

**Some Notes from War Papers and Personal Reminiscence as Recorded by
Brevet Colonel Henry Hitcock
Commandery of Missouri Military Order of the Loyal Legion**

In October, 1864, the...officer, assigned to the staff at General Sherman's request...(a) new-comer...just from St. Louis...the thing that first and most impressed him was the fact, that on that first evening, long after every one in the headquarters camp was sound asleep...he was literally cross-examined by his chief, fairly bombarded with questions as to the personal well being, health and whereabouts of every friend the general had in St. Louis; and they were many, even the. It was a trifling incident, but it was characteristic of the man.

...It must suffice here to say, that no man ever talked or theorized less about the honor of a soldier than General Sherman, and I have never known any man who exemplified it in a higher degree.

What General Sherman was to his men, not merely as the leader whom they would follow wherever he would go, but as the friend in whom they trusted, is part of the history of the war. Ready to share every danger, provident and careful of their needs to the utmost of his power, exacting of them the obedience to duty which he exacted still more rigorously from himself, he was always "Uncle Billy" to the rank and file. Of his view of their relations to each other and to their common country, I know no better statement than his order of May 30, 1865, announcing to the Armies of Tennessee and of Georgia that the time had come for them to part. Reviewing the events of the preceding twelve months, that order closes with words so briefly but so clearly setting forth his own conception of the object and justification of the war, that I may be pardoned for quoting it.

"Your general now bids you farewell, with the full belief that, as in war you have been good soldiers, so in peace you will make good citizens; and if unfortunately new war should arise in our country, Sherman's army will be the first to buckle on its old armor and come forth to defend and maintain the government of our inheritance."

These words, in the broad sense of inflexible devotion to duty and maintenance of the supremacy of law, are the key not only to his exploits as a soldier, but to his life as a man. Beside them, and because they also illustrate his convictions and his character, let me place some other words, taken from his letter to the mayor of Atlanta: --

"You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it. ... But you cannot have peace and a division of our country. ... I want peace, and believe it can only be reached through union and war, and I will ever conduct war with a view to perfect and early success.

"But, my dear sir, when peace does come, you may call on me for anything. Then I will share with you the last cracker and watch with you to shield your homes and families against danger from every quarter."

The period of a generation has passed. The old flag still floats over a re-united people. A new generation is coming on the stage, ready to assume, and fast assuming, the responsibilities of freedom, -of union, to be maintained and preserved only through the supremacy of law. What perils lie before them we know not. God grant that in the time to come those perils may ever be met with the splendid courage and the inflexible devotion to duty which, above all else, have crowned, not more with glory than with fervent love and admiration, the career of the departed hero to honor whose memory we have met here to-night.

From the first time, 24 November 1843, William T. Sherman saw St. Louis he "became impressed with its great future". His last home in St. Louis was 912 North Garrison Avenue. The Shermans owned the home even during the times they lived away from St. Louis. Sad to say, the city tore down the home as a derelict house without realizing its historic significance.