

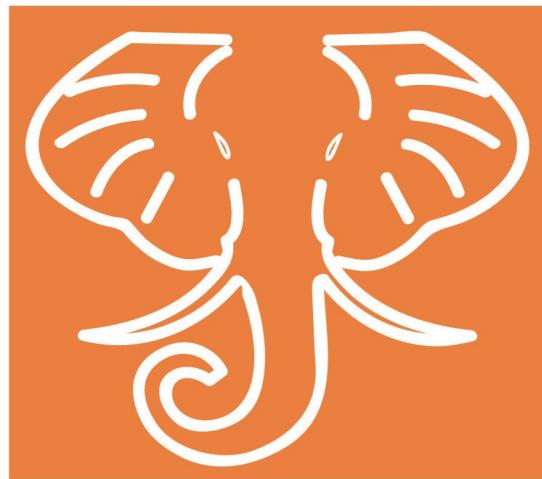
**The Iowa department of the Grand Army of the Republic, compiled  
by Jacob A. Swisher.**

Grand Army of the Republic.

Iowa City, Ia., The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1936.

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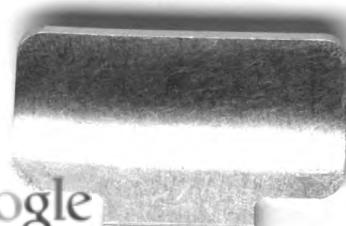
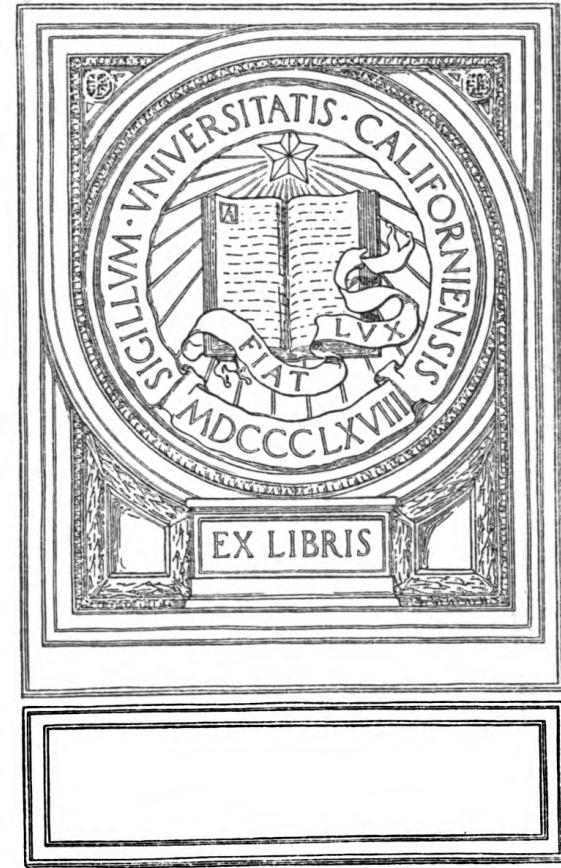
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# The Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic





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*The Iowa Department of the  
Grand Army of the Republic*



# *The Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic*

Compiled by  
JACOB A. SWISHER



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PUBLISHED AT IOWA CITY IOWA IN 1936 BY  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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## EXPLANATION

IN 1935 the Forty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa made an appropriation to the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic to defray the expenses of publishing a book of history which should include portraits and biographical sketches of the men who have served as Commanders of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic along with a brief history of the Iowa Department.

Mr. Jacob A. Swisher, of the research staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was requested by the Iowa Department to compile the book. Following the completion and acceptance of Mr. Swisher's work, The State Historical Society of Iowa was asked to publish the book in accordance with stipulations agreed upon by the Department and the Society.

Throughout the compilation and publication of this book the following persons generously assisted

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with helpful counsel and valuable information: JOHN P. RISLEY, at present Adjutant General of the Grand Army of the Republic and Assistant Adjutant General of the Iowa Department; JAMES W. WILLETT, Judge Advocate General and Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Past Commander of the Iowa Department; JONATHAN C. HANES, Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic; and OLEY NELSON, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and Past Commander of the Iowa Department.

The pictures in this book are for the most part reproductions of enlarged photographs now hanging in the rooms of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic in the State House at Des Moines.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EDITOR  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA  
IOWA CITY IOWA

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*The History of the  
Iowa Department of the  
Grand Army of the Republic*



## THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

THE surrender of the Confederates at Appomattox virtually ended four years of warfare. It also brought to a formal conclusion four years of significant history — a history in which the names of such leaders as Lincoln and Grant and Sherman and Farragut stand out in bold relief. What telling records of brave deeds! What stories of sacrificial service! What reports of battles lost and won! What gruesome tales of hunger and despair within dark prison walls! What songs of triumph, and stirring tales of Sherman's marching to the sea! All this, and more, had become recorded history.

But what should become of the Union veterans — the Boys in Blue — who during the four years of warfare had sacrificed their all upon the altar of their country? Would companies and regiments and brigades be disbanded and comrades never meet again? Perhaps it was not vain to hope that friendships made in war could be retained in times of peace. Perhaps a veterans' organization could be formed that would weld friendships yet closer together, and foster the best interests of all who had helped to preserve the Union. Indeed, before Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, signal forces were at work to form such an organization.



History records that in February, 1864, some 2000 men under the leadership of General William Tecumseh Sherman left Vicksburg, Mississippi, on what was then called the "Meridian Raid". Leaving their supply train some distance behind, they skirmished for several days without adequate rations. At length they returned to their provision base and apparently tried to make up for their former restraints by "drinking an excess of hot, strong coffee". In consequence of this indulgence, as the story goes, sleep was banished for the night, and as there were probably no rebel forces within fifty miles of their camp, the soldiers "whistled, sang, squealed, neighed, and crowed all along the line". Even the officers, it is said, were not exempt from this "coffee exhilaration". Bursts of laughter here and there indicated that the wag of the squad was perpetrating his best jokes. It was a night of revelry.

Among the restless men in camp that night were Major Benjamin F. Stephenson, surgeon; William J. Rutledge, chaplain; Dr. Chaffee, assistant surgeon; Joseph Meacham, hospital steward; George Goldsmith, cook; Samuel Logan, driver of a medical wagon; and Harrison Scott, ambulance driver. Provoked by sleeplessness the surgeon and the chaplain fell to discussing plans to organize the veterans on a fraternal basis which would carry on after the close of the war.

They agreed that the "glory of war" is something of a delusion, and that too often comrades are left to die "unwept, unhonored and unsung". They agreed, too, that a development of the fraternal spirit among soldiers

would be desirable, and talked of how they might form an organization for the promotion of brotherhood. The chaplain, leading the discussion, said: "You, doctor, shall be Grand Mogul, or Commander-in-chief; Dr. Chaffee, your adjutant; Meacham, your aide de camp; Scott, your paymaster; Goldsmith, inside sentinel; Logan, your vidette; and I your chaplain". After "due examination", he continued, we shall "proceed to admit the brethren, collect the admission, and swear them to liberty, equality, fraternity and sympathy. . . . Thus we shall insure a soldiers' re-union every full moon". Something after this fashion it was that the Grand Army of the Republic was conceived on the Vicksburg-Meridian road in the long ago.

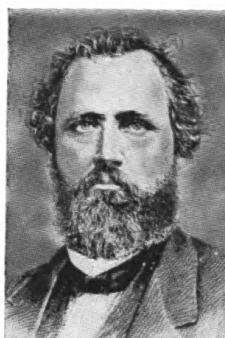
Dr. Stephenson, although not as imaginative and inventive as the chaplain, was methodical and a born organizer. The chaplain had built his castle in the air as the pleasant pastime of a sleepless night; the doctor brought that castle to the ground, made moat and drawbridge for it, commissioned its officers, mounted its sentinels, and worked consistently for its welfare during his lifetime. To the chaplain it was one of the many beautiful visions floating through his brain. To the doctor, it was "a ghost that would not down".

The two men were dissimilar in their methods of approach, but they were agreed that the fundamental idea should be preserved. Dr. Stephenson wanted to give the organization a decided political tinge, claiming that those who had borne the burden, should have the benefit, but the chaplain opposed the "machine" idea, insisting that

the fraternal and benevolent motive would best insure usefulness and perpetuity. Ardent as these men were about the proposed plan of organization, it was not until the spring of 1866 that they met at Springfield, Illinois, to perfect the organization which came to be known as the Grand Army of the Republic.

#### THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, who was the chief promoter of the idea of a soldiers' organization, was a native of Illinois, born in Wayne County in 1822. He



STEPHENSON

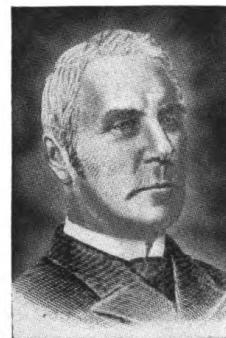
studied medicine for a time in his brother's office in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Later he was graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in the class of 1850. Upon graduation he entered upon the practice of his profession at Petersburg, Illinois. From 1855 to 1857 he was lecturer on "general, special, and surgical anatomy" in the College of

Physicians and Surgeons, a branch of the State University of Iowa at Keokuk. At the beginning of the war he was appointed surgeon in the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry. He served three years in the western armies of Grant and Sherman, and reached the rank of Major.

In the medical profession Dr. Stephenson was known for his skill as a surgeon, and after the war he became one of the leading physicians at Springfield, Illinois. In the late sixties he devoted much time to the work of the

Grand Army of the Republic, and at various times was considered for the office of Commander-in-Chief. In 1870, his medical practice having declined, and he being disappointed that the Grand Army was not then flourishing, he moved to Rock Creek, Illinois, where he died in August of the following year. In 1882, when the Grand Army had gained strength and vigor, his remains were removed to the soldiers' plot in Rose Hill Cemetery overlooking the Sangamon River at Petersburg, Illinois, and in 1909 members of the Grand Army erected a monument in his honor at Washington, D. C.

William J. Rutledge, who coöperated with Dr. Stephenson in formulating plans for a Union soldiers' organization that would carry on after the war had closed, was a native of Virginia. In 1835, at the age of fifteen, he emigrated to Illinois, and five years later entered the ministry of the Methodist Church. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted as Chaplain in the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry. Thus, as comrades, Stephenson and Rutledge came to be close friends as they tented together on the Vicksburg-Meridian road, where they planned a soldiers' organization. If to Dr. Stephenson is given the chief credit for organizing the Grand Army, to Chaplain Rutledge is doubtless due the credit of having first suggested the idea. It was the germ thought in his mind that, in later years, developed strength in the Grand Army of the Republic.



RUTLEDGE

When Stephenson and Rutledge were released from military service, in 1865, they recalled their experiences along the Meridian road, and the subject of a veterans' organization constituted the basis of their correspondence, until in March, 1866, when they met by appointment, in Springfield, to formulate a ritual for the proposed organization. Among other veterans who attended the Springfield meeting were Colonel John M. Snyder, Dr. James Hamilton, Major Robert M. Woods, Major Robert Allen, Colonel Martin Flood, Colonel Daniel Grass, Colonel Edward Prince, Captain John S. Phelps, Brevet Major A. A. North, and others.

One of the subjects of discussion at the meeting was the selection of a name for the organization. It is possible that some former local organization such as "THE ADVANCE GUARD OF AMERICA" and "THE GRAND ARMY OF PROGRESS" suggested the name that was finally adopted — the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The objects of the newly proposed organization as set forth by its founders were as follows:

1. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.
2. To assist such former comrades in arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.
3. To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the National

Constitution and laws, to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

When the name had been selected and the rules and regulations drafted, Captain Phelps took the manuscript to Decatur, Illinois, where it was agreed that it should be published. While he was in Decatur, he conferred with veterans in that vicinity, chiefly members of the Forty-first Illinois Infantry, and sought their coöperation. As a result of the interest which developed it was decided to organize a local unit at Decatur and on the 6th of April, 1866, Dr. Stephenson and Captain Phelps organized at Decatur the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In July of the same year an invitation was issued to all Union soldiers of the State of Illinois to meet at Springfield to form a State organization. As a result of this meeting a State organization was perfected and officers were elected. By the end of October, Departments had been formed in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, and local Posts were being organized in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.

On October 31, 1866, Dr. Stephenson issued a call for the first National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic to convene at Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 20th. An invitation to attend the convention

was extended to all honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors and to those then serving in the army and navy of the United States. The meeting was held in Morrison's Opera House, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. The battle flags of Indiana regiments were displayed upon the stage, and portraits of distinguished military chieftains and civilians were arranged on balconies and walls. Dr. Stephenson called the convention to order. Addresses were heard, resolutions were adopted, and officers were elected, thus perfecting the national organization.

The badge adopted by the Grand Army of the Republic, upon its organization, and commonly worn by Grand Army men, is a five-pointed star so designed as to have a significance of its own. In the center of the star is the figure of the Goddess of Liberty, representing Loyalty; on either side a soldier and a sailor clasping hands, representing Fraternity, and two children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the comrades, representing Charity. On one side of the group is the National Flag and the Eagle, representing Freedom, and on the other the Flag and the Fasces, representing Union. In each point of the star is the insignia of the various arms of the service — the Bugle for Infantry, Cross Cannon for Artillery, Cross Muskets for the Marine, Cross Swords for Cavalry, and the Anchor for Sailors. Over the central group are the words, "Grand Army of the Republic", and under, the word and figures, "1861 — Veteran — 1866" commemorating

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the commencement and close of the rebellion, and also the date of the organization of the Order.

The reverse side represents a Branch of Laurel — the crown and reward of the brave — in each point of the star. The National Shield in the center, surrounded by the twenty-four recognized Corps' Badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together, showing they are united, and will guard and protect the Shield of the Nation. Around the center is a circle of stars, representing the States of the Union and the Departments composing the Grand Army of the Republic.

The clasp is composed of the figure of an Eagle, with cross cannon and ammunition, representing defense. The bronze emblem, which constitutes the chief part of the badge, is suspended from the clasp by a small ribbon of the National colors.

General Stephen A. Hurlbut of Illinois was elected as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. General Hurlbut was a native of South Carolina, but for more than a decade prior to the Civil War he had practiced law at Belvidere, Illinois. He was among the first to encourage enlistments, and entered the service as captain of a company. In May, 1861, he was commissioned brigadier general and for bravery and skill at the battle of Shiloh he was promoted to major general. At the close of the war he resumed the practice of law at Belvidere. As a military leader and prominent citizen, he was eminently fitted to assume national leadership of the Grand Army.

Perhaps the most highly trained and the most widely renowned leader of the Grand Army of the Republic throughout its history was General John A. Logan, who was selected Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army in 1868 and was twice reelected to that office.

Logan was born in Jackson County, Illinois, on February 9, 1826. He volunteered in the Mexican War, was commissioned lieutenant in the First Illinois Infantry, and became adjutant. Later he studied law, was a member of the Illinois legislature, and had served as one of the presidential electors on the Democratic ticket before the Civil War. At the beginning of the war Logan was a member of Congress and he attended the special session called by President Lincoln on July 4, 1861. Resigning his seat in Congress to enlist in service, his military career was a most brilliant one, and his promotions were rapid until he reached the rank of major general.

In political life, too, Logan attained prominence. Having served in both houses of Congress, he was a candidate for the nomination as President on the Republican ticket in 1884. Failing in this, he was nominated by acclamation for the office of Vice President, but in that election the Republican ticket was defeated. As a leader of the Grand Army of the Republic, Logan was unsurpassed, and he is still remembered by Grand Army men as a great leader.

Other leaders of the Grand Army during the years of its greatest strength were General Ambrose E. Burnside, General Lucius Fairchild, and Colonel Robert B. Beath. In more recent years three Iowa men have held this office

— Colonel David J. Palmer in 1914, Judge James W. Willett in 1922, and the Honorable Oley Nelson in 1935.

For more than a quarter of a century after the organization of the Grand Army there was a steady growth in its membership. By 1890 the number had reached a total of more than four hundred thousand. Because of its large membership, its close organization, and its nearly unanimous adherence to Republican policies, the Grand Army for many years exerted a powerful, if sometimes indirect, influence in national politics. Although in 1869 the Grand Army went on record as opposed to using its organization for political purposes, the fact remains that indirectly the members had a wide influence in political and legislative affairs. Indeed, every Republican President from Grant to McKinley had served in the Civil War and polled a very large percentage of the Grand Army vote. Thus in peace as in war the influence of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic was felt throughout the Nation for many years. In the words of one of its great leaders: "The Grand Army of the Republic is an organization composed of men banded together to win battles of peace, even greater than those battles won on the field of war; and its ultimate purpose is to make fraternity a national anthem, charity a national virtue, and loyalty a national creed."

Early in its history the Grand Army of the Republic instituted Memorial Day as an occasion to honor those who served in the Union army and navy. In the spring of 1868 Adjutant General Norton P. Chipman received

a letter from a veteran whose name is now unknown. The writer referred to the fact that he had served in the Union army and called attention to the fact that in his native country, Germany, it was the custom of the people to assemble in the springtime and scatter flowers upon the graves of the dead. He suggested that the Grand Army of the Republic inaugurate such an observance in memory of the Union dead.

General Chipman approved the suggestion and communicated it to General John A. Logan, then Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army. General Logan likewise approved the suggestion, and on May 5, 1868, he issued the first order setting aside May 30th as Memorial Day. From that day to this, observance of the day has been quite common. Farmers at a busy season of the year leave their plows, the mechanics their workshops, the merchants their stores, the lawyers their courts, and all repair to the silent city of the dead to do honor to the Union veterans. In carrying forward the observance of Memorial Day no organization has been more active throughout the years than the Grand Army of the Republic.

Throughout the history of the organization, National Encampments have been held annually at which large numbers of Grand Army men have assembled to renew friendships and recall their days of comradeship. In 1922 the Fifty-sixth National Encampment was held at Des Moines and twenty thousand veterans with their allied organizations came to celebrate what it was thought would

be the "Last Great Encampment". Veterans were there from every State, and Iowa was proud to be their host. With streets brilliant with masses of flags and bunting, Des Moines was ready to greet its welcome visitors. Every resource and every convenience which the city could provide were turned over to them — "the homes, the automobiles, the parks, the streets of the city" were all theirs. It was a gala day for the "Boys of '61", and a day that citizens of Des Moines would long remember.

Fifty-seven years had then passed since the surrender at Appomattox and the average age of the surviving veterans was almost eighty years. The visiting delegates at Des Moines, it was said, "were of all ages from 90 years and almost blind, to the young men of 72, who went to the front as drummer boys and cheered their soldiers during the trying days of the rebellion." Dr. Lewis S. Pilcher, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army, and a resident of Brooklyn, New York, in addressing the convention, reminded his comrades that the organization was such that it could not be rejuvenated by young blood, but he pointed with pride to the "patriotic loyalty" of the Grand Army in its advancing years.

Major Samuel H. M. Byers, distinguished poet and author of *Iowa in War Times*, a former resident of Des Moines, but for some years a resident of Long Beach, California, was among the veterans who visited Des Moines. Major Byers was at that time the sole surviving member of General Sherman's staff, and one of a very small number of survivors from the entire Army of the

Tennessee. Many years before this soldier-poet had written the story of Sherman's march.

Then sang we a song for our chieftain,  
That echoed o'er river and lea,  
And the stars in our banner shone brighter,  
When Sherman marched down to the sea.

Now all was changed. The Major alone, of all the officers, remained to tell the story, and the "boys" who had marched in the ranks and sung their songs of praise were likewise now few in number. Yet any reunion of those who remained was an occasion for reminiscence and rejoicing.

It was at the Des Moines Encampment in 1922 that Judge James W. Willett, of Tama, Iowa, was elected without opposition to the high office of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army. Judge Willett's name was placed in nomination by Colonel David J. Palmer, of Washington, Iowa, who in 1914 had himself served as Commander-in-Chief. It is significant, in this connection, to note that at the Encampment in 1935 Judge Willett in turn placed before the convention the name of Oley Nelson, of Slater, Iowa, who was elected as the third Iowan to hold the office of Commander-in-Chief.

With the passage of years membership in the Grand Army has constantly decreased and the ranks have become increasingly thinner and thinner. From a membership of 409,000 in 1890, the number had decreased to 341,000 in 1896, and by 1914 it was reduced to less than 180,000 and losses were occurring at a rate of more

than 12,000 per year. Since then the loss has been proportionately greater with each succeeding year. In August, 1935, the entire membership in the Grand Army had been reduced to about 6,000, and deaths were occurring at the rate of 130 per month. In the light of these facts it can only be said with regret that the time is not far distant when the last of this great army will have been "mustered out".

#### THE IOWA DEPARTMENT

Iowa was one of the first States of the Union to organize a State Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the story of its activities is replete with human interest. Indeed, as early as the fall of 1865 an organization of veterans was effected in Davenport, under the name, "Old Soldiers' Association of Scott County, Iowa". Brevet Brigadier General Addison H. Sanders, of the Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, was chosen president of this group. On July 12, 1866, this veterans' organization was chartered as Post No. 1 of the Grand Army of the Republic — the first Post chartered in Iowa.

On July 24th, a meeting was held at Davenport to complete the organization of the local Post. At the same time a Provisional State Department was formed with General Sanders as Commander. On September 15th, a sufficient number of Posts having been organized for the purpose, General Sanders issued a call for a special meeting at Davenport to organize a permanent Department of Iowa.

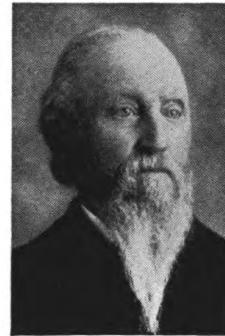
At the meeting in Davenport on September 26th, delegates were present from local Posts at Davenport, Iowa City, Clinton, Lyons, Dubuque, Muscatine, Grinnell, Floyd, Boonsboro, Sabula, Bellevue, and Des Moines. At this meeting a permanent State Department was formed and General Joseph B. Leake, of Davenport, was selected as Department Commander. The soldiers having recently returned from service, and trying to gain a new foothold in business and industrial life, it is not strange that for a time membership in the Grand Army was small and interest sometimes lacking.

Although this Department was organized on what was thought to be a permanent basis, it was, in fact, not destined to a long life. At an Encampment in April, 1867, a report showed that ninety-five Posts had been organized. In January of the next year only eight Posts were represented at the Encampment although it was reported that one hundred and thirty Posts had been chartered. In 1870 the aggregate strength of the Department was reported as "not to exceed 500 members", and in January of the following year the Department organization was dissolved. Meanwhile five men had served as Department Commanders — Addison H. Sanders and Joseph B. Leake, of Davenport, William T. Shaw, of Anamosa, James A. Williamson, of Des Moines, and Elliott W. Rice, of Oskaloosa. The work that these men did in the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic and the service they rendered in making its influence felt in Iowa should not be forgotten.

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Mr. Sanders was a native of Ohio, born at Cincinnati, on September 13, 1823. His education was begun in a printing office and was completed at Cincinnati College. In 1856 he came to Iowa, locating at Davenport where he obtained work on the editorial staff of the *Daily Davenport Gazette*. Early in 1861, because of his interest in military affairs, he was commissioned aid to Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood. Later in the year he was placed in command of Camp McClellan, at Davenport, where the Union volunteers were mustering for the organization of regiments and for drill. Efficiency in this position gave rise to the suggestion that he be made Colonel of the Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, upon its organization in the winter of 1862. Because of his limited military experience, however, he declined this appointment, and instead was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. As an officer in service he received his first "baptism of fire" at the battle of Shiloh, and at Corinth he was severely wounded. He rose rapidly to the rank of colonel and for bravery in battle was brevetted brigadier general.

At the close of the war General Sanders returned to Davenport and became one of the leading editorial writers of the State. As a worker for the cause of the veterans he exerted a wide influence, and as a leader in forming a Department of the Grand Army in Iowa his efforts were unsurpassed.



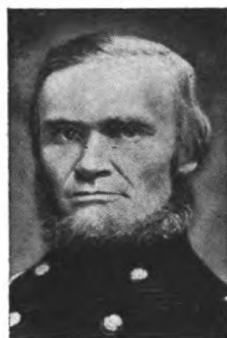
SANDERS

General Joseph B. Leake, who succeeded General Sanders as leader of the Grand Army forces in Iowa, was, like General Sanders, a resident of Davenport. He was



LEAKE

born in New Jersey, practiced law in Ohio, and in 1856 came to Iowa. He was a member of the Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh General Assemblies of Iowa. He entered the army as captain and later was commissioned lieutenant colonel. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Morganza, but was later released and served at the siege of Vicksburg, Mobile, and Spanish Fort. He was mustered from service with the title of brevet brigadier general. General Leake was an enthusiastic and able leader of the Grand Army at a time when the organization was most in need of loyal support. In later years he practiced law in Davenport and Chicago, was United States District Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and served as attorney for the Board of Education of the City of Chicago.



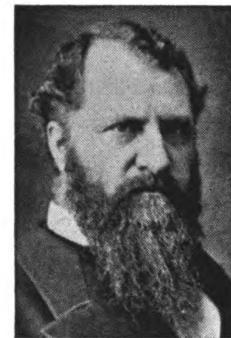
SHAW

The third active leader of the Grand Army in Iowa was Colonel William Tuckerman Shaw, of Anamosa. Shaw was born in Maine in 1822. He was educated in his native State, taught school in Indiana and Kentucky, served in the Mexican War, and in 1854 came to Iowa. In the spring of 1861 Shaw went on a visit to Pittsburgh. When

he heard of the attack on Fort Sumter, he telegraphed to Governor Kirkwood offering his services. This offer was promptly accepted. Shaw returned to organize the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, and was commissioned colonel. Later he became commander of the Second Brigade and Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps. He led troops, numbering twenty-two hundred men, at the battles of Fort Donelson, and Shiloh, and gained distinction as a military leader.

In 1876 Colonel Shaw was a member of the Sixteenth General Assembly of Iowa where he fostered legislation favorable to veterans. As a leader of the Grand Army at a time when its membership was small, he endeavored to build a permanent organization in Iowa.

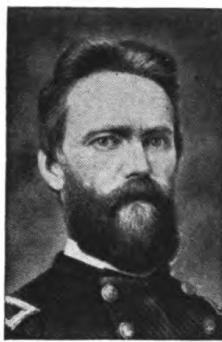
The two remaining Commanders who served the Grand Army in Iowa before its abandonment and reorganization were likewise men of stalwart character and of wide influence in the State. General James A. Williamson, of Des Moines, who served as Commander in 1868, was born in Kentucky in 1832 and was educated in Illinois. In 1856 he moved to Iowa and began the practice of law in Des Moines. At the beginning of the war he was commissioned first lieutenant in the Fourth Iowa Infantry. Later he was promoted to the rank of colonel and at the close of the war was brevetted brigadier general. Returning to Des Moines after the war he became prominent in political



WILLIAMSON

and business affairs. His interest and leadership in the Grand Army gave it dignity, but despite this fact, membership in the organization dwindled and the end of its usefulness seemed near.

In 1869 Elliott W. Rice, of Oskaloosa, was elected Department Commander, and with his administration the work of the Grand Army in Iowa was temporarily sus-



RICE

pended. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1835 and studied law in New York. In 1855 he came to Iowa and entered the practice of law at Oskaloosa. At the beginning of the war he enlisted as a private in the Seventh Iowa Infantry and was rapidly promoted until he attained the rank of colonel, and was later made brigadier general. Returning to

Oskaloosa at the close of the war he became one of the most prominent residents of that city. As Department Commander, in 1869, he was a zealous worker for the Grand Army.

What aspirations these five early Commanders may have had, and what their plans for the future development of the State Department of the Grand Army may have been, does not appear in the records. It is only recorded that they served faithfully and well during their terms of office. But despite their hopes and ambitions and labors, the Department organization weakened and in a brief period of years came to a close.

Early in 1872, however, an effort was made at National

headquarters to reëstablish the Iowa Department, and John N. Coldren, of Iowa City, was appointed Provisional Commander. Coldren was born in Pennsylvania in 1839, and prior to the Civil War had lived in Ohio. As a soldier he served in Company A, Twentieth Iowa Infantry, and in 1865 came to Iowa City. When the organization of the Grand Army was reëstablished in Iowa, Coldren was named as leader, serving for two years as Provisional Commander. In February, 1874, he was relieved of this work at his own request and General James C. Parrott, of Keokuk, was named as his successor. Little progress was made during the early years, but the officers were deeply concerned that the organization should not again be abandoned. In January, 1876, an Encampment was held at Keokuk. At that time Commander Parrott tendered his resignation, stating that "a younger man and one with more leisure than himself should be appointed". General Parrott at that time was sixty-five years of age — older by thirty years than many of his comrades. Yet he was a young man as compared with the Grand Army men of today, whose average age is more than ninety.

Upon the resignation of General Parrott, Dr. Joseph C. Stone, of Post No. 5, at Burlington, was appointed to fill the vacancy as Provisional Commander. Stone was born in New York in 1829 and had come with his father to the Territory of Iowa in 1844. He had studied medicine and entered the practice of his profession in Burlington prior to the Civil War. In June, 1861, he enlisted in the First Iowa Cavalry and was successively promoted

to adjutant, captain, and assistant adjutant general. Returning to Burlington at the close of the war, he was one of the first to be interested in the work of the Grand Army. Stone's term of office as Provisional Commander was of brief duration, for in September, 1876 — the year of his election — he resigned and was succeeded by Comrade Albert A. Perkins, who also served two years. The officers at once began an active campaign to build up membership in the organization. Eleven new Posts were organized within a year, and thereafter each year showed a decided increase over the previous year.

In January, 1879, Comrade Hurlbut E. Griswold of Atlantic was elected Commander, the Department of Iowa having by that time been made permanent. It was in November of that year that General Ulysses S. Grant returned from a trip around the world. When it was known that he would cross the State of Iowa plans were made for a delegation of representative Grand Army men to meet him at Council Bluffs, and escort him across the State. At the appointed time, Commander Griswold with his official escorts, Governor John H. Gear, and thousands of citizens were on hand to welcome this distinguished soldier and ex-President of the United States. Introduced to the waiting crowd by Governor Gear, General Grant made the following very brief response:

The Grand Army of the Republic, and the people of Iowa: I am very glad to meet you here, and accept your escort with great pleasure. I had on a former occasion an escort of the Grand Army of the Republic, when it was absolutely necessary. I be-

lieve I might go through this state without an escort, or with an escort without arms, and it would be perfectly safe.

It is not necessary for me to say more than thank you and the people of Iowa, both for this escort and for their good will.

General Grant then held a short reception, and shook the hands of many of his old comrades, as well as many others who managed to crowd themselves forward to the coach where the General stood.

In the early eighties attention was called to the fact that the history of the Grand Army of the Republic might be compared to the three types of military service — recruits, soldiers, and veterans. During the years from 1866 to 1869 "the boys rushed into the ranks with the enthusiasm of recruits". During the decade of the seventies "they came down to the real work of the soldier", while in the decade of the eighties they represented "the tried and true veteran, resolved to carry forward" at all hazards. The report of the Department of Iowa for the year 1884 shows 339 Posts in Iowa with a total membership of more than fourteen thousand.

The influence of members of the Grand Army in State politics as well as in National affairs was apparent for many years. Six veterans of the Civil War have served as Governor of Iowa and it was not until 1898 that the last of these "Boys of 1861" retired from the office of chief executive of the Commonwealth. Among these soldier-Governors were two captains, three colonels, and a brigadier general. These men were all members of the Republican party. While the Grand Army of the Re-

public as an organization was pledged to refrain from political activities, Grand Army men individually were generous in their support of veteran candidates. Indeed even before the Grand Army had been organized the soldier vote had become significant.

When Samuel J. Kirkwood, Civil War Governor of Iowa, was completing his second term of office the Republican State Convention met to nominate his successor. Who would be selected as a party leader was a matter of much doubt. At an opportune time Colonel William M. Stone, of Knoxville, a man who had been wounded at the battle of Blue Mills, taken prisoner at Shiloh, and wounded again at Vicksburg, appeared at the convention with one arm in a sling. By a patriotic appeal to members of the convention he won sufficient support to secure the nomination.

Governor Stone served as chief executive of the State for two terms. Meanwhile, the Grand Army of the Republic was organized and in the fall of 1867 Samuel Merrill, of McGregor, who had been colonel of the Twenty-first Iowa Infantry, had the support of members of the Grand Army and was elected Governor by a substantial majority. Four years later Cyrus C. Carpenter, of Fort Dodge, who had been a commissary in Sherman's army in its march to the sea and had been mustered from service with the rank of colonel, likewise had the support of the veterans in his campaign for election to the office of Governor.

Governor Carpenter was succeeded in office by the re-

election of Samuel J. Kirkwood for a third term. Kirkwood, although not a soldier, had always been a favorite among the veterans. On the ticket with Mr. Kirkwood was the name of Joshua G. Newbold, of Mount Pleasant, as candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Newbold had been captain of Company C of the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry — a fact which gave strength to the ticket in obtaining the veterans' support. In later years Buren R. Sherman and Francis M. Drake, two former veterans and officers of the Civil War had the support of Grand Army members in their campaigns for the office of Governor.

In local affairs, too, the political influence of Grand Army members was for many years apparent throughout the State. It should be remembered, however, that all through the years it was the expressed declaration of the Grand Army of the Republic that, as an organization, it should not attempt to control political affairs.

It was the influence of the Grand Army of the Republic that in a large measure was responsible for the establishment of the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown. Under the leadership of members of the Grand Army the Twenty-first General Assembly in 1886 passed a measure appropriating \$100,000 for the establishment and maintenance of an institution which should "provide a home and subsistence for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who have served in the army or navy of the United States and who are disabled by disease, wounds or otherwise." The measure also provided for a board of trustees and for a commission to select a suitable site.

Several cities of the State at once made bids for this institution. It was agreed, however, to locate it at Marshalltown. Thus for almost a half a century Marshalltown has been the home of the disabled veterans, and many members of the Grand Army of the Republic, with their wives, have found consolation and rest in a home provided for them by the State which they fought to defend.

The Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, like the National organization, reached the zenith of its strength in 1890, when there were 435 Posts and a membership of 20,324. The following year the number of Posts had increased to 439 but the total membership had suffered a slight decrease. The Assistant Adjutant General reporting at the Annual Encampment in 1892 said: "It is now thirty-two years and a month since our rude awakening by the hostile cannon in Charleston harbor, and twenty-seven years since Lee surrendered at Appomattox! If it is yet mid-year for the Grand Army of the Republic, let us rejoice in that!"

During the following years the number of Posts remained almost constant, but the number of members decreased slightly each year. In June, 1895, there were 438 Posts in the Department of Iowa, but the membership had decreased to 16,764, and losses were occurring at the rate of five hundred a year.

When another decade had passed, members of the Grand Army in Iowa had been reduced to 11,412. More than forty years had now passed since the surrender at

Appomattox. A new generation had come upon the scene, a generation of youth who knew nothing of the hardships, the sufferings, the sacrifices of those who went forth in 1861. Slowly but surely those who had fought the battles of the great war were passing. Yet, as in the decade of the sixties, those who survived were carrying on in a noble way, and their motto, "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty" was being exemplified in their daily lives. At a reunion now and again one of these old veterans might still be heard to say:

Come, dear old comrade, you and I  
Will steal an hour from days gone by,  
The shining days when life was new,  
And all was bright with morning dew,—  
The soldier days of long ago,  
When you were Bill and I was Joe . . .

The chaffing young folks stare, and say,  
"See those old buffers, bent and gray,  
They talk like fellows in their teens!  
Mad, poor old boys! That's what it means,"  
And shake their heads; they little know  
The throbbing hearts of Bill and Joe!

Department Encampments like National Encampments have been held annually for many years. In June, 1917, a typical Department Encampment was held at Davenport, "when 2,000 veterans of the Civil War, bent by the weight of years stepped out proudly to the strains of martial music and the mustered drum". A considerable number of the aged veterans who were unable to march

were seated in automobiles, while many others, too feeble to stand the excitement, lined the streets along which the parade passed and watched their comrades of other years. Even among those who attempted to march there were those who "were forced to drop out before they had completed the route laid out" for the march — the hot sun and hard pavement becoming too much for their enfeebled bodies.

With the old veterans in line of march that day were two companies of young men — Davenport's first offering of the great World War. Perhaps it was the appearance of these young men that reminded Colonel David J. Palmer, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army, that on another occasion he had visited Davenport. In addressing the Encampment, Colonel Palmer said: "I am delighted to be here in the City of Davenport. In August, 1861, I landed here with a company of young fellows and we marched right out past here", to Camp McClellan. The Colonel recalled, too, that at the camp he and his comrades had been thoroughly drilled by General Frederick Steele, who "knew just how to take the kinks out of us boys that had come in from the country", and, said the Colonel, "he proceeded to do just that".

Department Commander John H. Mills likewise recalled his early experiences at Camp McClellan. He was especially mindful of the fact that one of his eyes was injured while he was in training there in 1864. Notwithstanding this fact he was glad to return to Davenport, particularly was he glad of this opportunity at a time

when the city was host to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Other speakers at the Davenport Encampment included Judge James W. Willett, Judge Fred Dickinson Letts, and Governor William L. Harding. Each of these men were mindful not only of problems of the past and of the "Boys of '61", but also of current problems and of the "Boys of '17", who, it was practically certain, would soon be engaged in another great war. Accordingly, each speaker, in turn, referred to the fact that for those facing the new crisis many examples of bravery and loyalty might be found in the lives and activities of the "Boys in Blue".

Annual reports presented at the Davenport Encampment showed that the Legislative Committee had been quite active during the past year, and that its activities had been rewarded with signal success. It was largely through the work of this committee that an appropriation of \$65,000 had been given to the Soldiers' Home, in order that it might "take care of a hundred more of the comrades".

It was also reported that legislation had been enacted which would increase the soldier's exemption and thereby reduce his tax burden. Moreover, favorable legislative action had been taken in permanently locating the soldiers' monument at the point favored by the veterans and members of the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition to these items of favorable legislation, it was reported that an appropriation of \$40,000 had been obtained to defray the expenses of veterans who had served at the siege of

Vicksburg, and who wished to revisit the site and attend a celebration of that victory.

Before the Encampment adjourned, the hospitality of Iowa City, Charles City, and Des Moines was extended to the Iowa Department of the Grand Army for its meeting the following year. Mayor F. K. Stebbins of Iowa City reminded members of the Grand Army that "Iowa City is one of the historic cities of Iowa", and the former "home of the old war governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood", and he expressed the hope that Iowa City might have the honor of entertaining the Iowa Department of the Grand Army the following year. This was not to be, however, for Des Moines was selected as the place of the next Encampment.

At the Forty-fourth Annual Encampment, in 1918, two reports were significant as showing the strength and activities of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army. The report of the Soldiers' Home Committee showed that on April 24, 1918, there were at the Soldiers' Home 458 men and 258 women, and that 462 persons were "on furlough". The largest number present at any one time during the year was on January 12th, when 991 persons were in residence at the Home.

The question of whether the privileges of the Home were being abused by veterans who had sufficient means for self-support, while other more needy comrades were excluded, was one which had confronted the committee. It had been found, however, that in general this was not true and that a very wholesome condition prevailed

throughout the institution. Some of the veterans "who have limited means in a home", the committee said, "can and do make use of such home and garden in the summer time but are obliged to come to the Soldiers' Home for the winter, and are admitted when it is found they have not enough to support themselves during the cold weather".

The report of the Department Chaplain dealt chiefly with activities of members of the Grand Army in holding Memorial services. There were in line of march on Memorial Sunday, he said, 4,107 comrades. Among the speakers engaged throughout the State on that occasion there were five veterans, twenty-five sons of veterans, one grandson of a veteran, and two Spanish War veterans. Two hundred and eighty-nine local Posts within the Iowa Department, it was said, officially observed Memorial Day. On that occasion there were 4,700 comrades, who visited 543 cemeteries and decorated 27,400 graves". In view of recent World War developments the Chaplain recommended that observance of Memorial Day should be so broadened as to include services for "all the soldiers who fall in defense of the flag, whether in time present or time to come."

Coming as it did at a time when the current thought throughout the land was centered upon the activities of the World War, the reports, the speeches, indeed all of the interests of the Encampment of 1918, were affected by and subservient to the impending warfare. Perhaps at no other time in the history of the Grand Army was

so much attention given to veterans of other wars, as in the Encampment of 1918. Thus again was the motto of the Grand Army — Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty — exemplified in the lives and activities of the "Boys of '61".

In 1923, the Annual Department Encampment was held at Fort Dodge. Reports show that at that time there were 220 Posts and a little less than 4000 members of the Grand Army residing in Iowa. More than one-tenth of the entire membership were present at the Encampment. The *Fort Dodge Messenger and Chronicle* in commenting upon this fact said: "Thousands turned backward in Fort Dodge today in mind and spirit when more than 500 veterans of the Union Army cast away their canes, refused seats in automobiles offered them, and embued with the same spirit that sent them to recruiting officers in the sixties, then to Gettysburg, Shiloh and Vicksburg, marched with slowed cadence to the tunes of martial music. It was the forty-ninth annual parade of the Iowa members of the Grand Army of the Republic since Lee surrendered in Appomattox court house." It was a typical Encampment — one in which it was apparent that the "Boys of '61" were becoming more and more feeble with the passing of time.

A study of the records of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army reveals the fact that the First Annual Encampment was held at Keokuk in 1875. Since that time no year has passed without a meeting of the veterans in one of the larger cities of the State. Thus there have been a total of sixty-one annual Department encampments

held in twenty cities of Iowa. Des Moines leads the cities of the State in the number of encampments held, having entertained the veterans at twelve annual meetings. On six occasions encampments were held at Cedar Rapids. At five encampments Marshalltown was host to the Grand Army. Burlington, Dubuque, and Keokuk each entertained the Department at four annual meetings. Davenport, Fort Dodge, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Waterloo each entertained the veterans at three meetings. Council Bluffs and Mason City have each been favored with two encampments. While the cities of Boone, Clinton, Fort Madison, Iowa City, Muscatine, Newton, and Oskaloosa have each had the honor of entertaining one annual encampment. With the passing of more than six decades, the number of veterans who attend encampments has become relatively small, but the honor of entertaining this distinguished remnant of the Grand Army of the Republic increases with each succeeding year.

At the Sixty-first Annual Encampment held at Waterloo, in June, 1935, Assistant Adjutant General John P. Risley reported a membership in the State Department of scarcely two hundred. There were at that time, he said, "12 posts with but one member each; 14 with only three members", and only one Post in the State—Post No. 54 at Cedar Rapids—"with membership in two figures". Despite the reduced numbers and the advanced age of the veterans sixty-two of them attended the encampment. Moreover, those who attended, despite their advanced years, showed the same spirit of patriotism and

loyalty that had been exemplified by members of the Grand Army through the years.

A handful of old men, walking down the village street,  
In worn brushed uniforms, their gray heads high;  
A faded flag above them, one drum to lift their feet —  
Look again, O heart of mine, and see what passes by. . . .

There are strong hands meeting, there are staunch hearts greeting —  
A cry of remembered names, of deeds that shall not die.  
A handful of old men? — Nay, my heart, look well again:  
The spirit of America today is marching by!

Representative of the "Spirit of America" in the decade of the sixties, are many National leaders whose names appear on the pages of history, and more than three score comrades who have served as Commanders of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army. These men came from various walks of life and attained various honors in military service. Some of them came from the ranks, some had been captains, some colonels, and some brigadier generals. But in the Grand Army of the Republic there are no colonels, no majors, no generals, no commodores, no admirals. Rather, every man is a comrade to every other man, and each in his own right has a record worthy of remembrance.

The history of a great organization, like the history of a great Commonwealth, is replete with stories of human interest. Moreover, the history of an organization, like the history of a Commonwealth, may in a large measure be found in the portraits and biographies of its leaders. Appreciative of these facts, it has been the thought of the

surviving members of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic that in these closing years of their activities it would be a fitting tribute to their comrades if portraits and biographical sketches of National leaders and Department Commanders could be preserved. Accordingly, history has been compiled in the form of pictures and biographies to the end that the story of the Grand Army of the Republic may be preserved.

Today the activities of the Grand Army are almost at an end. The "Boys in Blue" are not marching with vigor as once they did. But with determination as of old, all those who "are able to put one foot ahead of the other" refuse to ride in the parade. Though the ranks are thin, the number few, and the footsteps faltering, yet courage prevails, and "hope springs eternal in the human breast". Not all of life is sadness.

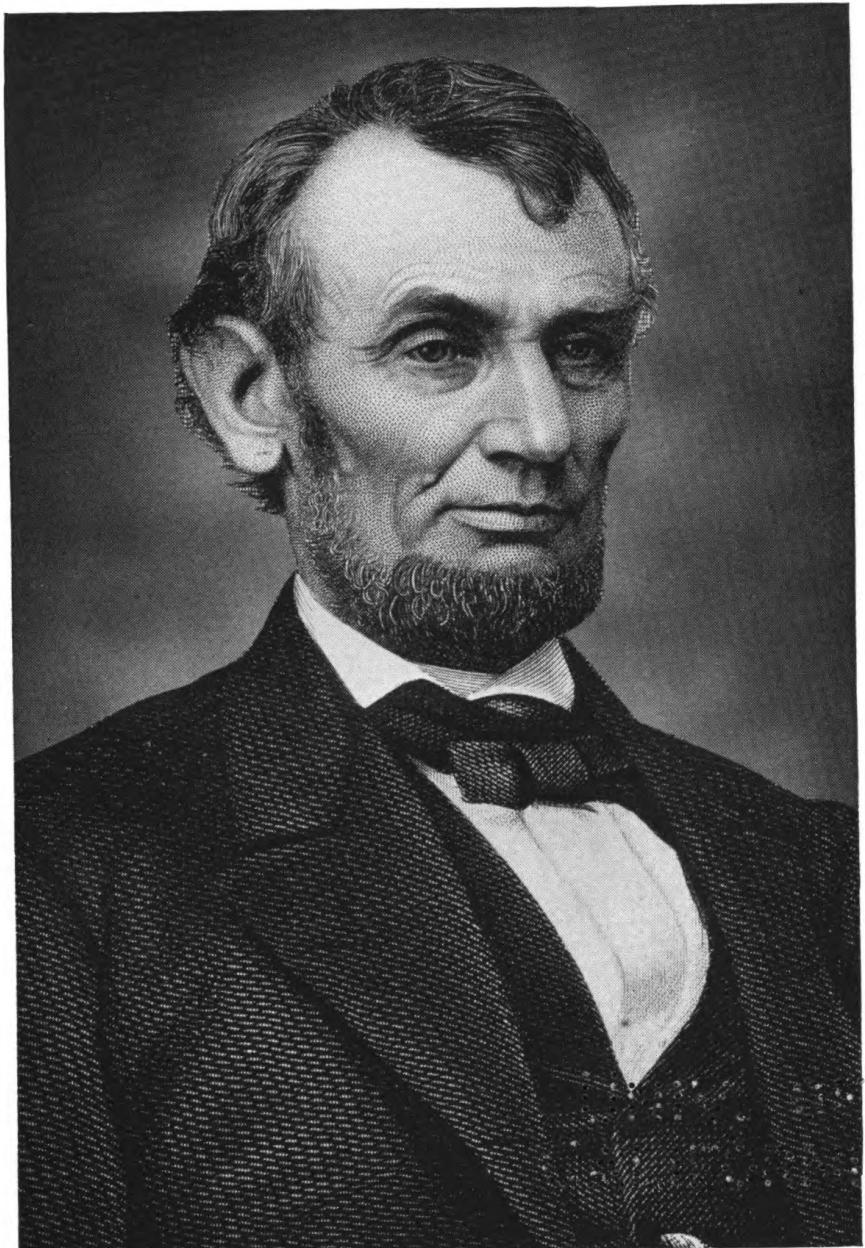
There is, indeed, a rapid mustering out from the ranks of earthly service, but there is also a mustering in to that larger and nobler army that has already made advance into that beautiful country, from which there is no retreat. Time is not far distant when the last soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic will have passed to the great beyond. But the services these men have rendered, the honors they have won, will still live in the minds of those for whom they fought.

Even now memories of the past crowd in upon us. We see, as in the decade of the sixties, young men in line marching to stirring strains of fife and drum. We hear the roar of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the groans

of the dying. Look again! Long lines of troops are marching down Pennsylvania Avenue. The war is over, the boys are coming home. But alas, we look in vain for those who never shall return. Years pass by. We see the "Boys in Blue" in their Grand Army Encampments. Still shoulder to shoulder with firm step they march. They are somewhat older now. Their hair is turning gray, but still they are the same brave boys. Again we look. It is Memorial Day, and we are gathered to pay tribute to those who served in that great war. In the distance, again we hear the strain of fife and drum, but the ranks are thin, and the footsteps faltering. We look again and behold only a "bank of flowers" — a silent tribute to "The Grand Army of the Dead". May the day never come when we shall forget the labors and sacrifices of the "Boys in Blue" and their interest in the Grand Army of the Republic.

## *National Leaders*





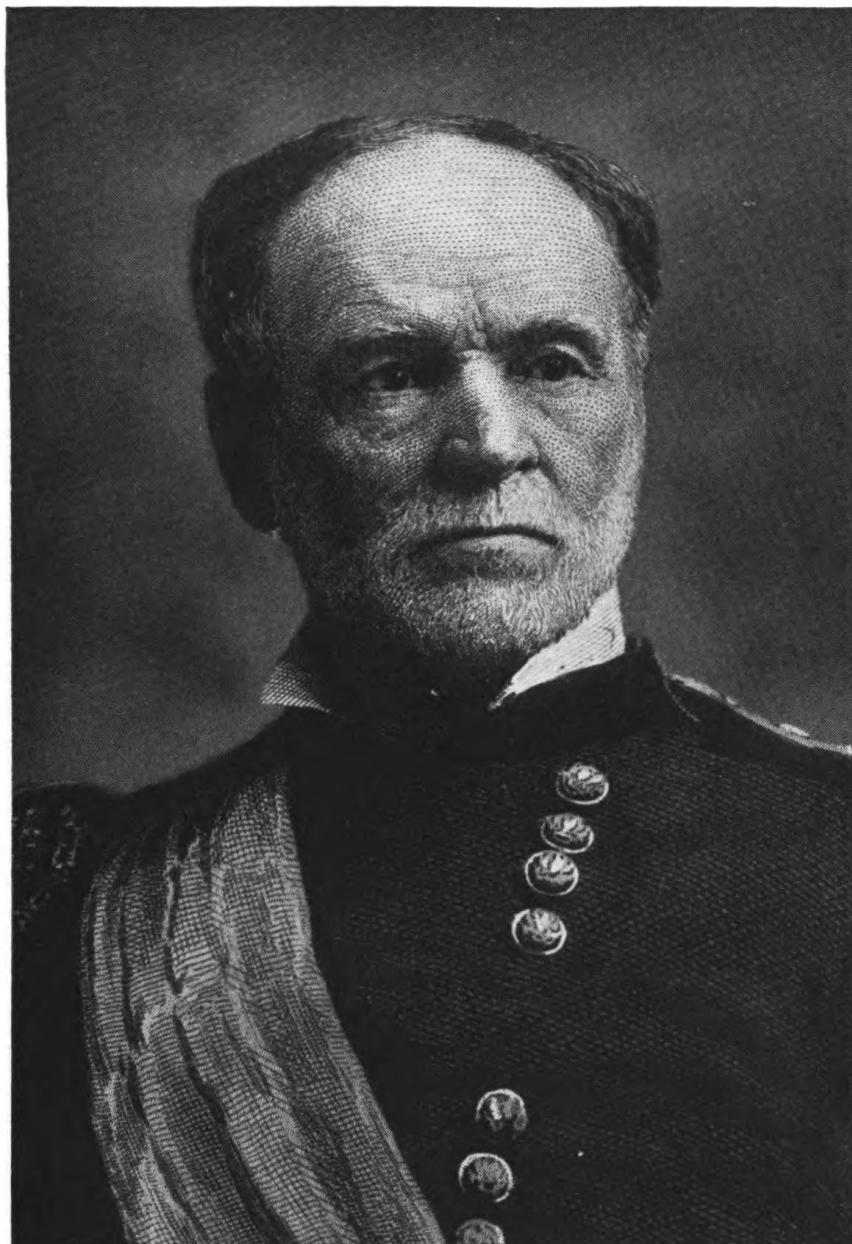
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

[51]



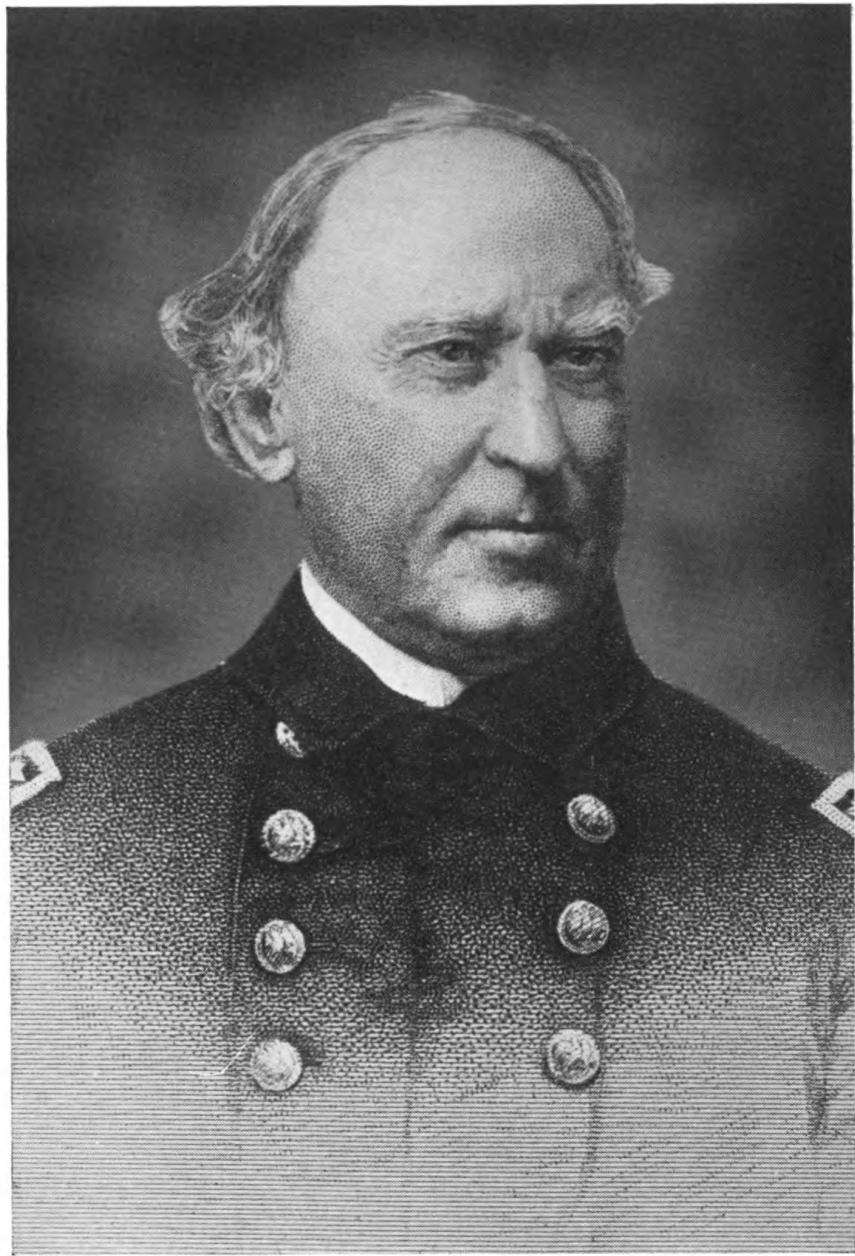
ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT

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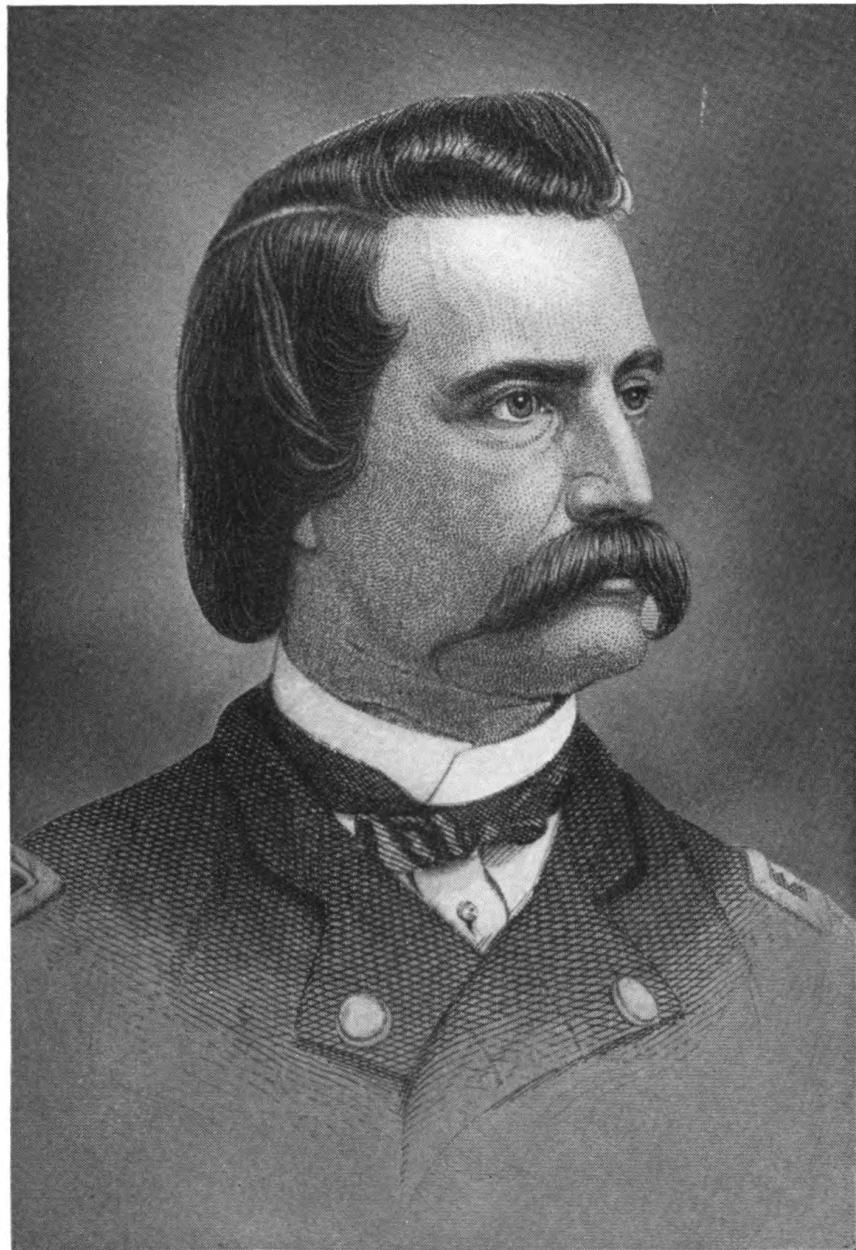
WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN

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DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT

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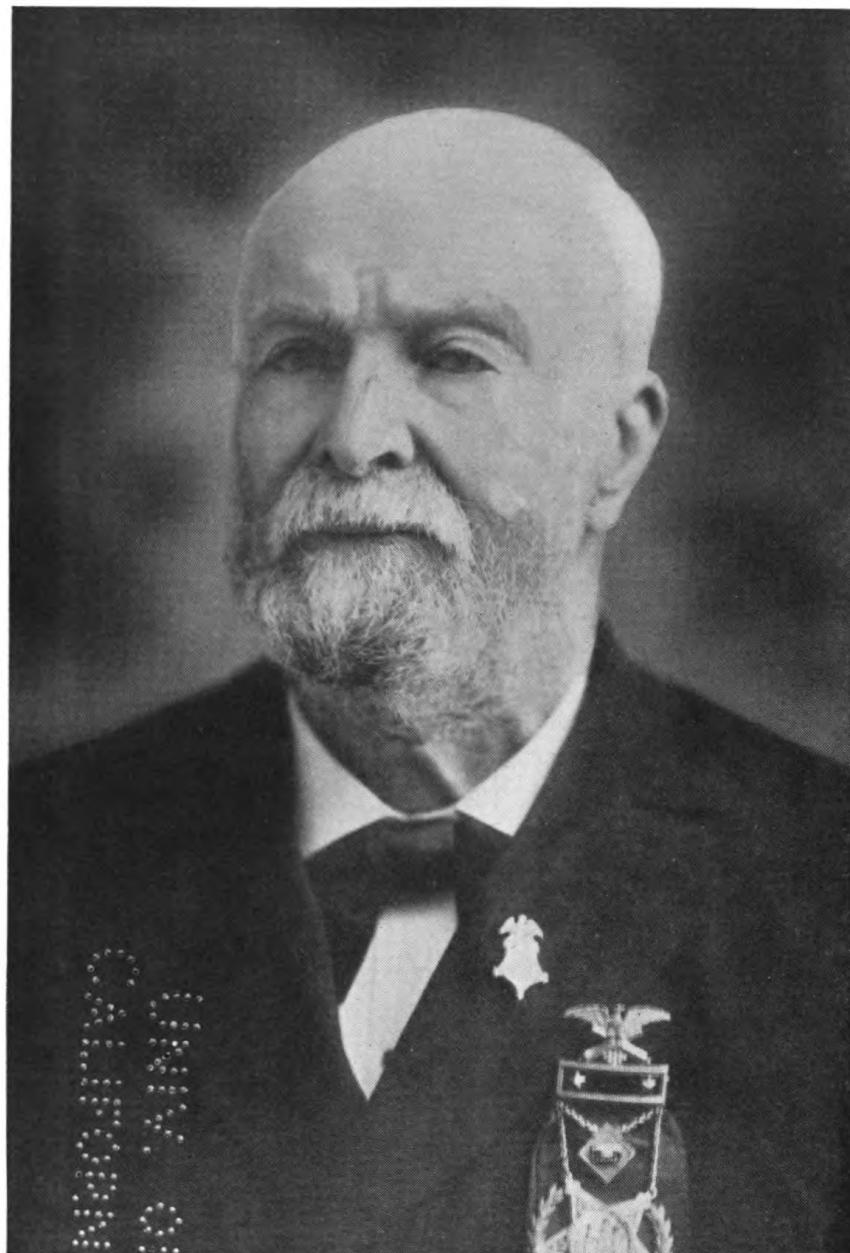
JOHN ALEXANDER LOGAN

[55]



*Commanders  
of the  
Iowa Department  
of the  
Grand Army of the Republic*





JAMES C. PARROTT, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, FROM FEB. 1874 TO JAN. 1876

[58]

## JAMES C. PARROTT

A veteran among veterans, a patriot and a true soldier, James C. Parrott lived to attain the age of eighty-seven — his span of life extending from May 21, 1811, to October 17, 1898.

Parrott was born at Easton, Maryland. As a youth he enlisted in the First United States Dragoons. In this capacity he served at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, and at Fort Des Moines, in Lee County, Iowa. Following this service he engaged in the mercantile business at Keokuk until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he became active in recruiting troops, enlisted in Company E, Seventh Iowa Infantry, and became captain of the company.

He was wounded at the Battle of Belmont, served at Fort Donelson and Shiloh, was wounded again at Corinth, went with Sherman on his march to the sea, and marched with troops at Washington in the Grand Review at the close of the war. He was mustered from service on March 13, 1865, and for "gallant and meritorious service" was given the rank of lieutenant colonel, and at the close of the war he was brevetted brigadier general.

In April, 1867, Colonel Parrott was appointed Postmaster at Keokuk — a position which he filled until March, 1879. He was one of the chief supporters of the Grand Army of the Republic during the early years of its development in Iowa, and in 1874-1875 served as Department Commander.

[59]



**ALBERT AYLETTE PERKINS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, SEPT. 1876 TO JAN. 1879**

[60]

## ALBERT AYLETTE PERKINS

Albert Aylette Perkins, a native of Rushville, Illinois, was born on January 22, 1839. He lived to attain the age of seventy-seven years, and died at Los Angeles, California, on May 20, 1916.

Perkins came to Burlington, Iowa, in the early forties, and resided there until the outbreak of the Civil War. In August, 1862, he entered service as lieutenant of Company D, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry. Later he was made captain, and in June, 1865, for meritorious service in the field he was brevetted major of United States Volunteers. As an executive officer he was signally successful. In the campaigns and on the battlefields he displayed untiring energy and was distinguished for his bravery.

At the close of the war Major Perkins returned to Burlington and engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1891, when he moved to Denver, Colorado. Later he rendered service in government land offices in Denver, Lewiston, Idaho, Bozeman, Montana, and Los Angeles, California.

He was a charter member of Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, at Burlington, and in 1876 he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. Loyal, faithful, and brave, he was a true veteran in war and peace.



HURLBUT EDWARD GRISWOLD, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JAN. 1879 TO FEB. 1880

[62]

## HURLBUT EDWARD GRISWOLD

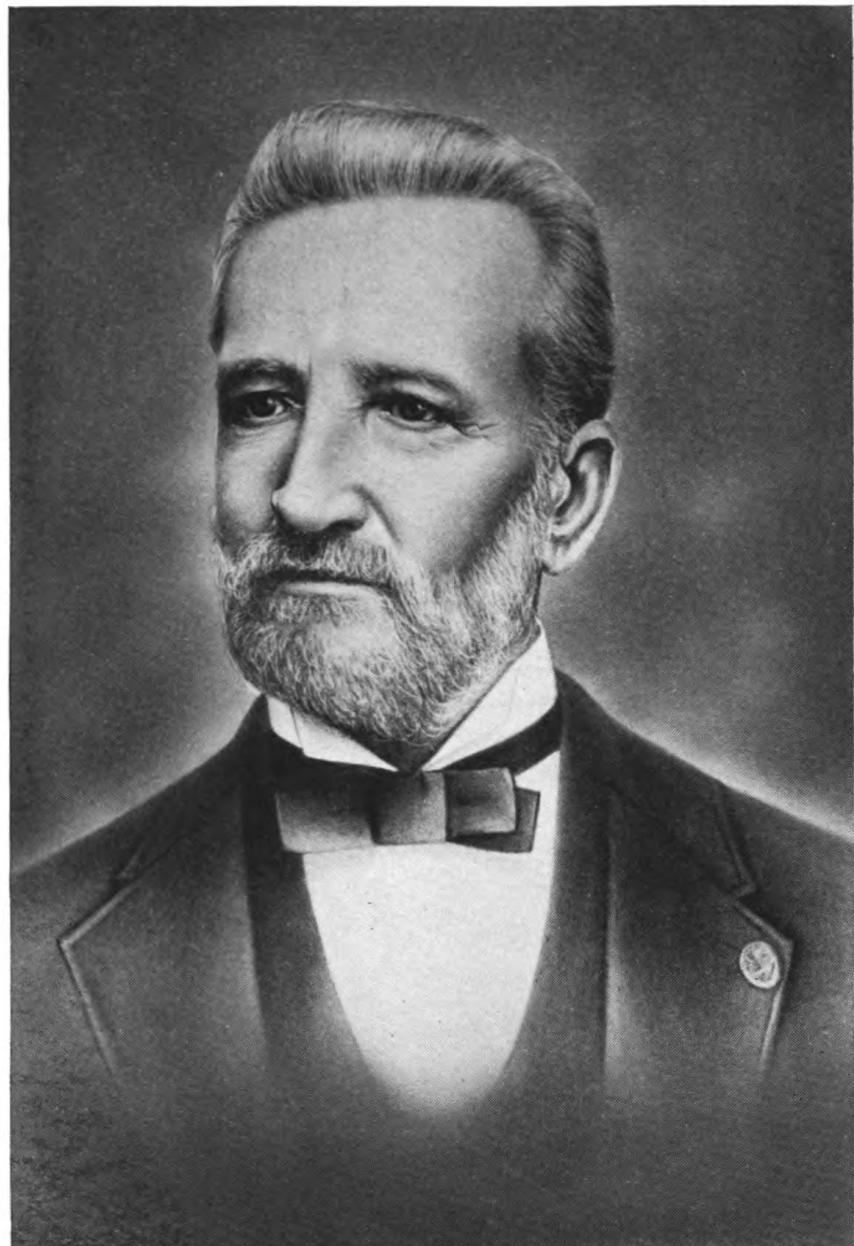
Among the early members of Sam Rice Post No. 6, at Atlantic, Iowa, few men were more active or more faithful than Hurlbut E. Griswold. He was the first Post Commander, and was twice reelected to that office. In 1878, he was appointed Senior Vice Commander of the Iowa Department. The following year, when the reorganization of the Iowa Department was completed, he was elected Department Commander.

Griswold was born in Hancock County, Illinois, on April 12th, 1842. At the age of twenty he enlisted as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth Illinois Infantry, where he served for thirty-four months and until the close of the war.

As a strong advocate of the Grand Army of the Republic and the principles for which it stood, Commander Griswold did much to build up membership in the organization. The Grand Army, he said, was designed "to preserve and strengthen the kind and fraternal feelings which bind together soldiers and marines who united to suppress the rebellion; to assist our needy and destitute comrades in arms, and the widows and orphans of those whose ties with us were welded in the fire of battle". It was Commander Griswold, too, who received and welcomed ex-President Grant, at Council Bluffs in 1879.

Mr. Griswold died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Keokuk, on September 19, 1908, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Hamilton, Illinois.

[63]



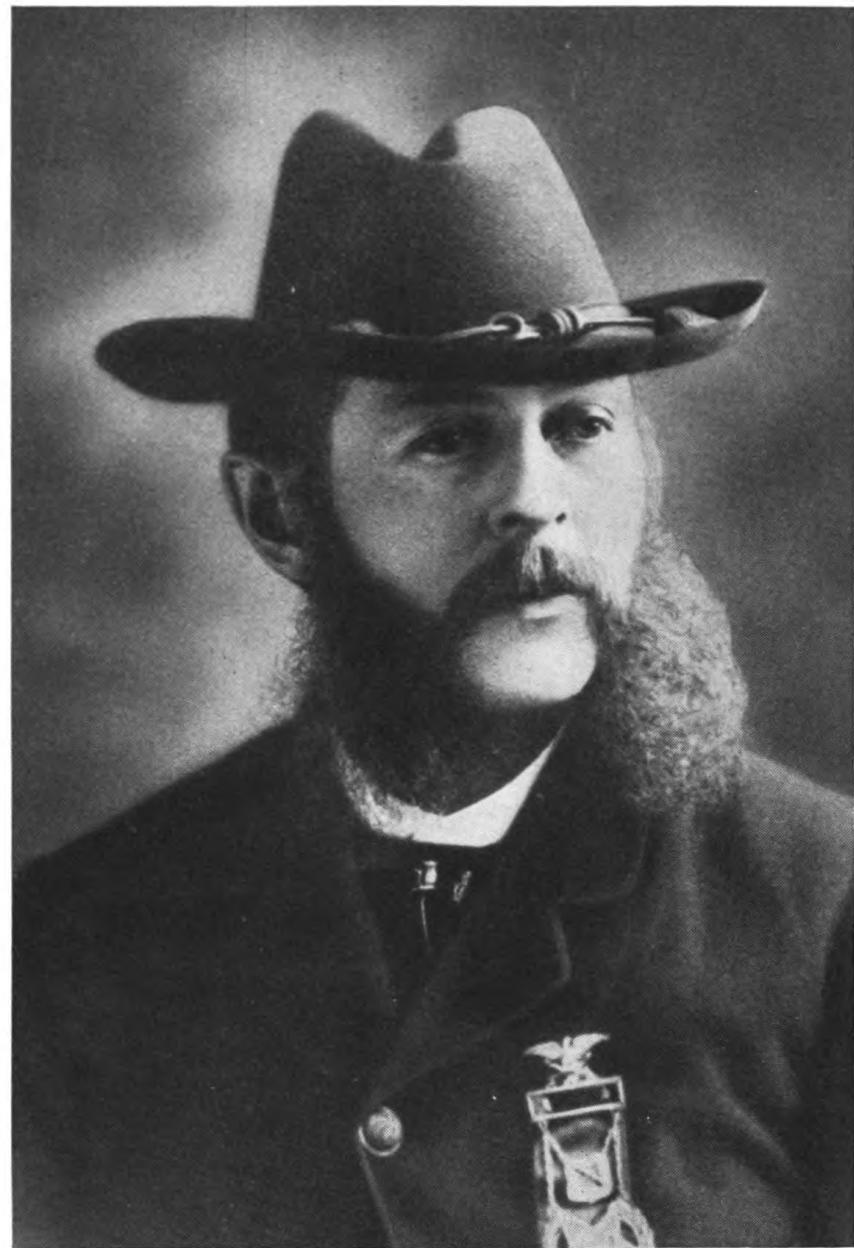
WILLIAM FITCH CONRAD, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, FROM FEB. 1880 TO JAN. 1881

[64]

## WILLIAM FITCH CONRAD

William Fitch Conrad was born at Ithaca, New York, on November 7, 1826, and died at Des Moines on December 20, 1901. As a young man he studied law in New York and Mississippi. He was admitted to the bar in 1855 and moved to Burlington, Iowa, where he engaged in the practice of his profession until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private in Company G, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He was soon promoted to sergeant major, then to first lieutenant of Company K. Before his commission as lieutenant had been received, he was elected captain of his own company. On May 24, 1863, near Vicksburg, he was captured by the Confederates and taken to Libby Prison where he was held for almost a year. Transferred to other prisons he was held until November 28, 1864, when he eluded the guards and started for the Union lines. For forty days he was "in the wilderness", but finally, on January 7, 1865, he reached the Union lines near Knoxville, Tennessee.

At the close of the war, Captain Conrad again took up the practice of law, going with his family to Canton, Missouri. There he remained until 1876, when he became a resident of Des Moines. In 1886 he was elected Judge of the Ninth Judicial District of Iowa — a position which he held until the end of his career. He served as Department Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1880.



PETER V. CAREY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JAN. 1881 TO FEB. 1882

[66]

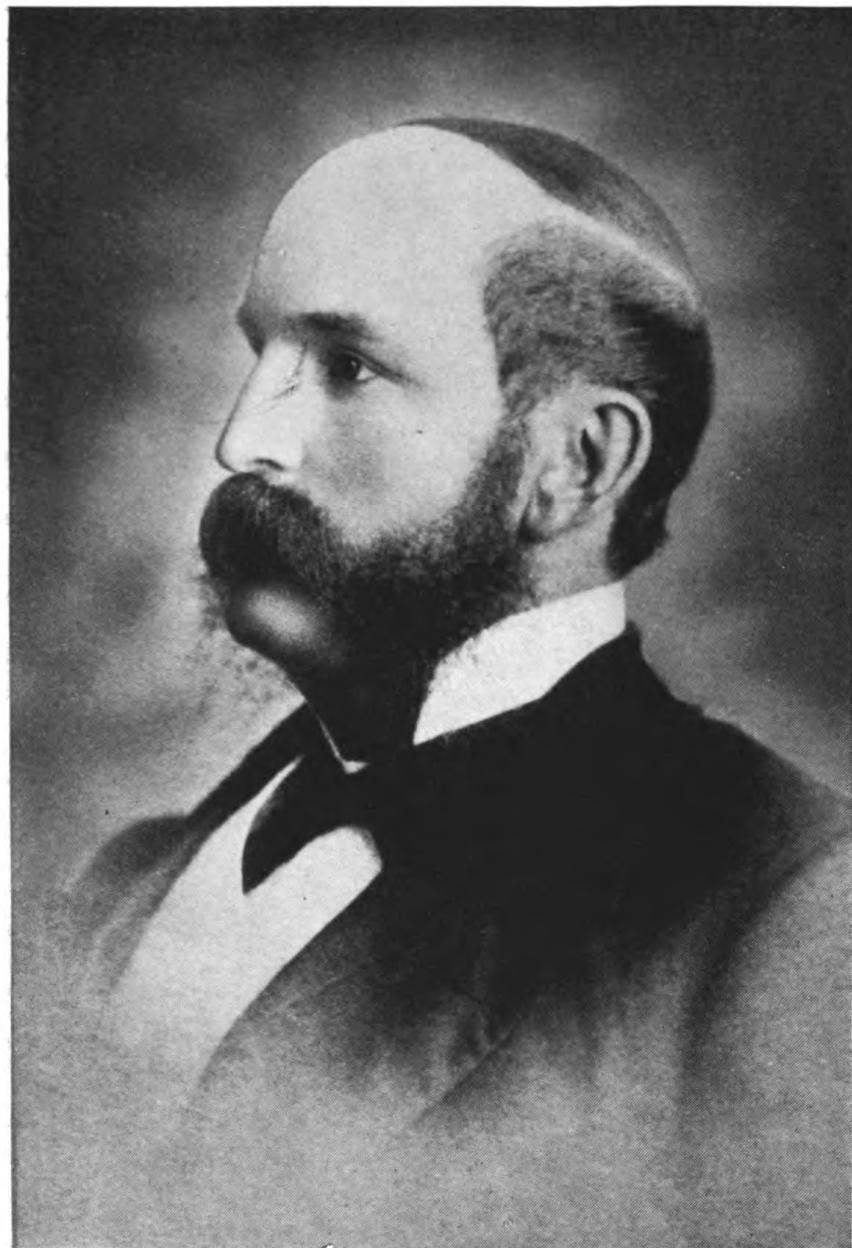
## PETER V. CAREY

Peter V. Carey, a native of New York, was born on May 17, 1844. He received a common school education and as a youth learned the trade of a millwright. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in Company K, Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery. During the winter of 1862 and 1863, he was detailed on recruiting service, and in March, 1864, was promoted to the captaincy of his original company. He was wounded six times, but remained in service until the fall of 1864.

Upon his return from the war he engaged in business in New York, and later in Pennsylvania, and Illinois. In 1875 he came to Iowa, locating at Des Moines where he engaged in the implement business. In 1882 and again in 1884 he was elected Mayor of Des Moines, serving in that capacity for four years. In 1889 he entered the insurance business — a vocation which he followed until the end of his career.

In January, 1881, Comrade Carey was elected Commander of the Iowa Department of the G.A.R. While serving in that capacity he assisted in organizing the Department of Dakota. He was one of the first members of Kinsman Post of East Des Moines, was four times Post Commander of Joe Hooker Post, and after the consolidation of that Post with Crocker Post No. 12, he continued an active member of the organization. A veteran and son of a veteran he was always and everywhere a true soldier.

[67]



GEORGE B. HOGIN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, FROM FEB. 1882 TO APRIL 1883

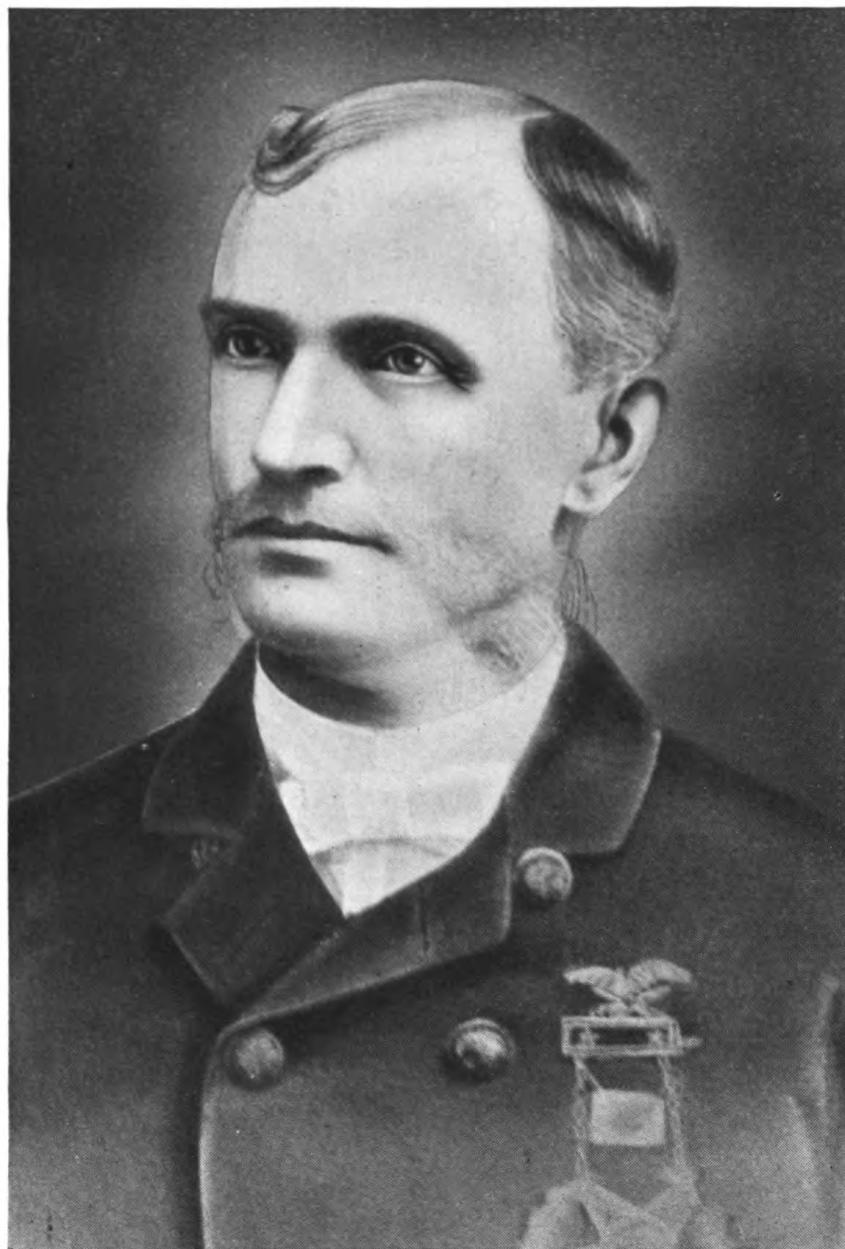
[68]

## GEORGE B. HOGIN

George B. Hogin, Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1882, was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 8, 1837, and moved to Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1850. He enlisted as a private in Company D, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry in October, 1861, and the same month was promoted to commissary sergeant. He was later promoted through the grades of second and first lieutenants, and in November, 1862, was made captain of the company in which he enlisted. In May, 1864, he was discharged because of disabilities, and upon his reënlistment he was made paymaster with the rank of major.

Major Hogin was the first Commander of Garrett Post No. 16, at Newton. At the Department Encampment in 1880 he was elected Senior Vice Commander and the following year was unanimously elected Department Commander. His administration was a very aggressive and successful one, in which there was a gain of eighty-seven Posts and thirty-five hundred members. He was also active in other fraternal and civic affairs and served always for the best interests of the larger groups.

Major Hogin died in Chicago, Illinois, on February 6, 1895, at the age of fifty-eight.



JOHN B. COOKE, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1883 TO APRIL 1884

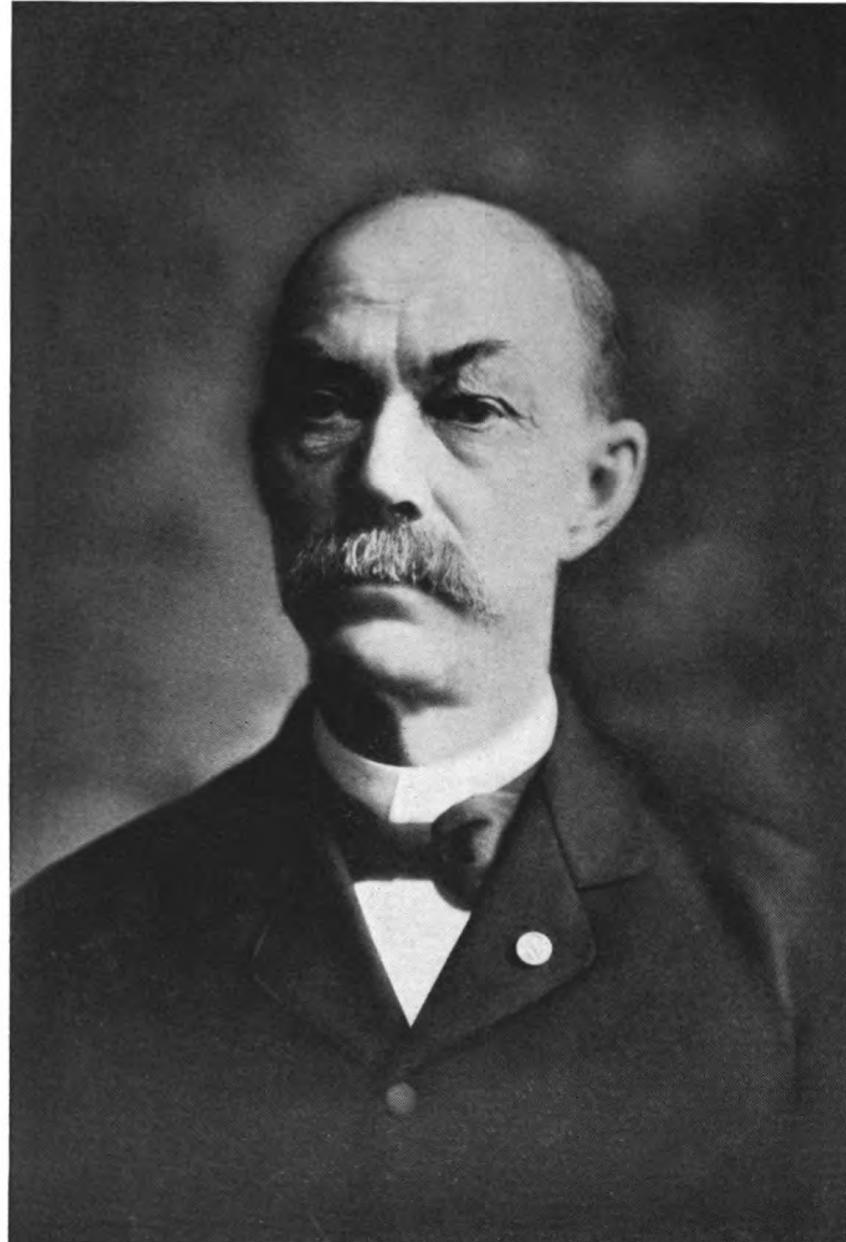
[70]

## JOHN B. COOKE

John B. Cooke was born in Connecticut, on December 30, 1839. As a young man he lived at Lewiston, Maine, and in April, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, First Maine Infantry. In August of that year he was transferred to Company K, Seventh Maine Infantry. Soon he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, and later he became captain of Company I of the same regiment. He was in service at the siege of Yorktown, and at the battles of Williamsburg, Mechanicsville, Fair Oaks, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. In January, 1864, he was appointed major of the Twenty-second United States Colored Troops. Later he was promoted to the rank of colonel and served with the Fifth United States Colored Troops. He was twice wounded in service.

At the close of the war he located in North Carolina, and during the years 1868, 1869, 1870, he was a member of the North Carolina State Senate. In 1872 he moved to Iowa, locating at Carroll where he conducted an extensive agricultural implement business. He was a charter member and the first Commander of the J. C. Davis Grand Army Post, at Carroll. At the Ninth Annual Encampment, held at Des Moines in 1883, Colonel Cooke was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. Never entirely recovering from wounds received in battle, he died on October 15, 1892, before he attained the age of fifty-four.

[71]



EDWARD G. MILLER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1884 TO APRIL 1885

[72]

## EDWARD G. MILLER

On Memorial Day, 1906, while friends were strewing the graves of comrades with flowers, and before the echoes of the guns of the firing squads had died away, Edward G. Miller suddenly passed away. Miller was born at Cornish, Maine, on September 3, 1840. He came west with his parents in 1851 and settled in Wisconsin, where in 1861 he enlisted in the three months service, under Lincoln's first call for volunteers. Later he reënlisted, organized Company G, Twentieth Wisconsin Infantry, and was unanimously elected captain.

When the war was over he returned to the west and settled in Black Hawk County, Iowa. Recognizing his ability and patriotism, the Republican party elected him to the office of Senator in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies. Always interested in education, Senator Miller drew up and advocated the passage of the bill which established the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls. Soon after the close of the Civil War a building had been erected at Cedar Falls for a Soldiers' Orphans' Home. It was Senator Miller who first suggested that this building be converted into a college building, and so it was.

A charter member of Robert Anderson Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Captain Miller was elected Commander of the Iowa Department in 1884. Having served faithfully in that high office, he retained his interest in the Grand Army to the end of his long career.



WILLIAM R. MANNING, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1885 TO APRIL 1886

[74]

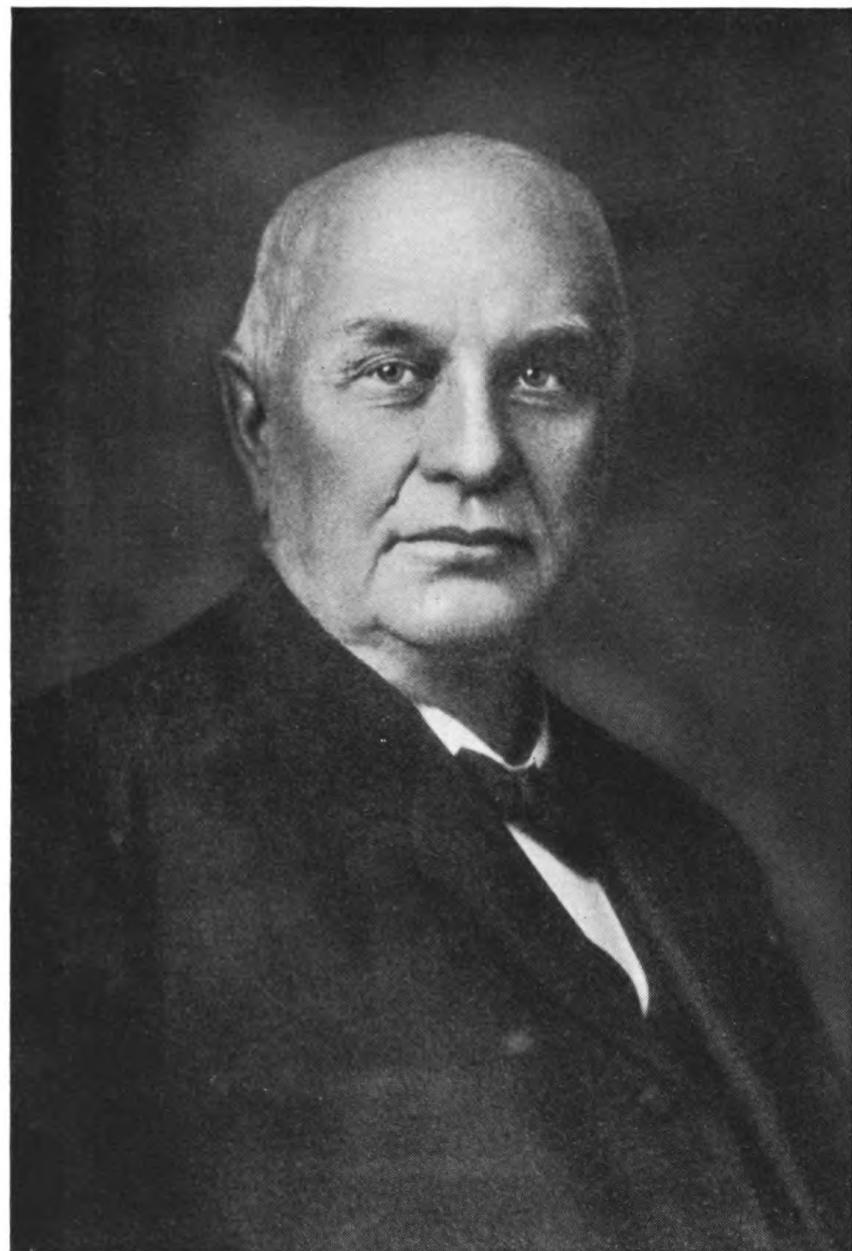
## WILLIAM R. MANNING

At the Eleventh Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Davenport in April, 1885, William R. Manning, of Newton, was elected Department Commander. Manning was a native of Nashville, Tennessee, where he was born on February 11, 1841. He came to Iowa with his parents in 1854.

In August, 1861, he enlisted as first sergeant in Company I, Tenth Iowa Infantry. In March of the following year, he was promoted to the office of first lieutenant. Later he served as adjutant of his regiment and rendered gallant service, particularly at the battles of Iuka and Corinth.

For many years Mr. Manning conducted a grain and lumber business at Newton. By careful management he accumulated an ample competence for his later years. He was for many years active in Grand Army circles and seldom failed to attend annual encampments. He was a member of Garrett Post No. 16.

Because of impaired health he spent the winters during the latter years of his life in Jacksonville, Florida. It was there in the beautiful land of flowers, that he quietly came to the end of the way on March 12, 1912.



WILLIAM A. MCHENRY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1886 TO APRIL 1887

[76]

## WILLIAM A. McHENRY

W. A. McHenry was born at Almond, New York, on March 6, 1841. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company L, Eighth Illinois Cavalry. This company was attached to the Army of the Potomac and was in many important battles. While in service, McHenry had two horses shot from under him. He captured a number of prisoners and on various occasions narrowly escaped death. He was promoted to the rank of first sergeant and was recommended for an appointment as lieutenant, but the war closed before the commission was executed.

At the close of the war, McHenry located at Denison, Iowa, where he was one of the substantial business men for many years. He affiliated with Root Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in 1882, and four years later he was elected Department Commander. He was indeed a "Grand Army Man" of the first order. A comrade in need or wishing advice always found in him a helpful and sympathetic friend. Thus he lived, and thus on November 28, 1921, his career was ended.



JAMES MADISON TUTTLE, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1887 TO APRIL 1888

[78]

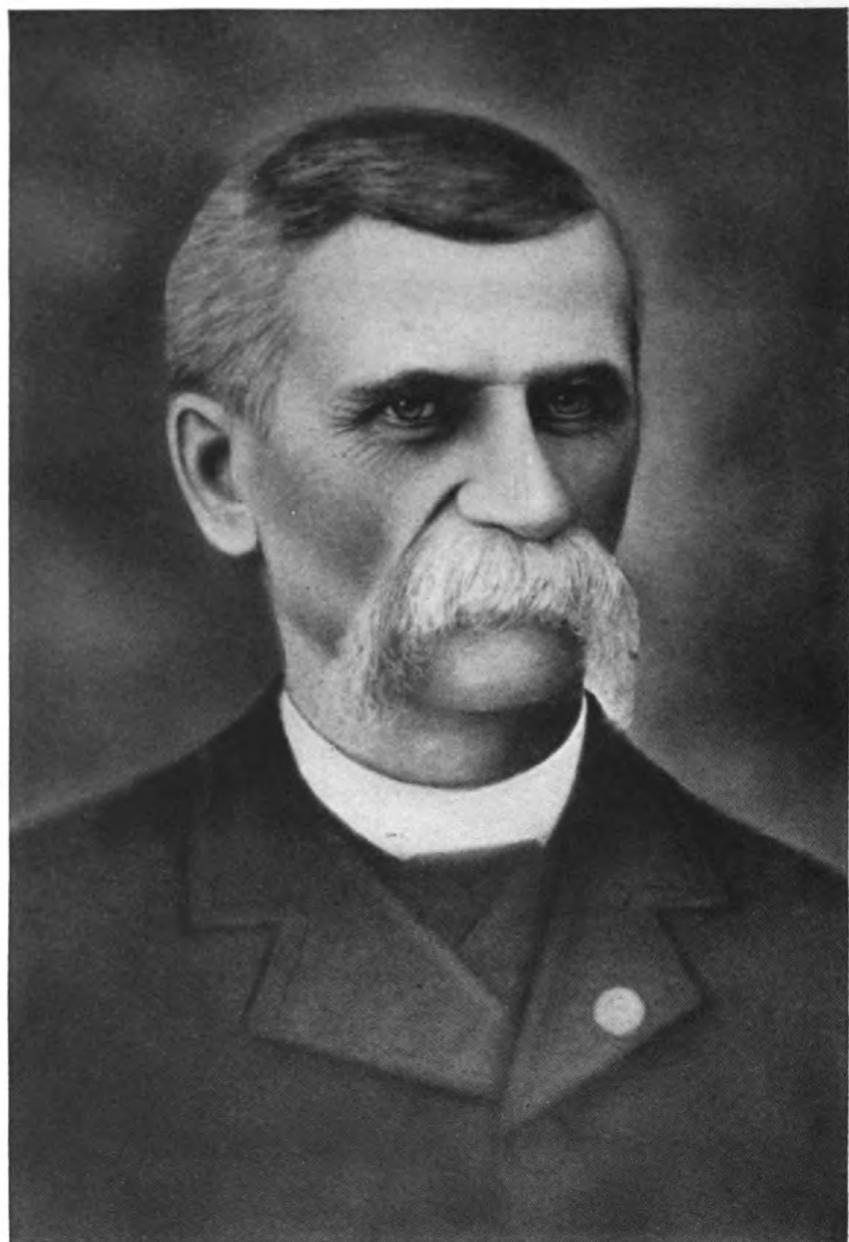
## JAMES MADISON TUTTLE

James M. Tuttle was one of the most conspicuous officers among the Iowa volunteers. He was born in Summerfield, Ohio, on September 24, 1823. Coming to Iowa in 1846 he located in Van Buren County. There he served for six years in various offices, and when the Civil War broke out he organized a company and was made lieutenant colonel of the Second Iowa Infantry. In September, 1861, he was promoted to the office of colonel. At the Battle of Fort Donelson he led the Second Iowa Infantry "in the thickest of the fight and it was the first to pierce the enemy's lines". At the Battle of Shiloh his troops "fought most gallantly at the 'Hornet's Nest' ". As a result, Colonel Tuttle was promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

In 1863 General Tuttle was the Democratic nominee for Governor, but was defeated by Colonel William M. Stone, the Republican candidate. In 1866 Tuttle was Democratic candidate for Congress but was unsuccessful. In 1872 he was elected by the Democratic party to the House of Representatives in the Fourteenth General Assembly of Iowa. Later he became a Republican and was elected to the Twentieth General Assembly.

In 1887 at the Annual Encampment at Dubuque, General Tuttle was elected Department Commander. In this as in all other stations in life he was a faithful and loyal servant. He came to the end of his career on October 24, 1892.

[79]



EUGENE A. CONSIGNY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1888 TO APRIL 1889.

[80]

## EUGENE A. CONSIGNY

One of the soldiers who witnessed Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and one of the members of that magnificent host that marched up Pennsylvania Avenue at the close of the war was Eugene A. Consigny. Born on May 15, 1841, in what is now the province of Quebec, Canada, he moved at an early date to the State of Vermont, and during the second year of the Civil War he enlisted in the First Vermont Volunteer Cavalry. By virtue of his fine soldierly qualities and business ability he steadily advanced in rank until at the close of the war he was mustered out as adjutant with the rank of major. He was an active participant in many of the great battles of the war — Fairfax Courthouse, Lynchburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Five Forks.

For a quarter of a century he was a resident of Iowa and a zealous worker in the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the Fourteenth Annual Encampment held at Cedar Rapids in 1888 he was elected Department Commander — an office which he filled with honor and profit to the Department. For many years he was a prominent resident and business man — a dealer in grain and operator of mills — at Avoca in Pottawattamie County. It was at Manitou, Colorado, however, that he came to the end of his career, in August, 1900.



CHARLES H. SMITH, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1889 TO APRIL 1890

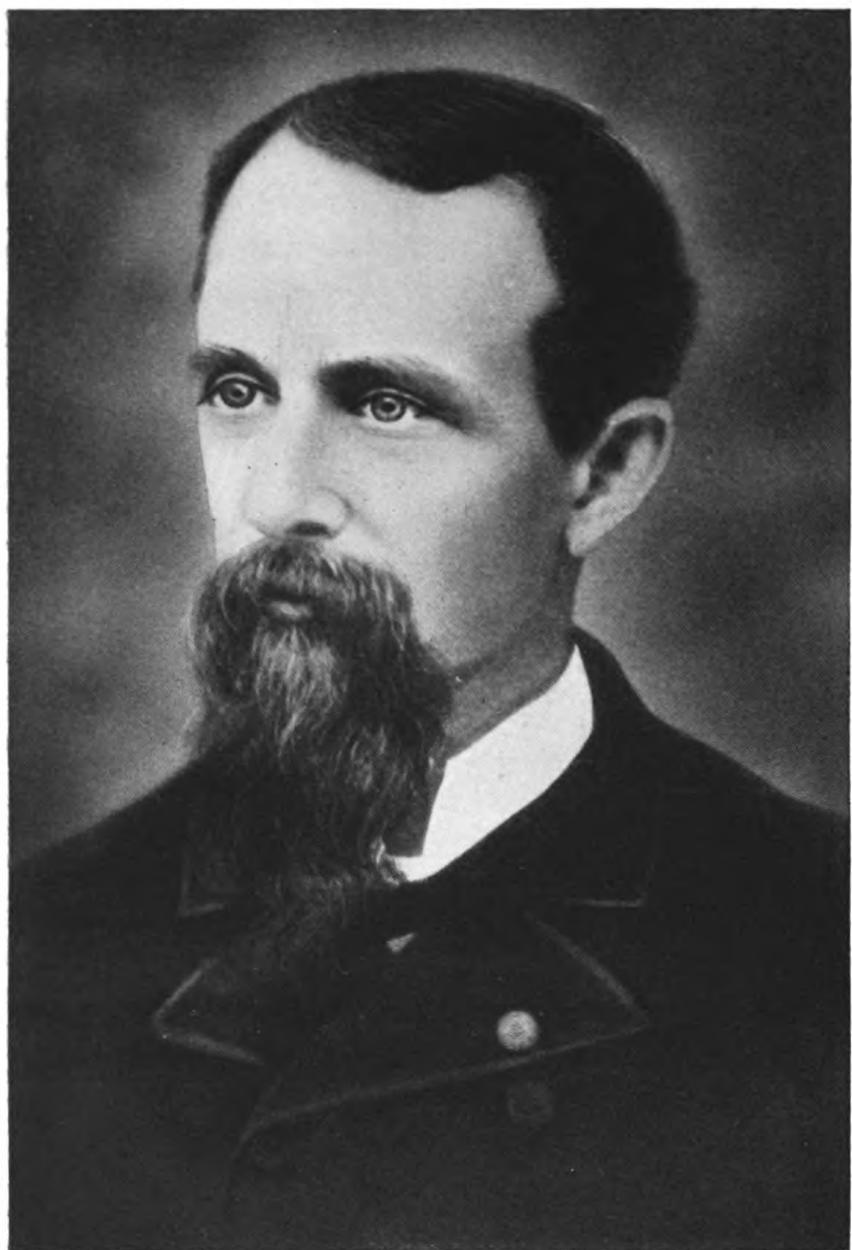
[82]

## CHARLES H. SMITH

Charles H. Smith, a native of Ohio, and a resident of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, enlisted as a private in Company C, Fourth Iowa Cavalry in September, 1862, at the age of 19. On May 19, 1865, he was promoted to second lieutenant of his company and he served in that capacity to the end of the war. He was with his regiment in the Vicksburg campaign of 1863. Captured near Granada, Mississippi, in 1863 and imprisoned in a log schoolhouse, he escaped, mounted the captain's horse and rode 200 miles to the Union lines and to safety. In 1864 he saw service in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri, and was in Wilson's cavalry campaign in Alabama and Georgia in 1865.

After the war, Smith engaged in business at Mount Pleasant, and became a partner in and manager of the Western Wheel Scraper Works — a business that prospered greatly.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 20, at Mount Pleasant. At the Annual Encampment at Burlington in 1889 he was named Department Commander — an office which he filled with honor to himself and his comrades. He died at Aurora, Illinois, on September 25, 1910.



MASON P. MILLS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1890 TO APRIL 1891

[84]

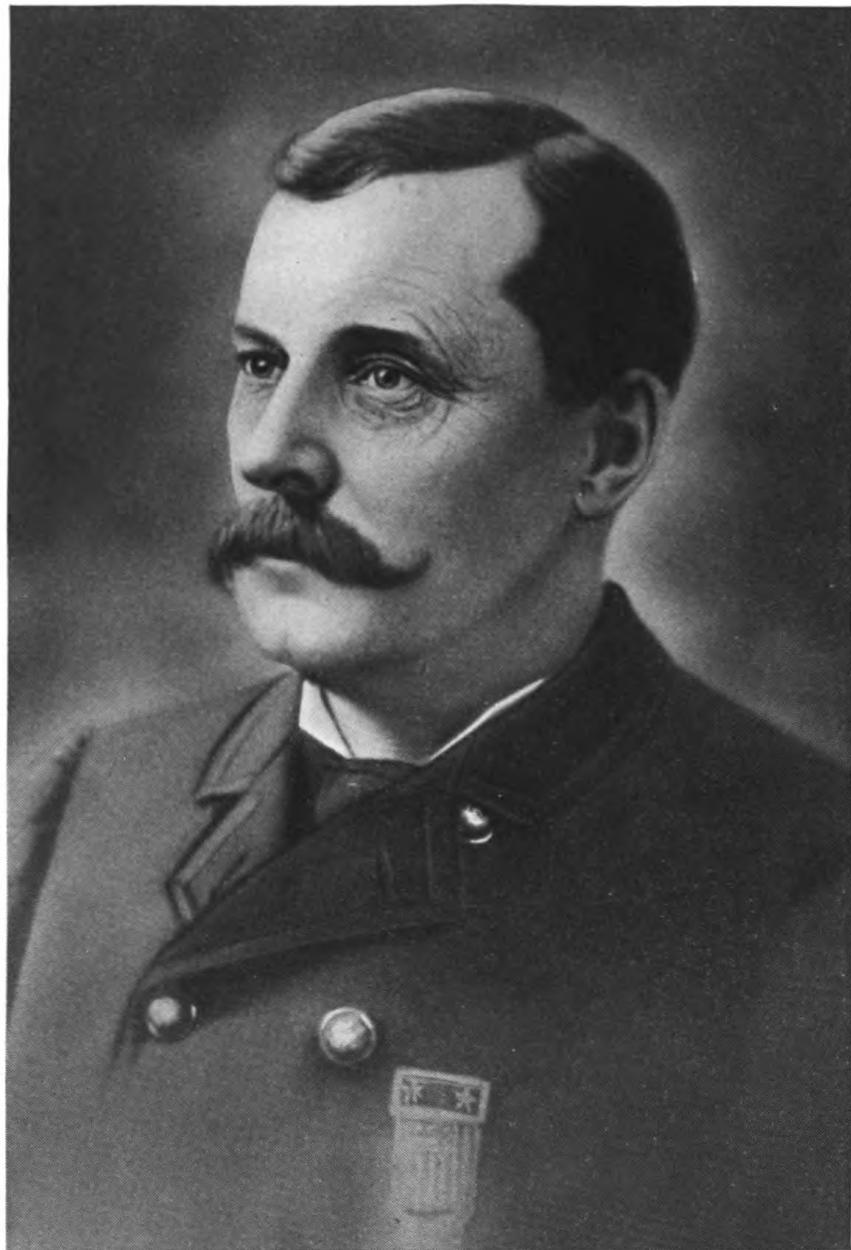
## MASON P. MILLS

"The life of this soldier, lawyer and citizen was a noble example of the best there is in American citizenship; his death a public calamity". Such were the words expressed when, in July, 1896, Mason P. Mills came to the end of his active but relatively brief career.

Born at East Windsor, Connecticut, on January 15, 1843, Mills came to Iowa as a youth, and in 1861 he was a student at Upper Iowa University at Fayette. At the first call for troops he left the classroom, went to Washington, and enlisted in a squadron of cavalry known as McClellan's Dragoons. Thus he served as a guard to General George B. McClellan until the winter of 1863 when his squadron was ordered to Chicago and made part of the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry.

He was in service at Yorktown, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and in the seven days fight before Richmond, and was a member of the Red River expedition under General Nathaniel P. Banks.

In 1867 he located in Cedar Rapids and engaged in the practice of law. In 1890 he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, and all through the years that followed he was an enthusiastic worker for the cause of the veteran.



CHARLES L. DAVIDSON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1891 TO MAY 1892

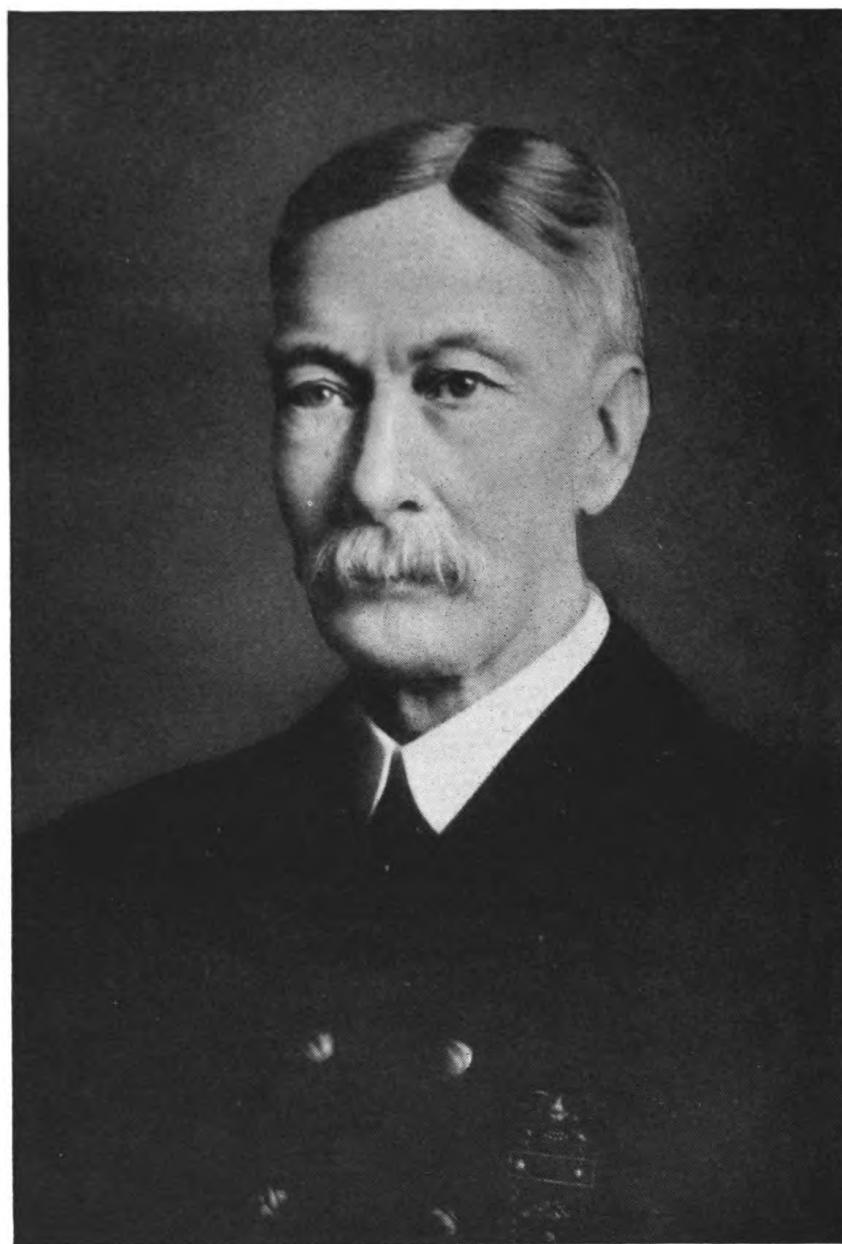
[86]

## CHARLES L. DAVIDSON

Charles L. Davidson was a native of Ohio, who came to Iowa at an early age and located in Washington County. In 1862, at the age of eighteen, he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry. In March, 1864, he was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps where he served until July, 1865.

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Grand Army at Dubuque in 1891, Comrade Davidson, then a resident of Hull, Iowa, was selected as Department Commander. Few men have endeared themselves to their comrades more completely during their term of office as Commander than did Mr. Davidson, and few Commanders have been more highly praised than he at the end of his career in March, 1898.

Past Department Commander Josiah Given said of him: "He was a brave soldier, he was a model citizen, he was a public officer that executed his duties, so that he rose even beyond suspicion; he was a Comrade true to every teaching of fraternity and of charity; loyal to friends, loyal to country and loyal to citizenship".



JOHN J. STEADMAN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1892 TO APRIL 1893

[88]

## JOHN J. STEADMAN

John J. Steadman was born in Ohio, acquired wealth in Iowa, and retired in California.

Born in the home of a Methodist minister in Ashtabula County, Ohio, on April 4, 1849, he was scarcely three years old when his father died. Despite this loss of support, he attended the public schools at West Farmington, Ohio, working at odd jobs to pay expenses. Although he was a mere youth when the Civil War began, after some delay, he was accepted as a drummer in the One Hundred and Seventy-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

The war at an end, he returned to his studies — graduating from Mt. Union College at Alliance, Ohio, in the class of 1869. In 1873 he came to Iowa and became editor and manager of the *Osceola Sentinel*. Four years later he purchased the *Creston Gazette*, and in 1884 he purchased an interest in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*.

For many years Comrade Steadman was active in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in Abe Lincoln Post No. 29, at Council Bluffs. At the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, held at Ottumwa in 1892, he was elected Department Commander. From 1892 to 1902 he was Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

In recent years Comrade Steadman has lived in California, where for ten years he served as a member of the Board of Education for the City of Los Angeles. There he still resides at the age of eighty-six.



PHILIP SCHALLER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1893 TO JUNE 1894

[90]

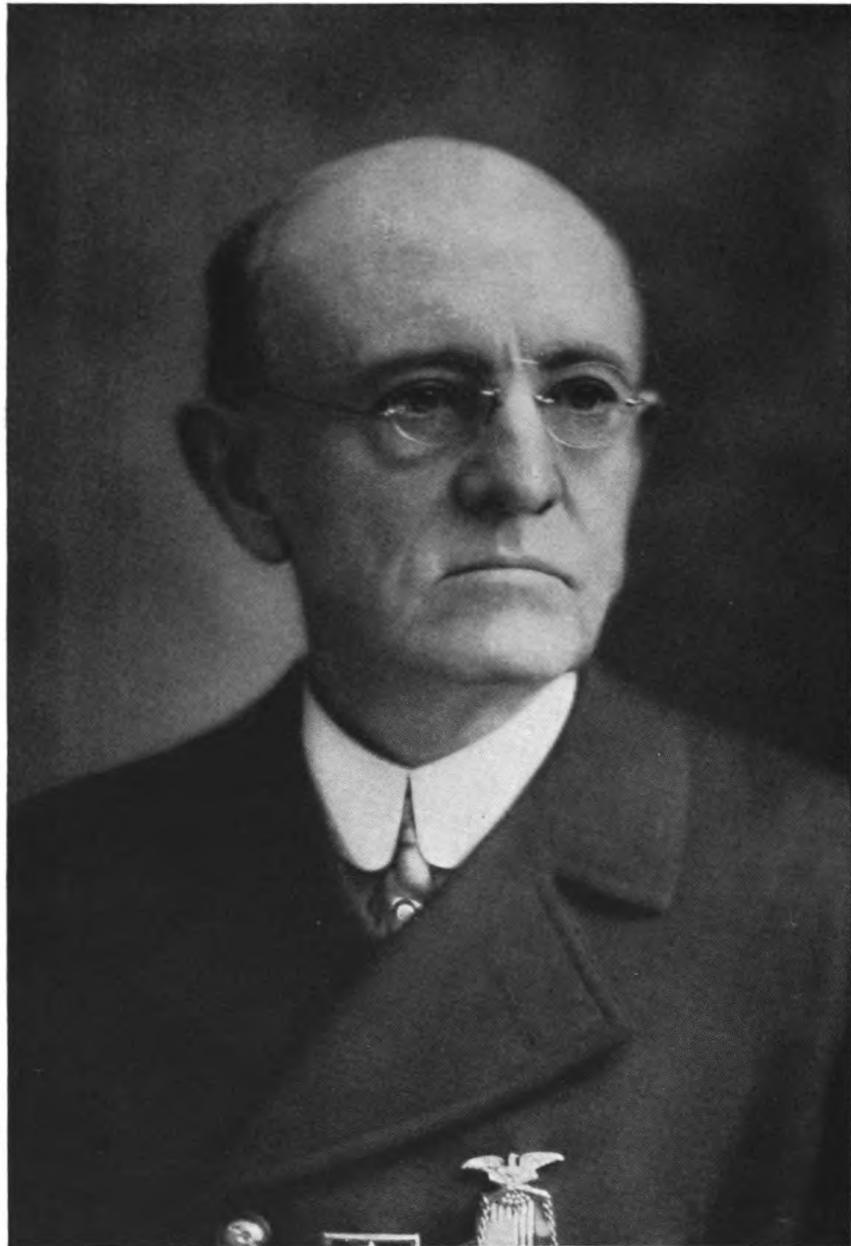
## PHILIP SCHALLER

"Phil" Schaller, as he was commonly known to his comrades, was of German nativity, but was quite as loyal to the Union Army and to the Grand Army of the Republic as were his native-born American comrades. Born in the Fatherland on January 6, 1838, he came to America at an early age and in May, 1859, became a naturalized citizen.

He was a sergeant in Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry where he served until the close of the war. When he was mustered from service he returned to his former home in Clayton County. In 1872, however, he moved to Sac County and became one of the prominent and substantial businessmen of Sac City. He served on the board of supervisors of Sac County, was county treasurer for eight years, was a member of the Twenty-first General Assembly, and served for two terms as Mayor of Sac City.

Mr. Schaller was for many years active and zealous in promoting the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was the "dominating spirit" of the local Post at Sac City, and in 1893 became Department Commander — an office to which he gave much time and valuable service.

Throughout his long career Mr. Schaller was known for his philanthropic spirit, and his willingness to aid a comrade in need. He died at his home in Earlville, on June 21, 1912, at the age of seventy-three.



GEORGE ALVIN NEWMAN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1894 TO MAY 1895

[92]

## GEORGE ALVIN NEWMAN

In the history of the Grand Army of the Republic one now and again finds a man who is known for his many years of faithful official service. Such a man was George Alvin Newman.

Born in Jefferson County, New York, in December, 1843, Newman spent his youth in his native State, and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted as a private in Company G, Sixth New York Cavalry. He fought in the main battles of the Eastern Army, and in October, 1864, was honorably discharged from service. At the close of the war he moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, where in 1876 he began the practice of dentistry. In 1881 he removed to Iowa, locating at Cedar Falls. As a citizen he was loyal to local interests. For several years he served as city clerk, and was an active and enthusiastic member of James Brownell Post No. 222 of the Grand Army of the Republic.

At the Twentieth Annual Encampment, held at Council Bluffs in 1894, Mr. Newman was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. Subsequently, in 1900, he was appointed Assistant Adjutant General — a position which he held with honor and distinction, being reappointed again and again, for twenty years. Meanwhile, in 1915, he served also as Adjutant General of the Grand Army. He died at Des Moines on June 15, 1920. Few men in Iowa or in the Nation have served the cause of the Grand Army more continuously or more faithfully than he.

[93]



JAMES K. POLK THOMPSON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1895 TO APRIL 1896

[94]

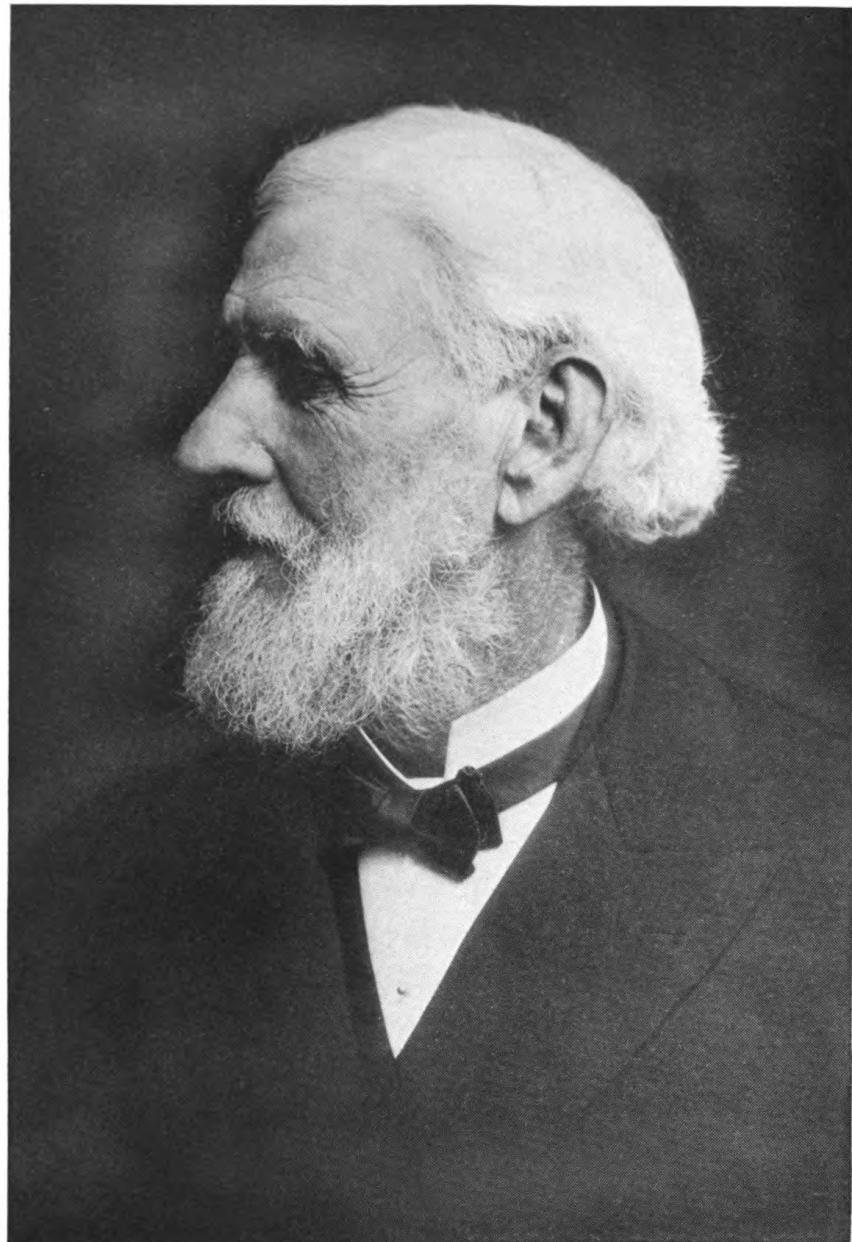
## JAMES K. POLK THOMPSON

Many Iowa veterans have looked back across the years and recalled the sad experiences of Vicksburg. Not the least of these men was James K. Polk Thompson, who was severely wounded at that battle.

Thompson was born near Carey, Ohio, on August 21, 1845, and came to Clayton County, Iowa, in the fall of 1857. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a musician in Company D, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry, and rendered service in some of the most decisive battles of the war, including Port Gibson, Champion's Hill, and Black River Bridge. Wounded at Vicksburg, he was sent to the hospital at Jefferson Barracks where he remained until February, 1864. He rejoined his regiment at Matagorda Bay in time to participate in the assaults on Fort Blakely, Spanish Fort, and Mobile.

Comrade Thompson, after the war, was much interested in the welfare of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a charter member of Dunlap Post No. 147, at Rock Rapids, Iowa. In 1895 he was elected Department Commander. He was one of the first to advocate the establishment of a National Park at Vicksburg. He was also among those who favored a legislative appropriation to erect a monument at Vicksburg in honor of Iowa veterans.

Never physically strong and vigorous, Thompson did not reach old age, but died on January 15, 1903, before he had attained the age of three score years.



JOSIAH GIVEN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1896 TO JUNE 1897

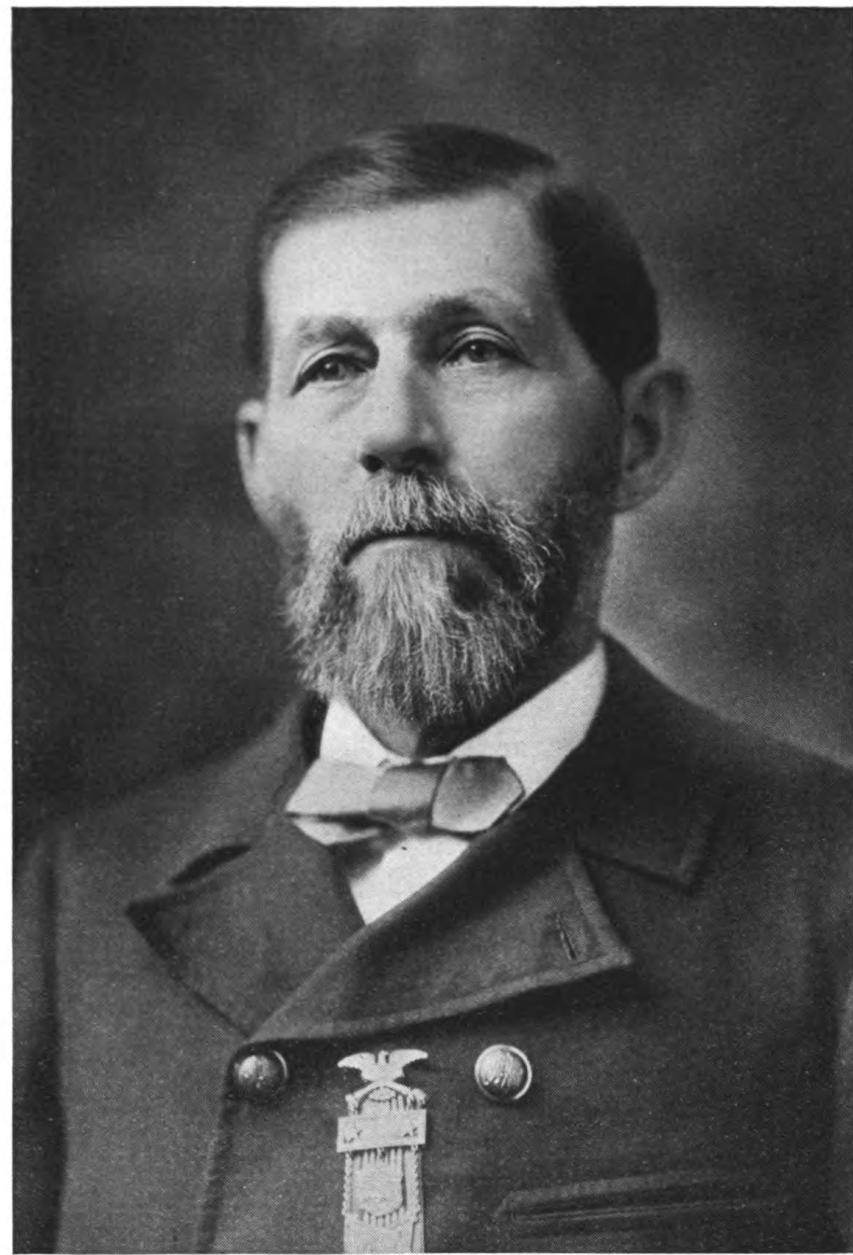
[96]

## JOSIAH GIVEN

Josiah Given was born in western Pennsylvania, on August 31, 1828, and at the age of ten moved to Millersburg, Ohio.

When he was but seventeen the War with Mexico excited his military interest, and he enlisted, later becoming a corporal in Company G, Fourth Ohio Infantry. Home from the war, he entered upon the study of law, and was admitted to the bar. In 1861 rumors of war again excited his interest, and he again became a soldier. He helped to organize Company K, Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteers, served three months in Virginia, and was made lieutenant colonel of the Eighteenth Ohio Infantry. In June, 1863, he was made colonel of the Seventy-fourth Ohio, serving in the Atlanta campaign.

At the close of the war Mr. Given resumed his practice of law in Des Moines, Iowa, where for forty years he was identified with the best civic movements. He was for many years a leader in the Grand Army of the Republic, being the first Commander of Crocker Post, and in 1896 Commander of the Iowa Department. Moreover, as a member of the Iowa legislature in 1876, he sought favorable legislation for the soldier. For twelve years he was a judge of the circuit and district courts, and for thirteen years he served as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Iowa. His career came peacefully to an end on February 3, 1908, he having lived well his four score years.



AMOS HART EVANS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1897 TO JUNE 1898

[98]

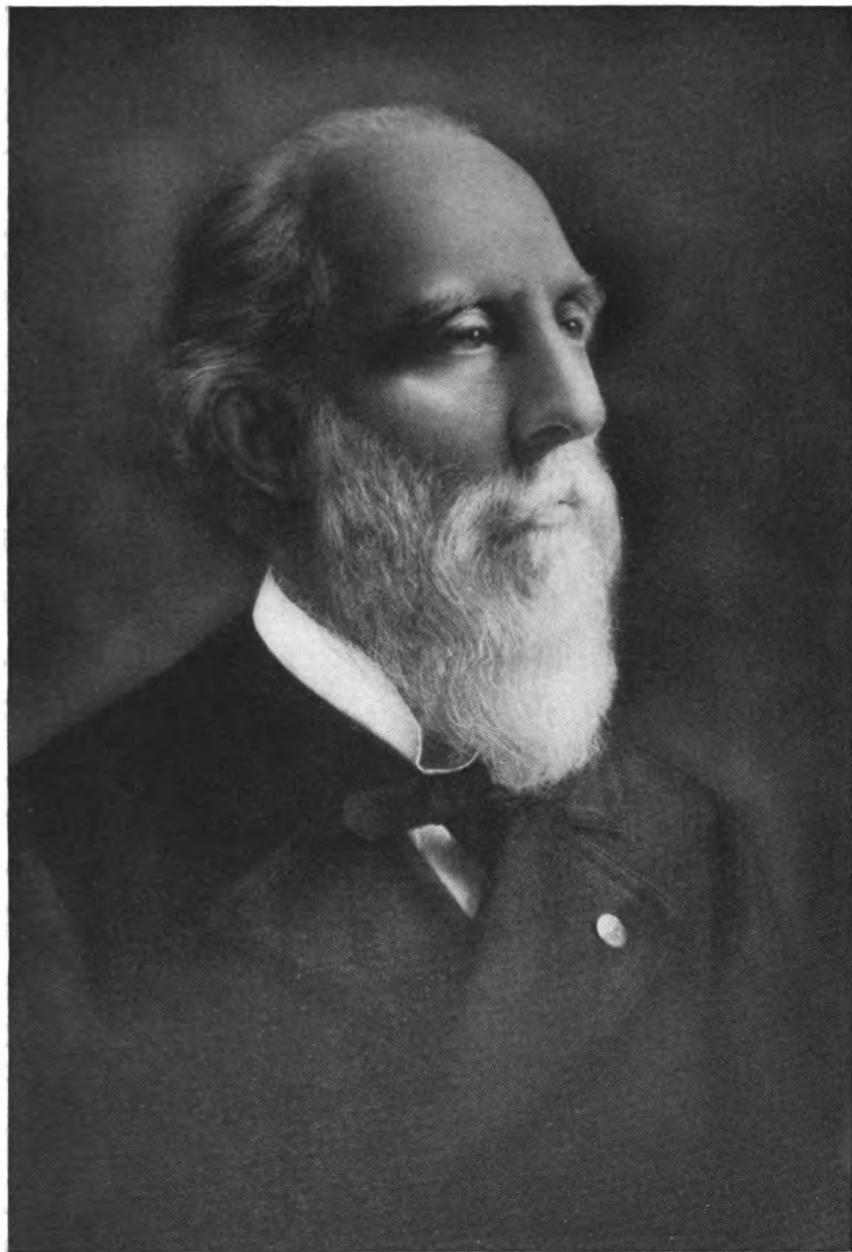
## AMOS HART EVANS

Amos Hart Evans was for more than forty years a resident of Keokuk, where he exerted much influence in public affairs and where his career ended on July 25, 1919. He was born at Pennington, New Jersey, on August 28, 1840, and made his home in that State until the outbreak of the Civil War.

In April, 1861, he entered military service as a private in Company D, Third New Jersey Infantry, for a period of three months. At the expiration of that time he re-enlisted in Company F, Ninth New Jersey Infantry, for three years. He was promoted in service to sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He served in North Carolina in the Burnside expedition and in Virginia in Grant's campaign.

After the war he was for many years prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic, and after serving as Commander of Torrence Post No. 2, at Keokuk, he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department in 1898. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Captain Evans never sought public office, but few men exerted a greater influence over local affairs than he. His service in the city council of Keokuk for six years was an expression of the confidence of the people in his ability and integrity, rather than a consequence of his own desire to seek public office. Service rather than a reward for service was ever his aim and goal. Thus as a true soldier he will long be remembered by his friends.



RODNEY W. TIRRILL, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1898 TO JUNE 1899

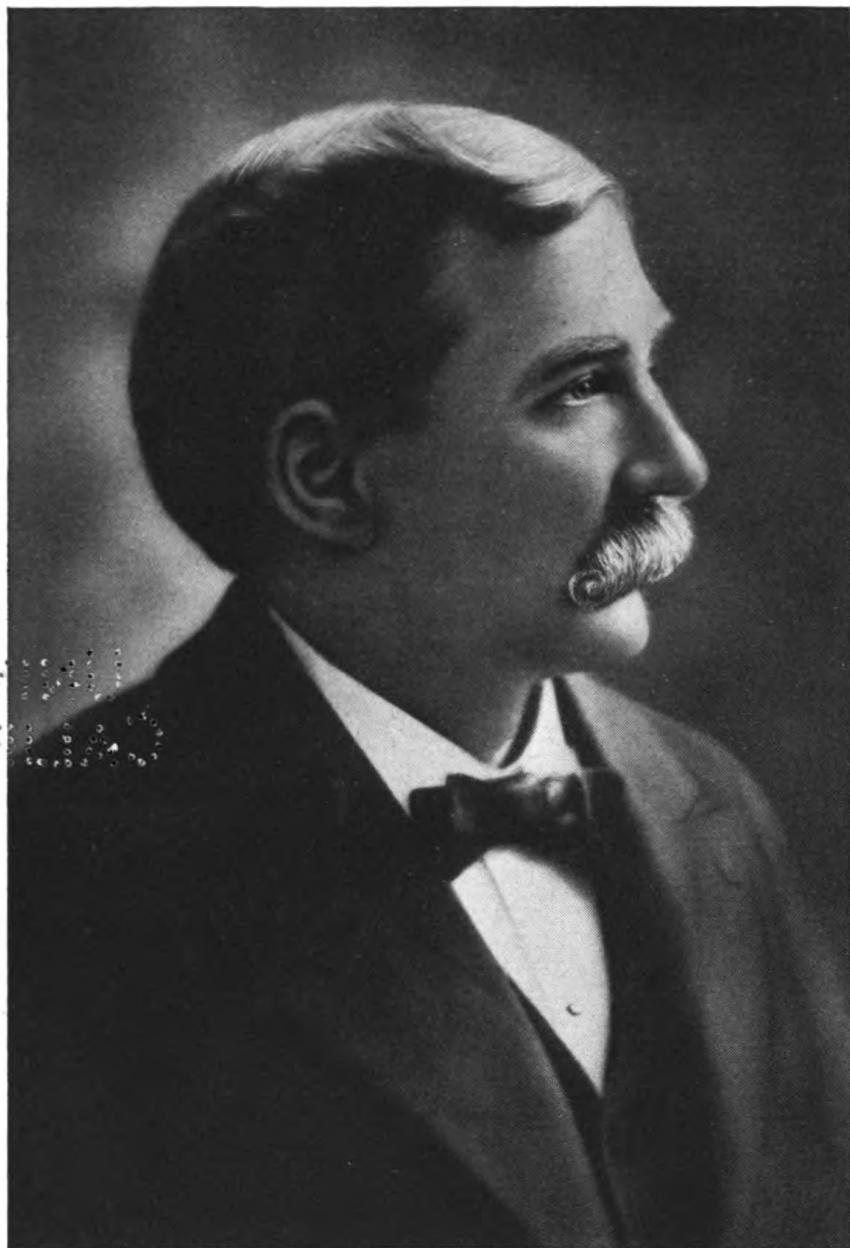
[100]

## RODNEY W. TIRRILL

"One of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Delaware County" for many years was Rodney W. Tirrill of Manchester, pioneer, veteran, legislator, and philanthropist. Mr. Tirrill was born in New Hampshire, on December 22, 1835. He resided for a time in Wisconsin, attended college and taught school there, and in 1856 came to Iowa, locating at Manchester. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company F, Twelfth Iowa Volunteers, and was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant. At the battle of Shiloh he was severely wounded and left on the field of battle for a day and two nights. From this he only partially recovered and was later honorably discharged from service because of wounds.

After he returned to his home, he was elected county superintendent of schools. Later he entered business in Manchester. He had a keen interest in public affairs and in 1879 was elected to the State Senate, where he served for four years. He was for many years an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in W. A. Morse Post. At the Twenty-fourth Annual State Encampment at Sioux City in 1898, Comrade Tirrill was elected Department Commander — an office which he filled with honor to himself and to the Department. In later years he traveled extensively, gave liberally to local enterprises, and was widely known for his philanthropic spirit.

[101]



CHARLES FLETCHER BAILEY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1899 TO JUNE 1900

[102]

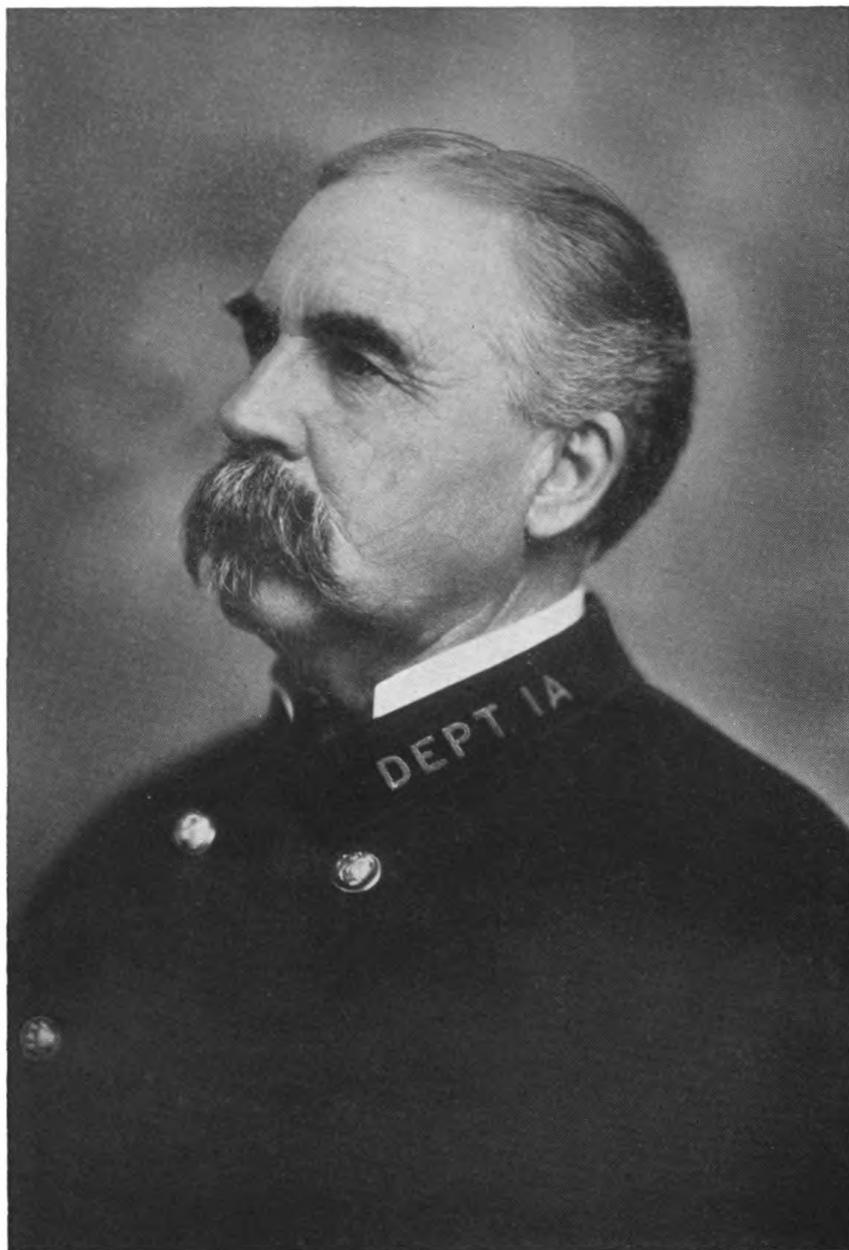
## CHARLES FLETCHER BAILEY

Charles Fletcher Bailey was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, on April 3, 1842. He came to Iowa with his parents in 1850 and settled in Linn County. Later he moved to Black Hawk County, where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil War.

In July, 1861, at the age of nineteen, he enlisted in Company E, Fifth Iowa Infantry. He was in some of the heaviest fighting of the Western Army, including the battles of Corinth and Iuka and the siege of Vicksburg.

At the close of the war he returned to Black Hawk County where he engaged in farming — later removing to Sioux County. Mr. Bailey was best known as a member of the Iowa General Assembly serving in the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth regular sessions and in the extra session that prepared the Code of 1897.

At the Annual State Encampment at Waterloo in June, 1899, Mr. Bailey was elected Department Commander — an office which he filled efficiently and well. In 1902 he moved with his family to North Dakota where he lived for many years. In 1925, while visiting in Colorado he was suddenly stricken and died on April 18th.



MADISON BARTLETT DAVIS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1900 TO JUNE 1901

[104]

## MADISON BARTLETT DAVIS

Madison Bartlett Davis, elected Department Commander in 1900, was a native of New Hampshire. He was born at the town of Canaan on November 12, 1837, and grew to manhood in that vicinity. In August, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company I, First New England Cavalry, which later became the First Rhode Island Cavalry, and still later the First New Hampshire Cavalry, and served chiefly in the Army of the Potomac. He arose to the rank of corporal and sergeant. In January, 1864, he was discharged from service, but reënlisted in the same company with the rank of orderly sergeant.

During almost four years of service he was in many cavalry raids and skirmishes, and had many narrow escapes. He was at the battles of Fort Royal, Cedar Mountain, Groveton, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and most of the prominent engagements of the Army of the Potomac. He was twice captured and long held as a prisoner — being transferred from prison to prison. Only after great suffering was he exchanged and allowed to rejoin his company.

After the war, Sergeant Davis moved to Iowa, was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession for a time in Fort Madison. In 1874 he moved to Sioux City where he resided until the end of his career on July 24, 1914.

He was always prominent in Grand Army affairs, and was one of the organizers of General Hancock Post No. 22, at Sioux City.



GEORGE METZGER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1901 TO MAY 1902

[106]

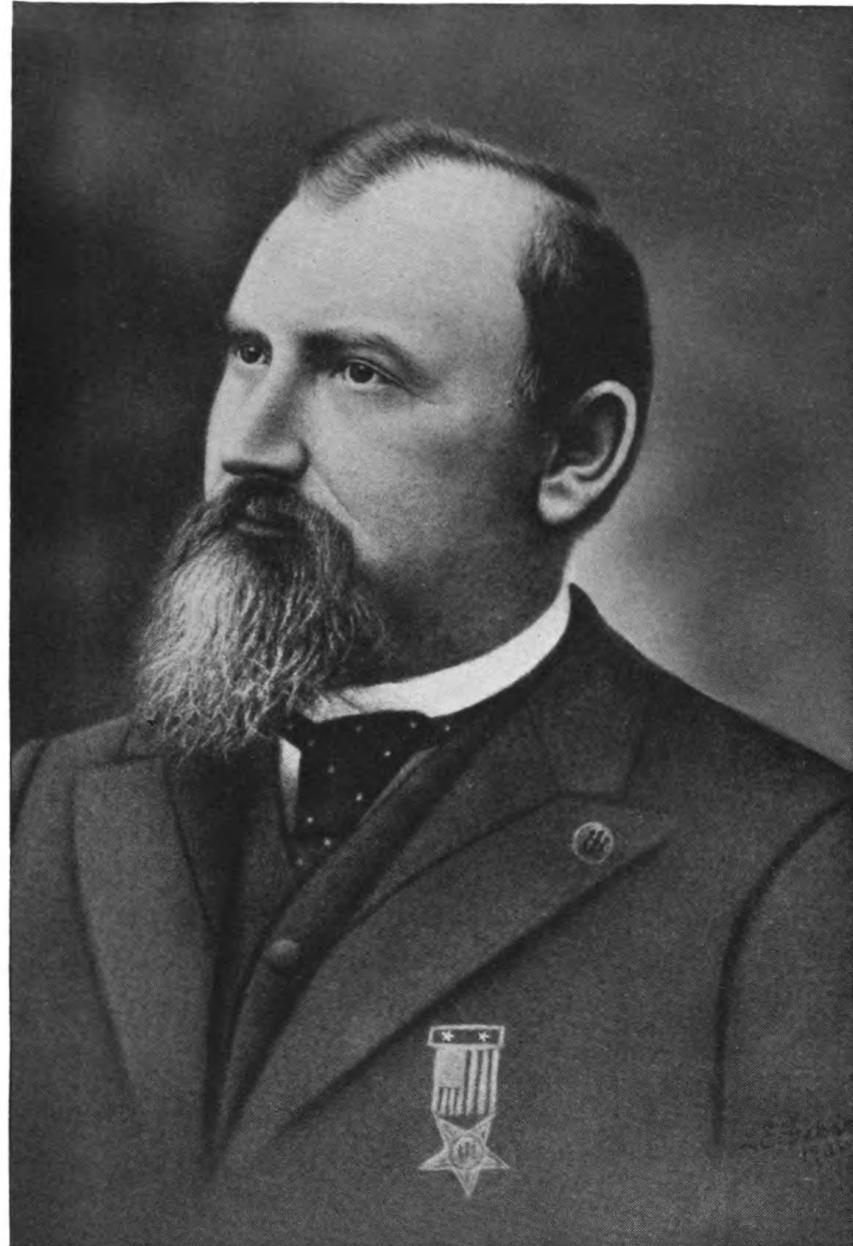
## GEORGE METZGER

George Metzger was born in Germany, on April 19, 1845, and five years later came to America with his parents, locating in New York. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth New York Volunteers. He was severely wounded at Gettysburg and again at Auburn Church, Virginia, and was mustered from service with honorable discharge in July, 1865.

In the fall of 1869 he came to Iowa and engaged in business in Davenport. Always interested in politics he was active in the advancement of local and State affairs. In 1894 he was appointed custodian of public buildings by Governor Frank D. Jackson, and two years later he was reappointed by Governor Francis M. Drake. In 1898 he was appointed Postmaster of Davenport — a position which he held for several years.

As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and as Commander of August Wentz Post No. 1, he labored many years for the best interest of his comrades. In 1901 he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. After his retirement from this office he continued to serve on important committees of the Grand Army and to prove his worth as a true soldier, serving his fellowmen in peace as well as in war.

He lived to attain the age of seventy-eight years, passing away quietly at his home in Davenport on September 23, 1923.



JOHN LINDT, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1902 TO MAY 1903

[108]

## *JOHN LINDT*

John Lindt was an ardent worker in the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic. Born in the city of Erie, Pennsylvania, on the 27th day of March, 1848, he was a mere youth when the war broke out. Notwithstanding this fact he enlisted on January 28, 1863, as a Private in Company B, Pennsylvania Light Artillery, and served with that company until the close of the war.

His military services at an end, he attended Oberlin College for a time, and in 1870 came to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and began the study of law. In 1872 he was admitted to the bar, and continued in active practice until the end of his career on August 30, 1912.

He was a charter member of the Abe Lincoln Post No. 29, at Council Bluffs. In 1902 he was elected Department Commander and for several years he served on the Administrative Council of the National Grand Army of the Republic.



LEVI BEARDSLEY RAYMOND, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1903 TO JUNE 1904

[110]

## LEVI BEARDSLEY RAYMOND

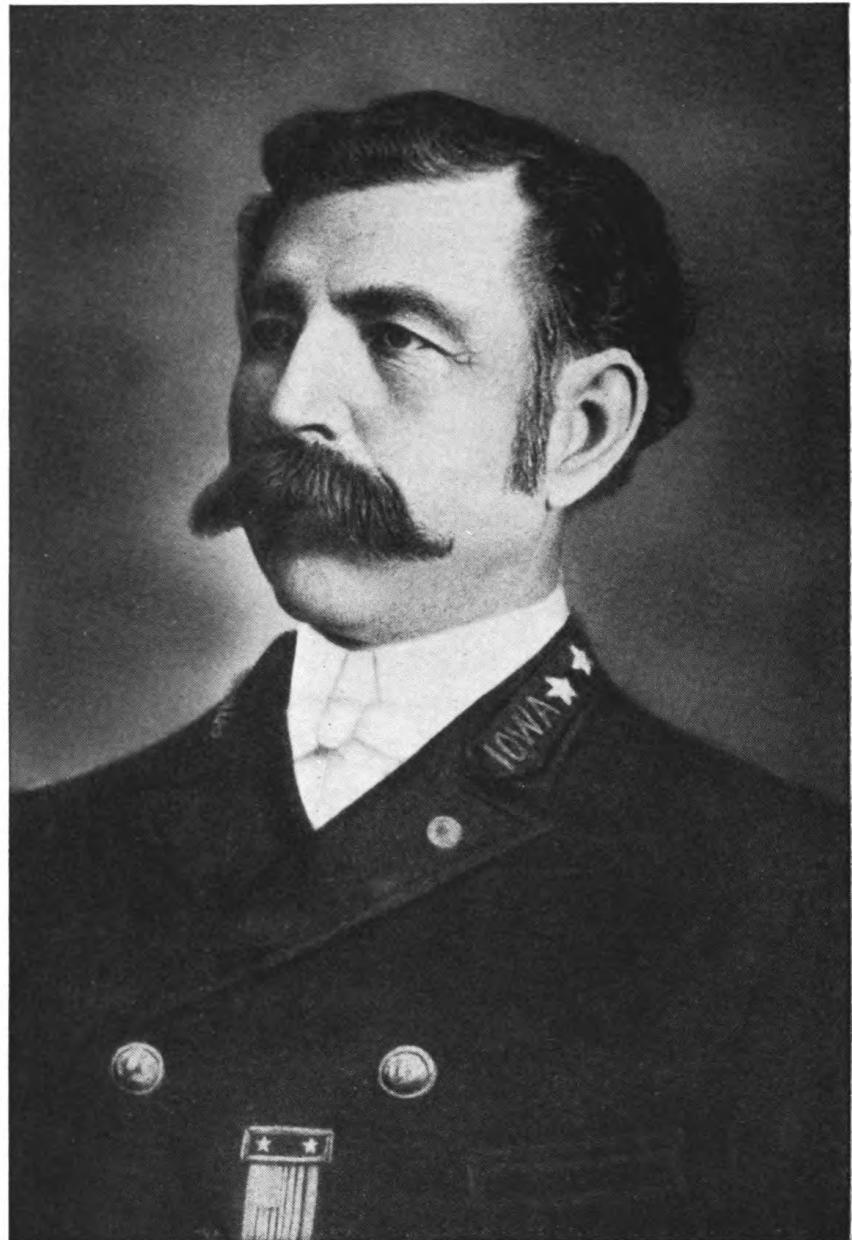
Levi Beardsley Raymond was born in Allegheny County, New York, on July 3, 1836, and was educated at Beloit, Wisconsin. He learned the printer's trade and for two years prior to the Civil War he was a reporter on the *Chicago Times* and *Chicago Post*.

In 1861 he enlisted in Company G, Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers — a part of the famous "Iron Brigade". In the Army of the Potomac he shared the perils and hardships of battle until in November, 1862, when he was severely wounded and discharged from service.

Upon his discharge he returned to his former home in Wisconsin, but in 1865 he came to Iowa and located at Hampton in Franklin County. As editor of various newspapers in northern and northwestern Iowa he came to be widely known in that section of the State. He served for two terms as county superintendent of schools in Franklin County, and in 1906 was a candidate at the Republican Convention for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

For many years Comrade Raymond was an interested and active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a charter member of J. W. McKenzie Post No. 81, at Hampton. At the Annual Encampment held at Cedar Rapids in June, 1903, he was named Department Commander.

In peace as in war he gave of his time and services freely. On April 18, 1911, he departed this life, but he is still remembered for his loyal and faithful service.



ROBERT THOMAS ST. JOHN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1904 TO MAY 1905

[112]

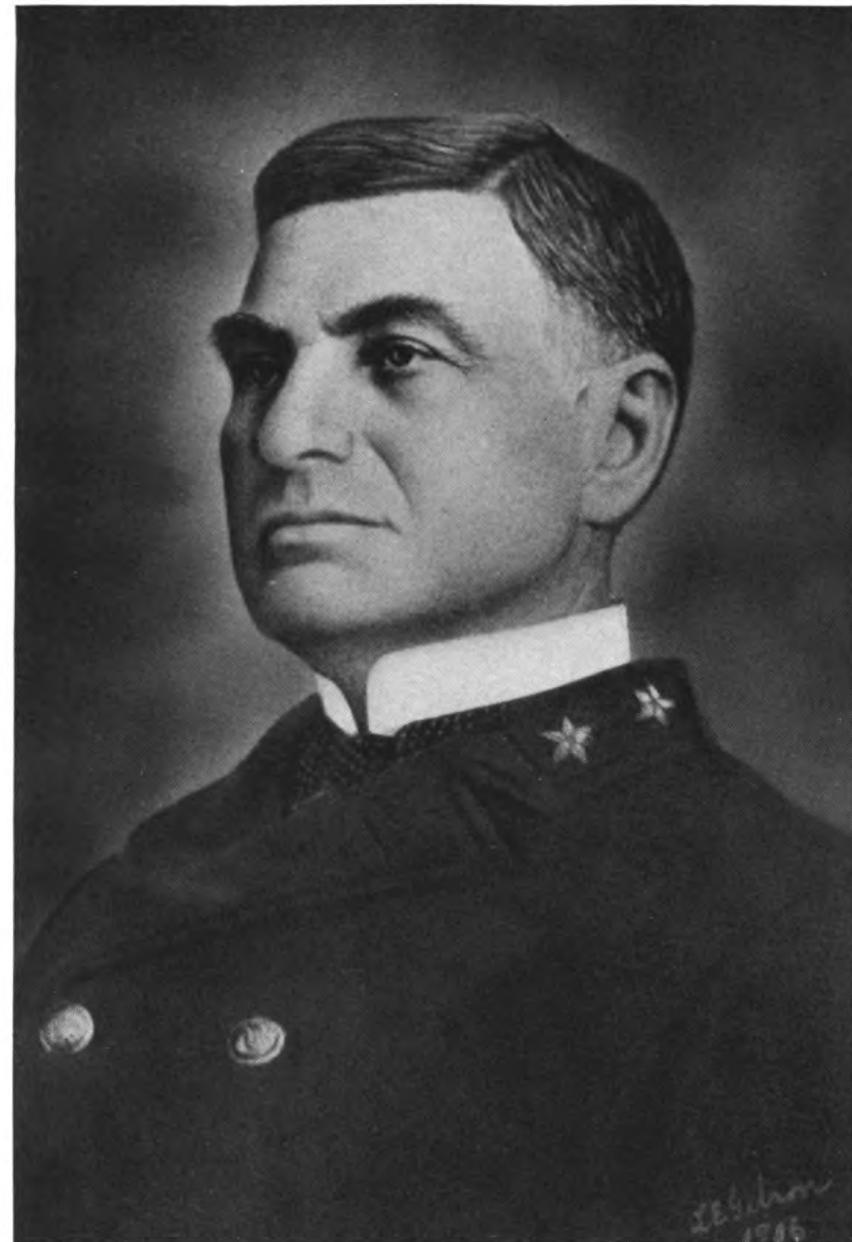
## ROBERT THOMAS ST. JOHN

Robert T. St. John has long figured prominently in local and State affairs, and his entire career has manifested the same spirit of fidelity and service which prompted his enlistment in the Civil War at the age of sixteen. Mr. St. John was born in Jo Daviess County, Illinois, on July 14, 1846. He attended the common schools of Illinois and earned his first money "picking over waste in the Galena lead mines".

In 1860 he came to Iowa with his parents, locating at Riceville. Two years later he enlisted in the Union army as a member of the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and proved himself to be a soldier of true worth. In 1882 he was elected sheriff of Mitchell County — a position which he held for many years, being elected in 1888 as president of the Iowa Sheriffs' Association. Throughout these years his name became a synonym for safety and law enforcement in that area. He was a member of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth General Assemblies where he served on important committees dealing with agriculture and taxation, and where he fostered legislation that was of interest to his comrades.

Comrade St. John has long been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He served as Commander of Frank Brush Post, at Osage, and in 1904 was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. He is still a prominent resident of Riceville and one of the few surviving Past Commanders.

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SAMUEL HOUSTON HARPER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1905 TO JUNE 1906

[114]

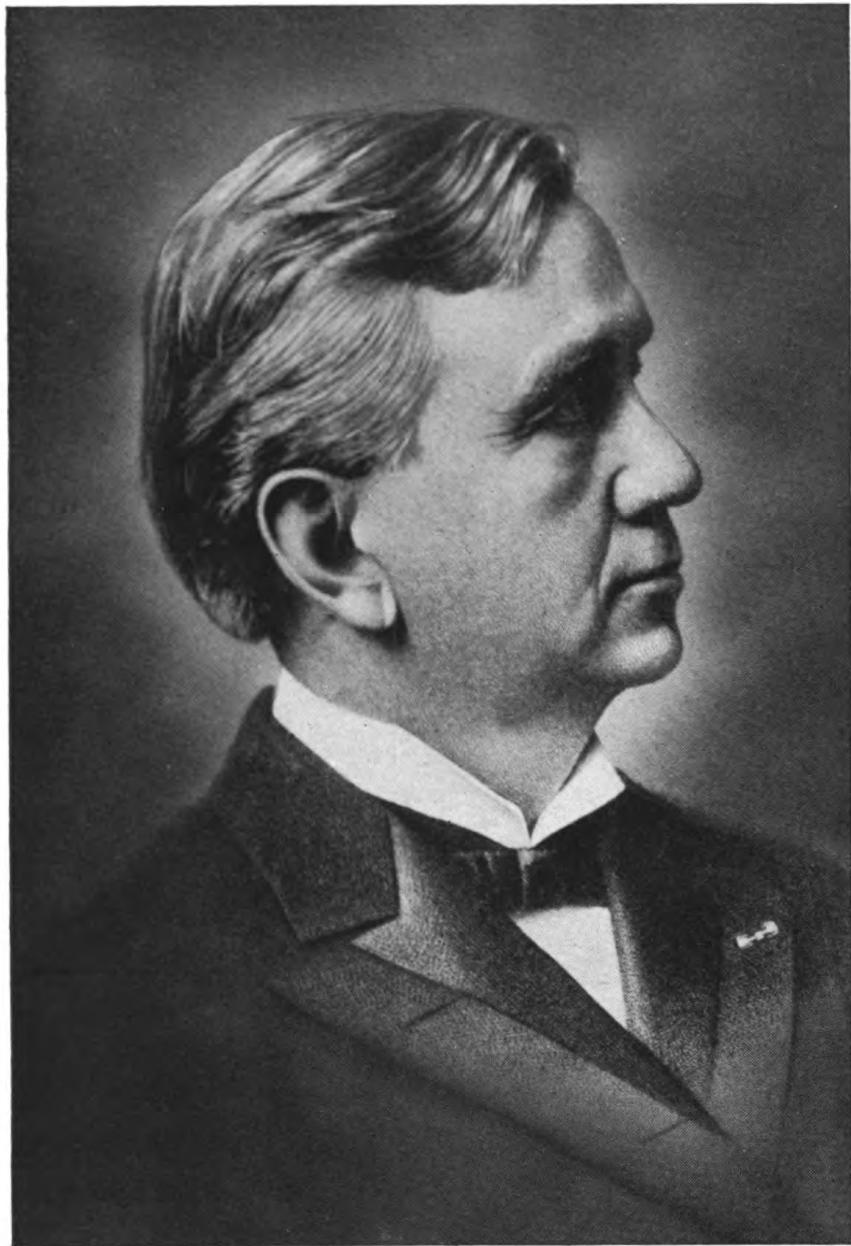
## SAMUEL HOUSTON HARPER

Samuel Houston Harper, of Ottumwa, elected Department Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1905, died suddenly at his home on December 17, 1911, while still actively engaged in public and business life. Mr. Harper was born at Zanesville, Ohio, on April 23, 1843. At the age of twenty years he came to Iowa — riding on horseback from the Mississippi River to Ottumwa. He enlisted as a private in Company B, Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry, and rose to the rank of captain.

Upon his return home at the close of the war, he began his career in business in Ottumwa. As a hardware merchant and banker he was unusually successful, and came to be one of the outstanding businessmen of his day. In 1901 he was elected to the State Senate — serving in the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first General Assemblies. In State, as in private and local affairs, he was always and everywhere an advocate of honest and efficient government.

In the spring of 1911 he was elected Mayor of Ottumwa — a position which he filled with honor, dignity, and efficiency, but only for a brief period of eight months before his final passing.

Throughout the later years of his career Captain Harper devoted much time and thought to the welfare of the Grand Army of the Republic and his comrades in service. Morally and religiously he stood for the highest and best, and left the world richer and better than he found it.



**CHARLES ARMORY CLARK, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1906 TO JUNE 1907**

[116]

## CHARLES ARMORY CLARK

Charles Armory Clark was born of Puritan ancestors at Sangerville, Maine, on January 25, 1841. He was one of eleven children, four of whom became soldiers in the Civil War. Two gave their lives in service, and the other two were wounded. Young Clark enlisted in the Sixth Maine. His military record is one of marked ability, by which he won rapid promotion.

For gallantry at Fredericksburg in 1862, he was brevetted major. For bravery at Rappahannock Station in 1863 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. His brilliant and skillful maneuvering at Brooksford, Virginia, where in an emergency he assumed command, saved his regiment from capture and annihilation. Congress recognized his ability on this occasion and awarded him a gold medal. The Sixth Maine Infantry was in the thick of the fight from Bull Run to Appomattox. In thirty-eight of these battles Colonel Clark participated with gallantry. At the close of the war he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and in 1866 he came to Iowa, locating in Cedar Rapids where he practiced his profession for forty-seven years — until his death in December, 1913.

In 1906 Colonel Clark was elected to the office of Department Commander and he was both popular and efficient. His name was presented as a candidate for Commander-in-Chief, but he replied, "I have had my share of honors, give it to some of the other boys". His was a life of unselfish service.



DAVID JAMES PALMER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1907 TO JUNE 1908

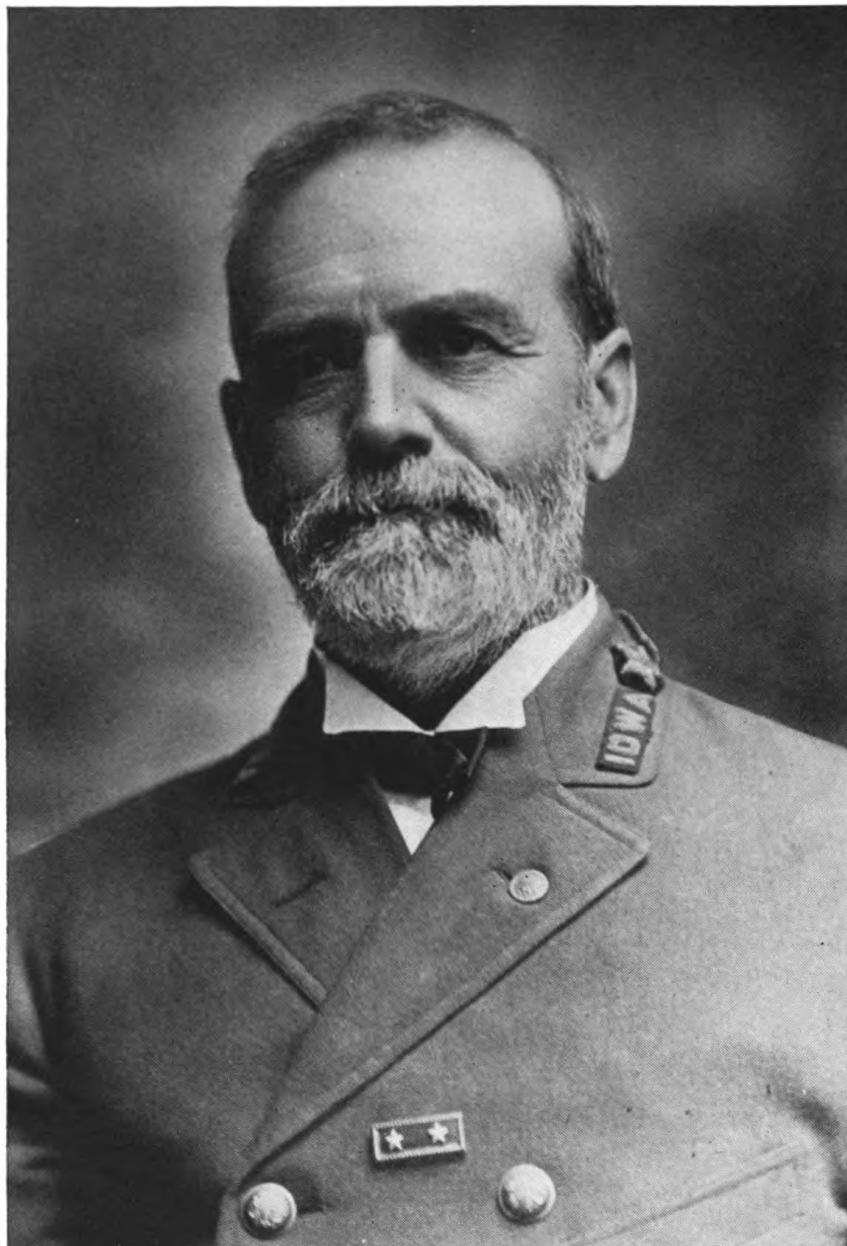
[118]

## DAVID JAMES PALMER

David James Palmer was born in Pennsylvania, on November 15, 1839, but spent most of his years in Iowa. As a youth of twenty-one and a resident of Washington, Iowa, he enlisted in Company C, Eighth Iowa Infantry, on July 10, 1861. He was seriously wounded at Shiloh and was sent home to recuperate. Later he organized Company A, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry, and became its captain. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and commanded his regiment at Vicksburg and on Sherman's March to the Sea. At the close of the war, General Sherman led the troops in the Grand Review up Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, D. C. When Sherman took his place on the reviewing stand with the President, he left Lieutenant Colonel Palmer to lead the Union troops in the great parade.

Returning home after the war Colonel Palmer engaged in agriculture. Later he served as county auditor, State Senator, and Railroad Commissioner. At the Annual Encampment at Dubuque in 1907 he was elected Department Commander. In 1914 Colonel Palmer was named Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. In this high office it was his privilege to review the veteran troops as they again marched up Pennsylvania Avenue at the National Grand Army Encampment held in Washington, D. C., in 1915, fifty years after the close of the war.

Colonel Palmer lived until November 20, 1928, having attained the age of eighty-nine years.



JAMES C. MILLIMAN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1908 TO JUNE 1909

[120]

## JAMES C. MILLIMAN

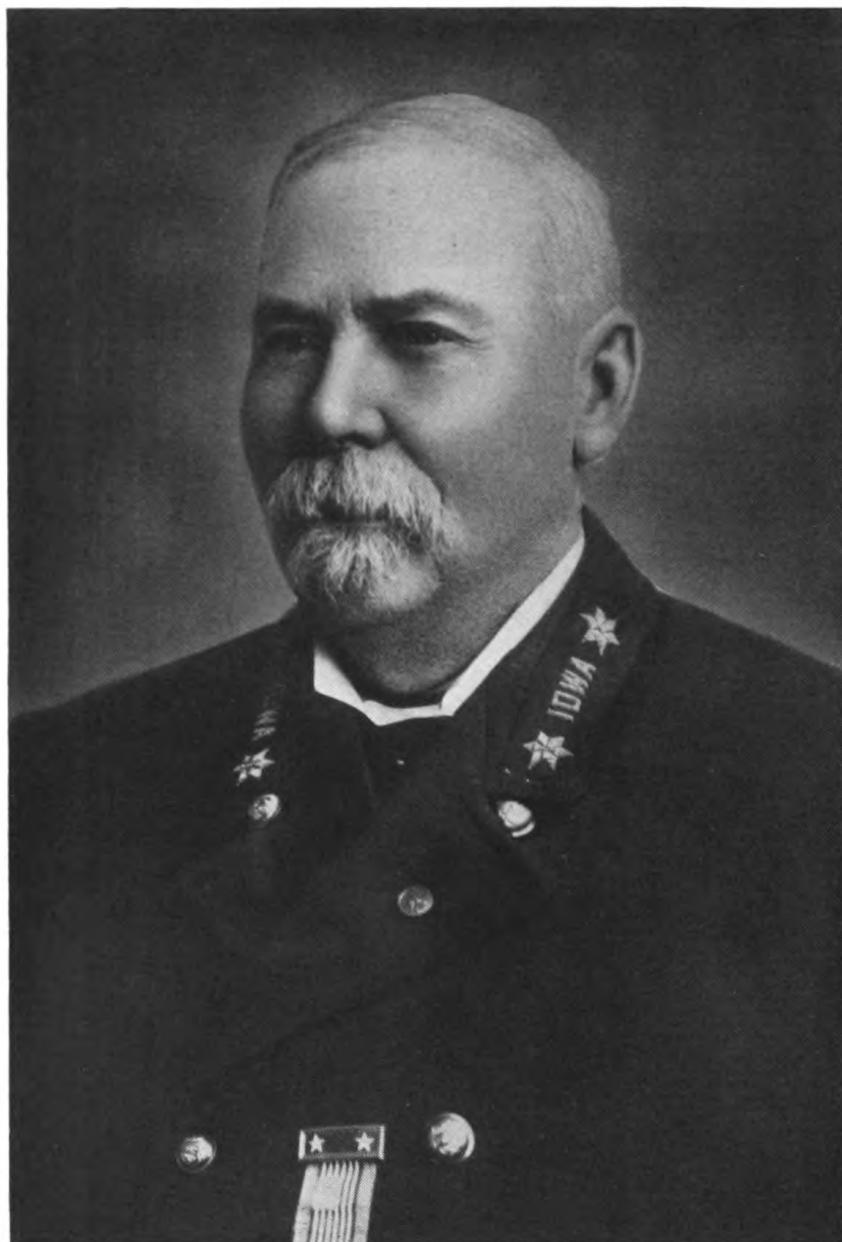
James C. Milliman was born in Saratoga County, New York, and was educated in his native State. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted in Company E, Forty-sixth New York Infantry, and at Petersburg, Virginia, he was severely wounded in service.

At the close of the war he came to Iowa, locating at Missouri Valley. He served eight years as recorder of Harrison County, and in 1876 was one of the founders of the Harrison County Bank. In 1894 he was Representative in the Twenty-fifth General Assembly of Iowa. In 1897 he was elected Lieutenant Governor, running on the Republican ticket with Leslie M. Shaw. Two years later he was reelected, thus serving as a State official for a period of four years.

He was for many years an active and enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in Post No. 38 at Logan in Harrison County. In 1894 he was elected Senior Vice Commander of the Iowa Department, and in 1908 he was elected Department Commander. In accepting this high office he said: "Service to our fellowmen is the highest mark of manhood". In this spirit he assumed leadership and in this spirit he served his fellowmen.

Later in life Comrade Milliman moved to Santa Monica, California, but he retained membership in the Iowa Department until July, 1933, when his long and useful career was ended.

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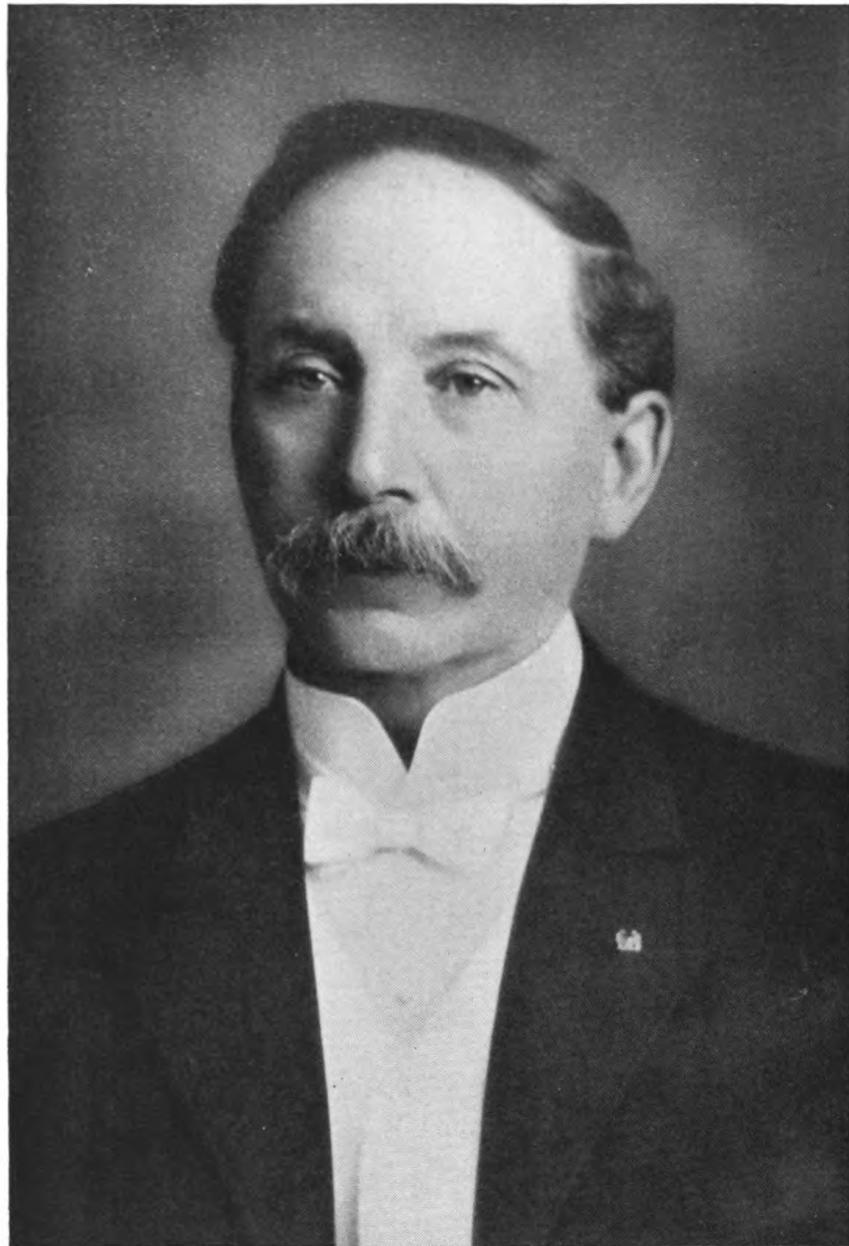
MICHAEL McDONALD, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1909 TO JUNE 1910

[122]

## MICHAEL McDONALD

Among those who came from foreign lands to take a place among the Commanders of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic was Michael McDonald, born in the County of Mayo, Ireland, on July 28, 1846. Young McDonald spent his boyhood days in Pennsylvania and came to Iowa with his parents in 1856, locating on a farm in Guthrie County. At the age of sixteen he ran away from home, went twenty miles on foot, and enlisted in Company I, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteers, serving for three years. He was at the battles of Jenkins Ferry and Helena, at the capture of Spanish Fort, and in the Red River Campaign.

When the war ended, McDonald returned to become a farmer, then sheriff, and later a banker in Guthrie County. In 1882 and again in 1896 he represented his county in the Iowa General Assembly. He was for many years a member of Robert Henderson Post No. 196, Grand Army of the Republic, at Bayard, of which he was the first Commander. At the Thirty-fifth Annual Encampment, held at Fort Dodge in 1909, Comrade McDonald was elected Commander of the Iowa Department.



HENRY A. DYER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1910 TO JUNE 1911

[124]

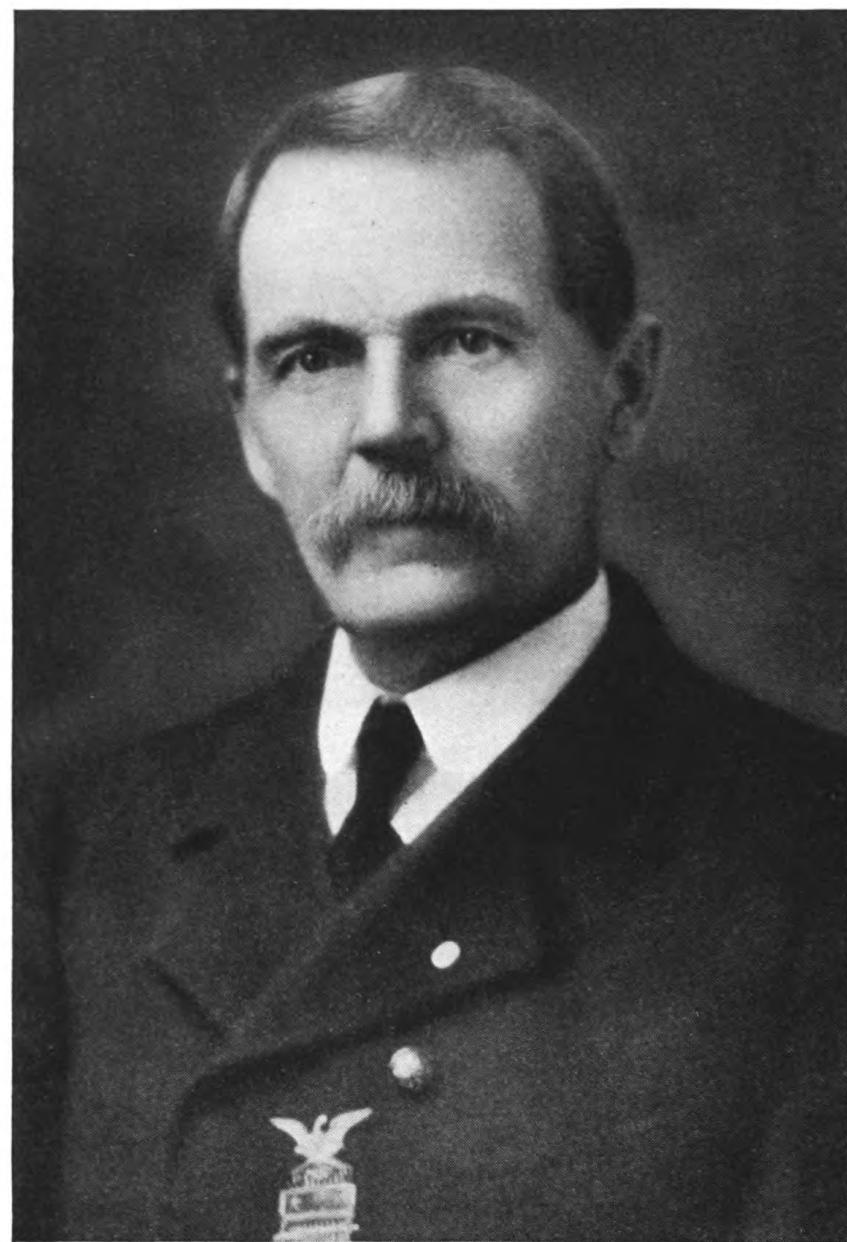
## HENRY A. DYER

At the Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Des Moines in June, 1910, Henry A. Dyer was elected Department Commander. Dyer was a native of England, having been born in Somersetshire, on March 15, 1843. In his youth he came to America with his parents, who settled on a farm in Dubuque County, Iowa, at the present site of Dyersville, which was named after his father.

In August, 1862, young Dyer enlisted as a private in Company C, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry. Early in the first year of his service he was taken prisoner and held at Shreveport, Louisiana, where he suffered from exposure, and contracted disabilities from which he never completely recovered. After extended imprisonment he was released through an exchange of prisoners, and was appointed chief clerk at General Edward R. Canby's headquarters in the field, where he served until the end of the war. In August, 1865, he returned to his home in Dyersville.

Soon after the close of the war, Mr. Dyer moved to Mason City where he was proprietor of a hotel for many years. Always interested in business and civic affairs, he was a loyal and patriotic citizen. He was elected Department Commander at the Thirty-sixth Annual Encampment, and it was a matter of deep regret that his health would not permit his attendance at succeeding Encampments. On July 24, 1912, a few days after the Thirty-eighth Encampment, his career was ended.

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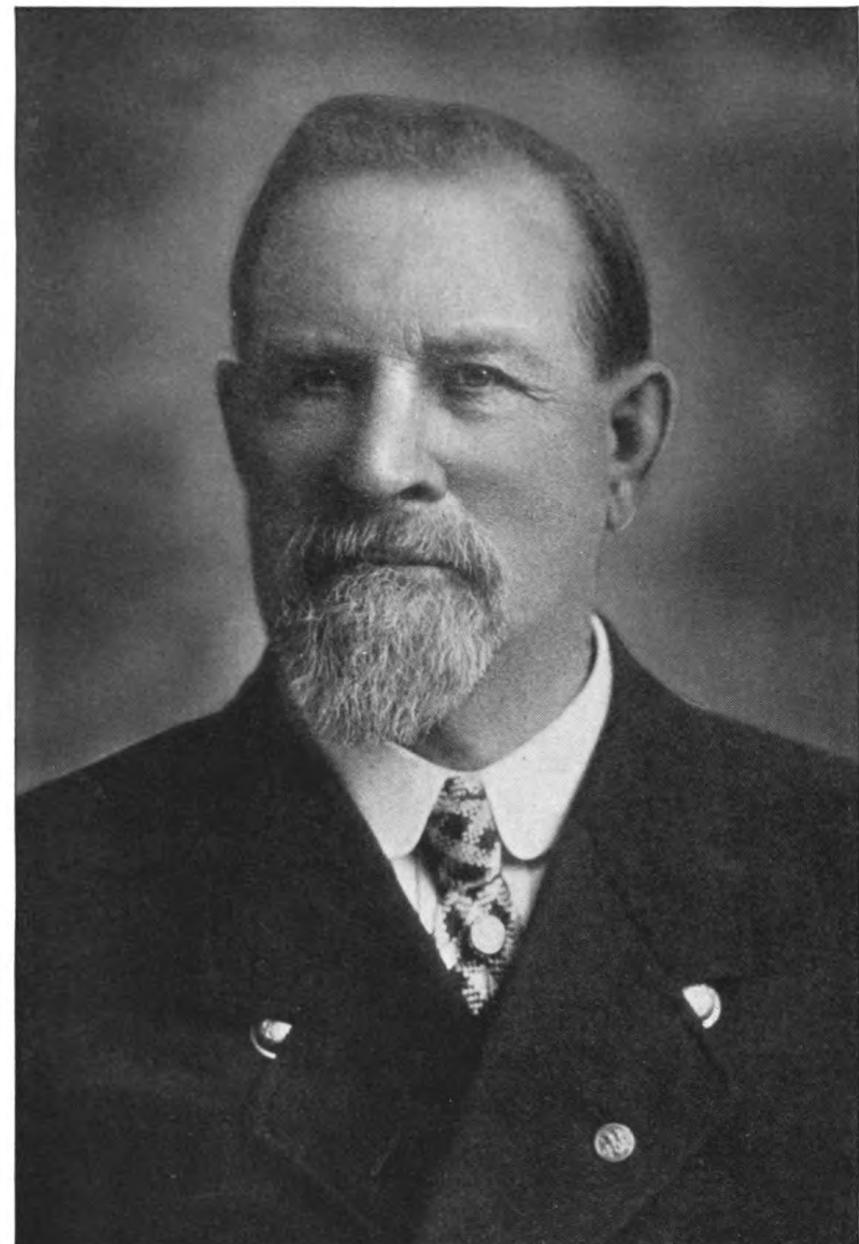
LOT ABRAHAM, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1911 TO JUNE 1912

[126]

## LOT ABRAHAM

Lot Abraham, a native of Ohio, born on April 18, 1838, came to Iowa in his youth and settled with his parents on a farm near Mount Pleasant. In September, 1861, at the age of twenty-three, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. He was mustered into service as first sergeant, was promoted to first lieutenant, and then to captain. He served with Curtis in Missouri and Arkansas, with Grant at the siege of Vicksburg, and with Sherman on the Meridian Expedition in 1864. He was attached to Wilson's Cavalry Corps, was in the Georgia campaign, and was mustered out of service at Atlanta, Georgia, on August 8, 1865.

Captain Abraham's military career was a long and noble one, but he was more than a soldier. He was first of all a man. A farmer and stock raiser by occupation, he was also a public servant. Interested always in local and State affairs, he served two sessions in the State Senate. Faithful, loyal, and brave, he lived up to the best that was in him, and "was true to the voice of his soul". He had the cardinal virtues of justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude. He gave and demanded a "square deal" in every act of life. He served as Department Commander during the years 1911 and 1912, and was called to his final rest on July 23, 1920.



JOHN D. BROWN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1912 TO JUNE 1913

[128]

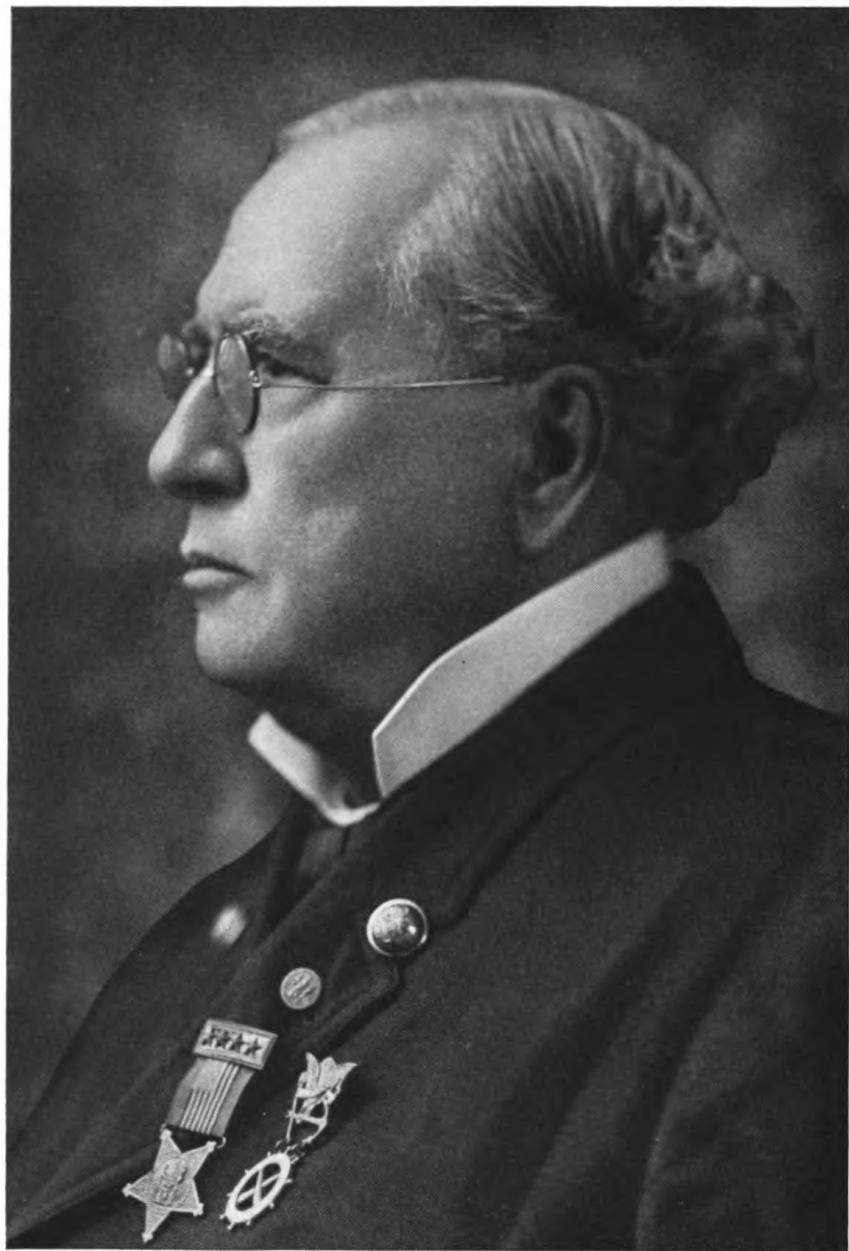
## JOHN D. BROWN

At the Thirty-eighth Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Mason City in 1912, John D. Brown, a member of Post No. 251, at Leon, was elected Department Commander.

Brown was born in Huron County, Ohio, on August 1, 1840, and resided in that county until he was fourteen years of age, when he moved with his parents to Decatur County, Iowa. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company L, Third Iowa Cavalry. During his term of service he was promoted to sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He was taken prisoner at Hartville, Missouri. Later he was wounded at Big Blue and left on the field of battle, but recovered sufficiently to remain in service until September, 1865.

Returning to Decatur County, he engaged in farming and stock raising. He served on the county board of supervisors and was twice elected to the State Senate, representing Decatur, Ringgold, and Union counties. In the Senate and in all public life he did what he could to promote the interest of the veterans.

At the Thirty-eighth Annual Encampment of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army, Mr. Brown was elected Department Commander. In this office as in all other stations in life he rendered loyal and efficient service in the interest of his comrades.



JAMES WILLIAM WILLETT, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1913 TO JUNE 1914

[130]

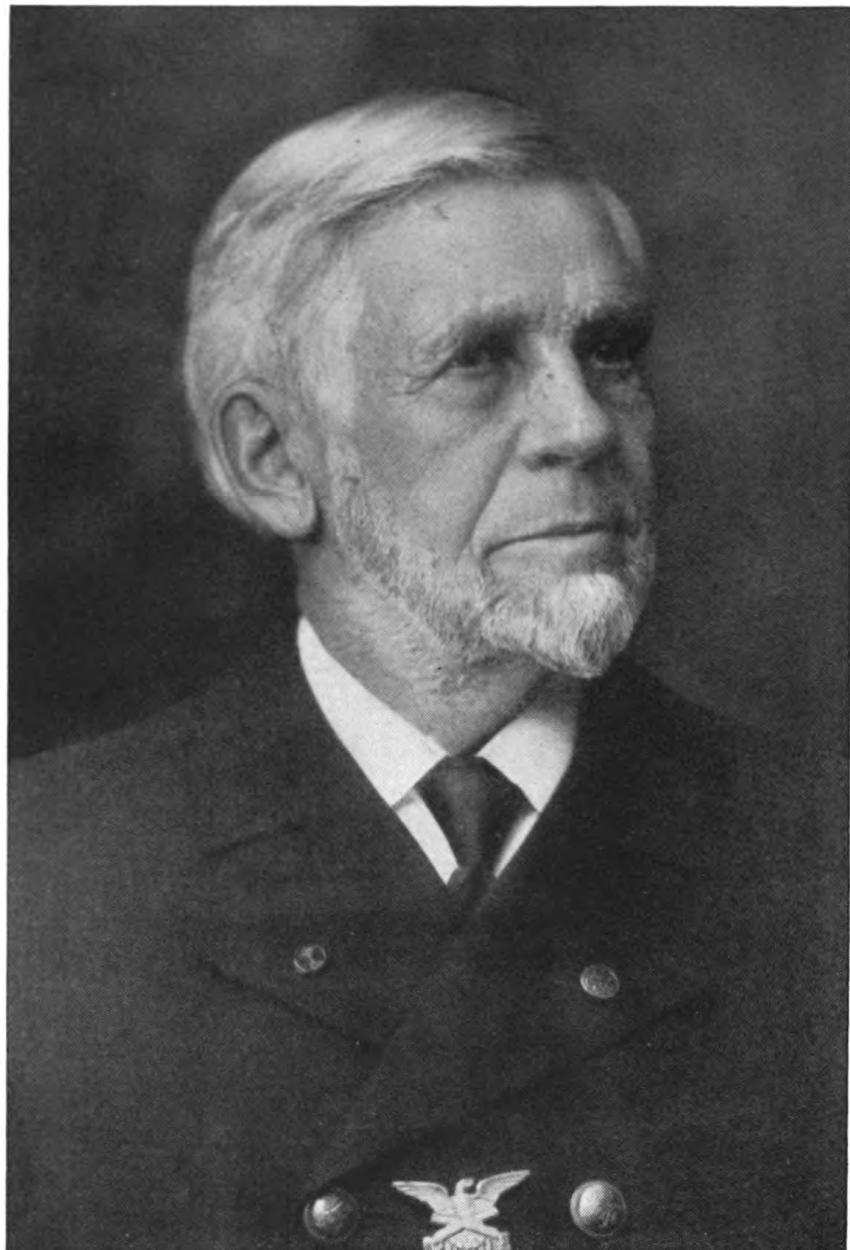
## JAMES WILLIAM WILLETT

James William Willett was born in Mercer County, Illinois, on March 8, 1846. As a youth he lived at Keensburg, Illinois, on the banks of the Mississippi River.

When the Civil War began, young Willett attempted to enlist in the Union Army, but failed because of his youth and size. In the spring of 1863, however, he obtained employment on a transport vessel as an "ordinary seaman". In the fall of that year by passing the examinations, he was enabled to enlist in the United States Navy as "an able seaman", and was assigned to the United States Gunboat *Springfield* of the Mississippi Squadron, where he served as boatswain's mate.

At the close of the war, Comrade Willett continued his work on rivers and lakes until 1871, when he gave up the seafaring life, came to Iowa, and began the study of law. Having been admitted to the bar, he opened offices at Toledo and Tama. He has practiced law in Tama County for many years, and for more than twelve years he was Judge of the District Court.

Comrade Willett was a charter member of Thomas F. Bradford Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized at Tama in 1883, and after more than fifty years he is still a member of that Post. At the Annual Encampment at Burlington in 1913, he was elected Department Commander. He has also held the office of Judge Advocate General, and in 1922 he had the high distinction of being unanimously elected Commander-in-Chief.



BYRON C. WARD, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1914 TO JUNE 1915

[132]

## BYRON C. WARD

Byron C. Ward was born at Underhill, Vermont, on November 28, 1838. As a youth he entered upon a college course, but war interfered and on August 28, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company G, Second Vermont Infantry. His soldierly bearing soon brought promotion and he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He was in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Petersburg, Cedar Creek, and Gettysburg.

In 1869 Comrade Ward came to Iowa, locating at Prairie City in Jasper County, where he resided for two years. Later he moved to Des Moines where he became a member of Crocker Post No. 12. His interest in the Grand Army of the Republic made him a suitable candidate for Department Commander — an office to which he was elected in 1914.

When he came to the end of his long career on January 18, 1922, a Des Moines newspaper said of him: "Byron C. Ward . . . represented the fullest measure of public service. He was active in everything that is worth while in national, state and community life. Few men find time to do all things Mr. Ward did for others. His devotion to the public good continued throughout his long life of eighty-three years".

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JOHN FESTUS MERRY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1915 TO JUNE 1916

[134]

## *JOHN FESTUS MERRY*

Vicksburg National Park is a memorial to many heroic soldiers who fought there, but especially to John Festus Merry, who was in a large measure responsible for its establishment. Merry was born in Peninsula, Ohio, on March 24, 1844. As a youth of twelve years, he came to Iowa with his parents in an immigrant wagon. In 1862, at the age of 18, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry. In March of the next year he was discharged for disability, but he recovered sufficiently to reenter service as second lieutenant in Company F, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

In 1880 he entered the service of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as excursion agent. Step by step he was advanced until he was made assistant general passenger agent for the entire system, and later general immigration agent.

He was an indefatigable worker in the interest of the veterans. For many years he served the Grand Army of the Republic in various ways. In June, 1915, he was elected Department Commander — a position which he filled with honor and credit, despite his ill health. On January 30, 1917, he laid down the burdens of life, as a tired child lays aside its toys for an hour of rest and sleep.

[135]



JOHN HENRY MILLS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1916 TO JUNE 1917

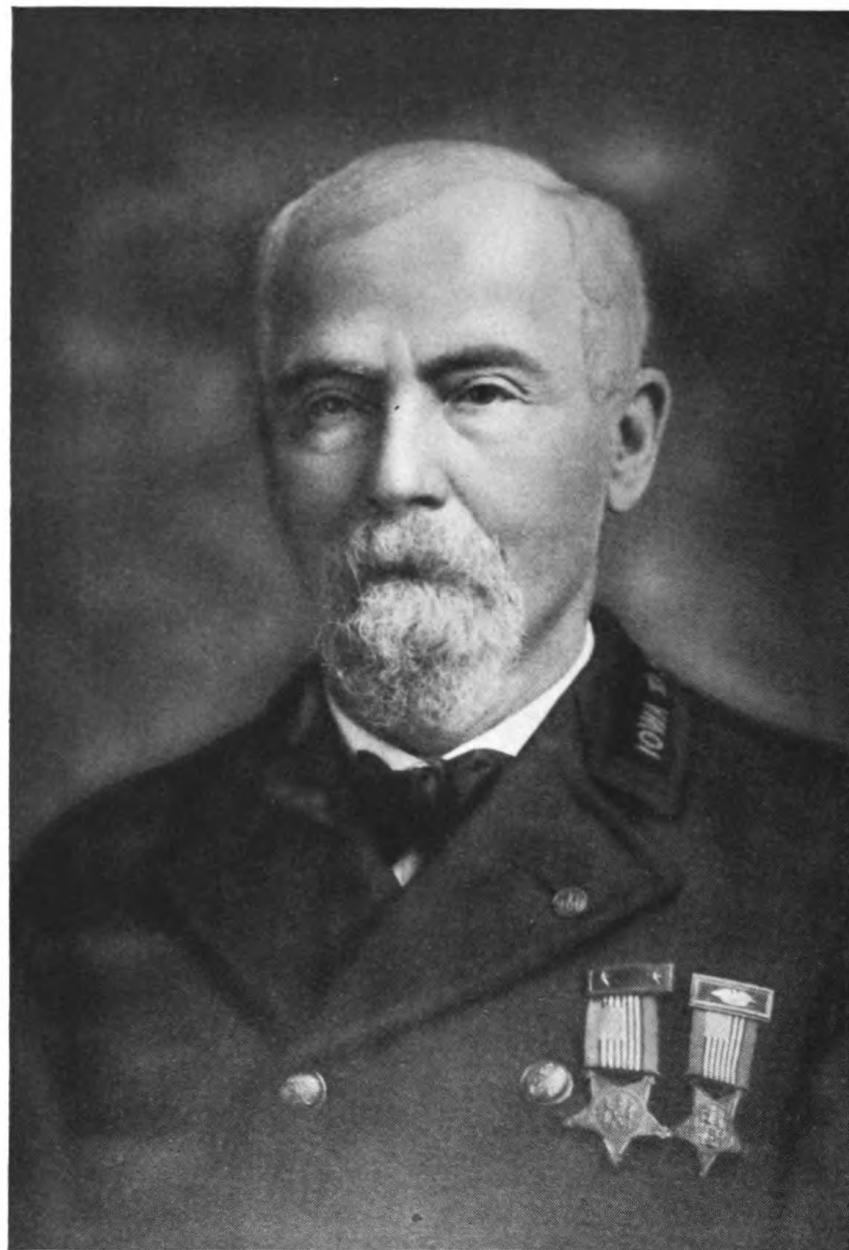
[136]

## JOHN HENRY MILLS

John Henry Mills was born in Indiana, on October 31, 1847. He came to Iowa in 1856, and at the age of seventeen enlisted in Company H, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry. He served in Sherman's army, witnessed the burning of Richmond, and was at the final review at Washington, D. C., at the close of the war.

He was a substantial and active member of Post No. 43, at Redfield, Iowa, and was widely known among Grand Army men throughout the State. His interest in the Grand Army in both the State and Nation led to his candidacy for Department Commander, and at the Annual Encampment at Marshalltown in 1916 he was unanimously elected to that office.

After his retirement from the Commandership he became a member of the National Staff. Finally as Chief of Staff of the National Commander he rendered his final service, coming to the end of his career on January 18, 1931. His eighty-three years were full of service and honor.



J. L. FARRINGTON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1917 TO JUNE 1918

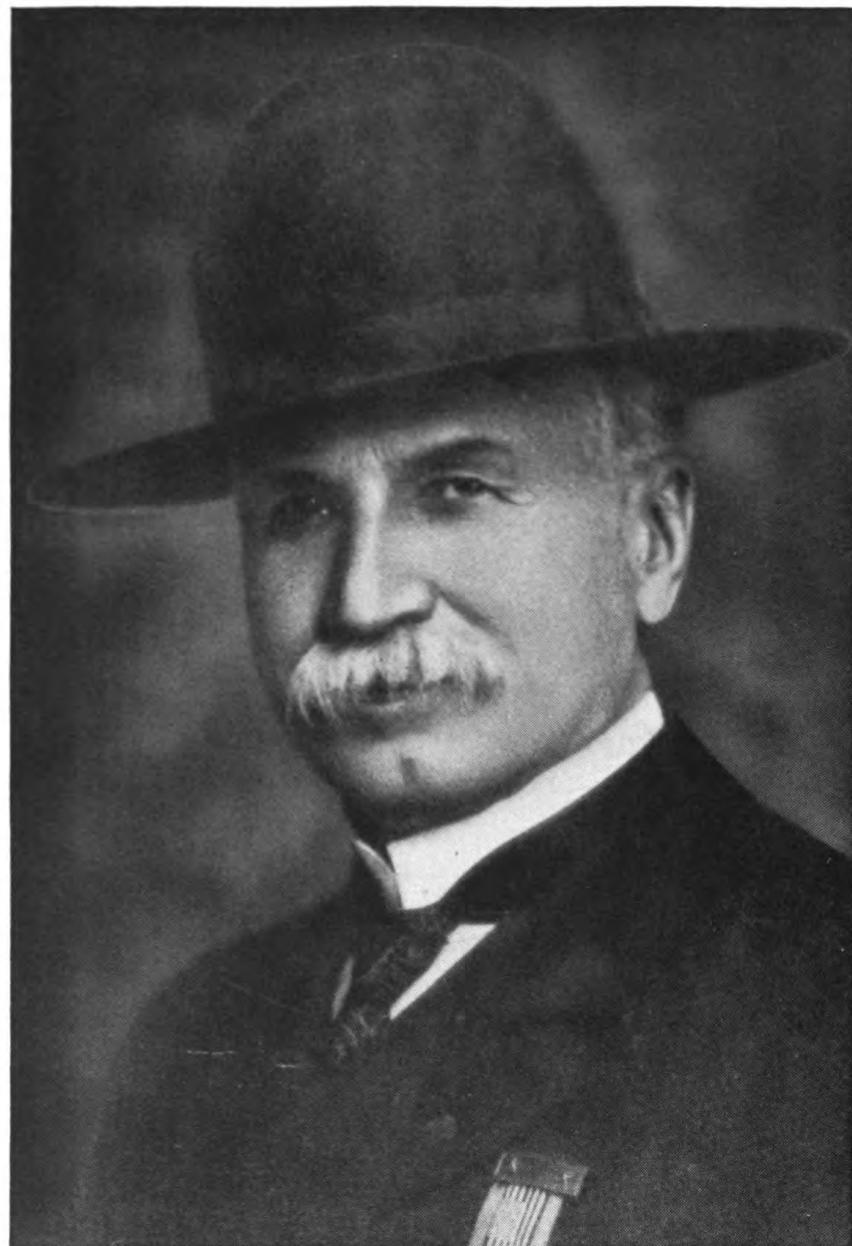
[138]

## J. L. FARRINGTON

J. L. Farrington, the son of an Irish emigrant, left his home at the age of sixteen to enlist in Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry. There he served as a good soldier, taking part in all the battles and sieges in which his regiment was engaged. The hours of danger, the days of weary march, the longing for home, the association of comrades, the sharing of dangers, the fiery ordeal and trial of war, all prepared him for the stern duties that were his in later years.

After the close of the war, Comrade Farrington resided at Iowa Falls and was a member of Post No. 141 of the Grand Army of the Republic. For fifty years after the war he taught lessons of patriotism and loyalty. From victories in war, he sought victories in peace, and labored for the best interests of his comrades.

At the Forty-third Annual Encampment, held at Davenport in June, 1917, Comrade Farrington was elected Department Commander. He lived to attain the age of eighty-one, and died at his summer home in Wisconsin, on July 17, 1928.



ELMER J. C. BEALER, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1918 TO JUNE 1919

[140]

## ELMER J. C. BEALER

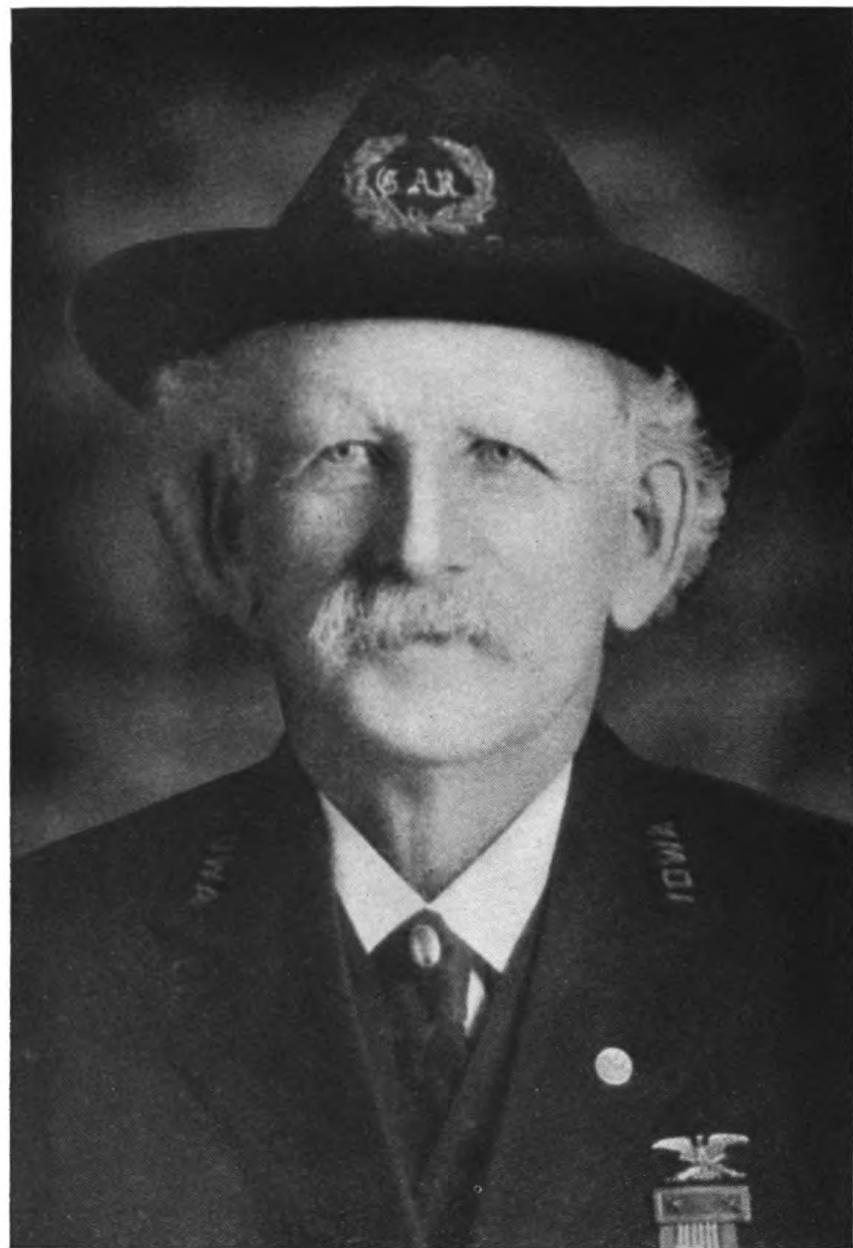
In Vicksburg National Park a great monument has been erected in honor of the Iowa soldiers. In a very special sense this is a monument to Elmer J. C. Bealer, for it was he who introduced into the Iowa legislature the bill to appropriate \$150,000 for the erection of this great memorial.

Bealer was born in Bern, Switzerland, in 1845, and came to America at an early age. In 1862, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, in the campaigns along the Red River and in the Shenandoah Valley, and in the spectacular battle of Cedar Creek, where a seeming defeat was turned into a decisive victory. Before he was twenty-one Bealer returned home having rendered three full years of good and efficient service to his country.

In 1901 Mr. Bealer was elected to the Iowa legislature, where he served for three sessions and helped to pass legislation in the interest of the veterans, including the appropriation bill for the Vicksburg monument. In 1916 he was a member of the executive committee of the Vicksburg National Jubilee Association and rendered valuable service. He was a member of Grand Army Post No. 235, at Cedar Rapids, and was elected Department Commander in 1918.

Mr. Bealer died at his home in Cedar Rapids, on September 11, 1928.

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ALEXANDER G. BEATTY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1919 TO JUNE 1920

[142]

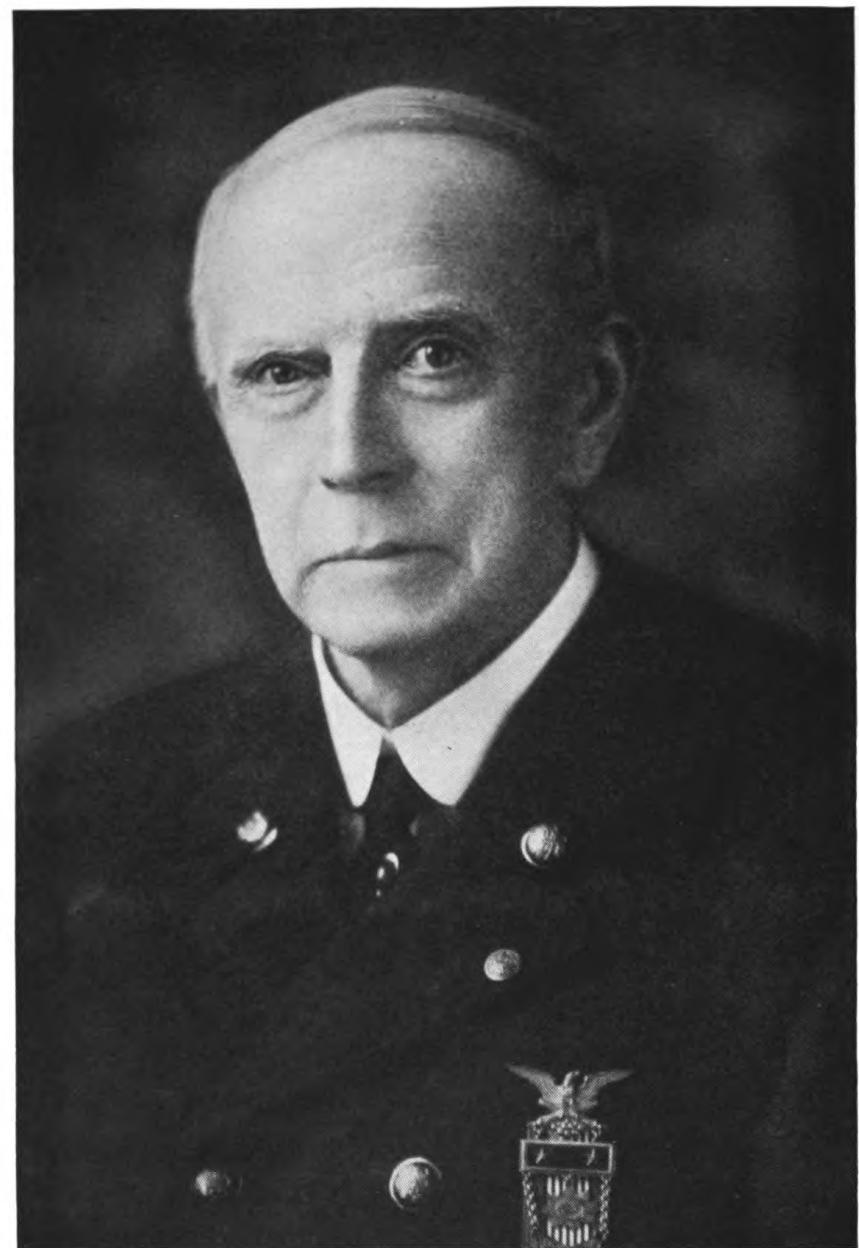
## ALEXANDER G. BEATTY

Alexander G. Beatty, a veteran and son of a veteran, was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 17, 1842. In 1850 his family came to Iowa and he acquired his early education in a log schoolhouse, in Jones County. Later he was a student at Hopkinton Seminary.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company D, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded twenty-three times in service. At the Battle of Pea Ridge his right arm was badly shattered, and for sixteen hours he lay on the battlefield without medical aid. In August, 1862, he was honorably discharged because of wounds.

His military career at an end, he followed agricultural pursuits in Jones and Buchanan counties until 1882 when he moved to Independence to engage in the real estate and insurance business. There he was interested always in local affairs — serving as justice of the peace, overseer of the poor, and Republican party committeeman. For more than a decade he served as Commander of E. C. Little Post No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic.

At the Forty-fifth Annual State Encampment of the Grand Army, held at Cedar Rapids in 1919, Comrade Beatty was elected Department Commander. Whether in office or out, he was always interested in the cause of the veterans, and worked for their best interests. He lived until October 5, 1928, attaining the ripe old age of eighty-six.



RUFUS L. CHASE, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1920 TO JUNE 1921

[144]

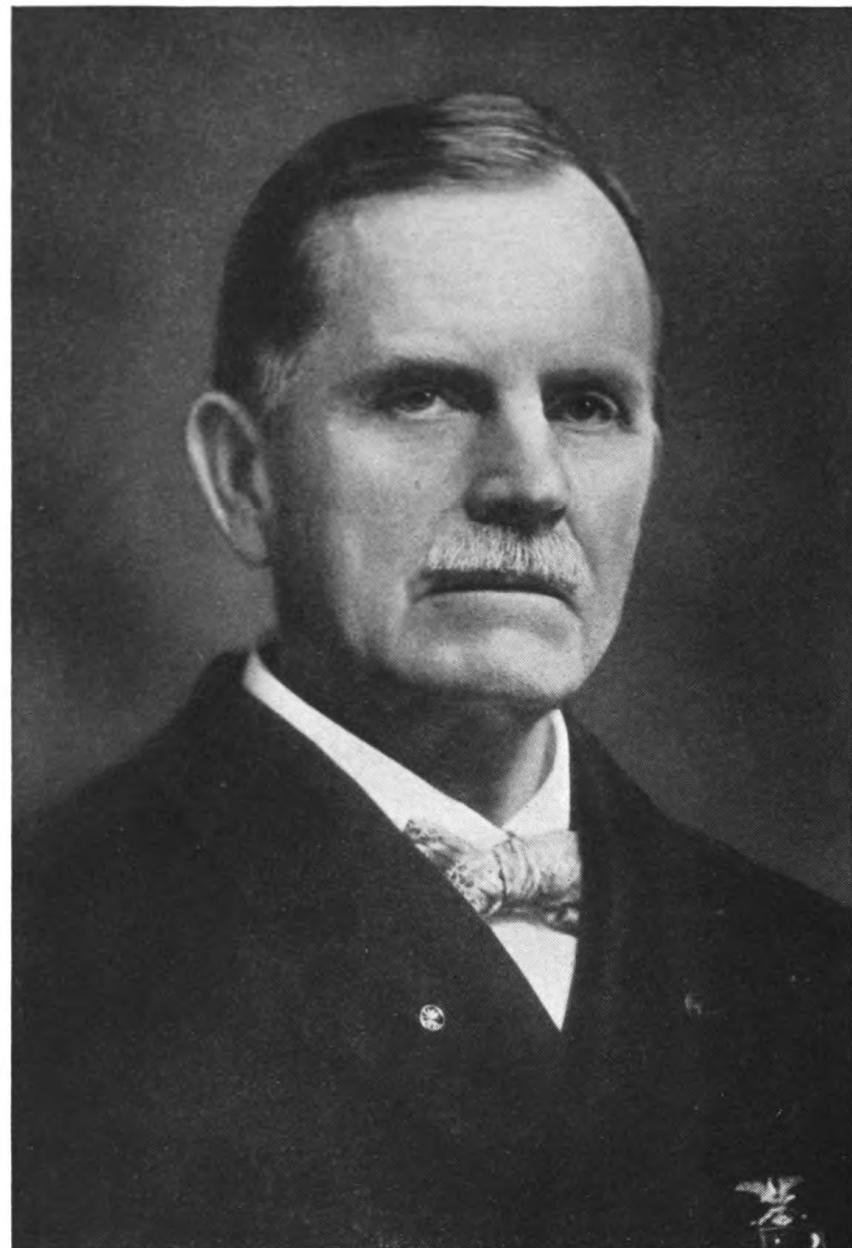
## RUFUS L. CHASE

Rufus L. Chase, elected Department Commander in 1920, was a native of New York. Born in March, 1847, he was only fourteen years of age when Fort Sumter was fired upon. Accordingly, some three years passed by before his enlistment in Company D, Third New York Cavalry, in August, 1864.

At the close of the war young Chase returned to his native State, studied dentistry, and qualified himself for the practice of that profession. Perhaps it was in the decade of the seventies that he moved west — locating at Parkersburg in Butler County, Iowa, where he practiced dentistry for two years. He was then appointed Deputy State Auditor and moved to Des Moines, where he continued to reside until the end of his career in January, 1928.

For almost fifty years Comrade Chase served the Grand Army of the Republic in an official capacity as a delegate to the State Encampment, member of the legislative committee, member of the Council of Administration, Assistant Quarter Master General, Assistant Adjutant General, National Assistant Adjutant General, and Department Commander. To National Grand Army matters he gave much time and attention. In civic matters, too, he was prominent for many years. It was largely through his influence that the National Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic were held in Des Moines in 1922 and in 1926.

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JAMES BIRNEY HARSH, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1921 TO JUNE 1922

[146]

## JAMES BIRNEY HARSH

Seventy-eight years — from September 8, 1845, to June 19, 1923 — was the span of life for James Birney Harsh, native of Clinton County, Ohio, who lived for a time in Bureau County, Illinois, and later became a pioneer and prominent citizen of Creston, Union County, Iowa. Having acquired a limited education and taught a country school, Harsh enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Illinois Infantry, where he soon attained the rank of sergeant.

The war at an end, he attended college at Galesburg, Illinois, and in 1870 moved to Iowa, locating at Creston, where he engaged in the real estate and brokerage business, and a little later took up the practice of law. In 1872 he established the *Creston Gazette*. At various times he assumed the rôle of attorney, editor, merchant, and banker. He served one term as justice of the peace, and was twice Mayor of Creston. In 1887 he was elected State Senator, and four years later was reëlected to that office. In 1894 he was chairman of the Republican State Convention and on various occasions was suggested as a candidate for Congress and for Governor.

At the Forty-seventh Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Waterloo, in 1921, he was elected Department Commander. "He was a man of great versatility, activity, and usefulness to his town, county and State". He will long be remembered as a man of influence and power.

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LEONARD J. KRON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1922 TO JUNE 1923

[148]

## LEONARD J. KRON

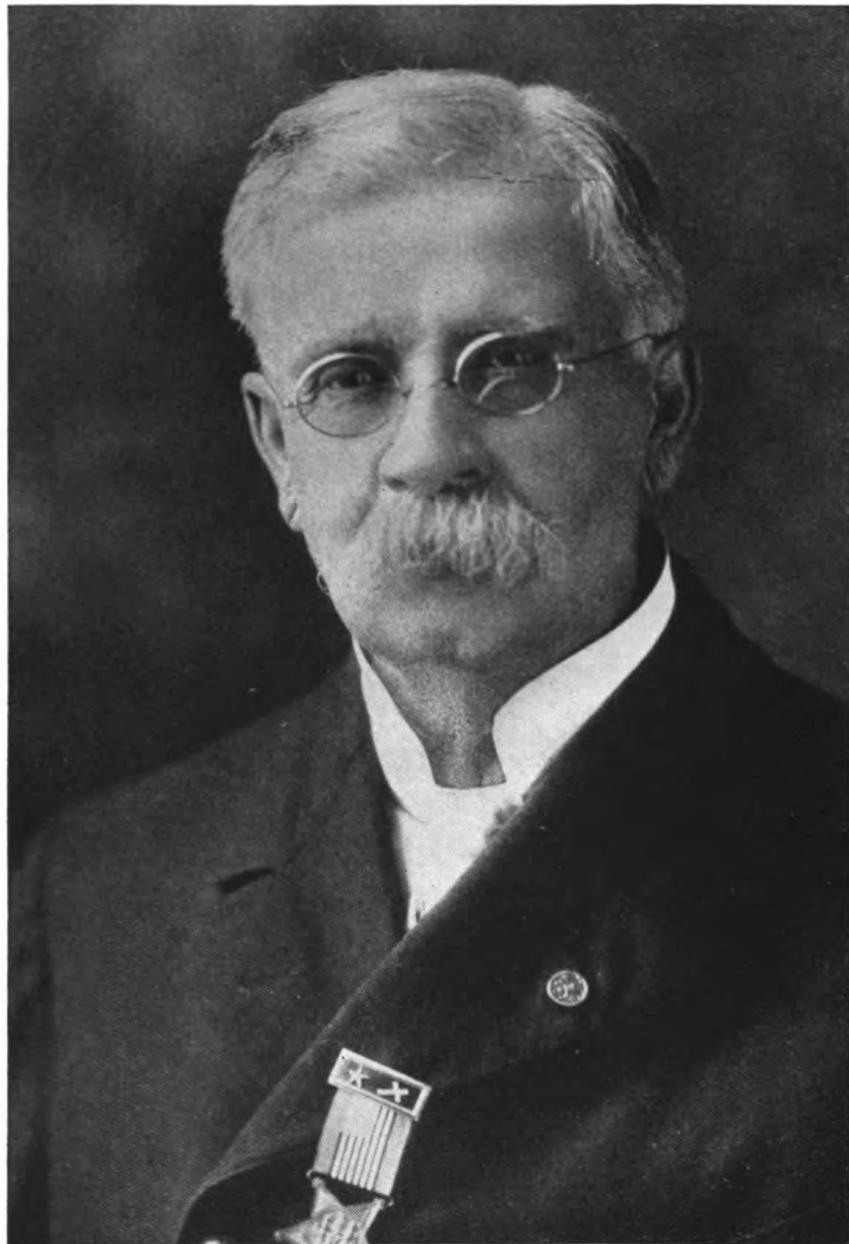
At the Forty-eighth Annual Encampment of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1922, Leonard J. Kron was elected Department Commander.

Kron was born at Rockford, Illinois, on May 8, 1846, where he grew to manhood. He enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-second Illinois Infantry and re-enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Infantry. He attained the rank of sergeant and was mustered from service at Chicago in September, 1866.

Upon his return from military service Comrade Kron returned to Rockford and engaged in the lumbering and contracting business until 1877 when he moved to Franklin County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. When he retired he moved to Hampton where he continued to reside until his death in December, 1927.

Kron joined the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866, and later became a charter member of J. W. McKenzie Post No. 81, at Hampton. In 1882 he was elected Post Commander. He was honored with many offices in the Grand Army — Junior Vice Commander, Delegate at Large to the National Encampment, Aide on Staff of Commander-in-Chief, member of Department Council of Administration, and Department Commander.

In all relations of life he was held in high esteem and had the confidence of a large circle of friends.



WILLIAM WESLEY GIST, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 6 TO JUNE 8, 1923

[150]

## WILLIAM WESLEY GIST

William Wesley Gist was born in Ohio, on February 28, 1849. During the Civil War he served in Company D, Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was in the Atlantic campaign, and at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. After the surrender of Lee, the regiment to which Gist belonged formed a part of Sheridan's forces in the expedition to the Mexican border.

Following the war, young Gist was graduated at Ohio University and attended Union Theological Seminary, in New York City. Later he became a professor at Willoughby College, Willoughby, Ohio, and at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. From 1887 to 1899 he served as Congregational minister, and in 1900 he became Professor of English at the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, where he served until the end of his career.

Professor Gist was for many years an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in Post 222, at Cedar Falls. In 1919 he was Chaplain of the Iowa Department, and Chaplain-in-Chief of the Grand Army.

At the Forty-ninth Annual Encampment, held at Fort Dodge, in June, 1923, Comrade Gist was elected Department Commander. On the day following his installation — June 8, 1923 — death came. Thus for only one brief day did he serve as Department Commander. Yet he will long be remembered as a faithful member of the Grand Army.

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WILBERT S. FREEMAN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1923 TO JUNE 1924

[152]

## WILBERT S. FREEMAN

Wilbert S. Freeman was a native of the Green Mountain State, having been born at Essex, Vermont, on June 6, 1847. When eight years of age he moved with his parents to Illinois where he was residing at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. Although still a lad of tender years, he enlisted and served as a musician in Company B, Eighth Illinois Cavalry. Upon the completion of his military service, he returned to Illinois and remained there until March, 1869, when he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth County where he continued to reside until the end of his career in February, 1930.

From 1884 until 1887 Mr. Freeman served as recorder of Plymouth County, and during the years from 1906 to 1915 he served as postmaster at Le Mars. During all the years of his residence in Iowa he was interested in local political affairs and came to be a man widely known and highly respected in the community in which he lived.

Comrade Freeman was a charter member of Mower Post No. 91, of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized at Le Mars on August 26, 1882. He served in various offices of that Post. On June 6, 1923, at the Annual State Encampment at Fort Dodge, he was elected Senior Vice Department Commander, and two days later upon the death of Commander W. W. Gist, he became Department Commander.



WILLIAM HARRISON NEEDHAM, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1924 TO OCT. 1924

[154]

## WILLIAM HARRISON NEEDHAM

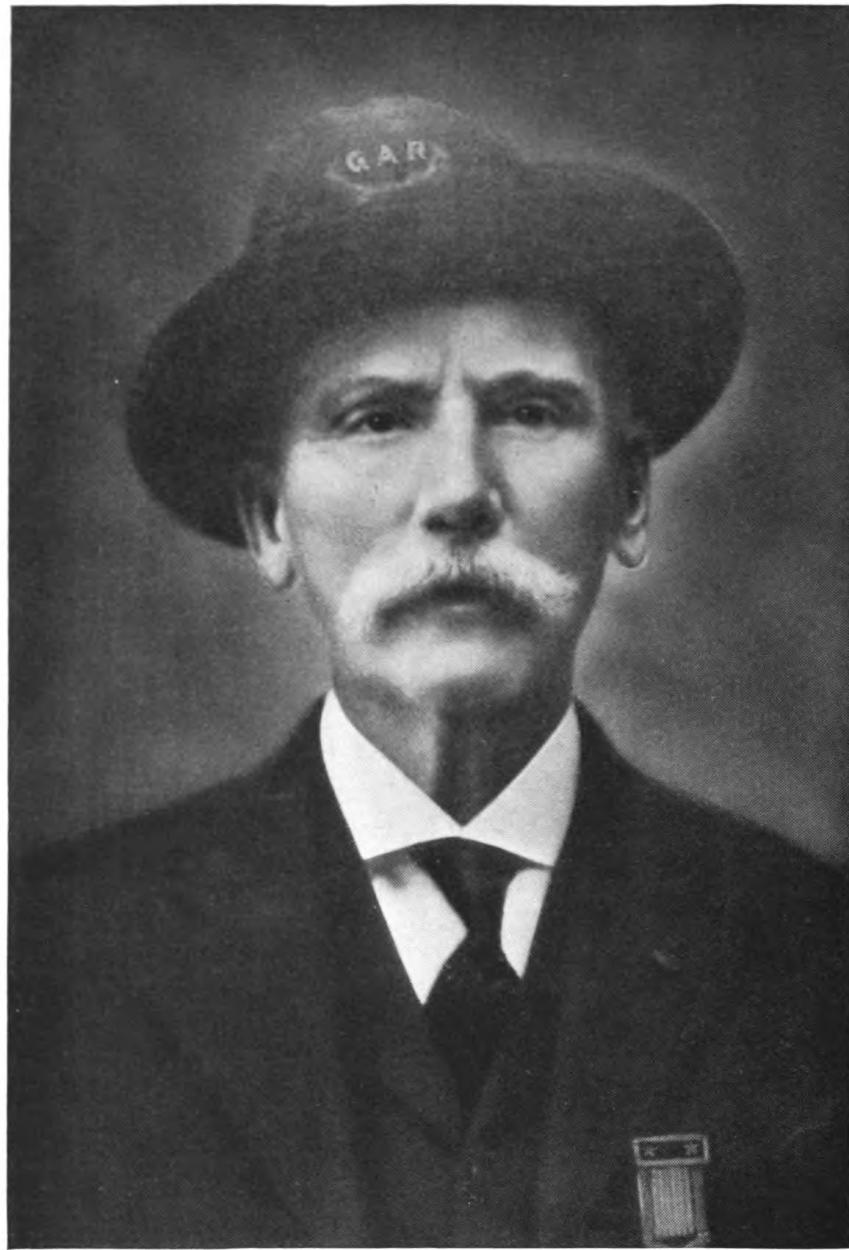
William Harrison Needham had an unusual military record. As a volunteer in Company D, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, he rendered service in Mississippi, at Port Gibson, at Raymond, Champion's Hill, Jackson, Black River Bridge, and Vicksburg. Later he was sent to Louisiana and then to Texas. He was one of six members of his regiment to receive the commendation of General Ulysses S. Grant for bravery in service at Vicksburg.

Needham was born in Ohio in 1841. He came to Iowa as a lad, and worked as a printer for his brother, later Lieutenant Governor John R. Needham, on the Oskaloosa *Herald*. When war clouds hovered, young Needham went to Albia to work on a newspaper. A little later he was at Iowa City where he enlisted in the Twenty-second Iowa Infantry under the command of Colonel William M. Stone.

At the close of the war he bought an interest in the Oskaloosa *Herald*, but in 1878 he moved to Sigourney, where he published *The News*, and at various times served as postmaster, a member of the school board, and a member of the city council.

He was a member of Grand Army Post No. 167, at Sigourney. At the Annual Encampment at Marshalltown in June, 1924, he was elected Department Commander. On October 15th of that year, when his term of office was less than half finished, death came, and none could say that he had not lived well.

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DANIEL BALDWIN COWLES, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, OCT. 1924 TO MAY 1925

[156]

## DANIEL BALDWIN COWLES

Daniel Baldwin Cowles was born in McHenry County, Illinois, on June 19, 1845. At an early age he moved with his parents to Wisconsin. Later he moved to McGregor, Iowa, and again to Le Roy, Minnesota. There, on Christmas Day, 1863, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Brockett's Battalion, Minnesota Cavalry. He took part in the strenuous campaigns of General Alfred Sully, serving with credit to himself and honor to his regiment until his final discharge in May, 1866.

At the close of his military service Comrade Cowles entered the hardware business with his father in Missouri. Later he entered the employment of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad at Ottumwa, where he served for fifty years, until his retirement in 1922.

For many years Comrade Cowles was a faithful member of Post No. 69, at Ottumwa, serving at one time as Post Commander. In June, 1924, he was named Senior Vice Commander of the Iowa Department. In October of that year, upon the death of Commander W. H. Needham, Mr. Cowles became Department Commander. On May 14th of the following year he, too, was "called home", again leaving a second vacancy in the office of Department Commander.



ORLANDO S. HARTMAN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MAY 1925 TO JUNE 1925

[158]

## ORLANDO S. HARTMAN

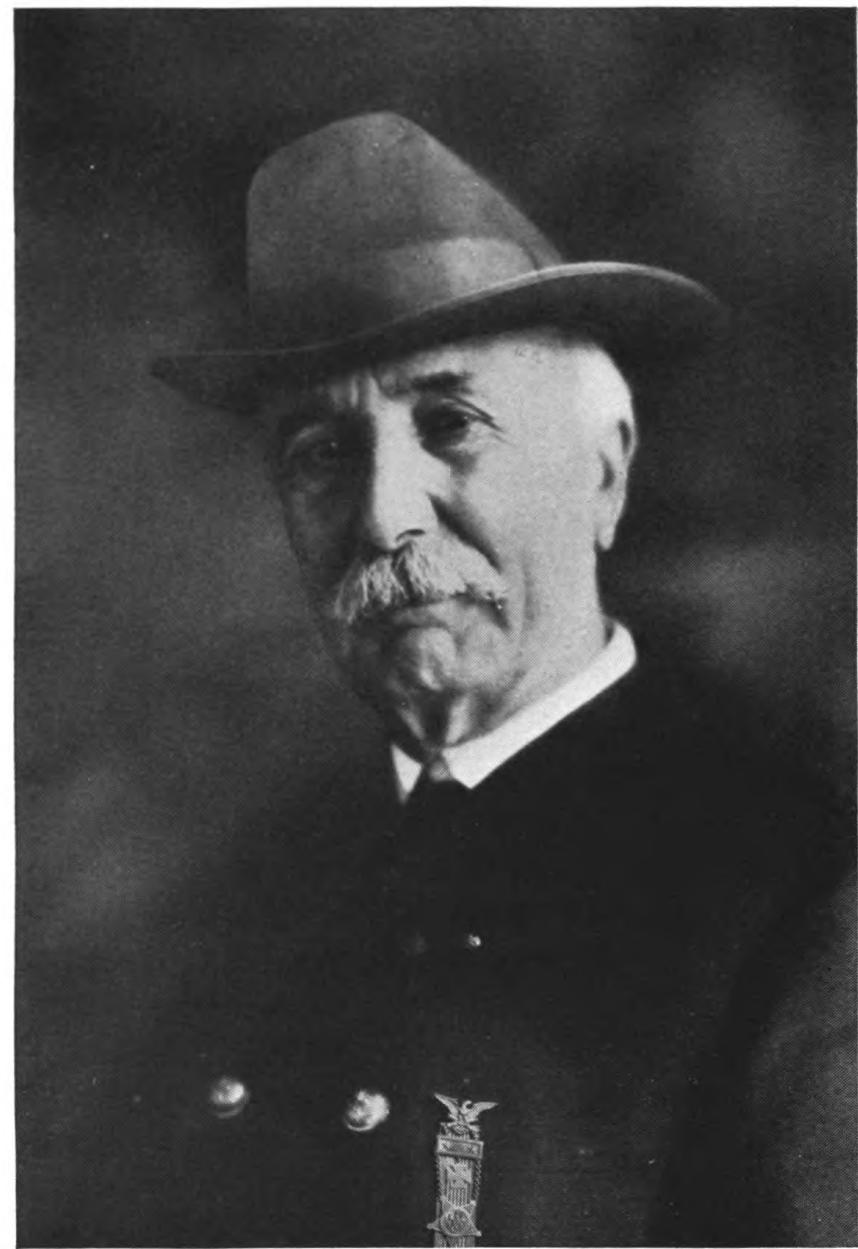
Orlando S. Hartman was born on November 21, 1848, in Richmond County, Ohio. As a youth he came to Iowa, locating in Johnson County, and in January, 1864, enlisted in Company H, Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry.

After the war Mr. Hartman resided for a time in Des Moines, but because of impaired health, in September, 1878, he took up residence at the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown. While there, he was a member and for a time Commander of Phil Sheridan Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

At the Fiftieth Annual State Encampment held at Davenport in June, 1924, W. H. Needham was elected Department Commander; D. B. Cowles, Senior Vice Commander; and O. S. Hartman, Junior Vice Commander. Upon the death of Mr. Needham and the subsequent death of Mr. Cowles, Mr. Hartman, in May, 1925, succeeded to the office of Department Commander. He was the only Junior Vice Commander in the history of the Iowa Department who succeeded to the office of Department Commander through the death of two of his comrades.

His term of office was of brief duration, as the annual meeting and the election of officers occurred within a month after he took office. Brief as his term of office was, however, his work was effectively done. Mr. Hartman died at the Iowa Soldiers' Home, in Marshalltown, on May 28, 1927.

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FRANK DAGLE, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1925 TO JUNE 1926

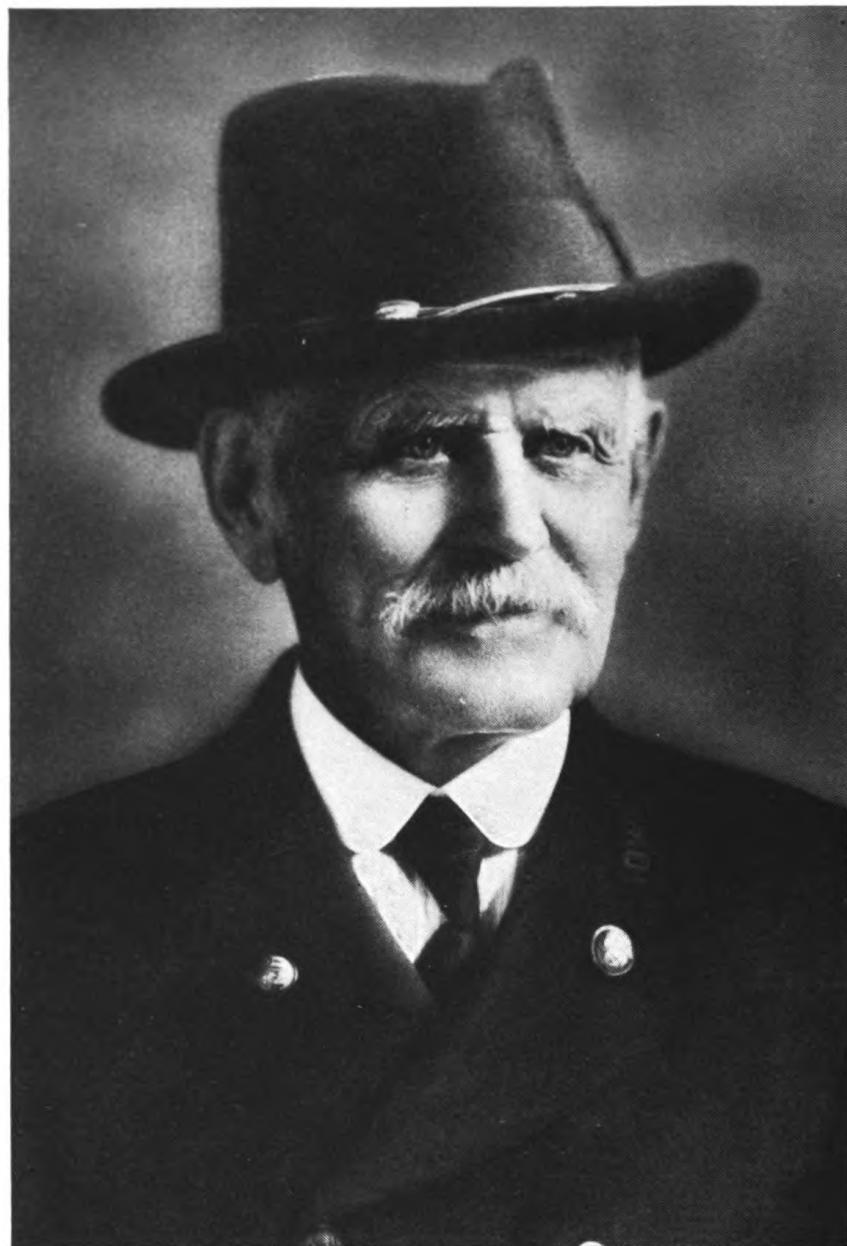
[160]

## FRANK DAGLE

Frank Dagle was a native of New York, having been born in Clinton County, on March 26, 1847. At the age of ten he moved with his parents to the State of Wisconsin, locating near the city of Oshkosh. At the outbreak of the Civil War Dagle enlisted in Company E, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. As a member of the "Iron Brigade" in the Army of the Potomac he rendered valiant service until June 27, 1864, when he was wounded at the battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, and later was discharged because of wounds.

Following the war, Comrade Dagle returned to Wisconsin. Later he settled at Winnebago, Minnesota, where he worked as a builder and contractor for many years, and where he was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Later he moved to Des Moines where for thirty years he was a member of Crocker Post No. 12. In 1925, while he was serving as Commander of Crocker Post, he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department.

As National President of the "Iron Brigade", and Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, Mr. Dagle was for many years interested in veterans' organizations. Indeed, until the end of his career on October 31, 1928, at the age of eighty-one, he never ceased to work for the welfare of his comrades.



ELIPHALET JAMES STONEBRAKER, COMMANDER, IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1926 TO JUNE 1927

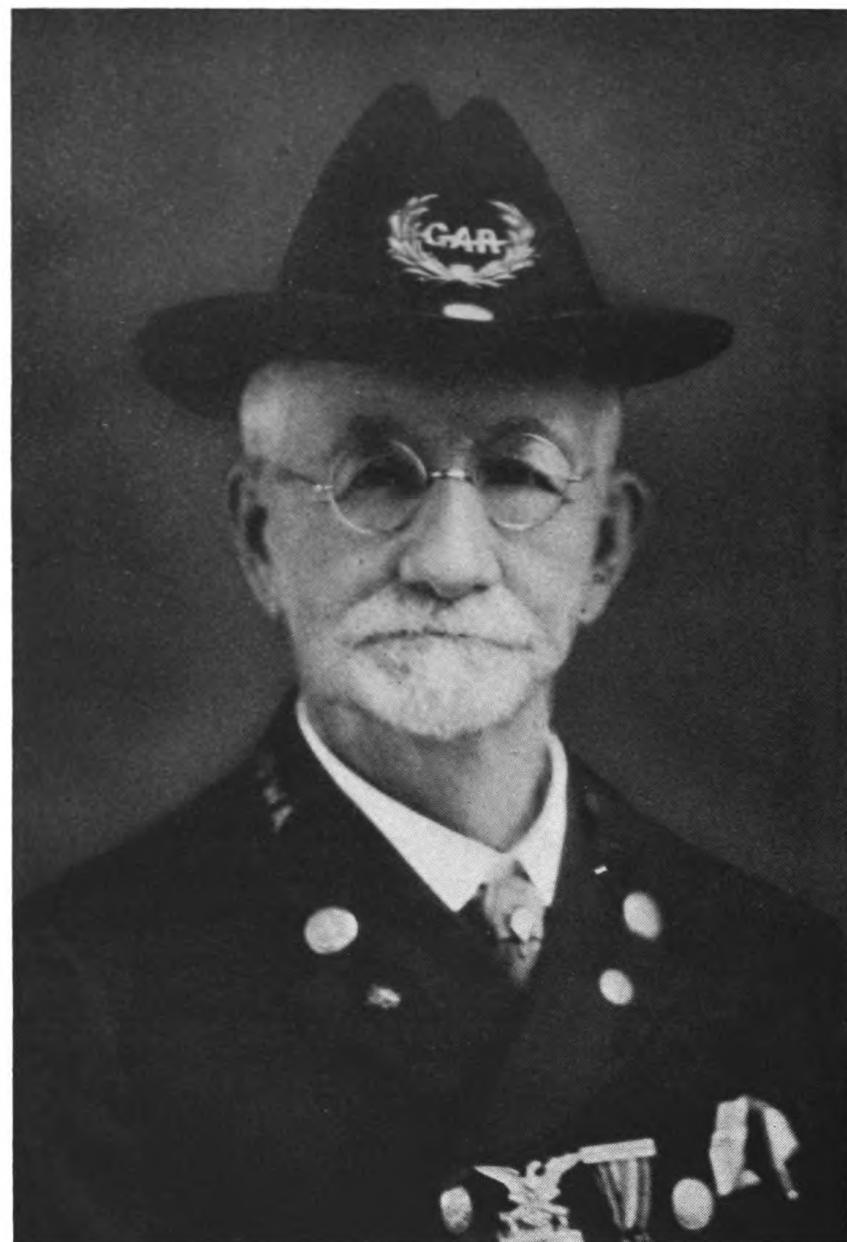
[162]

## ELIPHALET JAMES STONEBRAKER

Eliphalet J. Stonebraker, for more than sixty years a resident of Hampton, Iowa, came to the end of his long career on July 15, 1935.

Mr. Stonebraker was born at Mt. Morris, Illinois, on August 7, 1847. He attended the public schools of Ogle County, Illinois, and later attended Mt. Morris College. In 1864, at the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry where he served under Captain F. H. March, engaging in three major battles — the capture of Fort Blakely, the battle of Mobile, and the Spanish Fort. In 1870 he came to Hampton, where he engaged in the painting and decorating business through the active years of his life.

He was for many years a faithful worker in the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a charter member of J. W. McKenzie Post No. 81, at Hampton, and was five times elected Commander of that Post. In 1926 he was elected Department Commander, serving his comrades in a most efficient and commendable manner. He was one of the later survivors of the Grand Army, and one who was always loyal to the best interests of the organization.



OLEY NELSON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1927 TO JUNE 1928

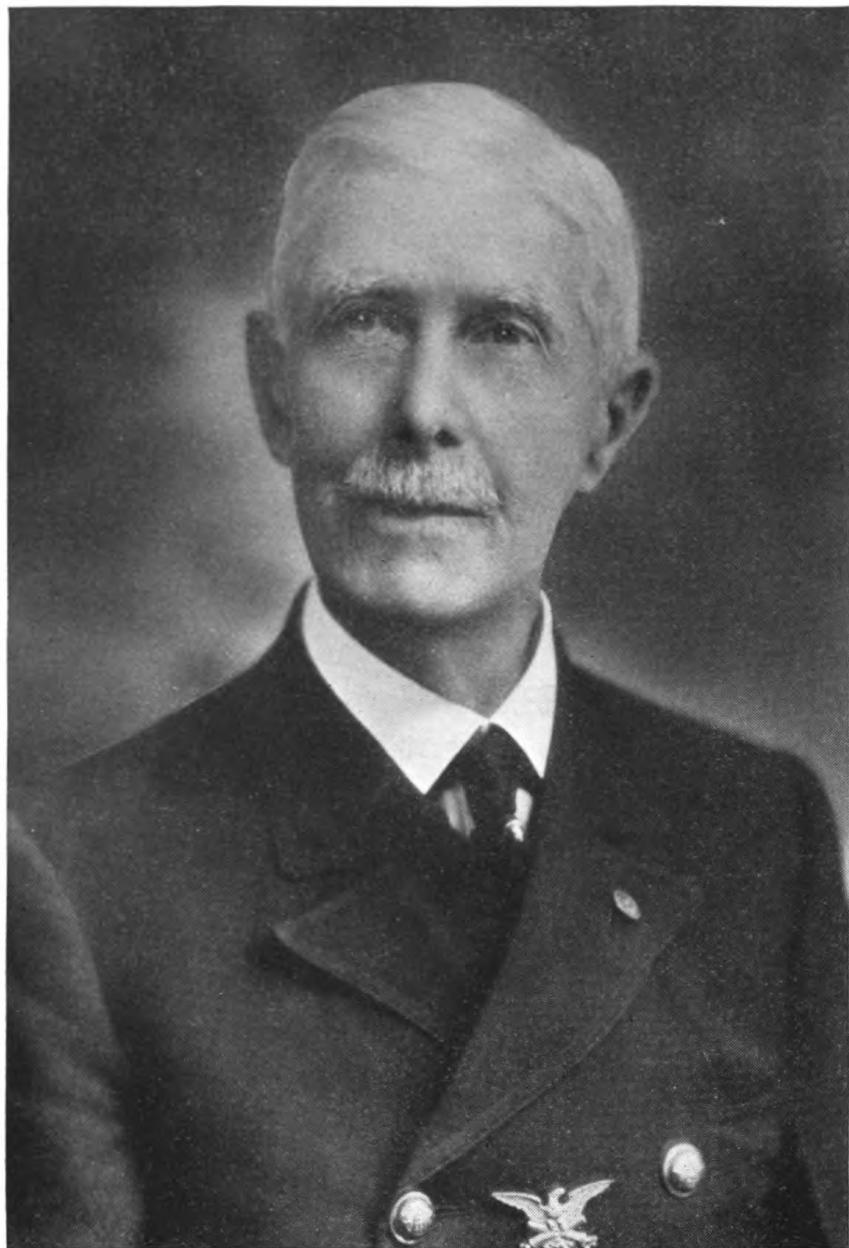
[164]

## OLEY NELSON

Oley Nelson, a veteran and son of a veteran, was born in Rock County, Wisconsin, on August 10, 1844. On June 17, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin Infantry (known as the University Regiment), which was assigned to General Sturgis's Brigade, Fifteenth Army Corps, with headquarters at Memphis, Tennessee. He was discharged on September 16, 1864, because of sickness and returned to his widowed mother in Primrose County, Wisconsin, his father having died in service prior to Oley's enlistment. In 1867 Comrade Nelson moved in a covered wagon to Story County, Iowa.

He was an active member of Ellsworth Post No. 30, at Ames, Iowa, for forty years, and has been a member of Grenville M. Dodge Camp No. 75, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for twenty-five years. He was a member of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second General Assemblies of Iowa, and for twelve years has served as Sergeant at Arms of the Iowa House of Representatives. He was one of the foremost and most persistent advocates of a State Soldiers' Home and during his legislative career voted for the Home. He served as Department Patriotic Instructor, and in 1927 was elected Department Commander. He served as National Chief of Staff in 1931, was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief in September, 1931, and on September 12, 1935, was elected Commander-in-Chief, the third comrade from Iowa to be chosen to this high office.

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JOHN WHITTIER STRATTON, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1928 TO JUNE 1929

[166]

## JOHN WHITTIER STRATTON

John Whittier Stratton was born of Quaker parents in Columbia County, Ohio, on May 10, 1845. His boyhood home was a station on the Underground Railroad. A few years later he joined the Union Army "to free the slaves". He was a cousin of Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War in Lincoln's Cabinet.

At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-third Ohio Infantry, where he served as captain of Company D. At the end of the war, he settled at Conotton, Ohio, residing there until 1900. In May of that year he moved to Creston, Iowa. There for thirty years he served the best interests of his community. As a businessman, active in church and fraternal circles, he was widely known and highly respected.

For many years he was actively interested in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in Post No. 440, at Creston. At the Fifty-fourth Annual State Encampment held at Cedar Rapids in June, 1928, he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. In May, 1930, Comrade Stratton attained the advanced age of eighty-five years, but the end was near. On December 5th of that year he responded to the final call.



JOHN K. EWING, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1929 TO APRIL 1930

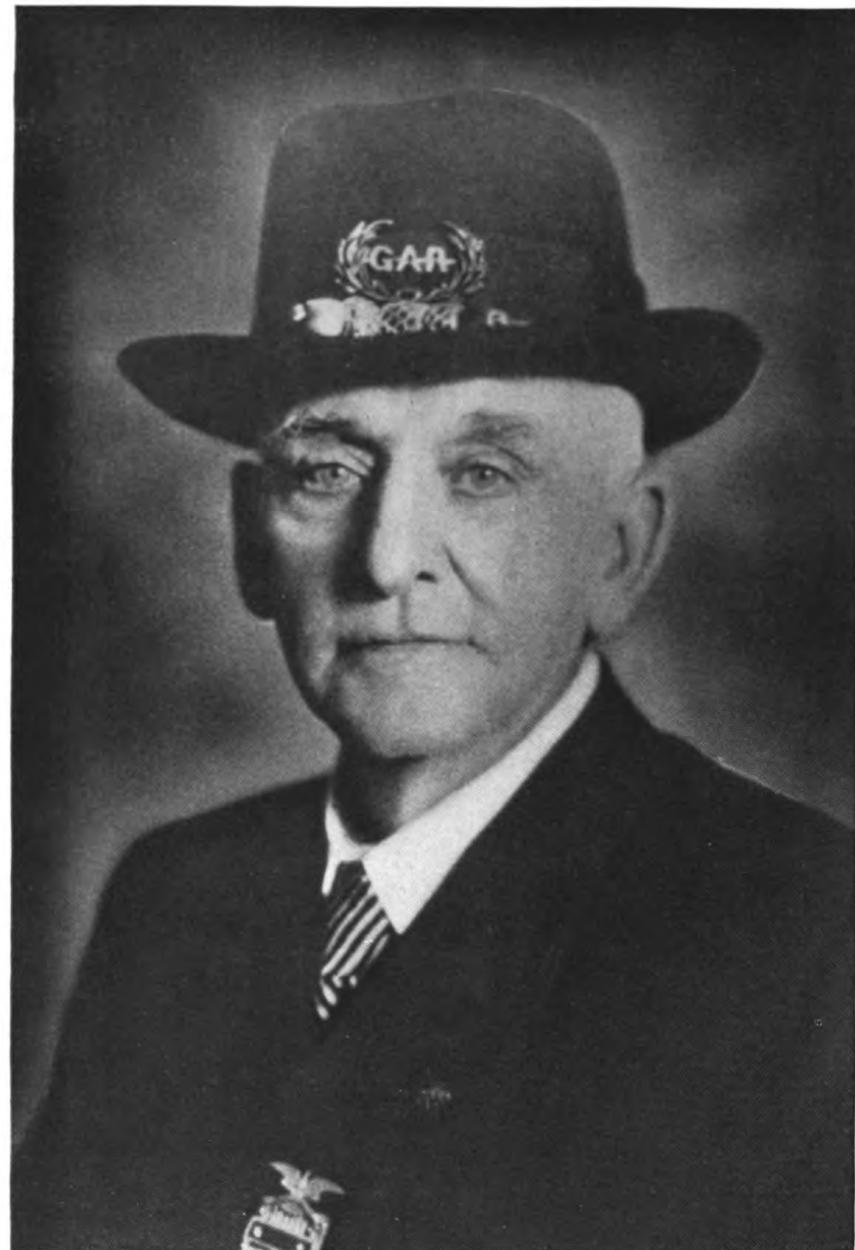
[168]

## JOHN K. EWING

John K. Ewing was a native of Pennsylvania. Born on October 30, 1843, he was a mere youth of seventeen years when in July, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, First Illinois Cavalry. Soon after his enlistment he was wounded and his horse was killed at the Battle of Lexington, Missouri. In August, 1862, he was mustered from service, but reënlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry. At the battle of Chickamauga he was again severely wounded and was tendered his discharge, but he chose to remain in service. He participated in the battles from Ringgold to Kenesaw Mountain, was ordered to Chattanooga as clerk in the office of Chief of Ordnance, and in February, 1865, he was transferred to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he remained until the end of the war.

After the war Comrade Ewing was a resident of Union County, Iowa, where he became a member and active participant of Grand Army Post No. 271, at Shannon City. At the Fifty-fifth Annual Encampment at Fort Dodge in June, 1929, he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. In assuming the duties of office he acknowledged that time had wrought its work. "We are not the boys we were in '61", he said. Yet little did he dream that the end was so near. On April 3, 1930, while he was yet in office, his career was ended. Thus his last days were spent in service of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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JOSEPH PRATT, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, APRIL 1930 TO JUNE 1930

[170]

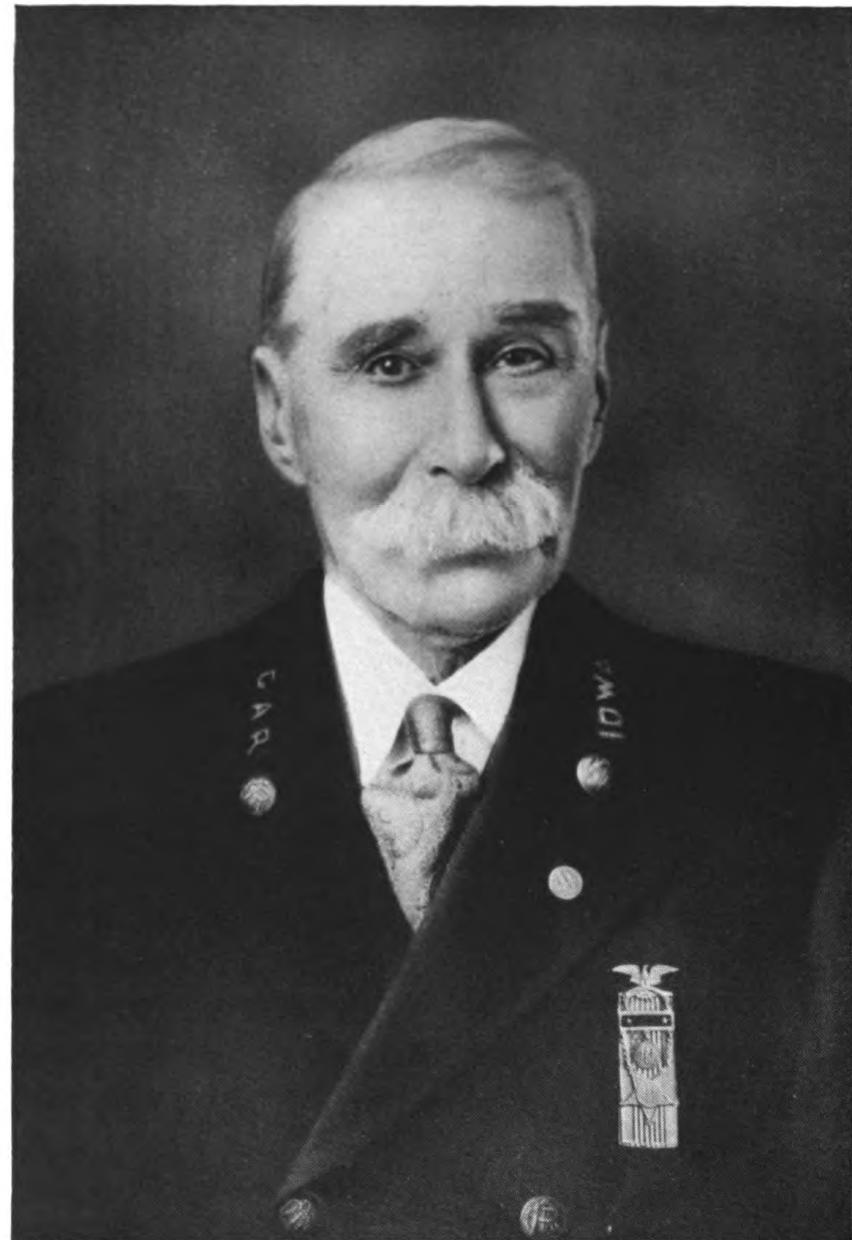
## JOSEPH PRATT

Joseph Pratt was a native of England, having been born in the city of Birmingham, on September 6, 1847. As a youth he came to America, locating in Illinois. In 1864, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

In 1878 he came to Iowa, settling at Lohrville, in Calhoun County. Later, as a farmer, hardware and implement dealer, and grain dealer, he resided at Boone, Luther, and Minburn. Upon his retirement from business in 1918 he moved to Fort Dodge.

Comrade Pratt was for many years interested in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic. For more than a decade he was a member of Fort Donelson Post No. 236, at Fort Dodge, where for five years he served as Post Commander. He also served as a member of the Webster County Soldiers' Relief Commission where he rendered efficient service for his comrades. At the Fifty-fifth Annual Encampment of the Iowa Department, held at Fort Dodge in June, 1929, he was named Senior Vice Commander, and upon the death of Department Commander John K. Ewing in April of the following year, Mr. Pratt succeeded to the office of Department Commander, serving in that office until the end of the fiscal year in June, 1930.

A few months after his retirement from office — on October 11, 1930 — at the age of eighty-three — his life's work came to an end.



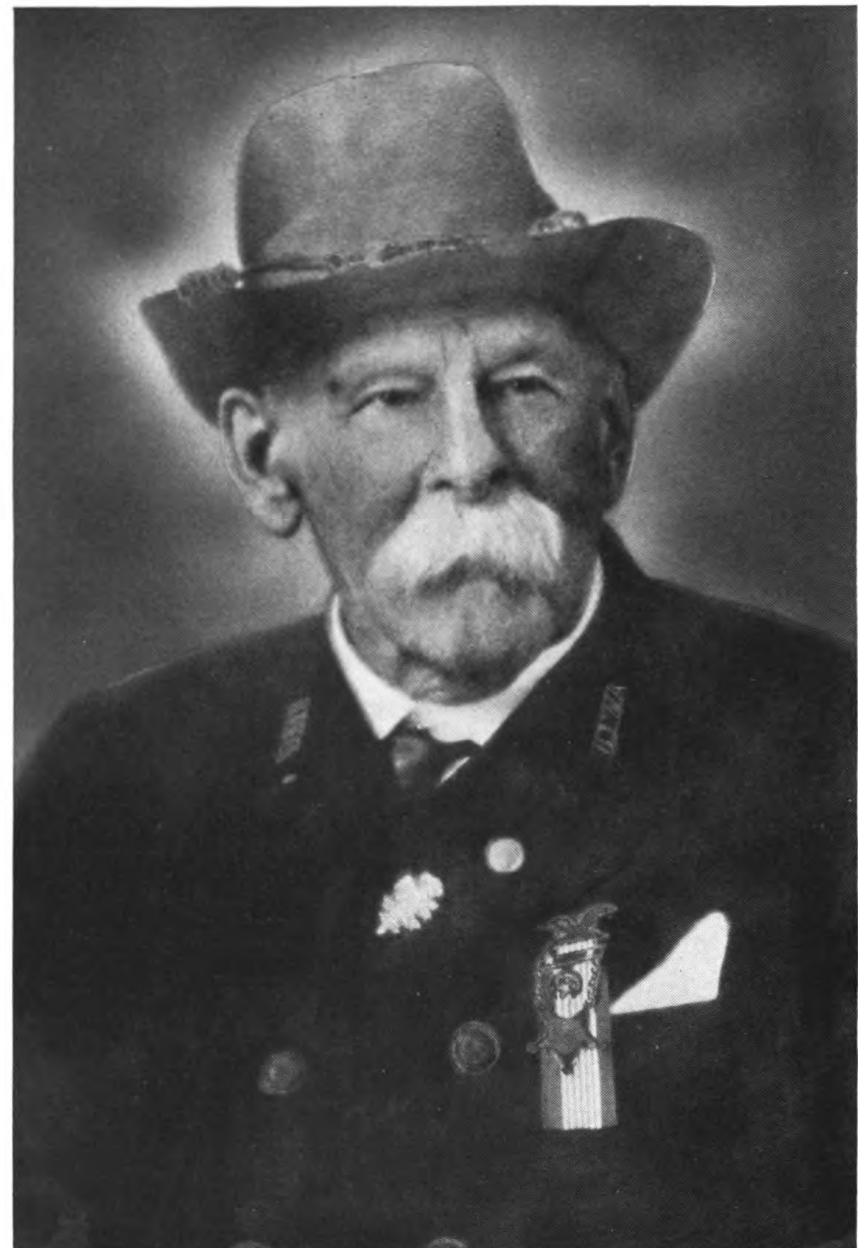
WATSON MOSES RISDEN, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1930 TO JUNE 1931

[172]

## WATSON MOSES RISDEN

Watson M. Risden was born in Watertown, New York, on December 1, 1843, and in his youth moved westward to Indiana. In the spring of 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and almost immediately he was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and then to Nashville, Tennessee, with little experience or military discipline. He participated in the assaults on Dalton, Rocky Face, and Buzzard's Roost. He was at the battles of Franklin, Nashville, and Kingston, and in April, 1866, he was mustered out of service. After the war he came directly to Iowa, locating at Cedar Rapids where he continued to reside for more than fifty-five years.

Mr. Risden was active in local Post No. 235, at Cedar Rapids, and also in the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the Fifty-sixth Annual Encampment, held at Ottumwa in 1930, he was elected Department Commander. In 1931 and again in 1932 he was elected Department Chaplain. Within a few days after his reëlection to this office, however, on June 23, 1932, his career was ended.



JOHN T. LUCAS, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1931 TO JUNE 1932

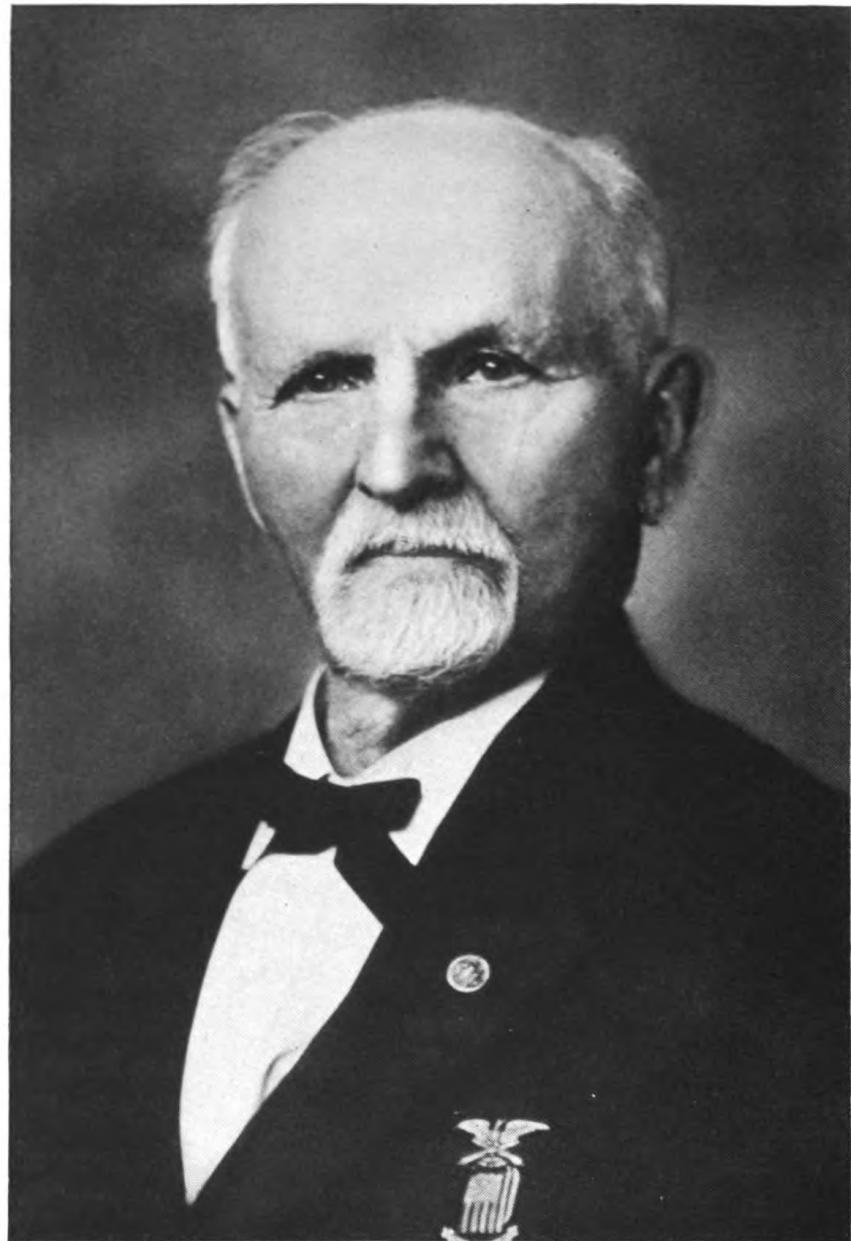
[174]

## JOHN T. LUCAS

Born in Illinois on Christmas Day, 1849, and coming to Iowa in early childhood, John T. Lucas grew to young manhood near Albion in Marshall County. As a youth of fifteen he enlisted as a drummer boy in Company H, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry. In a battle near Atlanta, Georgia, on July 22, 1864, he was severely wounded. He was transferred to the Veterans' Reserve Corps where he continued in service until the close of the war.

With the return of peace Comrade Lucas returned to Marshall County, and became an active member of Grand Army Post No. 94 at Marshalltown. As a worker for the Grand Army he was widely known throughout the State. He was always interested in the welfare of the veterans and was active in the interest of the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown. At the Fifty-seventh Annual Encampment, held at Marshalltown in 1931, he was elected without opposition to the office of Department Commander. In accepting this high office Commander Lucas said: "There is no position in the United States that I could more fully appreciate", and he solicited the co-operation of his comrades, all of whom were well advanced in age. Despite his more than four score years he was still enthusiastic for the cause he loved. With health impaired it was difficult for him to complete his term of service. He died on August 16, 1932, only a short time after his retirement from office, having attained the age of eighty-three.

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THOMAS JEFFERSON NOLL, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1932 TO JUNE 1933

[176]

## THOMAS JEFFERSON NOLL

Thomas J. Noll is a native of Pennsylvania — born in Lycoming County, in December, 1844. In 1852, at the age of eight he moved to Illinois, and during the Civil War, served in Company C, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry.

In 1865 Mr. Noll came to Iowa, locating in Tama County. Later he returned to Illinois for two years of study and came again to Iowa in 1869. After teaching school for some time he registered in the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1875. Subsequently, for more than twenty years he practiced law at Grundy Center. During this time he was a member of Wilson Post No. 71, and served one year as Post Commander. While a resident of Grundy Center he also served for several years as justice of the peace.

In 1897 Mr. Noll moved to Grinnell, where as an attorney and judge of the superior court he has been one of the prominent residents for many years. Since coming to Grinnell he has been a member of Gordon Grange Post No. 64, and was five times elected Post Commander. At the Fifty-eighth Annual State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Council Bluffs in 1932, he was elected Department Commander.

Mr. Noll is one of the few surviving past Department Commanders. At the age of ninety-one, he is now living in quiet retirement at Grinnell.



FRANK LOUIS QUADE, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1933 TO JUNE 1934

[178]

## FRANK LOUIS QUADE

Frank L. Quade was born at Providence, Rhode Island, on December 23, 1846. In 1861, at the age of fifteen, he came to Iowa and located at Dubuque. In 1862 and again in 1863 he attempted to enlist, but each time was rejected because of his youth. In 1864 he enlisted in Company G, Eighth Iowa Cavalry, where he served until the end of the war. He was in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, in the Nashville campaign, followed General J. B. Hood to the Tennessee River, and was in winter quarters at Waterloo, Alabama.

At the close of the war he returned to Dubuque where in 1885 he was appointed mail carrier. Five years later he was transferred to mail clerk — a position which he held until his retirement in 1920. Mr. Quade was for many years interested in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic, with membership in Post No. 78. At the Fifty-ninth Annual Encampment, held at Fort Madison in 1933, he was elected Commander of the Iowa Department. Past Commander Quade still resides at Dubuque at the advanced age of eighty-nine.



LOUIS JOSIAH LEECH, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1934 TO JUNE 1935

[180]

## LOUIS JOSIAH LEECH

Louis J. Leech is a native of Ohio, born in Columbia County, on August 3, 1846. At the age of nine he came with his parents to Iowa — locating in Cedar County, where he has continued to reside for many years.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Leech enlisted in Company B, Second Iowa Cavalry. During the war he participated in many battles, among them the battles near Nashville and Franklin, Tennessee. Following the war Comrade Leech farmed for a short time in Johnson County. Later he entered the State University of Iowa, where he was graduated from the College of Medicine in the class of 1882. Entering upon the practice of his profession at West Branch, he was the attending physician in the Hoover family in the days when Herbert Hoover was a youth.

Dr. Leech served for many years on the local school board. He has served on the town council, and held the office of mayor. He also served in the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first General Assemblies of Iowa. For many years he has been interested in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the Sixtieth Annual Encampment, held at Des Moines in 1934, Comrade Leech was elected Department Commander.

At the age of eighty-nine Dr. Leech is still a practicing physician at West Branch — one of the oldest physicians in the State. He is likewise still much interested in the work of the Grand Army.



HORACE B. KELLY, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, JUNE 1935 TO AUGUST, 1935

[182]

## HORACE B. KELLY

At the advanced age of ninety-three years, Horace B. Kelly was elected Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Born in Dane County, Wisconsin, on January 22, 1842, young Kelly spent his boyhood days in that State, and at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in Company K, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served in the war under Generals Banks and Thomas, remaining for the most part in the States of Virginia and Maryland. After the disastrous battle of Cedar Mountain, on August 9, 1862, he was pressed into hospital service at Culpepper, Virginia, and proved himself a valuable and efficient medical aid.

At the close of the war he located in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, where he resided until 1875, when he came to Iowa, locating near Grundy Center. He was a charter member of the Grundy Center Grand Army Post, and during the later years of his life he was the only surviving Civil War veteran residing in Grundy County. In 1934 Comrade Kelly was named as Senior Vice Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army. At the Sixty-first Annual Encampment, held at Waterloo in June, 1935, his comrades — the "Boys in Blue" — named him as Department Commander. His service in that office, however, was of brief duration, for in less than two months after his election — on August 2, 1935 — his long and faithful career was ended.

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JONATHAN C. HANES, COMMANDER OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, BEGINNING AUGUST 1935

[184]

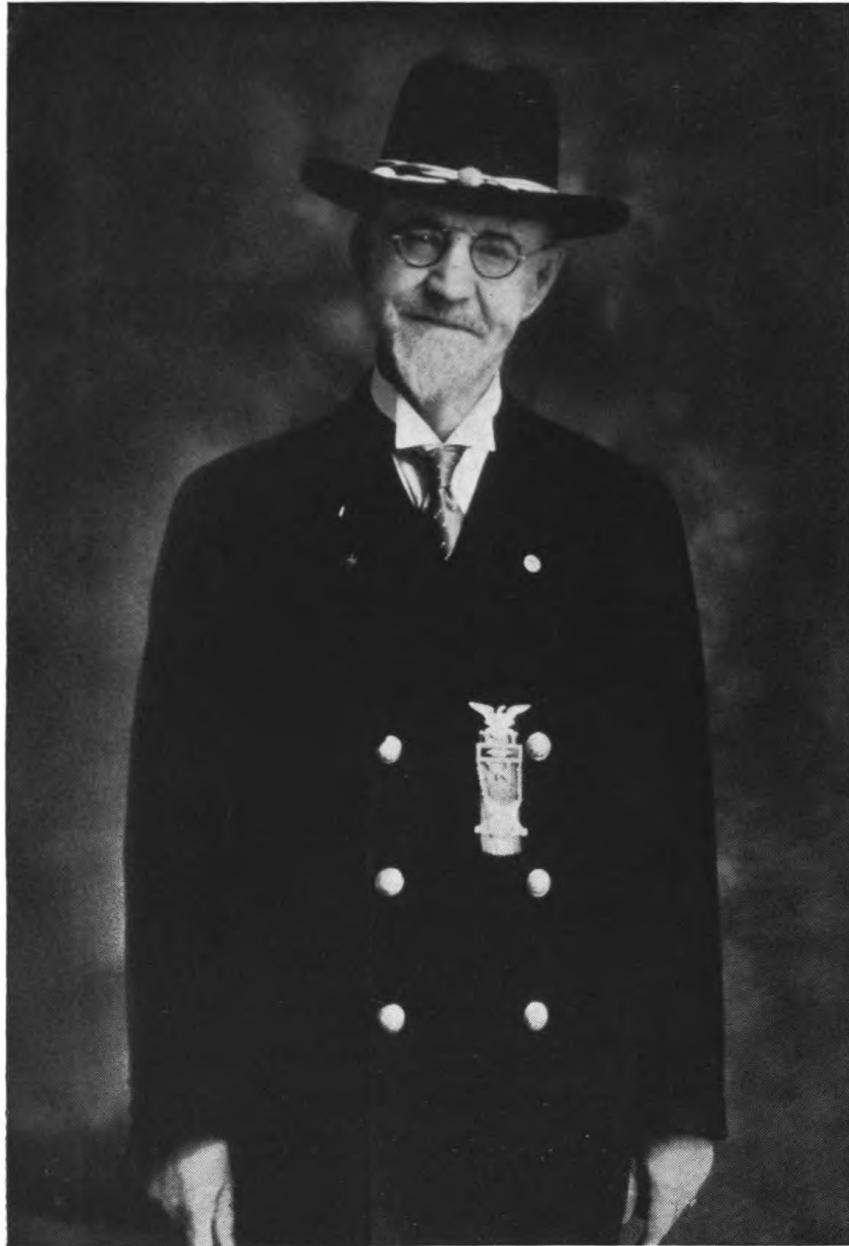
## JONATHAN C. HANES

Jonathan C. Hanes was born in Wayne County, Indiana, on January 29, 1845, and at the age of ten he came, in a covered wagon caravan, with his parents to Iowa and located in Dallas County. In January, 1864, he enlisted for military service in Company A, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry. He was in service at Matagorda Islands, and was a member of the Red River Expedition under General Nathaniel P. Banks. He was at Devall's Bluff and Brownsville, Arkansas, and at Fort Morgan and Mobile Bay.

After the war Mr. Hanes located at Boonesville in Dallas County, where for many years he was a consistent worker in the interest of the Grand Army of the Republic — being a member of Sam Neel Post. For a number of years as a resident of Des Moines he has been a faithful member of Crocker Post No. 12.

At the Sixty-first Annual Encampment of the Grand Army, held at Waterloo in 1935, Comrade Horace B. Kelly was named Department Commander, and Comrade Hanes was named Senior Vice Commander. Upon the death of Commander Kelly in August, 1935, Mr. Hanes succeeded to the office of Department Commander. As a resident of Des Moines, at the age of ninety, Commander Hanes is still active in the interest of the Grand Army.

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JOHN PARKER RISLEY, ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL OF IOWA  
AND ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

[186]

## JOHN PARKER RISLEY

More than three score men have served as Commander of the Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic. A few of these have also served as Assistant Adjutant General. John Parker Risley, alone, however, has repeatedly declined the honors of Department Commander in order that he might continue his efficient service of more than a decade as Assistant Adjutant General.

Born in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 30, 1846, young Risley obtained his early education in select schools of that city, and at the age of ten came with his parents to Davenport, Iowa. He attended the public schools of that city until February, 1863, when he enlisted in the Twentieth Iowa Infantry for the duration of the war. He was in service at the siege of Vicksburg. Going to Texas with General Nathaniel P. Banks, he was at the battle of Mustang Island at the mouth of the Rio Grande. He was at the siege of Fort Morgan and at the capture of Fort Blakely and Mobile Point.

After the war he was for many years a prominent businessman in Davenport. There he became interested in the Grand Army of the Republic, having membership in Post No. 1. In 1922, Comrade Risley was appointed Assistant Adjutant General of Iowa — a position which he still retains. In 1922 and again in 1935, he was given the additional distinction of being appointed Adjutant General of the National Organization of the Grand Army of the Republic.



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