



**GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC**

**DOUGLAS COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
MEETING ROOM**

Brief History of the Grand Army of the Republic



In early 1866 the United States of America--now securely one nation again--was waking to the reality of recovery from war, and this had been a much different war. In previous conflicts the care of the veteran warrior was the province of the family or the community. Soldiers then were friends, relatives and neighbors who went off to fight--until the next planting or harvest. It was a community adventure and their fighting unit had a community flavor.

By the end of the Civil War, units had become less homogeneous, men from different communities and even different states were forced together by the exigencies of battle where new friendships and lasting trust was forged. With the advances in the care and movement of the wounded, many who would have surely

died in earlier wars returned home to be cared for by a community structure weary from a protracted war and now also faced with the needs of widows and orphans. Veterans needed jobs, including a whole new group of veterans--the colored soldier and his entire, newly freed, family. It was often more than the fragile fabric of communities could bear.

State and federal leaders from President Lincoln down had promised to care for "those who have borne the burden, his widows and orphans," but they had little knowledge of how to accomplish the task. There was also little political pressure to see that the promises were kept.

But probably the most profound emotion was emptiness. Men who had lived together, fought together, foraged together and survived, had developed an unique bond that could not be broken. As time went by the memories of the filthy and vile environment of camp life began to be remembered less harshly and eventually fondly. The horror and gore of battle lifted with the smoke and smell of burnt black powder and was replaced with the personal rain of tears for the departed comrades. Friendships forged in battle survived the separation and the warriors missed the warmth of trusting companionship that had asked only total and absolute commitment.

With that as background, groups of men began joining together--first for camaraderie and then for political power. Emerging most powerful among the various organizations would be the **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)**, which by 1890 would number 409,489 veterans of the "War of the Rebellion."

Founded in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Benjamin F. Stephenson, membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The community level organization was called a "Post" and each was numbered consecutively within each department. Most Posts also had a name and the rules for naming Posts included the requirement that the honored person be deceased and that no two Posts within the same Department could have the same name. The Departments generally consisted of the Posts within a state and, at the national level, the organization was operated by the elected "Commander-in-Chief."

Post Commanders were elected as were the Junior and Senior Vice Commanders and the members of Council. Each member was voted into membership using the Masonic system of casting black or white balls (except that more than one black ball was required to reject a candidate for membership). When a candidate was rejected, that rejection was reported to the Department which listed the rejection in general orders and those rejections were maintained in a "Black Book" at each Post meeting place. The meeting rituals and induction of members were similar to the Masonic rituals and have been handed down to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The official body of the Department was the annual Encampment, which was presided over by the elected Department Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders and the Council. Encampments were elaborate multi-day events

which often included camping out, formal dinners and memorial events. In later years the Department Encampments were often held in conjunction with the Encampments of the Allied Orders, including Camps of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, which at the time were quasi-military in nature, often listed as a unit of the state militia or national guard.

National Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic were presided over by a Commander-in-Chief who was elected in political events which rivaled national political party conventions. The Senior and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief as well as the National Council of Administration were also elected.

The GAR founded soldiers' homes, was active in relief work and in pension legislation. Five members were elected President of the United States and, for a time, it was impossible to be nominated on the Republican ticket without the endorsement of the GAR voting block.

In 1868, Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan issued General Order No. 11 calling for all Departments and Posts to set aside the 30th of May as a day for remembering the sacrifices of fallen comrades, thereby beginning the celebration of Memorial Day.

With membership limited strictly to "veterans of the late unpleasantness," the GAR encouraged the formation of Allied Orders to aid them in its various works. Numerous male organizations jostled for the backing of the GAR and the political battles became quite severe until the GAR finally endorsed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (later to become the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) as its heir. A similar, but less protracted, battle took place between the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC) and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) for the title "official auxiliary to the GAR." That battle was won by the WRC, which is the only Allied Order open to women who do not have an hereditary ancestor who would have been eligible for the GAR. But in this case the LGAR retained its strength and was made one of the Allied Orders.

Coming along a bit later, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, similar to the SUVCW but for women, also earned the designation as an Allied Order of the GAR. Rounding out the list of Allied Orders is the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, which is open to women with hereditary ties to a veteran or who is the spouse, sister or daughter of a member of the SUVCW.

The final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949 and the last member, Albert Woolson died in 1956 at the age of 109 years.



BRIEF HISTORY

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was a creation of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which was formed in 1866. Wanting to pass on its heritage, the GAR in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania created a Corps of Cadets in 1878, which later became the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV). This latter organization was formed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 12, 1881. The SV units functioned much as National Guard units and actually served along with state militia during the Spanish American War. In 1904, the SV elected to become a patriotic education society and in 1925 changed its name to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). However, to keep the military aspect alive, the SUVCW created within the organization the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) which was carried on the Army rolls as a Reserve contingent. Some SVR units served with the Army during World War I. After World War I, the SVR was listed as a training company of the U.S. Army. In more recent years, the SVR's mission has become historic, ceremonial, and commemorative. Prior to disbanding and before the death of its last member, the GAR officially designated the SUVCW as its successor and heir to its remaining property. On August 20, 1954, the SUVCW was officially incorporated by an Act of Congress by the passing of Public Law 605 of the second session of the 83rd Congress.

THE MILITARY RECORD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

PUBLIC SENTIMENT and CIVIL ACTION

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY ILLINOIS; compiled by JOHN GRESHAM, USA, June, 1900

The war of the Rebellion is a great landmark in the history of the nation. It is a no less important one in the history of Douglas County. In its early history, the winter of the great snow; measured the perspective of receding years, but in the maturer age the war; marked the turning of a new page. In those years of national trial there was scarcely a family in the county that was not called upon to do and suffer for the common weal, and many a heart sorrow or the foundation of a prosperous fortune dates back to those fateful years.

The political events, which preceded the war found many anxious watchers here. The senatorial campaign of 1858, with the succeeding presidential contest of 1860, in both of which Lincoln was the exponent of principles then in the ascendancy in Douglas county, served to fix the attention of this section upon the political storm which seemed to be gathering with portentous mutterings over the southern portions of the country. It is doubtful whether hope or fear predominated in the minds of the people as the day approached when Lincoln was to be inaugurated, but the hope and expectation of the great majority was that, in his grasp, the serpent of secession would be strangled, as Jackson had done before in the case of the Nullifiers. It was in this state of vacillation between hope and fear, that the reverberations of Fort Sumter's guns assailed the ears of the eager North. It was this explosion, echoing round the world, that united the various political elements, and made men Union or non-Union. Niceties of political distinctions were almost entirely lost sight of, and while the change of front was too sudden and radical to secure the adhesion of all to one party, Douglas county, in the main, presented but one sentiment, and that for the support of the Union. Saturday, April 13, 1861 Fort Sumter surrendered. The news spread over the country and Douglas County responded to the call for troops with a patriotic enthusiasm not excelled by any community in the state. Volunteering for the service was spirited, and prominent in the efforts to secure troops for the defense of the Union should be mentioned the names of E. McCarty and J. B. McCown.

It was not until the second year of the war that the county took official action to aid enlistments. In July, 1862, the county court passed an order for the purpose of aiding in enlistment of volunteers for the United States service to be raised in the county of Douglas, for the support of the families of those who have heretofore enlisted from Douglas County. By this order the sum of \$2,000 was appropriated, or as much as necessary for the purpose. At the same time, to carry out the intention of this appropriation, it was further ordered that the justices of the peace of the county be invited and requested to act in concert with the court in carrying out this laudable intention, by acting promptly in this matter, by ascertaining and reporting to the clerk of this court the

names of all volunteers who were or are residents of their respective precincts at the time of entering the service, showing separately the names of all those leaving wives and families or others dependent upon them for a livelihood and support. The said justices shall from time to time keep themselves advised of the condition and wants of all such families as far as the comforts and necessities of life are concerned, and shall make arrangements with some merchant, or merchants, grocer or grocerymen, to furnish the said families and persons dependent, as aforesaid, with the said necessities, using due caution and circumspection with an eye to economy, reporting their acts and doings in the premises to this court at each regular meeting of the board, together with the bills made for said support, properly certified to by them, for allowance as other claims by the court; and further to do and perform what other duties may become necessary as time may suggest in the premises. A regular tax was subsequently levied for this purpose, and in December, 1864, it was ordered that Gilbert Summe be appointed agent, whose duty it shall be to visit all such destitute families and ascertain their exact condition, and supply their wants by giving orders to grocers and merchants for such groceries or clothing as their wants may require, specifying definitely the quantity of each item and article, using all due care and circumspection with an eye to strict economy, and keeping a just and correct account by copy of each order, in whose favor drawn, and to whom the order may be sent. It shall be the duty of said agent further to agree with some merchant or merchants, grocer or grocers, to supply the said volunteers families with such things as they may require at a reduction on their customary rates of sale, if such an arrangement be possible. The tax reached one and a quarter mills upon the dollar for this purpose, and the method of disbursing it was changed so as to pay each wife or mother of volunteers \$1 per week, and fifty cents per week for each child under ten years of age. What sum the county expended in this way does not appear in the state reports, and no reliable estimate can be made of it, but it was a very considerable sum, and does honor to the loyal, generous sentiment of the county. No bounties were offered by the county. In fact, there seemed no necessity for this expenditure to stimulate enlistments, the county promptly meeting the demands made upon it and filling its quota without resort to draft. The population of Douglas County in 1860 was 7,109; the enrollment showed, in 1863, 1,491 men subject to military duty, and 1,803 in 1864, and 1,846 in January, 1865. The quota of the county in 1861 was 199 men; in 1862, 136; under the calls of February 1 and March 14, 1864, for an aggregate of 700,000 men, Douglas county's quota was 336, and under the call of July 18, 1864, for 500,000, it was 281, making a total of 952 men as the quota of the county prior to December 31, 1864. Up to this period the enlistment had reached 1,008, making an excess of 56 men. Under the last call, December 31, 1865, the quota was 225, and the enlistments 167, making the grand total of quotas: For the war, 1,177, and the credits, 1,175, a deficit of 2 men. It is probable, however that instead of a small deficit, Douglas county furnished more than her quota, if all who volunteered from it had found their names placed to its credit.

Grand Army of the Republic Room
In the Douglas County Court House, Tuscola, Illinois

The GAR post in Tuscola was named after Benjamin Reed. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) now utilizes the room for monthly meetings. The Stephen A. Douglas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are caretakers of the room which is the property of Douglas County. The room is as it was when the last Civil War veteran died in the early 1900s.



Photo by Charles Knox

Altar in the GAR room. Normally there is a draped flag with crossed sabers and an open Bible on the altar.



Photo by Charles Knox

Gun case with weapons and accoutrements. The Drum was reportedly carried in the Grand Review of the Union Armies in Washington, D. C. in May of 1865.



Photo by Charles Knox

West Wall of GAR room with artifacts and lithographs and prints from the 19 century.



Photo by Charles Knox

GAR artifacts brought back by veterans and donated by them and their families to the Grand Army of the Republic Post.



Photo by Charles Knox

Replica cannon that replaces the original Civil War cannon that was donated to a scrape drive in World War II.

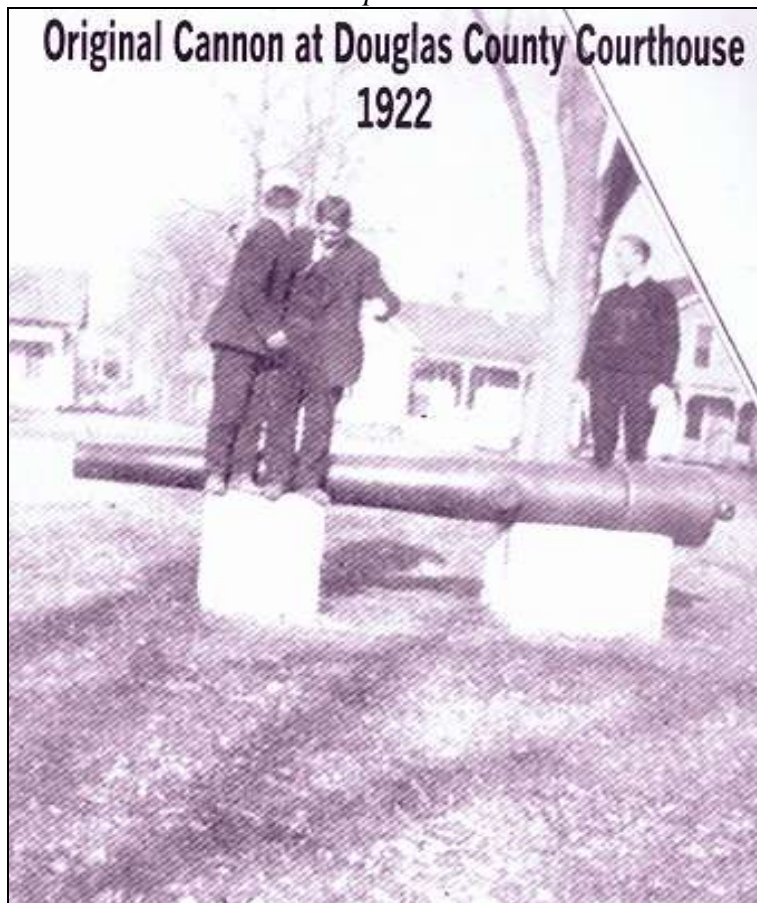


Photo by the Tuscola Review



The addition of a new display cabinet, designed by William Moorhead of Tuscola and built by Kaufman Custom Cabinets of Arthur, completes the renovation of the G.A.R. room by the Douglas County Board. The room will soon be open to the public during regular courthouse hours.

Pictured above, from left, are building and grounds committee board member Laverl Byers, Moorhead, G.A.R. room advisory board members Chuck Knox, Marlene Lincoln, and Bille Lee, building and grounds committee board member Sharon Rogers, and former committee and board member Russell Ghere.

From *The Tuscola Review* April 15, 1997



Photo by Charles M. Knox

Young boys such as Matt and Alex Kendzior, still are fascinated by the history of the Civil War in Douglas County. Bronze plaques on the west side of the Court House in Tuscola



Some of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War , Benjamin Franklin Reed Post 24
Front l-r: Judge Frank Lincoln, Kim McGhee; Rear l-r Dana Hales, Chuck Knox, and
Glen Brady, 1997



Sons of Union Veterans 2010
Front Row L-R Jerry Alexander, Kim McGee, Dana Hales, Bobby Lee
Rear Row L-R Chuck Knox, Alan Michener, Jerry Reynolds, Frank Lincoln

RELICS OF CIVIL WAR
IN
G. A. R. ROOM IN COURT HOUSE
TELL STORIES OF LONG AGO

* * * * *

Relics and Trophies of Civil War
Have Been Catalogued to Insure

Permanent Record

* * * * *

By
Miss Lida Jane Hunt

Written for

THE TUSCOLA REVIEW

January 20, 1938

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Prepared for Permanent Record

By
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Stephen A. Douglas Chapter

No. 83

Tuscola, Illinois

One of the most interesting places in Douglas County is the Grand Army of the Republic room at the courthouse. Hundreds of relics of the Civil War are kept there as well as guns, flags and mementos of other wares in which our nation has participated

Frank Reed Post No. 409, Grand Army of the Republic was organized, February 19, 1884, in Tuscola, Illinois. It was named for Captain Benjamin Franklin Reed, who was mortally wounded in the heat of battle at the battle of Chickamauga, on the last day of battle, September 20, 1863, and died in the hospital at Chickamauga, September 23, 1863.

His comrade, John Welliver, of Murdock, rescued his wounded commander and accompanied him to the hospital, afterward marking his grave so that Captain Reed's family could claim the body. In October, 1863, the body of Captain Reed was returned for burial where it rests today, in the Camargo cemetery. Captain Reed was the son of Daniel Reed and Margaret Wane Reed. He married Miss Catherine Barnett, daughter of, William and Mary Polly Yarnall Barnett, whose descendents live in this county today. Captain Reed was organizer of company D 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry which was known as "Grant's Regiment." This regiment was first enlisted in state service for thirty days period, and later was assigned to the United States Army, with U. S. Grant as Colonel. He was promoted to General for his valor and ability.

Many of the charter members of this Post were comrades of Captain Reed and the Veterans honored his memory by naming the Post for him.

Fifty-two veterans of the Civil War were present at the organization meeting in 1884, and enrollment sounds like a list of pioneer Tuscolans, which it is , in part

The officers of the new Post were:
Lieutenant-Colonel Westford Taggart, 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Post Commander
Major Archibald Van Doren, 99th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Senior Vice Commander
Thomas W. Tyler, Company H. 39th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Adjt.
First Lieutenant Alfred Thayer, Company B. 5th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Quarter Master
First Lieutenant H. C. Bassett, Company E. 79th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Sergeant
First Lieutenant William H. Lamb, 79th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Chaplain
Major Daniel A. Conover, 6th Indiana Cavalry, O. D.
Sergeant William T. Johnson, Company G. 62nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, O. G.
Corporal John R. Cantrall, Company D. 107th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, S. M.
Richard W. Hollison, Company E. 79th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Q. S. M.

A young mother of this vicinity recently said: "I never miss taking my young son to see every Civil War veteran I hear about, for I know that in a very few years, none of the "Men who wore the Blue" will be living, and I want my son to be able to say he remembered talking with a Civil War Veteran."

This statement poignantly brings out the sad fact that the veterans are rapidly answering the Grand Reveille, and brings the realization that few children born after 1940 can hope to see a veteran of the Civil War.

The relics in homes and museums, and the household stories of the veterans, will augment the history lesson of the children of the future and each increasing generation will appreciate more and more, the antiquated firearms, and equipment that were standard military dress in 1861-1865.

A look at the several old muskets that are enclosed in the wall case of the Post Room, will verify the quaintness and clumsiness of the firearms of that period. Heavy, but strong in line, the muzzle-loading muskets vary according to the regiment in which the men served. Leather powder-cases, designed to supply the soldier with sufficient ammunition and to keep the powder dry, along with the guns, bring to mind the tedious process of loading the gun, when faced by the enemy who may beat you to firing the first deadly shot.

Some of the guns were made in England; Some were Austrian muskets and some of American make, as their trademarks reveal.

The guns have been presented to the Frank Reed Post No. 409 by the soldier-owner or his family and all have been carried on weary shoulders of valiant young patriots who went out at the call of President Abraham Lincoln to "Preserve the Union." Many of the men marched 9,000 to 12,000 miles during their four years army service.

The Civil War was a sad war, in an extreme peculiar way. Brother fought brother in many cases; and relatives were alienated over the division of sentiment concerning the war. Human rights, property rights, right of secession, religious principles all entered into the fiery discussions that raged in family circles and between families as the war threatened. Mothers and fathers with one son in Blue, fighting for the Union and another son in Gray fighting for the Right of Secession, prayed for both and that the War would mercifully spare both sons, whatever the outcome.

All the War Mothers and Fathers of the Civil War or Great Rebellion as it is sometimes called, have been called to their Father bearing in their hearts to the last, the remembrance of those days of terror.

Historians concede that the Civil War was the most "unique" war ever fought, as the idea of fighting for the "Preservation of the Union" or from the another angle, fighting to "Secede" over a principle of human rights was new to warfare, where men usually had come out to make conquests of territory or make material gain.

These guns, battle scarred flags, honorable discharge, officer's commissions, sabers, bayonets, swords, quaint old prints and engravings of a beloved war hero, cannon balls, and shot picked up from battle scarred fields; all are tokens of a day when the boys and men of America went to war to "fight it out."

On the north wall of the G. A. R. room has been hung the Stuart Print of President and General George Washington, suggestive of the Colonial Period of American History.

On the west wall, the rugged, kindly face of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, depicted in an old engraving, occupies the center of the space, surrounded by his four generals, General U. S. Grant of Illinois, under whose command many local soldiers fought; General John A. Logan of Illinois; General William Tecumseh Sherman, the idol of the army "sixty thousand strong" that marched with him from Atlanta to the Sea; and General Phillip Sheridan, forever enshrined in the schoolboy's heart through the well known poem, "Sheridan's Ride" by Thomas Buchanan Reed, 1865. The latter two are depicted in old engravings, mounted on horses that have been immortalized in history along with their masters.

On this wall, also, is a very large print in color of the famous Battle of the Merrimac and Monitor which will thrill the heart of every history loving schoolboy and schoolgirl.

A photograph of Captain Frank Reed, for whom the local G. A. R. post was named, hangs on this wall,, a gift from his late daughter, Mrs. Sara Margaret Helm, whose late husband was also a soldier in the Union Arm, the late Robert B. Helm.

The commission of Captain Reed, who is specified as “Captain Benjamin Franklin Reed” was presented to the Post and is among the precious relics of those days of the 1860’s.

One flag that is of unusual interest is that of the late Dr. James Lee Reat, which was given to the Post by the Reat family. Dr. Reat was one of the early physicians of Tuscola and lived to an advanced age, a many of sterling integrity and public spirit. His long, heavy beard, high silk hat, Prince Albert coat and cold headed cane characterized the dignity and scholarliness of the “gentleman of the old school,” a surgeon in the Union Army who was always prominently identified with patriotic meetings. Dr. Reat’s flag, fifty feet long and of proportionate width, was always flung to the breeze from the top of the great hard maple trees that stand on the lawn of what is now the O. A. Collins property. The size of the flag interested old and young and it was a beautiful emblem that never failed to be raised on patriotic occasions.

There are several flags in the case, some apparently battle scarred, and whose history will have to be searched for in the minutes of 53 years of the Post.

It is an interesting fact that there were only thirty three stars in the flag of the United States when the Civil War began, the 34th star, having been added in 1861 during the war after Kansas was admitted to the Union, after a terrific political struggle to make that state a slave state.

Other trophies of war to be seen are minnie balls, pieces of trees with shot and shell imbedded in them; a big bass drum and drumstick, an officer’s sash, several swords, sabers, and bayonets whose cruel keen edges have been tested by suffering human flesh in the thick of battle, diaries, books about the war and about 37 war scenes and scenes of famous historic homes, including Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington; Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, Wakefield, the birthplace of Washington; the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson; and others.

One amusing caustic comment entered in the minutes of the Post was that the “reason the benefit performance of a light opera put on by the Frank Reed Post in the 1880’s did not net any profit was because the members did not support the affair themselves.”

The east wall of the Post is decorated with the charter of the Spanish-American War Veterans and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The portrait of President William McKinley occupies the central wall space, with other mementos of that period of history.

The south wall bears a fine likeness of President Woodrow Wilson along with a large photograph portrait of General John J. Pershing. Flanking these are photographs of

two Tuscola God Star heroes, Sergeant Charles Bassett and Corporal Charles Cooch, both of whom were killed in France and their bodies returned for burial with military honors. Above all the mementos of four wars flows "Old Glory" for whom real Americans live and die.

The Frank Reed Post Room has been left by the Board of Supervisors in the care of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a meeting place for recognized patriotic organizations.

(2001, Currently the Daughters of the American Revolution oversee the room under the supervision of the County Board.)

DOUGLAS COUNTY SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION

1914 Meeting

Harrison Entler	Tuscola	Isaac Smith	Tuscola
Joseph Ewing	Arcola	C. M. Snyder	Tuscola
Naaman Torry	Arcola	David Rush	Tolono
Leander Hackett	Tuscola	T. E. Condon	Pesotum
J. H. Easton,	Atwood	Frank Piles	Tuscola
Stephen Dukeman	Atwood	James Skinner	Arcola
Charles James	Arthur	Nicholas N. Howard	Tuscola
Robert Smith	Arthur	David Smith	Tuscola
Abram Banty	Ficklin	Josiah Earley	Tuscola
John N. March	Arcola	Geo. M. Pritchard	Atwood
Henry Jones	Tuscola	F. H. Wood	Tuscola
Stewart Auld	Danville	Lois Pfeifer	Arcola
Isaac Auld	Danville	William Auld	Plainfield KS
J. W. Solomon	Atwood	W. H. Dotson	Tuscola
Samuel Shafer	Tuscola	Wm. R. Thompson	Tuscola
John A Cooper	Tuscola	Thomas J. Demry	Arcola
W. L. Langley	Hindsboro	W. W. Howard	Tuscola
James McDonald	Hindsboro	G. W. Busbey	Hindsboro
J. R. Cantrall	Tuscola	W. R. Ashwill	Tuscola
J. R. Tenbrooke	Tuscola	R. R. Cox	Hindsboro
Charles Smith	Tuscola	S. R. Williams	Tuscola
J. C. Cutler	Tuscola	Dr. J. L. Reat	Tuscola
W. R. Jewell	Danville	Wm. Pitman	Tuscola
J. M. Goodspeed	Tuscola	John Scott	Camargo
W. T. Johnson	Tuscola	W. D. Geer	Arcola
E. R. Cambridge	Tuscola	David Winship	Garrett
William Ewing	Fairland	Thomas Baldwin	Tuscola
William Wilson	Hammond	James L. Reeder	Garrett
J. C. Walsh	Decatur	C. C. Burkley	Garrett
L. A. Timons	Newman	Amos Shaw	Newman
Thomas Jester	Omana, IA	B. F. Mitchell	Newman

W. L. McCown

Newman

J. G. Pound

Newman

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF THE FRANK REED POST 1884-1917

Feb. 19, 1884 Organized in office of L. G. McPherson. Comrade Wright of Urbana present to organize and muster. Comrade Taggart elected Commander.

Feb. 27, 1884 7:00 p.m. Motion carried to name the post Frank Reed Post 409. Motion to buy a gavel for the Post.

Mar. 5, 1884 Motion to meet 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 7.p.m. On motion of Adj. was instructed to purchase six stands of arms. Moving to Odd Fellows Hall for \$50. Rent.

May 23, 1884 Committee of arrangements requested the business houses to close from 1-4 o'clock Decoration Day

First 6 months meetings were busy with balloting and mustering.

Oct. 20, 1884 Sent delegates to Convention of Soldiers and Sailors at Indianapolis, Oct. 24, 1884

Feb. 11, 1886 General order to pay the per capita to the Grant Monument

July 23, 1886 Camp fire - invited ex-soldiers

Aug. 13, 1886 Had purchased tin cups and plates and other articles for the Post.

Dec 10, 1886 General Order #3. Congress made provision to furnish headstones for unmarked graves of Comrades. Committee to ascertain all unmarked graves in our midst.

Ward for Camargo

Entler for Brandeis

Bassett for Hammett

Ray for Lester

Murphy for Hugo

Woods for Nelson

Conover for Tuscola

Ruby for Lewis

To procure 2 drumsticks and call book. To see Comrade Rideout have the use of the Bugle.

1887 Opera House to be used for Memorial Day service (many times after that)

Feb. 25, 1887 Pd. C. F. Lamb for making 4 stands for GAR Hall

Feb 27th at 6:30 p.m. to march in regular order to Presbyterian Church to attend Religious Services.

Mar. 25, 1887 Allow Sons of Vets to use the Hall and to organize using entire upstairs of Comrade Tyler's building. Comrade Rideout to procure a bass drum. To open the GAR Hall on 4th of July to be headquarters for all GAR comrades and families.

July 8, 1887 To get train rates to St. Louis for National Encampment. Purchased 1 dozen chairs and 1 dozen spittoons and matting for the Hall.

July 22, 1887 Notify the Secretary 79th Ill. Vol. Assoc., of reunion to be held in Tuscola Sept 20-27, 1887

Apr. 13, 1888 new Bylaw: on death of member in good standing, each living member contribute \$1.00 to widow and dependents.

May 25, 1888 Comrade McIlvane directed to prepare his firing squad for Decoration Day.

June 8, 1888 Paid \$2.70 for Lincoln and Sheridan photos. Also 6 pairs of gloves, 20 cents for ammunition.

Aug. 10, 1888 Purchased 8 shares in the Tuscola Building and Loan Assoc. to be the Property of Frank Reed Post.

1889-1891

Apr. 26, 1889 John Lamb made Adj. Desk

May 23, 1889 Drum head purchased

Dec. 12, 1890 Comrade Moore was circulating reports damage to the Post. A committee of 3 to visit Comrade Moore.

Feb. 27, 1890 Saddened by intelligence of Wm. T. Sherman's death. Arrangements include Memorial Service, one week from next Sunday or the Sunday following. Each Comrade to wear a token of mourning for thirty days and that the Hall be draped. Rent Odd Fellows Hall \$100 a year. Electric lights installed. Reunion of 66th Regiment in Tuscola in August 1891.

1889 – 1917

Aug. 28, 1889 Rec'd McCown Post, Camargo

1891 rented Odd Fellows Hall \$100 year

Discussions about the GAR Hall, rent, etc. maybe buy a place

Look for another hall 1894 Jan. sublet to Templars

Feb. 1894 resolution to admit all members of disbanded posts by payment of 50 cents each quarter.

Sub-rent to Templars, Pay J. W. Smith of 6 months rent

Warned Wright and Dotson of being fined for gross neglect of etiquette coming into post with trouser legs in their boots.

In new Post hall April 12, 1894 chairs removed from new Post Hall with benches substituted. Trustees to find out where chairs were and return them immediately.

Pay H.C. Jones rent. At funeral of G-----; detail of 3 to deposit on the coffin a wreath of flowers, a rose and laurel left as last token of respect.

Templars disbanded

Discussion about how to look after orphan children of Comrade J. R. Quinn.

Taken by a member to Orphanage in Normal; communication from Governor Altgeld that State Fair admission was free to old soldiers.

Record book by Historian—Where?

Memorial Book—list of soldiers graves

1895 Garrett – David Winship, John Bedell, Erastus Bedell; Ficklin-T. W. Temple, Wm. Hurst

Aug. 8, 1895 Comrade McKnight presented a Sword with touching remark as to the history of the Sword and the Post accepted same with sincere thanks. The

Sword was handed over to the QM that it must be kept in the Post Room for its valuable history

Might Change hall again.

Nov. 28, 1897 Comrade Cox was getting along nicely and that they had plenty of watchers.

Stayed in same Hall

O. P. Hunt Marshal for 1896 Decoration Day; Dave Smith was detailed to get all the flags (28) and take care of them till called for. Renting from H. B. Madison.

Jan 28, 1897 Comrade Conover to draft resolutions asking the Legislature of Illinois for an appropriation for monuments to the Soldiers graves at the National Park at Shiloh of all Illinois Soldiers.

March 1897 wanted to procure cannon for the Post

July 1897 wanted a smaller cannon than 30 pounder

August 1897 stress Principles of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty – good attendance, solicit funds to pay freight on cannon.

Sept. 1897 Hand money to pay freight for cannon; next mounting it

June 1897 Court Martial: charges against Comrade Wm. Alexander for Habitual Drunkenness and using Profane and Abusive language towards other Comrades; reduced his rank and to ½ pay; was fully restored to full rank and pay later in year.

Rent for same Hall increased by \$10 a year – now \$50.

During 1899 some comrade would relate Army experience; Comrade Bailey gave the Post a very interesting musket drill which was highly appreciated by all present.

Feb. 8 1900 Mr Sharp Foster owner of Hall, \$50. Rent; postponed Bean Supper till smallpox scare over.

May 10, 1900 Comrade Jones said the Soldiers Graves needed attention and he was instructed to see the Sexton and have him to attend to fixing them in good shape.

June 14, 1900 to advertise if there was anyone who wanted a Government tombstone for deceased soldier.

Sept. 12, 1901 deplored cowardly assassination of our Noble President and Worthy Comrade.(Wm. McKinley)

1903 Resolution of Indignation upon efforts of the Virginia Legislature to have a statue of the Rebel General Robert E. Lee placed in the Capitol at Washington, D. C. Motion carried.

Jan 14, 1905 Committee to confer with the County Board to find out whether they could give anything and how much they would give towards a Soldiers Monument. Comrades included Cutler, Cantrall, and Jones. Committee on grave markers made their report. The slabs to be 8 inches wide with a Star on the top and letters GAR on the three top points. Cost 30 cents each with a little additional cost for white sand.

1907 Saturday afternoon meetings began

Feb. 22, 1908 Joined in a resolution admitting Sons of Veterans into GAR

Oct. 24, 1908 Dedication of Memorial Arch, October 15; all county posts invited (terrible condition by 1930 when it was razed)

Oct. 30, 1909 voted to get uniforms; tabled to Nov. 6.

Jan 1910 meet 2d and 4th Saturdays instead once a month

Feb 12, 1910 asked Representatives in Congress and Senate to do all they could to have statue of R. E. Lee moved from Hall of Fame

May 27, 1911 Comrade Kagy, a Confederate Soldier of a Virginia Regiment was called up on for some remarks which was given in the Spirit of Loyalty and was greatly appreciated by the Boys in Blue.

June 24, 1911 That the flags presented the Post by Sister Samuel Bierfieldt be accepted; Appoint a committee of three to draft a Petition and present same to Board of Supervisors of Douglas Co. Illinois to set apart and maintain a room in the Court House. Same to be known as GAR Hall.

1911 Sword belong to Jos. Young now deceased, was presented by his son Admin

Young. Will hang in the post room to help decorate the same.

Nov. 11, 1911 Committee of Cutler, Goodspeed to ask Bd. Of Supervisors for privilege of having a memorial window put in the GAR room.

Mar. 23, 1912 Trustees to dispose of all the furniture and fixtures in the old Post room not needed in the new Room at the courthouse.

Jan 18, 1913 Frank Reed Post met in the new Room in the courthouse for the first time. Committee Goodspeed, McIlvane and Entler to draft resolutions thanking Bd. Of Supervisors for their kindness in furnishing a Room in the new courthouse. Moved and seconded that the trustees of the Post have a roll tope desk to be set for the Post Room for the Adjt.

Feb 8. 1913 Very appreciative to the Board and citizens of Douglas Co. for furnishing a Room for them to use. Allotted money to NN Howard for cleaning guns and accoutrements and taking same to Post Room.

Mar. 22, 1913 Moved and carried that the Trustees be instructed to put lock on relics case containing War relics belonging to and presented to this Post.

May 24, 1913 Comrade Cutler be Toast Master for this post on the occasion of the Dedication of the new courthouse. Moved and carried that Hon. J. G. Cannon be invited to be guest of this post for dinner Jun 12, 1913

June 7, 1913 Special meeting to perfect plans for dedication of new courthouse June 12. Ladies of ME Church to furnish dinner for all GAR members and their guests. Trustees of this Post to secure a glass case to place what war relics we have and may get into for safekeeping.

July 19, 1913 Moved and carried that the Commission of Capt. Frank Reed be recd. With thanks by this post and that the Commission be hung up in Post Room. Committee to go before Board of Supervisors to see what arrangements can be made in regard to Sons of Vets using the GAR Hall.

May 9, 1914 Delegation from Arcola Post to confer

May 23, 1914 It was never so apparent the encroachment of advancing years as on this occasion, But seven comrades felt able for March to Cemetery. (Obits for Aaron Watson, W. P. Miller, John H. Watson)

Feb. 27, 1915 Mr. F. M. Stalker presented the Post with a small Iron Lamp belonging to Thomas Lincoln and was at one time used by Abraham Lincoln.

Dec. 24, 1915 Resolution granting the Sons of Vets the use of our Hall.
Condemning the "Making of a Nation"(The Birth of a Nation)
Purchased 4 4x7" flags for use of the Post

Feb. 3, 1917 A committee to ask all ex soldiers who are living in Douglas Co. to move their membership and become members of Frank Reed Post provided they have no home in any other Post in this County.

March 1917 to furnish a room in new hospital GAR Room No. 1 – if any man or family members of GAR admitted to hospital to use that room

Nov. 17, 1917 Extend thanks 1 fife which had been property of James Williams now deceased, Presented by J. M Goodspeed. 1 sword, property of Mrs. Mills presented by J. R. Cantrall. Captured during Spanish American War.