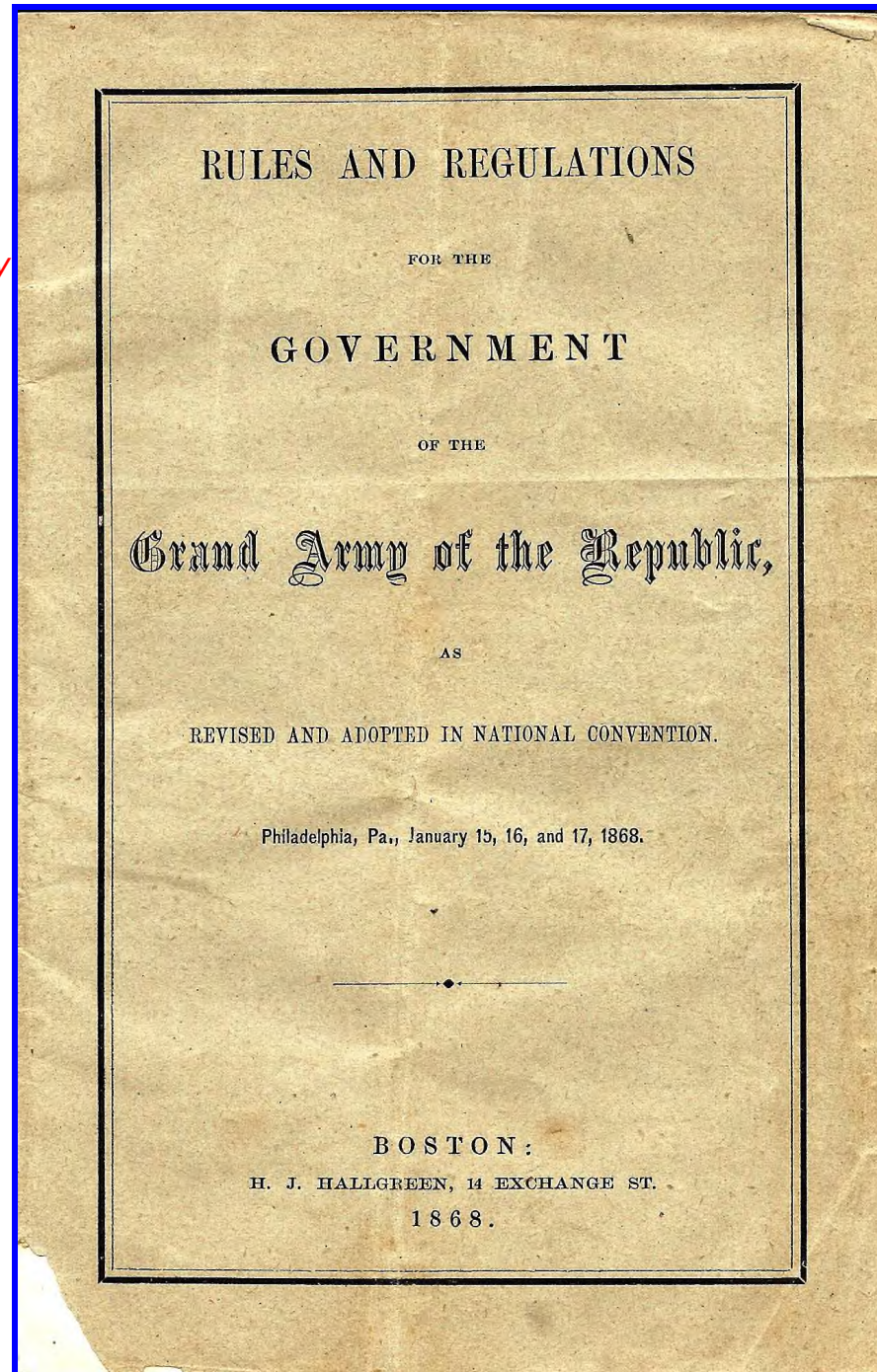


G.A.R. 1868. *Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Grand Army of the Republic as Revised and Adopted in National Convention. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania January 15, 16, 17, 1868.* H.J. Hallgreen, Boston, Massachusetts. 16p. (CD001)



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Head-Quarters 50 Bromfield St., Boston.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

Grand-Commander — A. B. R. SPRAGUE, of Worcester.
Senior Vice-Grand-Commander — GEORGE H. PIERSON, of Salem.
Junior Vice-Grand-Commander — MASON W. BURT, of Taunton.
Assistant Adjutant-General — THOMAS SHERWIN, Jr., of Boston.
Assistant Quartermaster-General — H. J. HALLGREEN, of Boston.
Assistant Inspector-General — E. P. HALSTED, of Worcester.
Surgeon — J. MARCUS RICE, of Worcester.
Chaplain — REV. N. M. GAYLORD, of Boston.
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General — C. W. THOMPSON, of Boston.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION.

Comrades — W. G. SCANDLIN, of Grafton.
H. C. LEE, of Springfield.
F. A. OSBORN, of Boston.
WILLIAM S. COBB, of New Bedford.
H. R. SIBLEY, of Charlestown.

AIDS.

Comrades — J. PICKETT, of Worcester.
A. S. HARTWELL, of Natick.
C. G. ATTWOOD, of Boston.
J. W. KIMBALL, of Fitchburg.

REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Preamble.

WE, soldiers and sailors, and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States, whose names are hereunto annexed, having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the National Government, at a critical period of its history, and holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and the triumphs together shared in the support of this sacred duty, do unite in order to ordain and establish a permanent Association for the purposes and objects hereinafter set forth.

Article 1. — Title.

This institution shall be known by the name, style and title of "The Grand Army of the Republic."

Article 2. — Objects.

The objects to be accomplished by this organization are as follows:

1. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion.
2. To make these feelings efficient in works of kindness and material aid to those who fought with us by land or by sea, for the preservation of the Union, and who now need our assistance for themselves or their families, by making provision where it is not already made.

For the protection and assistance of such as have been disabled either by wounds, sickness, old age, or misfortune.

For the maintenance of the widows of such as have fallen, and the support, care and education of their children.

3. To establish and secure the rights of these defenders of their country by all moral, social and political means in our control.

To inculcate upon the whole country a proper appreciation of their services, and a recognition of their just claims.

But this association does not design to make nominations for office or to use its influence as a secret organization for partizan purposes.

4. 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 be manifested by the discountenancing of whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions, together with a defence of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

Article 3. — Organization.

The several constituted bodies of this Army shall consist of—

1. Precinct organizations, to be known as "Post No. —, of — (name of city, town, ward or precinct), Department of — (name of State), G. A. R."

2. State organizations, to be known as "Department of — (name of State or other designation), G. A. R."

3. A national organization, to be known as "National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic."

Article 4. — Members.

Soldiers and honorably discharged soldiers of the United States volunteer or regular Army and Marine Corps, or sailors and honorably discharged sailors of the United States Navy only shall be eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. No soldier nor sailor who has been convicted by court-martial of desertion or any other infamous crime shall be admitted.

Article 5. — Election of Members.

SECTION 1. Every application for membership shall be made in writing, and must give the applicant's age, his rank at the time of application or discharge, the regiment or ship to which he belongs or belonged, the date of his discharge, the length

of time he served, and the cause of his discharge, or such qualifications as he may possess under the provisions of Article 4; it must be presented at a stated meeting of the Post, and be recommended by one comrade of the Army, who shall vouch for the applicant's eligibility. The applications shall be referred by the Commander to a committee of investigation consisting of three (3) comrades of the Post where such application is made, none of whom shall be of the recommending comrades; which committee shall ascertain if the statements therein contained are true, and that the applicant is in all respects eligible. Their report shall be endorsed on the back of the application, and presented at a subsequent stated meeting of the Post. After the reading of the report, the Commander shall formally request any comrade of the army who has any objection to the report or reasons against the election of the candidate, to then state the same. Upon the acceptance of the report, the candidate may be balloted for; and every comrade belonging to the Post present, shall, unless excused by a vote of the Post, deposit one (1) ballot for or against the candidate. If one black ball, in every twenty votes cast, be deposited against him, he shall be rejected, and so declared; otherwise he shall be declared elected.

SEC. 2. A comrade-elect before enlistment and muster, shall pay an admission fee of not less than fifty cents. After enlistment and muster, he shall subscribe to a copy of these Regulations and of the By-Laws of the Post.

SEC. 3. If a candidate for membership be rejected, he shall be forever after ineligible for proposal in any other Post of the Army, and not eligible in the one in which he was rejected, until a period of six months shall have elapsed from the date of his rejection; after which, in the event of the rejected candidate applying for membership, he shall comply in all particulars with the forms hereinbefore prescribed.

SEC. 4. The name of the rejected candidate shall be forwarded to head-quarters of the Army, through the proper channel for the information and guidance of the several Posts throughout the United States.

Article 6. — Impeachment of Members.

SECTION 1. All charges against officers or comrades of this order shall be made in the form of charges and specifications, and shall be tried by Courts-Martial.

SEC. 2. Courts-Martial may be ordered by Commanding Officers of Posts, Departments and the Commander-in-Chief,

for the trial of offences occurring in their respective jurisdictions, and shall be constituted and governed in their practice, proceedings, and rules of evidence as prescribed by the Revised U. S. Army Regulations and established military usage.

SEC. 3. Penalties shall be either, Reprimand, Fine, Suspension, or Dishonorable Discharge, at the discretion of the Court, subject to the approval of the officer ordering the trial.

SEC. 4. A comrade who has been dishonorably discharged may be reinstated only by a unanimous vote of the members of the Post of which he was last a member, at the next stated meeting after he shall make application in writing therefor.

SEC. 5. The name of a dishonorably discharged member shall be forwarded to the head-quarters of the Army, through the proper channel for the information and guidance of the several Posts throughout the United States.

Article 7.—Death of Members.

Upon notice of the death of any comrade of the Army, the Post of which he was a member may be convened for the purpose of attending the funeral.

The comrades properly uniformed and wearing the usual badge of mourning will march in the order prescribed for such processions.

If agreeable to the family of the deceased, the coffin will be draped with the United States flag, and eight comrades detailed as pall-bearers.

Article 8.—Officers.

SECTION 1. The officers of each Post shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice Commander, a Junior Vice Commander, an Adjutant, a Quartermaster, a Surgeon, a Chaplain, a Sergeant Major, and a Quartermaster Sergeant; who shall be elected semi-annually by the Post.

SEC. 2. The officers of each Department shall be a Grand Commander, a Senior Vice Grand Commander, a Junior Vice Grand Commander, an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, an Assistant Quartermaster General, an Assistant Surgeon General, a Chaplain, and a Council of Administration consisting of five (5) comrades, of which council the other officers shall be members *ex officio*. They shall be elected annually by the Department, except the Assistant Adjutant General who shall be appointed by the Grand Commander.

SEC. 3. The officers of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic shall be a Commander-in-Chief,

a Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, a Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, an Adjutant General, an Inspector General, a Quartermaster General, a Surgeon General, a Chaplain, and a Council of Administration, consisting of one comrade from each Department, of which council the other officers shall be members *ex officio*. They shall be elected annually, by the National Encampment, except the Adjutant General who shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief.

Article 9.—Duties of Officers.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Commander, to preside at all meetings of the Post; to enforce a strict observance of the Rules and Regulations and By-laws; to detail all officers and committees, not otherwise provided for; to sign all orders drawn upon the Quartermaster for all appropriations of money made and passed at a stated meeting of the Post; and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage or his charge may require of him.

SEC. 2. The Vice Commanders shall, when called upon, assist the Commander in the performance of his duties. The Senior Vice Commander, is, in the event of the death, resignation or absence of the Commander, his plenary representative. And in the event of the death, resignation or absence of the Senior Vice Commander, the Junior Vice Commander succeeds to all his powers and duties. If none of the above named officers be present, a Commander *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Adjutant to keep, in books provided for that purpose—

First. The rules and regulations of the Army, and By-Laws of the Post, to be signed by every comrade on his becoming a member thereof.

Second. A register of the members of the Post, ruled to embrace every fact contained in the application, as well as the date of admission, and a column for general remarks.

Third. A journal of the proceedings of the Post, after the same have been corrected and improved.

Fourth. An order book, in which shall be recorded all orders or circulars issued by the Post.

Fifth. A ledger, to contain the accounts required to be kept by him.

Sixth. A black book in which shall be recorded the names of all who have been rejected by any Post; and also of those members who may have been dishonorably discharged from any Post.

He shall attest by his signature all actions of the Post, all orders drawn upon the Quartermaster by the Commander; notify all newly elected members of their election; countersign all receipts given by the Quartermaster for money received; retain in his possession a stub of every receipt issued by the Quartermaster; keep an accurate account of all moneys so received, and at stated meetings in the last of June and December in each year present to the Post a statement showing the condition of the finances of the Post. He shall transfer to his successor in office, without delay, all books, papers, or other property in his possession belonging to his office. He shall also perform such other duties as may be required of him.

SEC. 4. The Quartermaster shall have charge of all the property of the Post; shall collect all moneys due to the Post, giving his receipt therefor, which receipt shall be countersigned by the Adjutant; immediately on giving a receipt he shall file with the Adjutant a stub thereof, upon which shall appear the amount received, from whom, for what purpose, and the date of the receipt; he shall pay all bills audited, approved by the Commander and attested by the Adjutant; he shall notify all members in arrears for their dues, and keep accurate accounts of all moneys received and paid by him; he shall render a monthly report of the finances of the Post, and deliver to his successor in office or to such other person as the Post may designate, all moneys, books and other property of the Post in his possession.

SEC. 5. The Sergeant Major and Quartermaster Sergeant shall assist the Adjutant and Quartermaster respectively in the discharge of their duties.

Article 10. — Meetings.

SECTION. 1. The stated meetings of the Post shall be held at least monthly.

SEC. 2. Special meetings may be convened by order of the Commander.

SEC. 3. Eight (8) members of the Post shall constitute a quorum at any meeting where business is to be transacted.

SEC. 4. The stated meetings of the Department shall be held at least once in six months, and then in January and July. Special meetings may be convened by order of the Grand Commander, by and with the consent of the Council of Administration.

SEC. 5. The stated meetings of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic shall be held once in each year, on the second Wednesday in May. Special meetings

may be convened by order of the Commander-in-Chief, by and with the consent of the Council of Administration.

Article 11. — Secrecy.

SECTION 1. The proceedings of the Army shall be kept secret.

SEC. 2. Any member who shall disclose the name of a comrade who has been instrumental in causing the rejection of any candidate for membership, or give information that may lead to such disclosure, shall be expelled from the Post. And the Commander shall cause the provisions of this law to be read immediately after the rejection of such application.

Article 12. — Dues and Revenue.

SECTION 1. The annual dues to a Post from each member shall not be less than \$1.

SEC. 2. The Department dues shall be not less than ten cents per annum upon each member upon the rolls of the Posts within the Department, payable quarterly.

SEC. 3. Departments as soon as organized may fix such higher rates in Post and Department dues as their special necessities may require.

SEC. 4. Disbursements of money from the Department Treasury, in behalf of any of the objects of the Army, or for incidental expenses, shall be made only on the order of the Council of Administration, or of the Department. All warrants for money shall be drawn by the Assistant Adjutant General, and countersigned by the Grand Commander.

SEC. 5. The dues to the National Encampment shall be two cents per annum upon each member of the Army, borne on the reports of each Department; the same to be paid semi-annually

Article 13. — Arrearages.

SECTION. 1. Any comrade who is six months in arrears at the time of holding the election for officers, shall be prohibited from voting, and be ineligible to any office until such dues shall be paid or remitted by an order of the Post.

SEC. 2. Any comrade who is one year in arrears shall be specially notified of the fact; and if the same is not paid within three (3) months thereafter, the Post may, by a vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members, suspend the comrade until such arrearages shall be paid or duly remitted.

SEC. 3. If the comrade shall refuse to pay such arrears he

may be dropped from the roll of members, unless it shall appear that the delinquency has occurred through sickness or misfortune; in which case the Post may remit the whole or any portion of the amount due.

Article 14. — Reports.

SECTION 1. On the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December, in each year, a report shall be made to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department by the Commander of each Post, attested by the Adjutant, of the number of members at last report, and the number of new members, and the number who have ceased to belong; together with a statement of the condition and prospects of the Post, and a record of their proceedings for the quarter.

SEC. 2. The Quartermaster shall make a quarterly report at the times specified in Section 1 of this Article, to the Assistant Quartermaster General of the Department, transmitting the funds required by Article 12 of these Rules and Regulations.

SEC. 3. The Department Commander shall on the last days of June and December of each year, send a report to the Adjutant General of the Grand Army of the Republic of all the operations in his Department; combining the reports of the Assistant Adjutant General and Assistant Quartermaster General of his Department, and transmitting the funds required by Sec. 5, Article 12.

SEC. 4. Posts and Departments in arrears for Reports or Dues shall be excluded from representation at the sessions of the Department and National Encampments.

Article 15. — Charters.

SECTION 1. No Post shall be recognized by any of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic unless regularly established by orders from Department head-quarters, and chartered by the Department Commander, except when chartered directly from head-quarters of the Army in States or Territories where no Department or Provisional Department organization exists.

Applications for a charter must be signed by at least ten (10) soldiers or sailors, or honorably discharged soldiers or sailors, and must be accompanied by the charter fee of ten dollars.

Article 16. — Election of Officers.

Officers of Posts shall be elected at the last stated meetings in June and December, of Departments at the regular meeting

in January, and of the National Encampment at the regular annual meeting.

They shall be chosen by ballot, by a majority of all the valid votes given; should no candidate receive a majority of all the votes polled on the first ballot, then the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped, and so on at each successive ballot until an election is had. The comrades so elected shall enter upon office at the next stated meeting after their election, and hold the same until their successors respectively shall be duly elected and invested, except the officers of Departments and of the National Encampment, who shall enter upon office immediately after the adjournment of the meetings at which they were elected, and shall hold the same until their successors shall be duly elected.

Article 17. — Departments.

SECTION 1. Posts shall be represented in the Department by one delegate for twenty-five members or less; one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five members, fractions of twenty-five not to be counted. These delegates shall be elected at the time and in the mode of electing officers of Posts, and their number shall be determined by the report of members for the quarter ending at such time.

SEC. 2. The duties of the several officers of Departments shall in general be of a like nature to the duties of the officers of Posts. The Grand Commander shall be President of the Council of Administration, and the Assistant Adjutant General shall be Secretary thereof.

SEC. 3. The Council of Administration of a Department shall have charge of the working interest of the Army; may propose plans; may specify objects of charity; and may make contracts, subject to a vote of the Department.

Article 18. — The National Encampment.

SECTION 1. The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic shall be composed of the Grand Commander, Senior Vice Grand Commander, and Junior Vice Grand Commander of each Department, together with one delegate at large, one delegate for one thousand members or less, and one additional delegate for each additional one thousand members; fractions of not less than half of one thousand to be entitled to one delegate. These delegates are to be elected at the time and in the mode of electing officers of Departments, and their number shall be ascertained by the report of members for the quarter ending December just previous.

SEC. 2. The duties of the officers of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in general be of a like nature to the duties of officers of Departments. The Commander-in-Chief shall be President of the Council of Administration, and the Adjutant General shall be Secretary thereof.

SEC. 3. The duties of the Council of Administration of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, shall be of a like nature to those of the Council of Administration of Departments.

Article 19.—Bonds.

SECTION 1. Every Quartermaster shall give bonds in the sum of \$1,000, with sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

SEC. 2. Every Assistant Quartermaster General shall give bonds at the rate of fifty dollars for every Post in the Department, with sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of his trust.

SEC. 3. The Quartermaster General shall give bonds in the sum of \$5,000, with sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of his trust.

Article 20.—Transfer and Travelling Cards.

SECTION 1. Any member in good standing, who has faithfully performed all duties enjoined upon him and paid all dues, and who may wish to travel, shall, on application, be furnished by the Adjutant of the Post with a travelling card, approved by the Commander, for which he shall pay the sum of twenty-five cents.

SEC. 2. Any member in good standing, as provided for in Section 1 of this Article, desiring to move from the vicinity of his Post, shall, on application, be furnished by the Adjutant with a transfer card, approved by the Commander, for which he shall pay the sum of twenty-five cents.

SEC. 3. No member who shall move from his Post shall be permitted to join another Post unless he has a transfer card, as prescribed in Sec. 2 of this article.

Articles 21.—Provisional Government of Departments.

In States or Territories where this Army is not established, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint and have mustered in a Provisional Department Commander, who shall nominate to the Commander-in-Chief an Asst. Adjutant General, Asst.

Quartermaster General, four Aides-de-Camp, and a Council of Administration, composed of five members, with powers similar to those of permanent Department officers. When ten Posts are established in such States or Territories formed into Departments, the Provisional Commander thereof shall order a meeting of such Department, at which meeting Department officers shall be elected, and a permanent organization be effected.

Article 22.—By-Laws.

Posts and Departments may make such additional Regulations as they may from time to time require: *Provided*, That the same do not in any way conflict with or destroy any portion of these Rules and Regulations, or come in conflict with any legal orders issued by superior authority.

Article 23.—Alterations and Amendments.

These Rules and Regulations and the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic, shall be altered and amended by the National Encampment, and only at the regular annual meeting thereof.

RITUAL FOR BURIAL OF DECEASED COMRADES.

If agreeable to the family or relatives of a deceased comrade, the Post of which he was a member may attend the funeral in a body; carry out the provisions of Article VII of the Rules and Regulations, and observe the following ceremonies at the place of interment.

The positions of the officers and comrades on arriving at the grave or vault, will be as follows:

Post Commander at the head of the coffin, flanked by the other officers with the exception of the Chaplain, whose position will be at the foot of the coffin. The escort in two ranks, one on either side of the coffin; the remaining comrades enclosing the officers and escort in a circle, all facing inward.

All being in position, the Post Commander will request all present to uncover, and will say:

Comrades, we are assembled, a band of sorrowing brothers, to pay the last honors to the earthly remains of one of our number. The Chaplain will now proceed with the burial services.

The Chaplain will then read or recite the following passages of scripture:

The first twelve verses of the 90th Psalm, and the first seven verses of the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes.

Some comrade, previously designated by the Post, may then pronounce a short and appropriate funeral eulogy upon the deceased.

The Post Commander will then call upon the Chaplain to offer prayer.

The Commander of the escort will then see the coffin deposited in the grave or vault, after which, if a firing party be in attendance, it will fire the usual volleys in accordance with general regulations United States Army, or omit this if the friends of the deceased should prefer it.

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES.

Whenever a Post shall, by vote, determine on a Public Installation of officers, it shall be the duty of the Post Commander to appoint the time and place for a special meeting for that purpose, and to give due notice to the public of the same. He shall make such military and other arrangements for the reception of visitors as may be necessary and appropriate, and as the numerical strength of his command may allow, including the posting of a guard of honor at the doors of the building where the services are to be held.

At the hour designated, the ceremonies will proceed in the following order:

The P. C. will call the audience to order, and desire the Chaplain to invoke the Divine Blessing.

The P. C. will then direct the Adjutant to announce the names of the officers elect who will, with the exception of the P. C. elect, as their names are read, take position in one rank facing the P. C.

The P. C. will now address them in these words:

Comrades: Having been selected by the suffrages of your fellow comrades to fill certain elective offices of this Encampment for the ensuing six months, you will give your attention while the Adjutant reads the enumeration of your duties as laid down for your guidance in the General Rules and Regulations of our order.

The Adjutant will then read Sections 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th, of Article IXth of the Rules and Regulations.

The P. C. will then enquire:—

Are you severally prepared to assume the duties of the respective offices to which you have been chosen?

Each replies:—I am prepared.

The P. C. will then cause them each to place his left hand on the open Bible and crossed swords which are placed upon the Altar, to raise his right hand pointing upward with the palm to the front, and to repeat after him the following obligation:—

I do most solemnly and sincerely promise that I will discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my ability.

The P. C. will now direct the O. D. to escort each officer to his respective position, where his predecessor in office will invest him with the side arms, books, and other insignia appertaining to the office.

The P. C. will next direct the P. C. elect to present himself in front of the Altar, and will then address him:— (If he should himself be the P. C. elect, then some past P. C. will perform the ceremony, and if no past P. C., then some comrade previously designated.)

Comrade: You have been elected to the command of this Encampment by your fellow comrades, who, by thus elevating you to the highest position in their power to bestow, have signified their appreciation of you as a man and comrade, and their confidence in your discretion, ability and patriotism (adding also such other remarks as he may deem appropriate).

He will then enquire:

Are you prepared to take upon yourself the obligation?

Answer. I am prepared.

P. C.—Let me then call your attention to the duties prescribed for you by Section 1 of Article IXth, of the General Rules and Regulations of this order, as follows:

The P. C. then reads said section.

P. C.—You will now place yourself in position for taking the oath of office, and repeat it after me.

The P. C. elect takes the position prescribed for the other officers at the time of being sworn.

The P. C. now administers the following obligation:—

I, _____, having been declared duly elected Post Commander of _____ Encampment, Post _____ Department of

— Grand Army of the Republic, do solemnly covenant and promise to perform all its duties to the best of my ability, and I further promise that during the period for which I have been elected, I will faithfully enforce all the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rules and By-Laws of this Encampment, and that I will permit no one but members of the Grand Army of the Republic to be present at any meetings of said Encampment, nor recognize any as true comrades who are not entitled to the rights and privileges of this order.

The P. C. will then direct all the comrades to rise, and will address the P. C. elect as follows :—

Comrade: Having taken the obligation as commanding officer of this Post, I now with pleasure, in behalf of our comrades entrust to you the charter of said Post, a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a copy of the Ritual, and also place in your hands *this Saber* as an emblem of your position; feeling assured that the confidence shown in you by your comrades will prove to have been well bestowed. And I hereby formally induct you into the duties of your office and declare you duly authorized to perform the same. May God, the Great Commander of us all, guard and protect this order and all its members.

The comrades will resume their seats and the newly installed P. C. will then deliver such an address as he may deem fitting to the occasion.

The retiring P. C. will thank the audience for the interest in the order they have manifested by their attendance on this occasion and call upon the Chaplain, or some clergyman present, to pronounce the Apostolic Benediction.

This form of installation may be used by Posts where no public installation is decided upon. If a Department officer be present, he may be called upon to perform the ceremony, or a past Post Commander may do so.