

Recovery

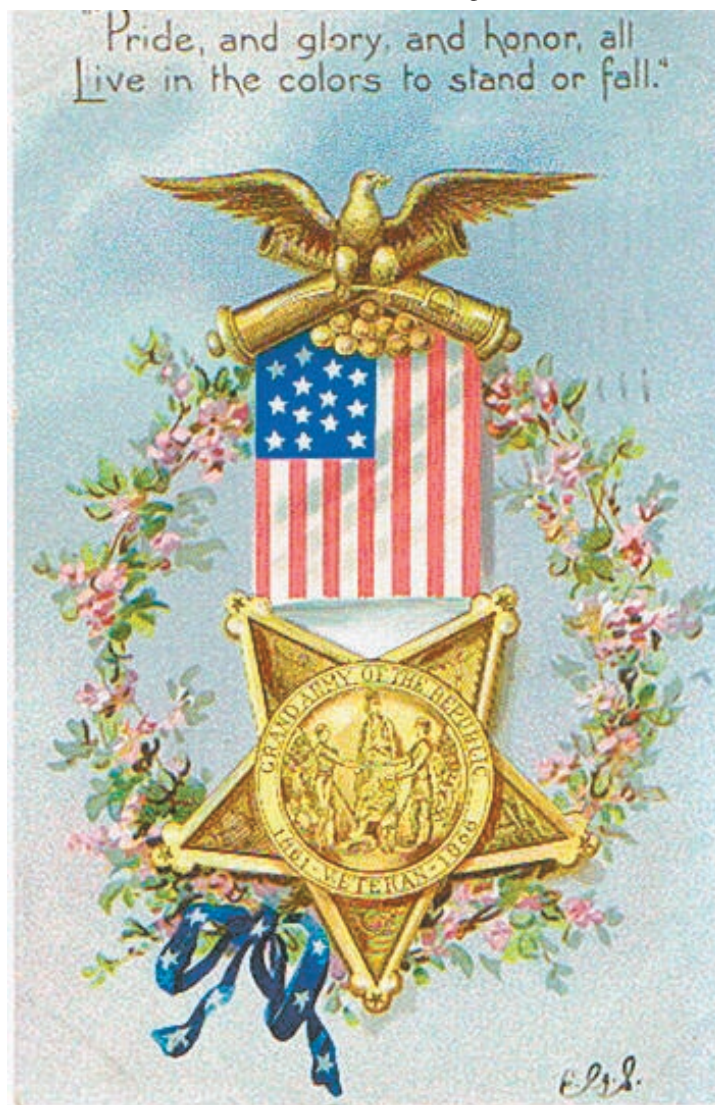
by Lynne Belluscio

Several years ago, I began transcribing the handwritten records of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Staunton Post #396. I saved the work to a floppy disc and made a hard copy and intended to go back and make corrections but I never did. In the meantime, there were computer upgrades and the only computer that could retrieve the information from the floppy disc was my old computer at home that was at least 12 years old.

When my son was home for a couple of days, I asked him whether he thought I could boot up the old computer. I hadn't used it for three years. "Probably the battery is dead." I turned on the computer and crossed my fingers. It hummed and made a few churning noises and up came the Window screen. First we downloaded all the files on the computer to a memory stick and then I put in the G.A.R. floppy disc and all the information came up. In a split second, the records were saved. So now, this winter, on those slow days, we'll have a chance to make sure the transcriptions are right.

There are over 100 Civil War Veterans listed in the records. Each page is devoted to the history and service of a veteran. Some pages are full of details and others only list a name, the date of enlistment, the Company and Regiment.

The Grand Army of the Republic was formed in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois. It was a fraternal organization for



Union Veterans of the Civil War. Although there were other veteran organizations, the G.A.R. became the most influential and was politically active, supporting Republican candidates who advocated pensions for all veterans and voting rights for black veterans. Each year there was a "Grand Encampment."

In 1897, the Encampment was held in Buffalo, New York. The G.A.R. ceased to exist in 1956, after the death of the last Union Civil War Veteran.

LeRoy's G.A.R. Post was chartered in 1883 and was named for Col. Phineas Staunton, who was born in Wyoming, New York. His father was a veteran

of the War of 1812, and he had hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps in the military, but Phineas pursued his artistic talent and became an artist. He married Emily Ingham, one of the founders of Ingham University in LeRoy. Yet, when Phineas was in New York City in the late 1850s, he studied military tactics and in 1862, he began recruiting for the 100th New York Volunteer Infantry.

As Colonel, he led his unit into battle and was wounded. But when Col. Dandy was promoted over him, he resigned and returned to LeRoy. In 1867, he joined an expedition to South America with the Smithsonian Institution and he died in Ecuador. His military service during the war prompted the local veterans to name the G.A.R. Post in his memory.

The G.A.R. records indicate that many of LeRoy's veterans served in the 8th New York Heavy Artillery, as well as the 105th New York and the 104th New York. The records also prove that Charles Thomas, who had enlisted in 1864 in New Jersey, was a member of the 32nd Colored Regiment. (I've written about Charles Thomas before.) Some of the records mention if the men were wounded or captured during the war.

As we verify the names and dates we will also search for obituaries and additional information on the veterans. This information will go into our Civil War files - - - in our file cabinets - - - not on a floppy disc.

Masonic Safety ID Program



The Safety ID Program records the child's / young adult's / adult's photograph, finger prints and physical characteristics on a mini CD. An ID card is also provided. The permission slip is the only material retained by the Masons. All other materials are returned to the parent / guardian / adult.

- Location - the **Masonic Community Center, 12 Bank Street, Le Roy** (former Pharmacy)
- **Saturday, November 10 from 10 AM to 1 PM** (Appointments are not necessary)
- The program is **FREE**

For further information contact Jim Nielsen –
Jim99@OpWare.com and /or the
 Masonic Safety ID web site
www.NYchip.org

11/4

LeRoy Service Center

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