksburg and the Potomac. We believe that Vicksburg has fallen, but will not believe the cheering news from Mead's army until it is strongly confirmed and hope Lee's army has been overthrown. You have already heard of the race between Bragg and Rosecrans. Bragg distanced Rosey in the third heat. The heavy rains and much swollen streams prevented our further advance.

Bragg has crossed the Tennessee river with a demoralized army. I think from what I see we must have taken three thousand prisoners. They would fall out of their ranks and hide in the brush. When we come along, they would come out and give themselves up and swear they would not leave Tennessee. Now while the prestige of victory is largely in our favor at all points, why not call out the entire militia and wipe

¹⁸ The Bagley family had four men in service: William W (Camargo) died Jan 26, 1865 disease; James E (Camargo) died at Andersonville July 4, 1864: Gr 7982; Stephen C (Tuscola) died Apr 24 1864 pris. war; Elijah (Tuscola) transferred to V.R.C.

out the rebellion at once. But no. The little politicians at home must keep up a continual howl about the policy pursued by the administration. But they don't propose any policy of their own. Some are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war. Well, that is my policy and to carry that policy into practical execution, every able bodied man in the Loyal states will at once arm himself and march to rebeldom and go to killing Rebels. We of the North or Union states have the power in our hands to crush out this rebellion, but should we fail it will go down in history as a lasting disgrace.

The health in the company is pretty good, having only forty-two men present over and is the largest Co in the regiment for duty. I have 30 men absent, wounded, sick and detached. When a soldier gets his descriptive Roll and is sent to Hospitals in the rear, they never will return until forced. If you see any members of Company D in Douglas, tell them I have sent up their name to the Provost Marshall Gen at Washington. They will have to look out.

Levi McDowell is very sick with typhoid fever. He is in camp. I don't think he can recover. We are doing all we can for him. He has been a faithful soldier. One by one they go.

The boys are broken down. They say they can't march half the distance they could one year ago. We are all broken down. Three years active service in the field is too long a period to serve in the field. John is well but looks much worn.

It has rained day and night since we left Murfreesboro. Our clothes have not been dry for two weeks. It is clear today. We are drying our old blankets and clothes.

Write often. Direct to 2nd Brigade, 1st Davison, Right Wing, Army of the Cumberland via Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

B.F Reed

**Camp of the 21st Regt Ills Vol, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
In the Field near Winchester Tennessee
July 21st 1863**

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

Sir, your letter of the 9th inst is at hand. You seem jubilant over the recent victories of the Federal arms. You can't possibly feel better over our great success than I do. Me thinks I hear the dying Groans of the Rebellion. One or two more victories and all is well. This government was not made to be rent asunder by the hands of traitors and Cowards. You will now hear the word compromise from the northern peace party. From the smoke and ruins of their own cities, we will proclaim the terms of peace. I think I can see groups of men in Douglas sitting around stoves and other places congratulating each other, exclaiming how we have whipped the Rebels. Yes ~~we~~ like hell we whipped the rebels at home sitting on their lazy asses by the side of a good warm fire. I don't mean the old grey-headed sires who have sons in the Field, who are battling for the Union and Constitution. I mean those ~~rabid~~ ultrawar men who will not volunteer nor let any of their friends. I could name some of them but I am not wishing to get personal at this time -- will wait with great patience the time when my clarion voice shall be heard from every stump in Douglas County giving my political views and sparing none who have been remiss in duty.

I would like to give you a history of our travels. The hardships we had to endure from Murfreesboro to this place. My descriptive power not being very great, I shall be content by saying we had a hard time. We had to forage for grub as our supply train was left behind in the mud. We are all right now. The cars run within six miles of this place. In a day or two the bridge across Elk River will be completed. Then we will have a railroad line from this place (Winchester) to Louisville.

The blackberries are in abundance. I have never seen the like. They are ripe, have been for ten days. We have plenty potatoes now. I have never seen the like of potatoes. Every field has a large patch in it. They are in good care. The Rebs knew what was good for soldiers. The health is good. Levi McDowell is out of danger, so says the Surgeon. It was well for him he was not sent to the hospital. He would have died certain.

John, your worthy son, is enjoying good health. He tells the Rebel slave holders down here that some are fighting for ~~the~~ preservation of the Union, but he is fighting to free his colored Brethren. Then the She Rebs become much excited and swear they will fight as long as there is one of them left. John will say that is what we want so the quarrel goes on. In the meantime, some of wool mess[?] are in the garden, drawing onions, potatoes, chickens, and occasionally a good ham.

I cannot close this communication without speaking of your young friend, D. Washington Barnett, who is as well known in this Brigade as you are in the Brushy Fork precinct. At Liberty Gap, Dave asked me if he could have the privilege of fighting on his own hook. I could not under the existing orders grant his request. Dave was not to be put off by the order of a Captain. He went to Gen. Carlin and represented his case. The General gave him permission to go. Dave could be seen moving in solid column on the Rebel lines. Soon he takes up a favorable position, draws the enemy's fire, opens with his Enfield and quite a duel ensues. The Federal arms are victorious. A Rebel is seen to leave his position which called forth a hearty shout from the reserves. Dave advances his lines. Night shuts in. The din of battle is hushed. Dave returns to his Company and merely remarks that our men don't no how to fight. I have a great deal of trouble with David on marches; he will leave me for 24 hours. Orders make me responsible for my men. I have to go and hunt him up. He will get out by telling what he has seen and done. He is now teasing me to let him go outside the pickets, to the mountains that are in sight, to hunt bear and deer. He thinks he could supply the Company with venison.

I will draw this epistle to close by saying the promised Greenbacks have not been received. When they are, they will be immediately forwarded to you provided I can Express. In your letter you say the people of my school district are about to endow a College.¹⁹ I wish you would represent me in that institution. Build a good house or none at all. Employ the best workmen the country has. You well know how such houses are built. The job is let to the lowest bidder, and it frequently happens that irresponsible persons get the job.

I am suffering in one respect very much. I reckon you have been in the same fix. My extreme modesty forbids my naming it. It is in great demand here. The relief is scarce and dangerous. Please pardon me.

While writing this, a train has arrived at the depot about one mile from our camp. We will get our letters in due time. In directing your letters, first write the name of the

¹⁹ Build a schoolhouse.

recipient, then the letter of Company, then the number of the regiment, then the number of the Brigade, then the number of the Division, and then the Corps. The mail is distributed at Nashville. We have three army Corps and one reserve Corps in this army. You direct to Capt. B.F. Reed, 21st Ills Volunteers via Nashville. It is hard for the Postmaster to tell which Corps the 21st belongs to. It is just as likely to go to Thomas's or Crittenden's Corps as to McCook's. We have with the army a P.M. for each Corps. We are on the extreme right. Crittendon is on the extreme left, a distance of 15 or 20 miles apart.

Your last letter was ten days (reckoning from the post mark at Camargo) coming to hand. It was likely lost or lay around 3 or 4 days. I will give you the address: write name recipient Company D 21st Ills vol 2nd Brig 1st Division 20th army corps via Murfreesboro Tenn. We have three Divisions in this Corps (the 20th), three Brigades in each Division. In Divisions, each Brigade is numbered 1,2,3; a Corps is numbered off in Divisions 1,2,3 and so on. If they have the Brigade and Division. I don't think we have a 5th Brigade in this army.

Write soon. Give all the local news. My home correspondents have failed from some cause, you included. More anon,

Fraternally Yours,
B.F Reed

**Headquarters Co "D" 21st Illinois Vol, Winchester, Tennessee
July 29th 1863**

Friend Charles.

.....

I notice an item in "news" column of your last that the good denizens of Camargo & Vicinity had a "Jollification" at the aforesaid "City" over the fall of Vicksburg, all of which I am pleased to learn, and furthermore that "one" "Obadiah Bustimenta Dowlopy de la Ficklin"²⁰ delivered himself in his usual eloquent style of a very "powerful" Union Speech. I think that 27 months is a long time for any one to be making his decision on the "All important" question. Wonder if he remembers April 1861? He refused to act as President of a war meeting at Tuscola. "Great ass" that old "Busti"; ain't he? "That's what's the matter."

You say that the Rev. Mr. Buck made an oration the 4th inst. I notice in the Shield that there was a donation made of near 70 dollars for him in consequence of the oration that he delivered on the anniversary of the Nation's birthday and that he, Hiram Buck, accepted said donation, he being a man in "opulent circumstances." I am puzzled to know who are the greatest asses, the donors or the recipient. For this reason: 1st, that of the hundreds of thousands of Patriots who have enlisted, many thousands will never return and a great many of these have left families who were dependent on them for their daily bread. Why not have given this stipend (which went into the Parsons coffers) to some of them? 2nd, in the acceptance of the aforesaid donation, the Parson had manifested a covetous disposition (and he a rich man, too) in opposition to the true

²⁰ O.B.D. Ficklin was a lawyer in Tuscola. Reed used him but doesn't seem to have any fondness for him.

principles of the followers of the "meek and lowly One" and, lastly, for a rich man to take pay for delivering a 4th of July Oration in a crisis like this shows that there is but dam'd little patriotism about him.

In a late copy of the Shield, I notice that in the City of Newman in convention assembled at said City, the superlatively patriotic residents thereof took occasion to personally congratulate and thank Gov. Yates and express their approbation of the policy in proroguing the legislature. I understand that the Governor feels considerably "set up" about the matter and thinks now he done right after all, since Newman is going to back him, if necessary, by a sacrifice of life and liberty. And Company "D", with its reduced numbers and thinned ranks, took new courage and energy. We are looking to Newman for a few of those ever ready auxiliaries. Now is the time we need your services. Show us your hand and verify Your Words.

You speak of building a school house in my district and of a day set for a meeting to locate it and if I have any interest in the matter. You will please represent it. I would like to have it in nearly as central a position as can be. It matters not where that may come and I would like better after it's located, if it would be built - built - I say. Don't fail this time.

You say the cops [Copperheads] have gone into their holes and that they are not likely to 'resist' the draft. I never had any fears that they ever would resist only by word. They are to d__d cowardly.

The weather is very fine, not so intolerably hot as is usual for this "climate". Been cloudy and cool. Give my respects to the friends. My highest regards to Mrs. Welliver.

Fraternally yours

B. Franklin. Reed

***Camp 21st Ill Vol, Winchester, Tennessee
August 5th 1863***

Friend Charles,

This leaves us well and I trust it may find you likewise. There is not a great "deal" of sickness now in this Army. We are improving in that respect. Levi McDowell died in Nashville the other day. It will be a severe blow on his aged father. Levi was as good and [faded] a Soldier as ever crossed the "Rubicon".

.....

The weather has been most intolerably hot for a few days past but it is more pleasant today. It's raining a little. We don't know how long we will stay here or where we will go when we leave. There is some talk of making a campaign down in Georgia toward the latter part of this month and there was a current report we were going East. I will go cheerfully in either direction or in any other that may tend to bring the Rebellion to its terminus.

You say that "People" are going to give us a "grand reception" when we return. They are no doubt very fashionable and appropriate for the "elite" of the "world" and pleasure excursions, &c, &c, but the fact of the business is, Charley, that "grand" receptions are about played out with old soldiers in "General" and me in particular. We have had several "grand receptions" since we came in Tennessee, and we would very

respectfully suggest that the many who are young able-bodied, unencumbered, & who owe service to their Country would stand just as high in our estimation if they would come to us and help us participate in some of the "grand receptions that we have down here, such as they never saw and a few more. With their help would have a great tendency toward "putting down" this war.

You say the decision has been given in regard to the location of a School House. I have no complaints to make in that respect but as to me going in with one, Gill, to build the House, I will say this much -- that my experience has taught me that the less I had to do with Gill the better I was off. And that only exclaim in the language of 'Holy writ' from "such deliver me" - so wrote he --and furthermore after its built, I don't believe that any honest & competent person can ever be persuaded to teach there. I hope though I may be mistaken. If I am, it will be a very agreeable disappointment.

.....

*Fraternally Yours,
B. F. Reed*

***Camp of the 2nd Brigade, 20th A.C.
in the Field at Stephenson, Jackson, Alabama
August 20th 1863***

Mr. Welliver,

.....

We left Winchester, Tenn., the 17th inst and arrived at this place today about noon. We had rather a hard march over the Cumberland Mountains. Hope we will not have to return the same road. We are now fairly in Dixie. How soon we will get out is hard to tell. Many of us will never. I think this is as good a place for a man to take his flight to that place where sickness, sorrow, pain and death is felt and feared no more as any spot on God's green earth.

We are to have a big fight in this region some where. The place I can't name. The health is good with plenty of forage.

Your noble son is well, as also your humble servant. Lt. Taylor has left the Company for good. He has gone into the Invalid Corps, which is a perfect nuisance to the government. The Lieutenant left Murfreesboro, Tenn., a few days ago with a company of Invalids or pukes for Illinois. Success to them, but they go in the wrong direction. You would be surprised to know how many officers and enlisted men are continually trying to get themselves into Convalescent Camps or detailed at some post well to the rear. One half of the Army of the Cumberland are absent in Convalescent Camps, Hospitals, and other places where they are doing great injury to the government. I hope the time will come when all the cowards will be put in the front ranks and forced to earn the money they have taken from Government.

It was never hotter than it is at this time. For ten consecutive days it has been extremely warm. Well, I will close, hoping this will reach you in good health and prosperous in the world.

*Fraternally yours
B.F. Reed*

Camp of the 21st Ills Vol. in the field near Stephenson, Alabama
Aug. 26th 1863

My dear wife

Yours came to hand bringing the sad news of the death of your babe. I deeply sympathize with you in your bereavement but our consolation is we know it has gone to eternal rest never to return to endure the privations of a sinful world. You say you have all your money yet. Well I gave you the money to spend for yourself—don't hovel it up like an old miser. You want me to come home. I would like to come very much and see you and the little ones but it would do no good because I would have to come back again. When I do come it will be for good. My health is good, hoping this will reach you in good health and spirits. I want you to take your money and buy yourself some finery and have it made up by the time I get home. I received a letter this morning from Mart²¹ which stated little Frank had been very sick—was better. I fear you will have much trouble raising him. It will not surprise me to hear of his death at any time, he has been sick so long. He can't hold out much longer without a change for the better.²²

Ask little Laura²³ if she has forgotten her pa. I write once a week when in camp. I will close hoping to hear better news from home soon.

Your affectionate husband
B.F. Reed

Camp of 21st Ills Vol Infantry in the Field near Stephenson, Alabama
August 26th 1863

Charles Welliver, Esq.,

My dear Sir, your letter of the 17th inst came to hand yesterday, bringing sad news indeed. I have long since concluded to do all I could for the living and not grieve after the dead as they are much better off than the living. My wife wants me to come home. It would not bring the child back if I should nor could I if I wanted to ever so bad.

.....

The Army of Cumberland is in good Spirits. We can dress old Bragg and his whelps and throw in all the Northern sympathizers. We can ourselves. Mart says in his letter I received this morning that things look gloomy. He says men talk as though they lived in Alabama. Let them talk. Their time is short, for when the old soldiers get home, they will have to dry up or catch hell every day. Did you read the great speech of Gen.

²¹ Reed's brother, in his early 20's, who was helping to run the farm.

²² Franklin lived and married Lizzie Cox.

²³ Laura was his firstborn with Martha, aged 4 ½ years.

Logan? You ought to have been here when it was read to the soldiers; the Boys have now a copy each they carry with them.

.....

Fraternally yours B.F.Reed

***Camp 21st, Summit of Sand Mountain, Jackson County, Alabama
September 1st 1863***

Friend Charles,

Your letter of the 24th ult came to hand last evening. We crossed the Tennessee River the 30th and are marching over Sand Mountain in the direction of Trenton, Georgia. The 21st had the honor of laying the pontoon Bridge over the river and were the first to cross. We also have the honor of leading in the march. The news from Charleston is not very flattering. The papers state Dahlgren did not come in time. If we fail, somebody will have to bear the blame.

You seem to think there will be trouble at home. Can it be possible we have men in Douglas County, who are enjoying all the privileges that can be extended to man, and who are hiding in the night time and secretly urging on men to resist the laws of the land? The little politicians will soon play out. I mean such as Macoughtry of Tuscola, and Hunter and Green of Paris -- if they are Democrats, I am not I see peace has been declared in Coles County, I think that meeting had a good effect. I would like to see the Union men of Douglas come together in convention, assembled, and declare they would hang all such men as the ones above named.

While I am serving my country in the field, worn out with fatigue and disease, my old political friends, or some of them, are trying to see how long they can keep me in this situation. If I live to get home, they shall feel my weight to the extent of my abilities. I will agree with you this day to war them politically as long as I live and haunt them after death.

The action you have taken in regard to the school house meets my approbation. Thank you for the interest you have taken in my welfare. I thank the electors of my school district for the honor conferred by electing me one of their directors. Hope we may have a smooth sea. Success to the school house.

Hope you and Brother Murphy will have a pleasant [trip?] to the capitol. Friend Hugh has made a mistake in butchering. Surely one Hugh is above suspicion; long may he wave. I wrote to Hugh a few days ago. Ask him to see the letter. I wish you would give me the name of the Butternuts in my precinct in your next letter. Who were the twelve that drilled in Camargo; who was the drill master? Go to work and have a meeting composed of Democrats and Republicans. Give all the offices that you dare give to those that are tenderfooted. For gods sake, have peace at home. I know we have some good Democrats in little Douglas. Make them come out and show their hand.

I had a chill last night. Feel pretty bad this morning. I wish to be remembered kindly to all who pray for me and old Abe.

As ever yours

B. F Reed

Walker County, Georgia
Sept 18th 1863

Friend Charles,

The army of the Cumberland is in line of Battle once again. The army has concentrated 25 miles South of Chattanooga. A great Battle is imminent, but I rather think Braxton [Bragg] will move out, provided he can get his men to follow him. Deserters are coming in hourly. Hundreds have volunteered in our army and the mountains are still full of deserters. An army is getting quite shaky when they desert by Companies. Burnside has come up with his two corps. The army of occupation under General Granger occupies all the important points in our rear. To all appearances, things are working well. We are confident of victory in case Braxton makes a stand. Time will show.

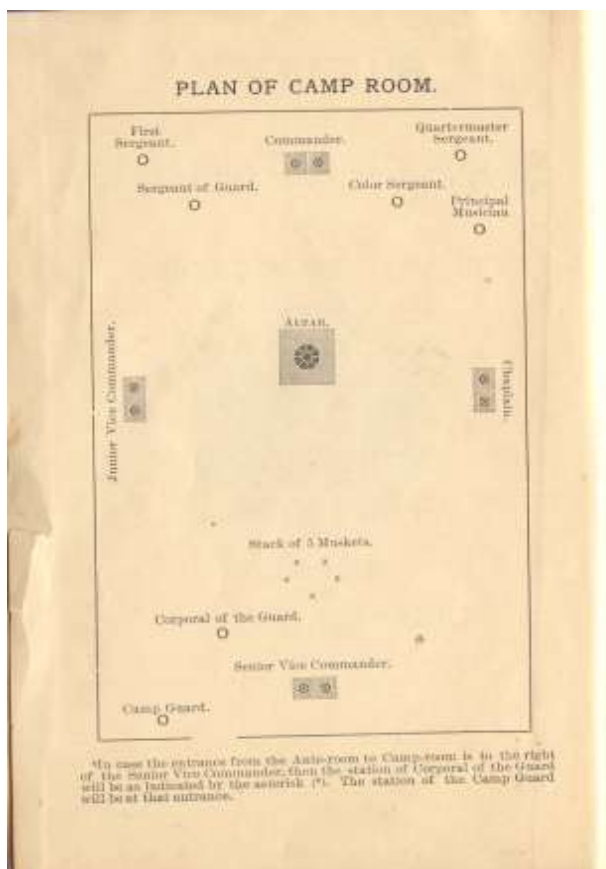
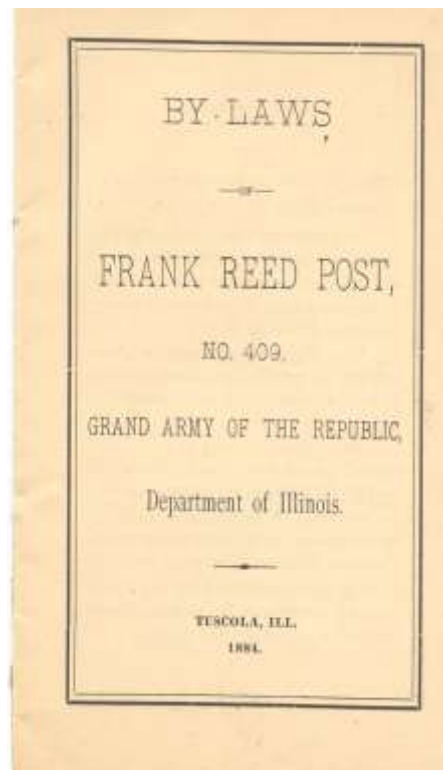
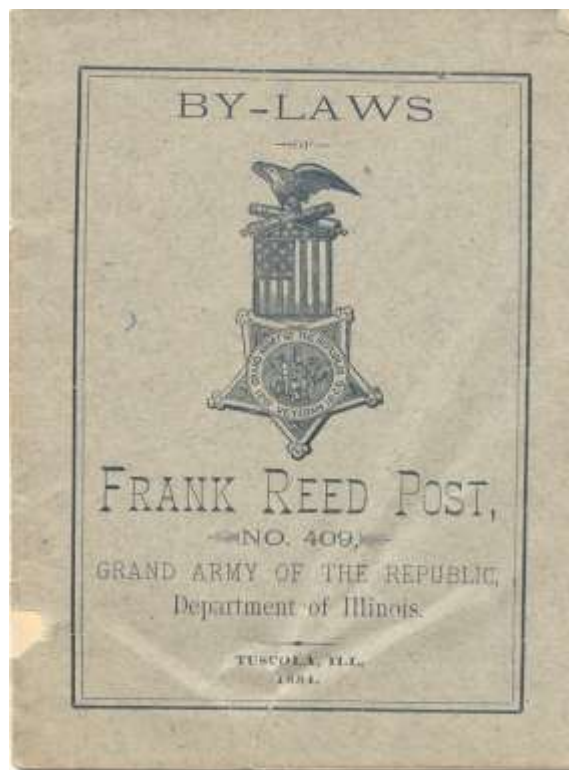
I have not received a letter from you for some time. I suppose you have written and the letters are some place not far off.

I never was so dirty as I am at this time, not having changed my shirt for three weeks. We live on hard tack and sow belly. We are soldiering in reality. Hope the campaign will soon end with a bloodless victory. We have been flanking forward and backward for two weeks. Now we are in our place in line.

B F Reed

Reed was fatally wounded in the gut during the Battle of Chickamauga. John Welliver (according to family tradition) carried him to a field hospital for officers where he died Sept. 19/20. Reed's body was buried and marked for the family to come and retrieve. John Welliver was captured, as was David W. Barnett. David died in a Confederate prison at Danville, VA on Jan. 27, 1864. John was also at Danville but survived, only to die at sea when his steamer, the General Lyons, exploded on March 30, 1865 as it was bringing him home.

When the Douglas County Civil War veterans consolidated their GAR posts to Tuscola at the courthouse, they named the post in honor of Frank Reed.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

[These General Instructions and Ritual are authorized by and in conformity to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, and must be obeyed and fulfilled in every particular, and any deviation therefrom may be cause for discipline.]

1. The Officers and Staff are required to make themselves fully familiar with all the details of this Ritual. They are to commit to memory all of their respective parts, and the use of this book during services must be wholly dispensed with.
2. At all stated or special meetings, the Officers and Staff will wear their respective uniforms, insignia of rank, and the Regulation Badge of the Order. In the performance of their duty they will preserve a proper military bearing, and give attention to all details.
3. Officers and members on addressing the presiding officer will always rise, give the military salute, and say, "Commander."
4. All commands and responses will be given in a clear, distinct, but not over-loud tone.
5. The Ritual and Cards of the Order will be under the sole control and charge of the Commander, who will be responsible for the safe keeping of the same.
6. The Altar will be placed in the middle of the room. It will be covered with the National Flag, and resting thereon will be the Bible, beside it two swords. In arranging the Altar, at the opening of the Camp, the Color Sergeant will open the Bible and upon it place the two swords crossed, the points towards the Commander, as a constant reminder to him of his duty and obligations to the Order, and that it is only through the respect and confidence of his associates that he occupies his honorable position. A stack of five muskets will be placed two paces in front of the Senior Vice Commander's station.
7. During the opening, muster-in, or closing ceremonies, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the camp room, except it be done in the performance of duty, and under the orders of the Commander.
8. During prayer and the administration of the obligations, officers and members will remain *incognito*, but at other times the regulation cap of the Order will be worn.
9. The general salute to be used at all times shall be a right-hand salute, as prescribed by Reed's Tactic for Enlisted Men,

23

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS.

§ 1. The officers of this Post shall consist of a Post Commander, a Senior Vice Post Commander, a Junior Vice Post Commander, an Adjutant, a Quartermaster, a Surgeon, a Chaplain, an Officer of the Day, an Officer of the Guard, a Sergeant-Major, a Quartermaster-Sergeant, an Inner Guard, an Outer Guard, three Trustees, a Judge-Advocate, Drum-Major and Musical Director.

§ 2. All members of the Post, in good standing and not in arrears for dues or assessments, shall be eligible to any office in the Post, and have the right to vote at any election for officers.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(Same as Art. 7, Sections 1, 2 and 3, Chapter 2nd, page 9, R. and R., G. A. R., with the following additional Sections.)

§ 4. The Post shall elect representatives and an equal number of alternates, to the Department Encampment, prescribed for in Art. 2, Chap. 3, Rules and Regulations of the G. A. R.

§ 5. At the next election for officers in December, 1894, there shall be elected three trustees, one for one year, one for two, and one for three years, and thereafter one shall be elected annually.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. The duties of the Officers of this Post shall be such as set forth in Art. 8, Chap. 2, Gen. R. and R. of the G. A. R.

§ 2. But it shall further be the duty of the Quartermaster to keep a record of all the financial transactions of the Post, and to keep the account between the Post and its members, and perform such other duties as the nature of his position demands; and he shall furnish such bonds as the Trustees shall at any time require and approve.

§ 3. The Trustees shall have the management of the financial affairs, funds and property of the Post. When authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of Post present at a regular meeting, they may borrow money solely for the purposes of the Post, and adopt such other business or financial measures as to them shall seem meet and the Post approves.

§ 4. The Judge Advocate shall be the law officer of the Post, and represent it in all legal proceedings; and as Prosecuting Attorney in any court martial. He shall furnish and report an opinion on any subject concerning the rights, duties, or liabilities of the Post or its members, at the request of the Post or its Commander.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP.

§ 1. Any honorably discharged Soldier, Sailor, or Marine, who has served faithfully in the

suppression of the late rebellion, shall be eligible to membership in this Post, and no person shall be eligible who has at any time borne arms against the United States.

§ 2. Applications for membership in this Post must be made to conform in all respects to the requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the G. A. R., giving age, place of birth, residence, (street and number), company, regiment, &c., the blank to be filled in full and written in ink, the report of the committee also to be written and signed with ink.

§ 3. All applications shall be read by title and referred to a committee of three, (the Comrade or Comrades recommending the applicant shall not be eligible to serve on such committee), who shall visit the party making the application, examine discharge papers, or otherwise satisfy themselves of his worthiness to become a member; their report to be made at the next stated meeting of the Post. All applications reported upon by a committee, shall be read by title only on such report, unless objection be made, in which case they shall be read in full; and upon adoption of the report a ball ballot thereon shall be had in the usual manner.

§ 4. All comrades present shall be required to vote (except by unanimous consent) upon all applications for membership.

§ 5. An admission fee of two dollars must accompany each application, but if the applicant

be rejected, the fee shall be returned. A rejected candidate may be again proposed after six months, in the same form and subject to the same conditions.

§ 6. Members of the Grand Army, transferred from other Posts, may be admitted to membership upon the payment of one dollar, by a two-thirds vote of this Post on a formal ballot.

§ 7. Recruits presented for muster in may, on a two-thirds vote of the members present, be admitted without fee.

§ 8. Each applicant, upon election, shall be at once notified by the Post Adjutant in writing, and on presenting himself shall be properly mustered.

But unless he presents himself for muster within three months from the date of such notice, his election shall be void, and all moneys which have been required by the Post to accompany the application, shall become the property of the Post, except as provided in Chap. 2, Sec. 7, R. and R. G. A. R.

§ 9. The use of G. A. R. badge shall accrue to all members while in good standing, to be the property of the Post, and subject to surrender at all times, on demand of the Quartermaster or upon order of the Post.

ARTICLE VI.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE, TRANSFERS AND DISCHARGES.

§ 1. Any Comrade applying therefore, shall

be granted a leave of absence by the P. C., attested by the Adjutant, for a specified time, commending him to the good offices of all Comrades; provided, he has faithfully discharged all duties enjoined upon him, and has paid in advance all dues specified in the furlough.

§ 2. Any Comrade in good standing shall receive, on application to the P. C., a transfer paper, attested by the Adjutant, upon the presentation of which he may be received by any other Post in the manner prescribed in Chap. 2, Sec. 1, R. and R. of the G. A. R.

§ 3. Any member in good standing, on application at a regular meeting, shall receive, at some subsequent meeting of the Post, an honorable discharge, signed by the P. C., and attested by the Adjutant.

ARTICLE VII.

DUES.

§ 1. Each member of the Post shall pay to the Quartermaster Two Dollars per year as Dues, which shall be paid quarterly, on the first Friday of January, April, July and October.

§ 2. The Quartermaster shall notify each member at least four days previous to the time said dues are payable.

ARTICLE VIII.

BENEFITS.

§ 1. The P. C. shall, at the commencement of each term, appoint a Relief Committee to consist of five Comrades and the P. C. as chairman.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of this committee or some of them, to visit Comrades reported sick, within twenty-four hours after receiving the information, and to report the result to the P. C.

§ 3. One or more of the Relief Committee shall visit a sick Comrade within twenty-four hours after he has been reported to them, or either of them, and, if necessary, shall furnish a nurse to attend him, such nurse to be a Comrade of this Post if possible, and the expense of the same shall be paid out of the Relief Fund, and in case of destitution, said committee shall be empowered to advance a sum not to exceed five dollars, which shall be refunded upon application to the Quartermaster, they giving proper voucher for the same.

ARTICLE IX.

ASSESSMENTS.

§ 1. Special assessments may be made for any of the objects of the G. A. R. by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a stated meeting; PROVIDED, that notice of the same shall have been given at a former meeting.

ARTICLE X.

COMMITTEES.

§ 1. The committee on finance shall consist of three Comrades, to be appointed at the first regular meeting of each term by the P. C.; it shall be

their duty to examine into, and report upon, the correctness of all claims referred to them; to inspect and audit the accounts of the Quartermaster, and all other officers or committees charged with the receipt or expenditure of money; and at the close of their term to make a full report thereof to the Post.

ARTICLE XI.

EXPENDITURES.

§ 1. No expenditure of money of the Post (except in payment of its necessary expenses), shall be made, nor shall any Post property be loaned except by the two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

§ 2. Delegates elected to Department Encampment shall be paid \$2.00 per day while engaged in actual attendance at same, and actual R. R. fare for the distance to the place of meeting and return.

ARTICLE XII.

PENALTIES.

§ 1. For the better preservation of order and discipline at the stated and special meetings of the Post, the P. C. is hereby empowered, at his discretion, to impose a penalty upon the offender for each and every act prejudicial to good order and military discipline. The penalties for misconduct are reprimand, suspension and expulsion.

§ 2. Should any Comrade feel aggrieved by the imposition of such penalty, he may appeal to the Post and such appeal shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

§ 3. Any member who shall attend and participate in the business of this Post while under the influence of intoxicating liquors, shall be reprimanded by the P. C., and suspended from Post privileges for the period of one month; and for a second offence, he may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a regular meeting.

§ 4. If a member divulges the name of a Comrade who shall think proper to speak or vote against a proposed candidate for membership, or make public any business which should be confined to the Post, he shall be tried by court martial, and on conviction shall be reprimanded or dishonorably discharged.

§ 5. Any Comrade who shall be guilty of any improper conduct, in or out of the Post, or who shall maliciously bring charges against a Comrade, which he is unable to substantiate, or shall willfully and knowingly recommend unworthy candidates for membership, shall subject himself to reprimand, suspension or expulsion.

§ 6. Any Comrade who shall be guilty of habitual drunkenness, or a heinous offence against the laws of the land, or of feigning sickness with a view to impose upon the benevolent intentions

of this Post, shall be reprimanded, suspended or dishonorably discharged.

ARTICLE XIII. COURT-MARTIAL.

§ 1. Court-martial may be convened at any time by the vote of the Post.

§ 2. Any Comrade summoned to appear before a court-martial, and shall refuse to obey such summons, shall be, by the P. C., declared expelled from the Post without further proceedings.

ARTICLE XIV. ARREARAGES.

§ 1. Any member of this Post who is six months in arrears in the payment of his dues, shall be reported "suspended" in the quarterly report to the Department Headquarters, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that whenever a Comrade is unable, by reason of sickness or misfortune, to pay his dues, they may be remitted by a two-thirds vote of the Post.

§ 2. If a member be one year in arrears unless remitted as per Sec. 1, he shall be dropped from the rolls, and reinstated only by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a regular meeting of the Post, upon payment of all the dues to the time of being dropped.

ARTICLE XV. PASS WORDS.

§ 1. The National and Department Counter-

signs shall be given to Comrades only by the P. C., or by the O. D. by his order.

§ 2. A new Post pass word shall be established semi-annually by the P. C., and given only to members whose dues and assessments are paid in full. But the Quartermaster shall be entitled to communicate to members such Post pass words when so directed by the P. C.

ARTICLE XVI. DISCUSSION.

§ 1. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject, nor for a longer period of time than five minutes, without unanimous consent.

§ 2. If any member of the Post shall engage in any sectarian or political discussion, or canvass the merits or demerits of any candidate for political office in any of the rooms used for Post purposes, or shall violate Art. 11, of the General Rules and Regulations of the G. A. R., such person so offending shall be dishonorably dismissed from the Post, or be subject to such other discipline as is provided in Art. 6 of General Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE XVII.

§ 1. Upon the death of a Comrade of this Post it shall be the duty of each and every Comrade of the Post to turn out with the Post to pay proper respect.

§ 2. The failure of any Comrade to turn out without a good and satisfactory excuse is an offence, and such penalty may be inflicted therefor as the Post may determine.

ARTICLE XVIII.

§ 1. All amendments, or alterations to these By-Laws shall be offered in writing; and shall lie on the table two weeks, and shall be accepted only by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a regular meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Adjutant's Report.
3. Quartermaster's Report.
4. Reading of Orders and Communications.
5. Report of Committee on Applications.
6. Balloting on same.
7. Muster-in of Recruits.
8. Election of Officers and Installation.
9. Is any Comrade of this Post sick or in distress? Has any Comrade died since our last meeting? Has any Comrade knowledge of deserving soldiers, or the families of those deceased, living within our limits, who need our assistance?
(Comrades having knowledge of any such cases will now state them, and they will be properly referred, or otherwise disposed of.)
10. Reading new Applications.
11. Reports of Committees.
12. Unfinished Business.
13. New Business.
14. Closing.

Sons of Veterans.



U. S. A.

RITUAL
OF THE
SONS OF VETERANS
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



OFFICIAL :
DECEMBER 1ST, 1891.

REVISED EDITION

HANVELL, R. V.
BROOKS & DODD, PRINTERS,
1891.

PLAN OF CAMP ROOM.



To leave the entrance from the Ante-room to Camp-room is to the right of the Senior Vice Commander, then the station of Corporal of the Guard will be as indicated by the asterisk (). The station of the Camp Guard will be at that entrance.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

[These General Instructions and Ritual are authorized by and in conformity with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, and must be obeyed and fulfilled in every particular, and any deviation therefrom may be cause for discipline.]

1. The Officers and Staff are required to make themselves fully familiar with all the details of this Ritual. They are to commit to memory all of their respective parts, and the use of this book during services must be wholly dispensed with.

2. At all stated or special meetings, the Officers and Staff will wear their respective uniforms, insignia of rank, and the Regulation Badge of the Order. In the performance of their duty they will preserve a proper military bearing, and give attention to all details.

3. Officers and members on addressing the presiding officer will always rise, give the military salute, and say, "Commander."

4. All commands and responses will be given in a clear, distinct, but not over-loud tone.

5. The Ritual and Cards of the Order will be under the sole control and charge of the Commander, who will be responsible for the safe keeping of the same.

6. The Altar will be placed in the middle of the room. It will be covered with the National Flag, and resting thereon will be the Bible, beside it two swords. In arranging the Altar, at the opening of the Camp, the Color Sergeant will open the Bible and upon it place the two swords crossed, the points towards the Commander, as a constant reminder to him of his duty and obligations to the Order, and that it is only through the respect and confidence of his associates that he occupies his honorable position. A stack of five muskets will be placed two paces in front of the Senior Vice Commander's station.

7. During the opening, number-in, or closing ceremonies, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the camp room, except it be done in the performance of duty, and under the orders of the Commander.

8. During prayer and the administration of the obligations, officers and members will remain *incognito*, but at other times the regulation cap of the Order will be worn.

9. The general salute to be used at all times shall be a right-hand salute, as prescribed by Reed's Tactics for Enlisted Men.

31

4

which is as follows: Raise the right hand smartly, pointing in the same direction as the right foot, the palm of the hand down, the thumb close to the forefinger, the arm extended and horizontal; bring the hand around till the point of the thumb and the side of the forefinger touch the lower edge of the visor; bring back the hand and arm to the position of first motion, and drop arm gently to the side.

10. The Commander will be careful to notice and acknowledge all salutes given him, by returning same with gavel or hand, and he will carefully prepare and issue all the necessary instructions for carrying on the details of this Ritual.

11. Officers and members, on being addressed by the Commander, will rise and salute, and the Commander will not give his orders until this is done.

12. Officers and members, who by inheritance are entitled and by the proper authority are duly authorized to wear the insignia or badges of the Society of the Cincinnati, the military order of the Loyal Legion, or any other organization of a strictly military character, also those who are the recipients of military presentation badges, may wear the same either in camp or on parade.

13. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, (except in their official capacity as Mustered or Installing Officers), are not to receive or to be required to give the pass-word or countersign. On being known to the Commander, or on being duly vouched for, they will, on application, be promptly admitted to the floor of any camp of the Order. Each camp will administer the G. A. R. obligation once to each comrade of said Order so admitted, and will, in a manner and form arranged for ready reference, keep a list of all who have taken the same.

14. The grip of the Order shall be used, when instructing recruits, as a final test in the examination of a person claiming to be a Son of Veteran, and never under any other circumstances.

15. Members, when entering or leaving camp room, will make all turns by right angles, and will maintain a proper military bearing throughout.

16. The Eighth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That our Constitution, Rules and Regulations be so changed as to make legal the use of the term 'comrade' or 'brother' in the designation of members, and the titles of camp officers may be as they now exist under the G. R. and R. of either system, at the option of the camps."

OPENING CEREMONIES.

The hour of meeting having arrived, and a quorum being present, the Officers and Chaplain will assume their respective stations, and remain standing, except members of the Council. The Principal Musician will take position on the floor in front of the Commander, facing the Altar, and by his direction will sound the assembly or any suitable call, after which he will take position at the head of the line facing the Commander, the Staff forming on his left, leaving space for the First Sergeant. The Staff will, under the direction of the First Sergeant, form in single rank in order of seniority, from right to left, two paces in rear of the Altar. The First Sergeant, standing in front of the Chaplain's station, facing the Altar, will call the roll, (noting the absences,) salute the Commander and report.

First Sergeant—Sir: (such and such officers) are absent.

The First Sergeant will then take his place in line on the left of the Principal Musician. Should it be necessary to fill any vacancies, the Commander will designate whom he desires detailed, and the brothers, as their names are called, will promptly take their place in line and fill the positions until the regular officers appear.

Commander—Right face! To your posts, march!

[At the command "March," the staff will move, the Principal Musician sounding a march. The members of the staff will assume their respective posts as they pass, marching to the right, passing the stations of the Chaplain, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, the Color and Quartermaster Sergeants and Principal Musician being the last to drop out, passing in front of the Commander's station.]

One rap (all will be seated.)

Commander—Corporal of the Guard, you will see that the Camp and Picket Guards are at their respective posts and in possession of the proper pass-word and countersign. Color Sergeant, you will arrange the Altar.

[At the call of their names the Color Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard will each rise and salute. The Corporal will re-

32

ture to the ante-room and make a personal inspection. The Color Sergeant will report to the Altar, open the Bible and lay the crossed swords upon it, salute the Commander, and say:—

Color Sergeant—Sir: Your orders have been obeyed.

[The Corporal, finding the Picket and Camp Guards at their posts, will receive from each the pass-word and countersign, and will return to the camp room, advance to his post, salute, and say:—]

Corporal of the Guard—Sir: On due inspection, I find the Camp and Picket Guards at their respective posts and in full possession of the proper pass word and countersign.

Commander—Are there any members of the Grand Army present who have not been obligated? If so, they will please rise, and the Sergeant of the Guard will present them at the Altar.

[He will then obligate the Comrades as proscribed on page 26.]

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will make the rounds of the camp and report if all present are entitled to remain.

[At the call of his name, the Sergeant of the Guard will rise, turn to the Commander and salute, and then proceed in the performance of his duty, first approaching the Commander and whispering the pass-word and countersign, that the Commander may know that he has them correct. Then beginning the rounds at the right of the Commander, he will salute the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders as he approaches them, the members rising to communicate the pass-word and countersign.]

[In case the attendance is large enough to warrant it, the Corporal of the Guard will assist in the performance of this duty.]

[First giving the words to the Commander, commencing on his left, and reporting the results to the Sergeant of the Guard in front of Senior Vice Commander's station. The rounds of the camp being made, and all present being found entitled to remain, the Sergeant of the Guard will take position on the floor, opposite his seat, at the right of and fronting the Commander, salute, and say:—]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: On due inspection, I find that all present are entitled to remain.

Commander—It is my will and pleasure that the officers and members of this camp now come to order for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. May harmony and unity prevail among us; let each brother remember his solemn obligation and his duty to the Order. Camp Guard, you will secure the door, and allow no one to enter until the camp is duly opened, and you are notified of the same.

Camp Guard—Sir: Your orders shall be obeyed.

Commander—Brothers, upon what principle is our Order founded, and what duties do we inculcate?

Camp—Friendship, Charity, and Loyalty.

Commander—(two raps)—Junior Vice Commander, what are the duties of your station?

Junior Vice Commander—Sir: It is mine to assist my superior officers in maintaining the dignity and order of these meetings, to instruct recruits in the great principles of Friendship, without which life in its highest station is barren of enjoyment.

Commander—Senior Vice Commander, what part of our patriotic work do you perform?

Senior Vice Commander—Sir: It is my duty to take charge of the inner door; to be watchful that none unauthorized obtain admittance; it is mine, also, to instruct recruits in the grand principles of Charity, not simply almsgiving, but that which covers the faults of another, yet tends to their correction.

Commander—It is my duty to preside with dignity and impartiality; to enforce the Constitution and Laws of our Order, and to inculcate the abiding principles of Loyalty to our country, to our Order, and to ourselves; not alone among our own

membership, but throughout the length and breadth of our land. Let these three principles of Friendship, Charity and Loyalty be exemplified by us in the relations of life, and especially to the Veteran soldiers and the Grand Army of the Republic let our Friendship and Charity extend. Recognizing the special grace of the Almighty in the preservation of our National Union, and His guiding hand in all success, let us unite with the Chaplain in asking for His continued blessings.

(Three raps.)

Parade, rest!

OPENING PRAYER.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, the High and Mighty Ruler of the Universe, who dost from Thy throne look down upon the government of men, most heartily do we beseech Thee with Thy favor to bless our Native Land and to preserve in purity and integrity its Free Institutions for all coming time.

Bless our Order. Grant that it may long exist, and that it may continue to be an instrument of great good to all. Give us willing hands and ready hearts to properly carry out its principles and objects. Keep green in our minds the memory of those, both living and dead, who sacrificed so much that the life of the Nation might be preserved, and deal with them in all things with Thy special mercy.

Give us Thy aid in conducting the business for which we are here assembled, and so endow us that Charity and Justice, Peace and Harmony, shall ever remain and abide with us.

We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, AMEN.

[And all will respond and say:] Amen.

Commander—Camp, Attention!

OPENING HYMN.

God bless our native land!
Ere may she ever stand,
Through storm and night;
When she will triumph o'er,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

[This being concluded, the drums will softly roll, or some appropriate air played in a low key. The Commander will then say:—]

Officers and Brothers: By virtue of the power and authority vested in me, I now declare

Camp No.	Division	Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.,
duly open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it. Camp Guard, the camp is duly open; you will admit all Brothers qualified and entitled to enter.		

(One rap.)

[All Brothers in waiting will be admitted. This being done, the Order of Business will be taken up and proceeded with without delay.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Commander—First Sergeant, you will report officers absent at our last meeting, and their excuses will then be received.

Commander—First Sergeant, you will report absentees at roll call at our last meeting.

You will call the roll of the members of this camp and credit those present.

You will read the minutes of the last meeting.

Are there any corrections to be made? If not, they stand approved as read.

Does any Brother know of a sick Veteran, or a Veteran's family in distress?

Does any Brother know of a sick Brother, or a Brother's family in distress?

[Commander, as Chairman of Visiting Committee, will render report of any visit made to any one in distress.]

First Sergeant, have you the reports of any investigating committees on applications?

First Sergeant—Sir: I have (or have not.)

Commander—Please read them.

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will prepare the ballot-box, and place it on the Altar. Brothers, we are now about to ballot for _____ whose father served in _____ All in favor of his election will deposit a white ball, those opposed a black ball.

[The Sergeant of the Guard will present the ballot box to the Commander for his inspection; and then place it on the Altar, taking his position two paces in rear of same during the balloting. Brothers will approach in single file, salute, deposit their ballots and retire. When all have voted who wish (not

do)

less than seven), the Sergeant will present the ballot-box to the Commander, who will declare the vote, and his decision shall be final.]

Commander—First Sergeant, have you the application of any recruits duly elected, who have not yet presented themselves for master?

First Sergeant—Sir: I have (or have not).

Note: If in the affirmative, proceed as on page 14. If in the negative, proceed as below.

Commander—First Sergeant, have you any applications to be referred to investigating committees?

[If any, they will be read by the First Sergeant, and handed to the Commander for appointment of committees.]

Commander—I hereby declare a recess of—minutes for the collection of dues.

Are there any committees to report?

First Sergeant, you will read any general orders, communications or bills.

Is there any unfinished business on the minutes?

New business is now in order; has any brother anything to propose?

Quartermaster Sergeant, what are the receipts of the evening?

[Quartermaster Sergeant will report, and furnish a copy to the First Sergeant.]

Has any brother anything to offer for the good of the order?

CLOSING CEREMONIES.

Commander—There being no further business to come before Camp, we will proceed to close.

[He will then give three taps with the gavel—all will arise and salute, and he will say:]

Commander—You will give attention while the Chaplain asks the blessing of God on our deliberations.

Parade, rest!

CLOSING PRAYER.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray Thee to deal with the events of this evening as may seem well and fitting in Thy sight. Answer the honest petitions and desires of each one of us as may be most expedient for us. Preserve us all in health, strength and integrity while Thou keepest us here, and when our mission on earth is ended, take us to a better world, for our Redeemer's sake. AMEN.

[All will respond and say] Amen.

Commander—Attention!

[Drums will softly roll, then at this command the brothers will sing the following hymn, assuming the halting sign until the camp is closed:]

[Airs: "Gleanings"]

Brothers, now our work completed,
Lead us to our homes again,
Still to Fellowship dedicated,
We will each perform our share.
Let our Charity be abundant,
Then all who wear the bon,
And in Loyalty united,
We will in our land be true.

Beating high the noble banner,
Stained with blood of patriot souls,
We will ever on our knees,
Keep alive this Freedom's flame;
And the memories ever precious,
Of the brave men before,
As sons of Veterans, we will cherish
Until time shall be no more.

(12)

Commander—Officers and Brothers: We are now about to leave this Camp and retire to our respective homes. Let us all endeavor to so regulate our conduct, that the honor and credit of our Order may be fully sustained. In conclusion, permit me to thank you for your attendance to-night, and for the assistance you have rendered in conducting the business of this Camp.

Sergeant of the Guard, you will collect the dues and service cards. Color Sergeant, you will attend to the Altar.

I now declare _____ Camp No. _____ Division of _____ Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., duly closed until our next meeting.

Corporal of the Guard, you will inform the Picket Guard that the Camp is now closed.

(One rap.)

[The Sergeant of the Guard will remain in his place until the Camp is closed before collecting the dues and service cards.]

MUSTER OF RECRUITS.

[The First Sergeant having reported applications of one or more Recruits, will hand the same to the Commander.]

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will take these applications, proceed to the waiting-room, and satisfy yourself if any of the Recruits are present and ready for Muster.

[At the call of his name, the Sergeant of the Guard will rise, take the papers from the Commander, proceed to the Altar, salute, and then retire to the waiting-room to make the required inspection. On reaching the same, the Sergeant of the Guard will, if any persons not members of the Order are found to be present, call the roll of Recruits; question such as answer to their names, in regard to the statement made in their applications, and will cause those not personally known to him to be identified by some brother to whom they are personally known. He will direct the Recruits to hold themselves in readiness for immediate Muster, and will then return to the body of the Camp, advance to the Altar and salute.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: I find in the waiting-room [A. B. and C. D.,] who, having been duly elected, now desire to be mustered as Sons of Veterans.

[Or if there are no Recruits present, he will so report, and the regular Order of Business will be proceeded with.]

[If there are Recruits present for muster:]

Commander—Quartermaster-Sergeant, have the Recruits paid the required Muster fees?

[At the call of his name, the Quartermaster-Sergeant will rise, salute, and report the facts in the case.]

[If the report is favorable, the Commander will rise.]

Commander (one rap)—Does any person here present know of any just cause why any of these Recruits should not be received into our Order as Sons of Veterans?

[If any such cause or impediment is made known, the Muster shall be deferred until the same is removed.]

(14)

15

[There being no response:]

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will form the detail, return with it to the ante-room and prepare the recruits for muster.

[After saluting the Altar, the Sergeant will take a musket from the stack and proceed to the right and rear of the stack.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Detail fall in!

[The line will form as follows: Musicians on the right next Sergeant of the Guard; four guards, the Corporal of the Guard being the fourth and on the left.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Left face! Right dress! Count two! Take arms! Carry arms! Forward! Guide left, march! [When within two paces of the Altar:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard, halt! Present arms! Carry arms!

[He will then give Sergeant's salute* to the Commander, and say:]

*Note—Sergeant's salute is as follows: Raise left hand and arm horizontally to the front, palm down, fingers extended, bend the left elbow, carrying hand around till the forefinger strikes the place in the hollow of the right shoulder, rotating it there until acknowledged. Return to position first mentioned; drop the left hand to side.

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: I have need of *escort.

*One escort for each recruit.

Commander—First Sergeant, you will detail the required escort, who will report at once to the Sergeant of the Guard.

[The escorts as their names are called will take position in rear of the Guard.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Rear Guard, side step to the left, March!

[And when sufficient space has been obtained between the file to admit the escorts:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Halt! Escort into line, March! Right dress! Present!

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: The detail is now ready to move.

16

Commander—Camp Guard, you will unlock the door and permit the detail to retire. You will then close the door, and on proper alarm you will admit them again.

Camp Guard—Sir: Your orders shall be obeyed.

[He will then unlock the door and await the arrival of the detail. At the same time, the Sergeant of the Guard will give the command: "Two right! March!" and also give commands for change of direction, and with the drum beating an appropriate march, the detail will proceed to the ante-room.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Recruits of the Sons of Veterans, your request for admission into our patriotic Order having been duly received and favorably acted upon, we are now prepared to muster you into our ranks.

In doing this it is necessary for you to take a solemn obligation, but I can assure you that it will not in any way interfere with your religious belief or your duties and obligations in private life or as citizens of the United States. Are you ready to assume this obligation?

[If the answer is favorable, the recruit will then be placed in position.]

All being ready, the bugler or drummer will, by direction of the Sergeant of the Guard, give an appropriate call, and at the same time the Commander will rise and give three raps. All will rise and salute. In the meanwhile the Sergeant of the Guard will give the proper raps on the camp-room door, the same will be thrown open, the Sergeant of the Guard will give the command, "Column forward! March!"—and with drums beating, the column will enter the camp-room, the Sergeant on the right of the detail, and giving the necessary commands for change of direction, conducts the column at least once around the room, passing the Junior Vice Commander, Commander, Chaplain and Senior Vice Commander in their order, Sergeant always saluting Commander as he passes. The musicians must be instructed as to line of march, as they precede the Sergeant.

*Note—If the ante-room is on the right side of the Senior Vice Commander, it will be necessary to pass him first.

[When opposite the station of the Junior Vice Commander, on the second round, the Sergeant of the Guard will halt, and allow

17

the column to march past him till the recruits are directly between him and the Junior Vice Commander, when he will command: "Forward, or two rounds, you are ordered to be placed in position."

Sergeant of the Guard—Column halt! Left face, (1) two raps.

Junior Vice Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, whom have you here?

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: Recruits of the Sons of Veterans, whose fathers rallied to the support of the Republic when it was assailed by those who sought its destruction, and who now desire to join with us in perpetuating the memory of the services and sacrifices of their fathers and of the heroic deed.

Junior Vice Commander—Recruits, it is fitting that such recollections should be preserved, and that we, the Sons of those brave men, should unite in fraternal bonds, to keep green their memories, and perpetuate their glory. Our fathers fought for the same cause, endured the same privations, and mingled their blood on the same battle-fields. Let us, therefore, exhibit to each other a friendship as true and steadfast as that we emulate. The Veteran Soldier, Sailor or Marine, and the Grand Army of the Republic have claims upon our friendship which no Son of a Veteran should disregard. The Senior Vice Commander will instruct you in your duties to those who are left to our care and support.

Sergeant of the Guard—Right face! Column forward! March!

[And proceed to the station of the Senior Vice Commander, halting the detail and left face in the same form as at Junior Vice Commander's station.]

Senior Vice Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, why do you approach this station?

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: To have these recruits instructed in the great principles of charity.

Senior Vice Commander—Recruits, it becomes my duty to remind you that to our fostering care will be committed the

number of those who served faithfully and meritoriously in the war for the preservation of the Union—who bore the brunt of battle, side by side with our fathers, and by reason of infirmities, and from hardships and exposure, are left to want and the cold charities of the world. One of the purposes of this organization is to seek out and relieve these worthy Comrades, and to assist them to the extent of our ability. Another of our duties is to extend aid and protection to the widows and orphans of deceased Comrades, and we are also to stand by one another as our fathers stood, elbow to elbow, and shoulder to shoulder. We are to warn one another of danger and assist each other in every way in our power. Charity does not consist alone in alms-giving; we must overlook each other's faults, bear with each other's weakness, and give that moral support and help which will make us in reality a band of brothers worthy of our sires. You will now be presented to the Commander of this camp for further instructions.

Sergeant of the Guard—Right face! Forward Column, right March.

[As soon as the head of the column has passed the Altar:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Column right, March!

[And when the recruits are opposite the commander's station:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Two left! March! Guide left.

[And when within two paces of the Commander's station:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard halt! Present arms! Carry arms! Order arms!

[Sergeant will step one pace to the front, face the Commander and salute.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: I now present to you these Recruits, who have passed the scrutiny of your subalterns and been duly instructed in the Principles of Friendship and Charity, and are conducted to you for further instruction and obligation.

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, have you used due care

and caution, and are you fully satisfied that these recruits are worthy and eligible to be mustered as Sons of Veterans and members of this Camp?

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: I am fully satisfied that the Recruits are all worthy and eligible.

Commander—Recruits of the Sons of Veterans, it is for me to instruct you in the grandest principles of our Order, that of Loyalty. As our fathers rallied to the support of the Union when assailed by traitors' hands, so let our Loyalty comprehend our whole Country, and in peace and war let our efforts ever tend to building up our country among the nations of the earth.

As our fathers preserved our flag unsullied, and without a star obscured, let us labor to preserve it in its original glory. Be Loyal now to one another, be Loyal to the memory of the heroic dead, and Loyal to true and noble manhood. Be true to freedom, to justice and equal rights, and render to the laws of our Country a prompt obedience.

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will now conduct the Recruits to the Altar and place them in position to take the Oath of Membership.

Sergeant of the Guard—Carry arms! Two left, March! Column right, March! Column right, March!

[And after passing the Commander, Column left, March! Pass the station of the Junior Vice Commander to the rear of the hall:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Column left, March!

[When Recruits are directly in front of Senior Vice Commander's station:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Two left, March! Guide left!

[When one pace in rear of Altar:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard halt! Guards and Escort backward, guide left, March!

[The Recruits remain as halted. When Guards and Escorts have taken two paces in the rear:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard halt! Right dress! Front! Order Arms!

[The Sergeant of the Guard will then step two paces to the front and salute.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir: The Recruits are in proper position at the Altar, and I now await your further orders.

[Seeing that this is the case, the Commander will leave his station, and standing on the floor at the Altar, in front of the Recruits:]

Commander—Camp, Parade rest!

[As the Commander leaves his station the Sergeant will come to an easier arms, and at the command PARADE REST those armed with muskets will execute the Parade Rest as prescribed by Bowd's Tactics. All others will kneel, and holding up to right hand, clasp thumb of left hand with thumb and forefinger of right, and carry right foot three inches to the rear.]

Commander—Recruits, I am now prepared to administer to you the obligation of our Order. You will please hold up your right hands, place your left hands over your hearts, speak your names, and repeat after me:

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP.

I, _____, of my own free will and accord, without reservation or purpose of evasion, and in the presence of Almighty God and the brothers of this Camp here assembled, do most solemnly and sincerely promise and declare, that I will ever bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, that I will steadily adhere to and sustain the principles of this order, and that I will in honesty and good faith carry out its objects.

I furthermore promise and declare, that I will carefully guard and never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, its passwords, grips, signs, and counterguards; that I will not knowingly bring this Camp, its Veterans, Soldiers, sailors, or Marines, or a Brother of the Order, or suffer it to be done by others, if it be in my power to prevent it; that I will always aid a worthy and distressed Veteran or Brother to the best

of my ability, without injury to myself, and that I will promptly warn such a one of any danger I may know to threaten him; that I will faithfully sustain and obey the Constitution and By-Laws of this Camp, and all legal orders coming from proper authority, and to the best of my ability live up to the requirements of the Order.

In witness thereof, I pledge my sacred honor, and pray God to keep me true and steadfast in this, my sacred obligation, as a Son of a Veteran.

Commander—(To Recruits)—You will please drop your hands.

Commander—The Chaplain will ask the blessing of God on our newly-made brothers, who are now bound to us by the solemn obligation they have just taken.

[At the call of his name, the Chaplain will leave his station, and standing at the left of the Commanding Officer, will repeat the following]

PRAYER.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, We humbly pray Thee to look with favor upon these Brothers as they stand at this Altar. Grant that they may long remain with us, and that they may become an honor and credit to our Order. Keep them ever mindful of all their duties in life, and be merciful to them in all things. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour. AMEN! [All will respond and say Amen.]

Commander—Attention!

[And the following hymn will then be sung:]

[Airs: "America,"
(Our Father's God) is Thine,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright
With Freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

[Drums softly roll. Chaplain returns to his station.]

Commander—Brothers, as the Commander of this Camp and in behalf of its members, I congratulate you on your Muster and welcome you to our ranks.

Camp—Welcome in Friendship, welcome in Charity, welcome in Loyalty.

Commander—I now present you with the Insignia of our Order. The inscription, *Fili Veteranorum*, "Sons of Veterans," reminds us of our high estate, and of our duty to our country.

We are the Sons of Veterans. May we prove ourselves worthy of this title. The ribbon—red, white and blue, the colors of our country's flag—signifies to us, the red, the unstinted streams of blood, shed that the blessings of a free Government might be our heritage, and that our own blood is pledged to preserve what we so gladly have received. The blue tells of that true faith and allegiance which our fathers held to their country and to each other, and exhorts us to be ever mindful of their example. And the white speaks of that peace which with honor may our country ever enjoy. The motto, *Gratia Dei Servatur*, "Preserved by the grace of God," reminds us that without the over-riding hand of an All-Wise Providence, the sacrifices of our fathers could have availed nothing, and that the favor of the same power alone can secure the preservation of our liberties.

Like the eagle, may we be quick to discover our country's needs, strong in her defense, and swift to carry out the objects of our Order.

May you wear this badge long and proudly, and may it ever be as a guiding star to you in the discharge of your duties in private life as citizens and Sons of Veterans.

[Having attached the Insignia of the Order to the coat of each Recruit, the Commander will resume his station, give one rap, seating the Camp.]

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will now dismiss the detail.

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard, attention! Carry arms! The escorts are dismissed.

[Upon which the escorts will take their seats.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Right dress! Front! About face! Forward, Guide right, March!

[Marching to the rear of the hall.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Guard, halt! About face! Right dress! Front! Order arms! Stack arms! Right face! Break ranks! March!

[The Sergeant will take position on the right of the Altar, Corporal on the left side; both salute.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir, your orders have been obeyed, and I now await your commands.

Commander—Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard, you will now communicate to the Brothers the Pass word and Countersign, and instruct them in the unwritten work of the Order.

[On receipt of this order the Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard will both salute, step two paces in front of the Altar, and then about face.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Brothers, I am directed by the Commander to instruct you in the unwritten work of the Order, and it becomes my first duty to impress upon you the great importance of keeping the same in the most inviolable secrecy. The Pass-words, Signs, Grips, and Countersigns, are intended to prevent imposition, and by your sacred obligation, so solemnly taken at this Altar, you are bound never to divulge the same, even should your connection with the Order cease.

To gain admittance to the outpost of your Camp, you will give any ordinary alarm at the outer door, which will be opened by the Picket Guard, the Guard within the outer door. You will then whisper to him the Pass-word, which is *** (Here the Sergeant of the Guard will communicate to the Recruits the Pass-word.) You will then be admitted to the ante-room, when you will approach the inside door, and give an alarm, which is as follows: (1) ** The Camp Guard will then open the wicket and receive from you your name, and the Countersign, which is *** (Here the Sergeant of the Guard will communicate the Countersign.) The Camp Guard (the guard stationed within the

inner door), will report the same to the Senior Vice Commander, the officer in charge of the inner door, and on his approval, the same being correct, you will be admitted to the Camp room, when you will immediately approach the Altar and give Reed's Salute, which is made as follows: (See General Instructions, No. 9, p. 4.) Upon the return of this sign by the Commander, you will be allowed to take your seat.

Should you desire to leave the Camp while the same is in session, you will approach the Altar, salute, and ask the permission of the Commander to retire. Officers and members in crossing the floor will invariably pass in the rear of the Altar.

In the event that you should desire to enter any Camp where you are not known and cannot be vouched for, you will gain admission to the ante-room in the manner and form already described. You will then hand your card with the name, number, and location of your Camp, and rank, if you hold one, to the Picket Guard, who will pass it into the Camp room. The Commander will then direct the Sergeant of the Guard to retire to the ante-room and examine you. When the Sergeant approaches, you will give him the Hailing Sign, which is (2) *** He will reply by (3) *** He will then ask (4) *** and you will reply (5) *** He will then challenge you for the grip (6) *** and upon giving him the same you will communicate to him in a whisper the Pass-word and Countersign. The Sergeant will question you to such an extent as he may deem proper, and will then return to the Camp room and report. The same being favorable, the Sergeant will be instructed to return to the ante-room, escort you to the Camp room, and after saluting, introduce you to the members of the Order present. (The Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard will then exemplify this examination in detail so as to impress it fully upon the minds of the Recruits.)

Should you wish to ascertain whether a person you meet is a Brother of the Order, you will give him the hailing sign (2), to which he will reply (3). You will then advance and give him the Grip (6), without the challenge, and after receiving the answer, you will say (7) *** to which he will respond (8) *** The challenger must always make the advance to keep it, the challenged party being on the defensive.

The voting sign of the Order is made by raising the right hand to the height of the eye, keeping the elbow close to the body, the back of the hand outward, the thumb across the palm.

The gavel is the emblem of authority, and you are bound to implicitly obey it. One rap calls the camp to order, and seats the same when standing. Two raps call the Officers and Staff to their feet. Three raps call up the entire camp. Whenever you arise to your feet in the camp room, you will always salute the Commander.

[As the instructions in the use of the gavel are being given by the Sergeant of the Guard the Commander demonstrates it, and the Brothers will respond accordingly. The Sergeant of the Guard will then turn to the Commander, salute.]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir, I have obeyed your orders. The Brothers have been duly instructed in the unwritten work, and are now ready to be accepted in full membership.

Commander—Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard, you will escort the Brothers to the First Sergeant's desk, to sign the Constitution, after which the camp will take a recess of _____ minutes to congratulate them.

[The time being up, the Commander will call the camp to order and the regular order of business will be proceeded with. In the matter of a single Recruit, the foregoing form will be as changed in its orders, responses, etc., as to adapt itself to the circumstances of the case. The foregoing form of minute must be strictly adhered to, and no deductions or additions are to be made to the same.]

OBLIGATION OF A COMRADE

OF THE GRAND ARMY.

I, ———, [a Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic] in good standing, [do solemnly pledge myself] on the honor of a Comrade [and Veteran Soldier, Sailor or Marine,] that having been received [as a guest of this Camp] of the Sons of Veterans, [I will sincerely guard its interests] and will not divulge [any of the proceedings] or work, [I may witness in this] or any other session of the Camp.

CEREMONY TO BE USED

IN THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW CAMP.

When it is impracticable for a member of the Order to act as Mustering Officer, a committee of Comrades of the G. A. R. may be empowered to perform the ceremony: in which case the committee shall proceed as follows: Having received the necessary supplies, the chairman shall obligate the other members as above, and one of them afterwards obligate him. They will decipher secret work, and prepare themselves to fill important chairs.

When the Mustering Officer (for chairman of committee) presents himself at the place for muster, he shall call all present to order, and state, in a general way, the objects of the meeting.

The charter application shall be handed to the Acting First Sergeant, and the bill for charter and supplies be paid to the Acting Quartermaster Sergeant to avoid delay.

He will then request all present who are not members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans, or have not their names on the list of members of the proposed new camp, to retire from the hall.

When this request is complied with, he will send all appli-

325

27

cants to the ante-room to await examinations; he will then instruct his assistants to assume the different stations of the proposed camp. He will rise and proceed as follows:

Mustering Officer (one rap)—This is a special meeting convened for the purpose of mustering in the charter applicants of this camp of the Sons of Veterans, to select and install its officers, and in general to complete its organization. To this end I will first read to you the instructions under which I act.

[This being complete, he will say:]

Mustering Officer—Are there any members of the G. A. R. present who have not been obligated? If so, they will come forward to the Altar.

[Obligated as above.]

Mustering Officer—Acting Sergeant of the Guard, you will make the rounds of the camp, and ascertain if all present are entitled to remain.

[The Acting Sergeant having reported:]

Mustering Officer (one rap)—Acting First Sergeant, you will proceed to the ante-room, in company with the Acting Sergeant of the Guard, and call the roll of applicants and satisfy yourself of their eligibility.

[In conducting this examination, the Acting First Sergeant will check absentees, and will require satisfactory evidence of the eligibility of all applicants (see page 6 of Constitution.) The First Sergeant and Sergeant of the Guard will return to the room, advance to the Altar, salute, and the First Sergeant will report the result of the examination.]

Mustering Officer—Acting Quartermaster Sergeant, have the charter fee and all bills to Division Headquarters been paid?

Acting Quartermaster Sergeant—Sir, they have (or have not, as the case may be.)

[All bills having been paid, proceed:]

Mustering Officer—Acting Sergeant of the Guard, you will now proceed to the ante-room and escort to the Altar all

28

eligible applicants except two, and place them in position for obligation.

[Two applicants are left outside for exemplification of muster. The Acting Sergeant of the Guard will proceed as directed. The First Sergeant will resume his station. Arriving in the ante-room, the Acting Sergeant of the Guard will say:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Recruits, you are about to be mustered into the Order of the Sons of Veterans, and it will be necessary for you to take a solemn obligation of loyalty and secrecy. Are you willing to do so?

[Upon favorable reply, he will conduct the Recruits into the hall and form them in single line in rear of the Altar, and say:]

Sir, the Recruits are waiting obligation.

[Mustering Officer (three raps—all will rise) proceeds to the Altar and administers oath of membership, page 20. He will then return to his station and say:]

Mustering Officer—Acting Sergeant of the Guard, you will conduct the Recruits to seats, where they will listen attentively and witness the opening ceremonies and the muster of Recruits.

(One rap.)

[Mustering Officer will then proceed to open camp in due form as on page 5. Camp being duly opened, all parts of the Order of Business previous to muster of recruits will be omitted, and the muster, page 14 to page 20, will be exemplified on two remaining Recruits. When that portion of the muster in service relating to the presentation of the badge is reached, the Mustering Officer will direct that all charter applicants take position at the Altar, and confer secret work upon all as on page 24. Muster being completed, the following Order of Business will be taken up:]

Mustering Officer—The number assigned to this camp by the Division Colonel is No. ——. I will now entertain a motion for its name, subject to the approval of the Division Colonel.

Mustering Officer—Nominations and election of officers are now in order.

[If already selected, all the names should be written on one

29

ballot, and that read by the Acting First Sergeant, to legalize the choice, and the same read to the meeting and declared by the Mustering Officer.]

[Installation of elected officers by the Mustering Officer, as per page 30.]

[Appointment and installation of non-commissioned staff, as per page 33.]

[Addressed by Mustering Officer and others.]

[Closed in due form, page 12.]

INSTALLATION OF CAMP OFFICERS

AND

*Muster-in and Installation Ceremony to be Used in the Organization of
A Newly-established Camp of the Sons of Veterans.*

INSTRUCTIONS.

[The Installing Officer shall be the person who may have been authorized by some constituted authority, (either Commander-in-Chief or Division Colonel), to muster in and install the officers of a newly-organized Camp. He shall also have power to select a Staff composed of Sons of Veterans or members of the Grand Army of the Republic, of sufficient number to fill the respective stations, and to transact the necessary business; but in case of the installation of the officers of a Camp already in existence, the retiring officers shall, as far as they may be present, act as Staff Officers until their successors are installed. Under the order of New Business the Installing Officer shall announce himself, present his commission, state his business, and take his position by the side of the Captain.]

Installing Officer—First Sergeant, have all the reports been properly made out and forwarded to Division headquarters?

First Sergeant—Sir, they have (or have not).

[If the reply is in the negative, the installation will not proceed until the reports have been placed in his hands in due form.]

Installing Officer—Quartermaster Sergeant, have all moneys due Division headquarters been forwarded?

Quartermaster Sergeant—Sir, they have (or have not).

[All indebtedness must be settled before the installation can proceed.]

Installing Officer—Commander—, you are relieved from command of this Camp.

Installing Officer—Sergeant of the Guard, you will place six chairs at my left for the officers-elect.

Installing Officer—First Sergeant, you will call the roll of

(30)

31

officers-elect, who as their names are called, will please take seats on my left.

Installing Officer (three raps)—Attention! Brothers of—, Camp No.—, Division of —, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., these are the officers whom you have elected for the ensuing term. If any Brother present has any valid objections to offer why any of them should not be installed, let him now speak or forever after hold his peace.

[No objections being offered, proceed:]

Installing officer (one rap)—Commander-elect, you will please rise. It has pleased your associates to elect you to the position of Commander; but before your installation, it will be necessary to give your assent to the following charges, which partly define your duties. Listen attentively and respond:

Do you promise not to enter into any plot or conspiracy against the Government of the United States?

Do you promise to avoid disputes and quarrels; to submit to the will of the majority; to be courteous to all Brothers and visitors; faithful to your camp and Brothers, and to act with honor to all with whom you come in contact?

Do you agree to be impartial and upright, and to obey all orders or rules and regulations emanating from the proper authority?

Do you promise to expose and discountenance impostors, and all who may try to disturb the harmony of the Sons of Veterans?

Do you agree to disseminate the principles and objects of the Sons of Veterans; to pay true allegiance to the Order, and to do all in your power to extend its influence?

Do you promise to be vigilant in seeking out the needy Veterans, and that you will render such assistance as is in your power?

32

Do you promise to attend regularly all the meetings of your camp; to instruct and advise your associates; to faithfully perform your duties as Commander, and see that your First Sergeant's and Quartermaster Sergeant's reports are sent in promptly at the close of each quarter to Division Headquarters, and that you will never close your meetings without going through the complete order of business?

These are the charges and regulations of the Order. Are you willing to subscribe to and do you promise to support them?

[Commander-elect responds.]

Installing Officer—Your assent to these charges and regulations justifies the confidence which your associates have reposed in you, and empowers me to proceed with your installation.

The honor, reputation and usefulness of your Camp will depend upon the manner in which you discharge the duties of your position. You should not be satisfied with repeating the formal phrases and ceremonies by rote, and ending with that, but you must arouse the indolent, encourage the laggard, and induce every Brother to do something for the good of the Order. Instruct the Brothers in the principles of Loyalty, and charge them that by their frankness, discretion and regard for truth and honor, they may be enabled to convince all of the excellence of the Sons of Veterans.

It is hoped that your example will stand as a bright lesson for your successors; to teach them how to work and act, so as to deserve well of the Sons of Veterans, and to entitle them to its gratitude, as well as to earn for themselves both honor and reputation. (Rap.) Be seated.

Installing Officer—Senior Vice Commander, please rise. It has pleased the members of this camp to elect you to the

33

position of Senior Vice Commander, to take the place of the Commander in case of his absence. The duties you will be called upon to perform in that case are known to you and need not be repeated.

When he is present you will assist him in upholding the dignity and authority of his position, and the harmony of your meetings. You will instruct Recruits in the grand principles of Charity.

Under the direction of your Commander you will have full charge of the inner door, and will see that no person is admitted within the lines, unless you are satisfied they are entitled to admission as Sons of Veterans or members of the Grand Army of the Republic. You are also required to perform such other duties as are prescribed for you. I congratulate you on being thought worthy of this honorable position, and sincerely trust you will never give your associates any reason to regret the choice they have made. (Rap.) Be seated.

Installing Officer—Junior Vice Commander, please rise. You have also been elected to an honorable position.

It is your office to instruct Recruits in the duties of Friendship, and in case of emergency you will be called upon to assume the responsibilities of the Senior Vice Commander or Commander, and therefore their charges are applicable to you. You should therefore watch carefully the manner in which your superior officers discharge their duties, so as to be ready to act promptly and intelligently if called upon. You also have certain duties to discharge, as required by the written work of the Order. Be diligent and attentive and try to earn an honorable promotion. (Rap.) Be seated.

Installing Officer—Members of the Camp Council—please rise. No more important position exists in the camp than the one which you have been called upon to fill. The Camp Council is charged with the general care and supervision of the

investment of the funds of your camp, and is to look after and be responsible for all of its material interests and welfare. Your duties, as they are defined in your Camp Constitution, are varied and responsible, and I trust and believe that you will fully realize the great confidence placed in you, that you will so conduct yourselves as to win the approval of each and all of your associates. (Three raps—All will rise.) Sergeant of the Guard, you will now place the officers-elect in position at the Altar.

[Position—Officers-elect standing, left hands on Bible, right hands raised in the air. The Installing Officer will at the same time leave his station, and standing on the floor at the Altar, will say:]

Installing Officer—Listen, Brothers, and witness this declaration of your Officers-elect. Parade, Rest!

Installing officer—Officers will repeat after me, and say (using your names where I do mine):

OATH OF OFFICERS.

I, _____, having been duly elected [an officer of this camp,] hereby renew the sacred obligation [given at the time of my muster,] and in presence of Almighty God [and this company here assembled,] do solemnly and sincerely [promise and declare] that I will, [to the very best of my ability,] [in word and deed,] [and without fear or favor] [faithfully, honestly,] [and with strict impartiality,] [carry out,] [as an officer of this camp,] [the principles and objects of the Order;] [that I will closely adhere to,] [execute and sustain] [its Constitution, By Laws and all orders] [coming from competent authority,] [I furthermore promise and declare] [that in no manner or form] [will I, in any degree,] [abuse or misuse,] [the authority placed in me;] [and that upon my resignation from the office] [that I am now about to assume,] [I will, without delay,] [turn over to my successor] [all of the property of the camp] [in my possession,] [taking his receipt therefor,] [To the full and complete performance] [of all the foregoing,] [on my honor as a man,] [I hereby pledge myself,] [and I pray God to keep me] [true and steadfast] [in this my sacred obligation as an officer of this camp.]

[Installing Officer returns to his station.]

Installing Officer—Attention.

Installing Officer (one rap)—Sergeant of the Guard, you will escort the officers to their respective stations, commencing with the lowest in rank, acting officers vacating.

[When all have been stationed except the Commander, Installing Officer orders:]

Sergeant of the Guard, you will present to me the Commander-elect.

[Sergeant of the Guard escorts the Commander-elect to the platform on the left of the Installing Officer, and says:]

Sergeant of the Guard—Sir, I have the honor to present to you the Commander-elect of this camp.

[When the Commander has been presented, proceed:]

Installing Officer—Commander—_____, your officers are at their respective stations, and nothing now remains to be done except placing you in full command.

I now give into your possession the Charter of the Camp. Prize it for the privilege it confers. Keep it exposed to view at every meeting. May your Camp prosper and may its name be ever honored.

[If the Charter is not present the Installing Officer will say: "You will receive in your possession," etc., in place of "I now give into your possession," etc.]

I now entrust to your care the Rituals, for the safe keeping of which you will be held personally responsible. I also present you with a copy of the Constitution and Rules and Regulations for the government of the Sons of Veterans, which I advise you to study with care so as to enable you to render just decisions. Last, you will receive this gavel, the emblem of authority. One rap (*) calls the Camp to order and seats the same when standing. Two raps (**) officers and staff rise) call the officers and members of the staff to their feet. Three raps (***) entire Camp rise) and call the entire Camp.

[Installing Officer communicates the Pass-word and Counter-sign to the Commander.]

Installing Officer—Now, by the power and authority vested in me as Installing Officer of _____ Division of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., I hereby declare the officers-elect of _____ Camp, No. _____, Division of _____, legally installed and qualified to enter upon the discharge of their several duties for the term ending December 31, 18—, or until their successors are duly elected and installed. (Rap.) Commander, assume control of your Camp, and rule it with urbanity, impartiality, and firmness. (Giving the Commander the gavel.)

[The Commander will then announce his Chaplain, First Sergeant, Quartermaster Sergeant, Color Sergeant, Sergeant of the Guard, Principal Musician, Corporal of the Guard, Camp and Picket Guards.]

[The Commander or Installing Officer will then request the above-named persons to take position (standing) at the Altar.]

[He will then leave his station, and standing on the floor at the Altar, will say:]

Commander—Brother—_____, as Chaplain you will be expected to conduct the devotional exercises or ceremonies of this Camp, to offer comfort and consolation to the afflicted, to officiate at the funerals of deceased Brothers, and to discharge such other duties as may be required of you. May you bring to the position the proper and reverential feeling which should always be assumed by those who approach the throne of God.

Commander—Brother—_____, you have been appointed to the honorable and responsible position of First Sergeant, and as such it will be your duty to keep an accurate and impartial record of all proceedings of the Camp; to conduct all correspondence; promptly notify all Recruits of their election; to make out prior to the close of each quarter all the required reports, returns, and all other papers pertaining to your office, and to perform all such other duties as are required of you by the Camp Constitution and the general Rules and Regulations of the Order. I earnestly trust that you will so discharge your

duties as to merit the confidence I have placed in you and that you will fully meet all of the reasonable expectations of your associates.

Commander—Brother—_____, as Quartermaster Sergeant of this Camp, you will also occupy a high position of responsibility, honor, and trust. It will be your duty to keep a true and accurate account with each Brother; to notify all who are in arrears for dues; to receive and hold, until otherwise disposed of, all moneys accruing from dues, muster fees and other sources; to pay all bills of the Camp when approved by your Commander. You are required to render a report at every meeting of the receipts, and to report in full to this camp on the first meeting of each month the receipts and disbursements of the previous month, and have your vouchers accompany the report for examination. You will also make a report to Division Headquarters at the close of each quarter. You are expected and required to perform all such other duties as properly belong to your office; and as your position is highly important, you will be required to give a good and sufficient bond for the faithful discharge of all your duties. I trust that when you retire from the office, you will take with you the respect and esteem of all.

Commander—Brother—_____, to your care as Color Sergeant, will be entrusted the several flags and colors of this Camp. Under the general direction and guidance of the Quartermaster Sergeant you will be responsible for the same, and I trust and believe that you will perform your duty carefully and well.

Commander—Brother—_____, as Sergeant of the Guard, it is your duty to see that the camp room is in proper condition and order for the transaction of business; to examine, prepare and introduce all recruits; to discharge such other duties as the Ritual imposes, and to obey all orders issued by your Commander.

It is to be hoped that you will prove diligent and attentive to the discharge of all your duties, and that by so doing you will render the ceremonies impressive and complete.

Commander—Brother——, to your charge, as the Principal Musician of this camp, will be entrusted its musical instruments and other property pertaining to the same. Under the direction of the Quartermaster Sergeant, you will see that all of the said property is carefully cared for and preserved.

Commander—Brother——, as Corporal of the Guard, you are to assist the Sergeant of the Guard in exemplifying the secret work; you will also perform such other duties as are required of you by the Ritual. Whatever you do, do it well, and always be ready and willing to assist and relieve the Sergeant of the Guard.

Commander—Brother——, as Camp Guard, you must carefully guard the inner door, and permit no one to enter without authority from the Senior Vice-Commander. You will allow no one to disturb the meeting during the calling of the roll, reading the minutes of the preceding meeting, mustering in of Recruits, or while opening or closing the meetings of the camp. I trust you will discharge your duties faithfully, keep a vigilant watch, and earn promotion.

Commander—Brother——, your appointment as Picket Guard requires you to carefully guard the outer door, and see no eaves-dropper or impostor is admitted within the lines that guard the camp. (Three raps.)

[Commander then proceeds to the Altar.]

Commander—Members of the Staff, you will place your left hands upon the Bible and raise your right hands.

Listen Brothers, and witness the obligation of the Staff of this camp. Parade, rest!

The Brothers at the Altar will repeat after me, using your names where I do mine.

OATH OF MEMBER OF STAFF.

I, ———, having been duly appointed a member of Staff of this camp, I hereby renew the sacred obligation I given at the time of my muster, and in the presence of Almighty God and this company here assembled I do furthermore solemnly and sincerely promise and declare, that I will, to the very best of ability, in word and deed, and without fear or favor, faithfully, honestly, and with strict impartiality, carry out, as a member of the Staff of this camp, the principles and objects of the Order; that I will closely adhere to, execute and sustain its Constitution, By-Laws and all orders coming from my superior officers in this camp, and from all competent authority.

I furthermore promise and declare, that in no manner or form, I will, in any degree, abuse or misuse the authority placed in me, and that upon my retirement from the office I am about to assume I will promptly turn over to my successor all the property of the camp in my possession, taking his receipt therefor. To the full and complete performance of all the foregoing, on my honor as a man, I hereby pledge myself, and pray God to keep me true and steadfast. In this, my sacred obligation as a member of the Staff of this camp.

[Commander resumes his station.]

Commander—Attention! (One rap.)

Commander—Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard, you will escort the Staff to their respective stations.

(The regular order will then be proceeded with.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OR DIVISION OFFICERS.

[When any Commander-in-Chief or Division Officers shall apply for admission to any camp of the Sons of Veterans, they shall be received as follows:]

[When the announcement is made, the Commander will say:]

Commander—Sergeant of the Guard, you will retire to the ante-room and escort the officers to the Altar.

[When the Sergeant gives the proper rap on the camp-room

door, the Commander shall call the camp up, and when officers are in position at the Altar, the Commander will say:]

Commander—Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief, (or Division, as the case may be,) in behalf of ——— Camp No. ———, Sons of Veterans, I extend you a hearty welcome to our meeting.

[Brothers will promptly salute and say:]

Welcome.

[Sergeant will then escort officers to platform.]

EIGHTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
PATERSON, N. J., Sept. 13, 1899.
Your Committee on Ritual respectfully recommend the foregoing as the authorized Ritual of the Order.

Fraternally submitted,

M. E. HALL,
GEO. H. STADEN,
RUDOLPH LOEBENSTEIN,
HENRY FRAZEE,
F. B. PERKINS,

Committee on Ritual.

Approved and adopted by the Eighth Annual Encampment,
Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Sept. 13, 1899.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,
Commander-in-Chief.

C. A. BOOKWALTER,
Adjutant-General.