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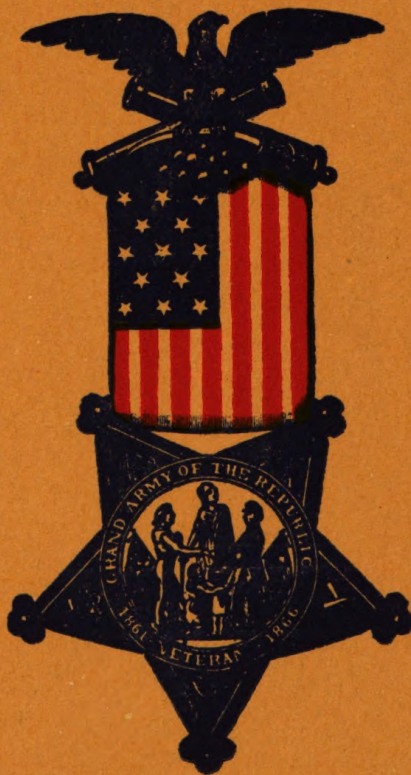
**Journal of the
67th
Annual
Encampment**

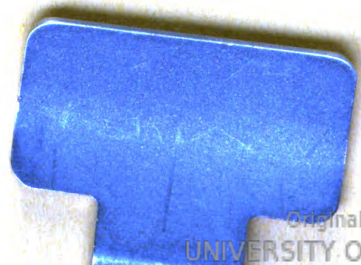
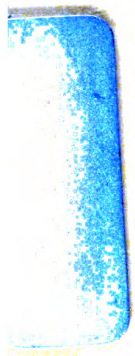
Department of Michigan

**Grand Army
of the
Republic**

★ ★

**Held at Grand Rapids
June 20th - 21st
1945**





JOURNAL
OF THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

GRAND ARMY
of the REPUBLIC

HELD AT

GRAND RAPIDS, JUNE 20, 21, 1945

WITH ADDRESS

OF

RALPH R. TOWNER, *Department Commander*
AND REPORTS OF OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS,
GENERAL ORDERS, ETC.

*A spirit of true comradeship was beautifully exemplified by the
citizens of Grand Rapids*

Verily "I was a stranger and ye took me in."

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LANSING - 1945



Historical
University of Michigan

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

**Headquarters Department of Michigan,
Grand Army of the Republic,
Lansing, 1945.**

Hon. Harry F. Kelly, Governor of the State of Michigan :

Sir: I have the honor to transmit to you the Journal of the Sixty-seventh Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic, held in Grand Rapids, June 20-21, 1945, as required by the statutes.

**RALPH R. TOWNER,
Department Commander.**



HARRY F. KELLY
Governor

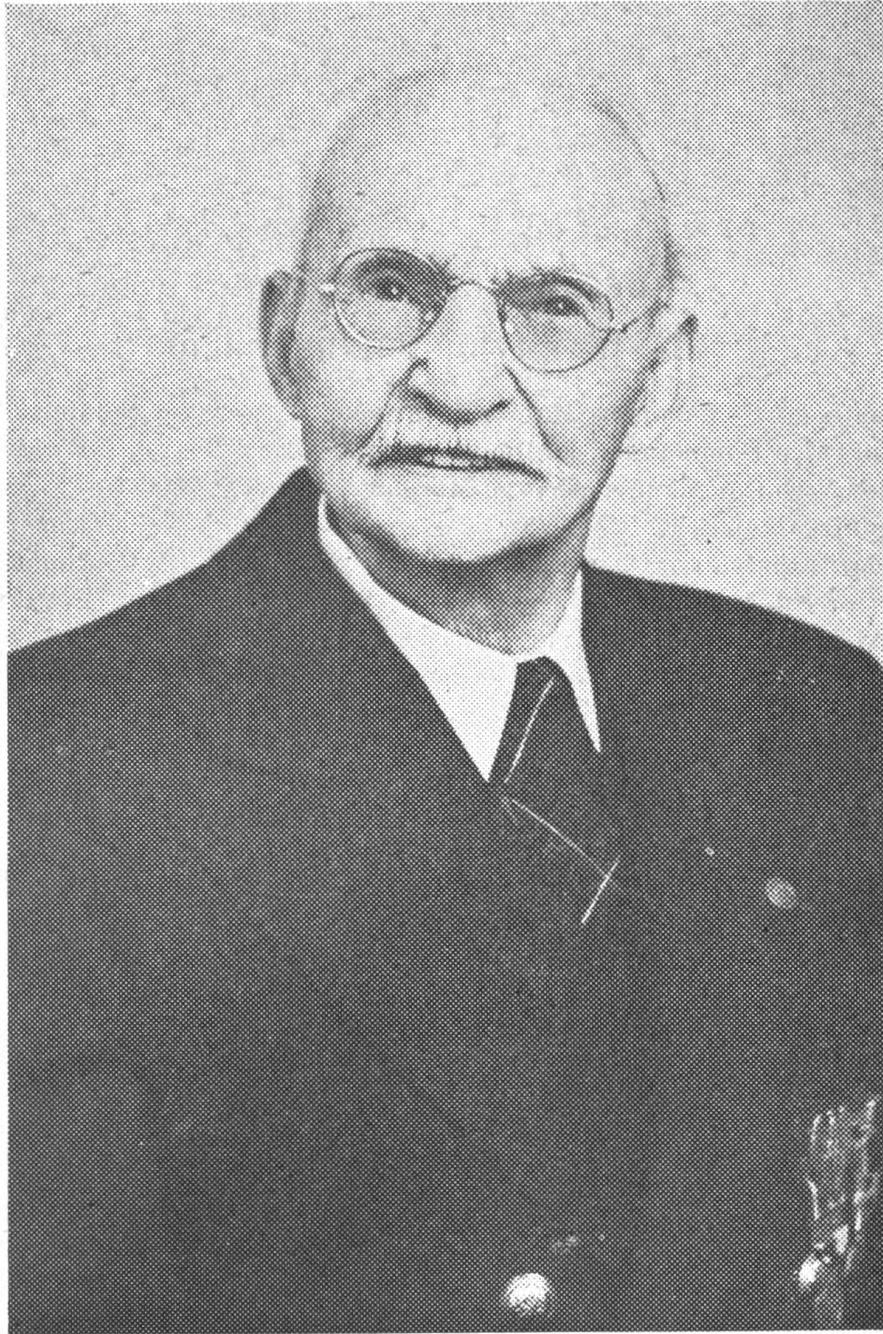
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

*Department Commander, Martin J. Warner Soldiers' Home
Senior Vice Commander, Ralph R. Towner Allegan
*Junior Vice Commander, George Morgan Detroit
Chaplain, Charles E. Riker Cement City
Patriotic Instructor, Oscar Mott Benton Harbor
Chief of Staff, Holden Albro Leslie
*Sr. Aide, E. M. Holt Shelby
*Sergeant of National Colors, George Culver Milan
*Sergeant of Department of Colors, Homer Sherwood Milan

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Orlando Le Valley Caro
James F. Lyon Menominee
Cyrus Ferrigo Vassar
*W. H. Ferguson Kent City
Department Secretary, Leah M. Simpson Box 433, Lansing 2
*Died in office.



MARTIN J. WARNER
Department Commander—1944-45
Died in Office



RALPH R. TOWNER
Department Commander—Advanced March, 1945

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

Russell A. Alger, deceased	Detroit, 1867
Wm. A. Throop, deceased	Detroit, 1868
Wm. Humphrey, deceased	Adrian, 1870
O. V. R. Pond, deceased	Lansing, 1878-9
A. T. McReynolds, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1880
Byron R. Pierce, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1881-2
Oscar A. Janes, deceased	Detroit, 1883
Rush J. Shank, deceased	Lansing, 1884
Charles D. Long, deceased	Flint, 1885
John Northwood, deceased	New Lothrop, 1886
L. G. Rutherford, deceased	Hart, 1887
Washington Gardner, deceased	Albion, 1888
Michael Brown, deceased	Big Rapids, 1889
Henry M. Duffield, deceased	Detroit, 1890
Charles L. Eaton, deceased	Paw Paw, 1891
Henry S. Dean, deceased	Ann Arbor, 1892-3
James H. Kidd, deceased	Ionia, 1893-4
Louis Kanitz, deceased	Muskegon, 1894-5
S. B. Daboll, deceased	St. Johns, 1895-6
Wm. Shakespeare, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1896-7
Aaron T. Bliss, deceased	Saginaw, 1897-8
Alex L. Patrick, deceased	Detroit, 1898-9
Russell R. Pealer, deceased	Three Rivers, 1899-1900
Ethan M. Allen, deceased	Portland, 1900-1
James VanKleek, deceased	Bay City, 1901-2
Edward C. Anthony, deceased	Negaunee, 1902-3
D. B. K. Vanraalte, deceased	Holland, 1903-4
George H. Hopkins, deceased	Detroit, 1904-5
E. C. Cannon, deceased	Evart, 1905-6
Joseph B. Griswold, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1906-7
William Jibb, deceased	Adrian, 1907-8
Charles Foote, deceased, died in office	Kalamazoo, 1908-9
Geo. L. Holmes, deceased, to fill vacancy	Detroit, 1909
James M. Greenfield, deceased	Flushing, 1909-10
Samuel J. Lawrence, deceased	Detroit, 1910-11
Geo. W. Stone, deceased	Lansing, 1911-12
John T. Spillane, deceased	Detroit, 1912-13
Frank R. Chase, deceased	Smyrna, 1913-14
Riley L. Jones, deceased	Detroit, 1914-15
Henry Rankin, deceased, died in office	Ypsilanti, 1915-16
Eli Strong, to fill vacancy, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1915-16
Lucius H. Ives, deceased	Mason, 1916-17
William O. Lee, deceased	Port Huron, 1917-18
David S. Howard, deceased	Pontiac, 1918-19
Edwin F. Lamb, deceased	Detroit, 1919-20
Henry Spaulding, deceased	Lansing, 1920-21
J. J. Holmes, deceased	Eaton Rapids, 1921-22
William Mears, deceased	Manton, 1922-23
Lyman A. L. Gilbert, deceased	Highland Park, 1923-24
Marvin C. Barney, deceased	Flint, 1924-25
John Steel, deceased	Benton Harbor, 1925-26
James R. Stephenson, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1926-27
Charles A. Bartlett, deceased	Detroit, 1927-28
A. C. Estabrook	Allegan, 1928-29
A. C. Estabrook	Allegan, 1929-30
A. C. Estabrook	Allegan, 1930-31
Orestus Blake, deceased	Jackson, 1931-32
Orestus Blake, deceased	Jackson, 1932-33
Charles M. Cook, (died in office)	Kalamazoo, 1933-34
John Killeen, deceased	Jackson, 1933-34

Frank D. Keeler, deceased	Saginaw, 1934-35
Ira M. Stewart, deceased	Petoskey, 1935-36
Ira M. Stewart, deceased	Petoskey, 1936-37
S. H. Carlton, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1937-38
A. C. Estabrook, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1938-39
A. F. Chappell, deceased	Detroit, 1939-40
Martin J. Warner (advanced)	Grand Rapids, 1940-41
John M. Park, (Orlando Le Valley presiding)	Coopersville, 1941-42
Orlando Le Valley	Caro, 1942-43
William H. Ferguson, deceased	Kent City 1943-44
Martin J. Warner (died in office)	Grand Rapids, 1944-45
Ralph R. Towner (advanced)	Allegan, 1945

PAST SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

H. M. Bigelow, deceased	Montague, 1878-9
No record for 1880 or 1881	
G. R. Wright, deceased	Benton Harbor, 1882-3
M. A. Merrifield, deceased	Union City, 1884
George L. Fisher, deceased	Fowlerville, 1885
S. A. Hosmer, deceased	1886
W. W. Cook, deceased	Lansing, 1887
True Hart, deceased	Midland, 1888
William H. Russell, deceased	Clio, 1889
E. L. Negus, deceased	Chelsea, 1890
C. L. Brundage, deceased	Muskegon, 1891
James A. Crozier, deceased	Menominee, 1892
L. M. Ward, deceased	Benton Harbor, 1893
Herman C. Frieseke, deceased	Owosso, 1894
Norm G. Cooper, deceased	Sturgis, 1895
Lucian W. Lyon, deceased	Saginaw, 1896
L. W. Sprague, deceased	Greenville, 1897
Moses F. Carlton,	Port Huron, 1898
J. C. Bontecou, deceased	Petoskey, 1900
Theo. C. Putnam, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1901
Marvin C. Barney, deceased	Flint, 1902
L. D. Vankleek, deceased	Pontiac, 1903
S. A. Aldrich, deceased	Muskegon, 1904
John J. Cornwell, deceased	Battle Creek, 1905
M. D. Morgan, deceased	Traverse City, 1906
Riley L. Jones, deceased	Saginaw, 1907
Edwin B. Nugent, deceased	Bay City, 1908
J. J. Drake, deceased	St. Joseph, 1909
Henry P. Shutt, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1910
A. J. Ward, deceased	Holland, 1911
H. C. Rankin, deceased	Ypsilanti, 1912
John A. Wardell, deceased	Lansing, 1913
Frank L. Manning, deceased	Jackson, 1914
Eli Strong, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1915
Thomas Davey, deceased	Detroit, 1915
M. M. Andrews, deceased	Bay City, 1916
H. W. Stevens, deceased	Tecumseh, 1917
J. J. Holmes, deceased	Eaton Rapids, 1918
George H. Keating, deceased	Bay City, 1919
M. D. Richardson, deceased	Lansing, 1920
E. A. Jennings, deceased	Flint, 1921
Samuel D. Bailey, deceased	Detroit, 1922-23
John A. Miller, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1923-24
Edwin R. Havens, deceased	Lansing, 1924-25
George W. Howe, deceased	Port Huron, 1925-26
Willis W. Crocker, deceased	Jackson, 1926-27
William E. Walker, deceased	Benton Harbor, 1927-28
J. P. Riley, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1928-29
J. P. Riley, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1929-30
John Killeen, deceased	Jackson, 1930-31
S. S. Puckett, deceased	Petoskey, 1931-32
J. J. Reiser, (died in office) deceased	Grand Rapids, 1931-32
O. M. Cook, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1932-33
Eugene Owen, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1933-34
Ira Stewart, deceased	Petoskey, 1934-35
Theodore Burden, deceased	Holly, 1935-36
Theodore Burden, (died in office)	Holly, 1936-37
J. F. Beaumont, deceased	Milford, 1937-38
Gilbert LaCrox, (died in office)	Mt. Clemens, 1938-39

J. F. Beaumont, (died in office) **Milford, 1939-40**
M. L. Warner, deceased **Grand Rapids, 1940-41**
Orlando Le Valley **Caro, 1941-42**
Cyrus Perrigo **Vassar, 1942-43**
Ralph Towner, (advanced) **Allegan, 1943-44**
George Morgan, deceased **Grosse Pointe, 1945**

PAST JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

S. B. Kitchell, deceased	Coldwater, 1878
W. A. Palmer, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1879
W. A. Palmer, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1879-80
Dallas Johnson, deceased	Montague, 1881
Oscar A. Janes, deceased	Hillsdale, 1882
J. N. Kellar, deceased	Saginaw, 1883
M. H. Humphrey, deceased	Three Rivers, 1884
H. F. Higgins, deceased	Petoskey, 1885
August Gobel, deceased	Detroit, 1886
Thomas H. Williams, deceased	Jackson, 1887
George W. Stone, deceased	Harrison, 1889
William Jibb, deceased	Adrian, 1890
Wm. H. Marston, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1891
Thomas M. Wiley, deceased	Owosso, 1892
E. C. Anthony, deceased	Negaunee, 1893
James M. Greenfield, deceased	Flushing, 1894
Oscar Palmer, deceased	Grayling, 1895
James O. Bellaire, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1896
Ren Barker, deceased	Reed City, 1897
D. C. Spears, deceased	Azalia, 1898
S. H. Mallory, deceased	Lake Odessa, 1900
Samuel J. Lawrence, deceased	Wyandotte, 1901
H. A. Backus, deceased	Detroit, 1902
M. D. Richardson, deceased	Lansing, 1903
Edward S. Jamison, deceased	Marine City, 1904
Dan J. Wilson, deceased	Jackson, 1905
S. M. Kent, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1906
O. Palmer, deceased	Grayling, 1907
Henry Spaulding, deceased	Hartford, 1908
George W. Wheeler, deceased	Boon, 1909
Albert Dunham, deceased	Jackson, 1910
George I. Nash, deceased	Marcellus, 1911
J. J. Holmes, deceased	Eaton Rapids, 1912
Charles A. Coolidge, deceased	Detroit, 1913
Marvin C. Barney, deceased	Flint, 1914
Thomas Davey, deceased	Detroit, 1915
Alison L. Bryant, deceased	Mayville, 1916
E. E. Lewis, deceased	Coldwater, 1917
Frank Lester, deceased	Mason, 1918
William G. Miner, deceased	Portland, 1919
E. S. Post, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1920
George G. Freeman, deceased	Detroit, 1921
John Seel, deceased	Benton Harbor, 1922-23
A. C. Estabrook, deceased	Allegan, 1923-24
Arthur E. Ferry, deceased	Owosso, 1924-25
Josiah Creque, deceased	Jackson, 1925-26
George S. Farrar, deceased	Port Austin, 1926-27
J. P. Riley, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1925-26
Wm. Barrett, deceased	Bay City, 1928-29
James Churchill, deceased	Pontiac, 1929-30
A. F. Chappell, deceased	Detroit, 1930-31
C. M. Cook, deceased	Kalamazoo, 1931-32
Frank D. Keeler, deceased	Saginaw, 1932-33
John W. Finch, deceased	Greenville, 1933-34
John W. Finch, deceased	Greenville, 1934-35
Edmond Rogers, deceased	Allegan, 1935-36
J. F. Beaumont, deceased	Milford, 1936-37
Eugene Owen, deceased	Grand Rapids, 1937-38
William Parker, deceased	Lake Odessa, 1938-39

Ira M. Stewart, deceased Petoskey, 1939-40
 Orlando LeValley Caro, 1940-41
 Cyrus Perrigo Vassar, 1941-42
 M. A. Loop Adrian, 1942-43
 George Heusted, deceased Vassar, 1943-44
 George Morgan, advanced Grosse Pointe, 1944-45

ROSTER
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
JANUARY 1, 1945

CUSTER POST NO. 5, GRAND RAPIDS.

Chartered September 27, 1878. Membership 1.
 Post Commander—Martin J. Warner.

WOODBURY POST NO. 45, ADRIAN.

Chartered February 13, 1882. Membership 1.
 Post Commander—Charles E. Riker.

WHITESIDE POST NO. 143, CARO.

Chartered May 25, 1883. Membership 1.
 Post Commander—Orlando Le Valley.

STEELE BROS. POST NO. 441, MASON.

Chartered December 31, 1897. Membership 1.
 Post Commander—Holden Albro.

COMRADES AT LARGE

Martin A. Loop **Adrian**
 James F. Lyon **Menominee**
 Oscar Mott **Benton Harbor**
 George Morgan **Grosse Pointe Park**
 Ralph R. Towner **Allegan**
 Cyrus Perrigo **Vassar**

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
HELD AT
GRAND RAPIDS—JUNE 20-21, 1945
WITH ADDRESS OF
RALPH R. TOWNER, *Department Commander*
AND REPORTS OF OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS,
GENERAL ORDERS, ETC.

Suite 852-4; Hotel Pantlind, Grand Rapids, June 21, 1945.

Promptly at 9:30 o'clock, Asst. Adjt. & Asst. Quartermaster General Orlando Le Valley, entered Headquarters to find the room well filled with members of the Allied Orders waiting to offer greetings and good wishes. Mrs. Amanda Staebler, newly elected Senior Vice President of the United Spanish War Veterans, Auxiliary, had remained in the city to express the greetings of the Department and present a lovely arrangement of red, white and blue flowers to Commander; is warmly thanked by Comrade Le Valley and invited to remain for the opening.

While waiting the hoped for arrival of Commander Towner, the gifts presented at the dinner last night were counted and one hundred and fifty dollars reported with knowledge of more to be received. The Secretary calls attention to the Flag presented by the Daughters and the Pledge of Allegiance is given.

Mrs. Ivah Standish, Past Department President of Connecticut, a visitor to the Daughters congratulates Comrade Le Valley on his determination to carry on the Encampment; Sisters Lillian Jackson, Edith Humiston and Maude Whitney extend the greetings of the Jackson Daughters.

A great basket of Gladoli brings the greetings from the Department of Woman's Relief Corps with more bouquets from Chairman Nellie Howe and the Grand Rapids Committees.

At 10:30 o'clock, in the absence of Commander Towner, Past Department Commander Le Valley reluctantly calls the meeting to order.

Acting Commander Le Valley: I will ask the Secretary to lead us in prayer. We stand in silent tribute to our late Commander Warner and our Senior Vice Commander George Morgan with a prayer for return of health for our Commander, and comrades.

PRAYER.

Humbly we bow before Thee, our Creator, Preserver, Guide and Protector. We thank Thee for our lives and for the Comrades Thy mercy has spared to us till this hour. Be with those no longer able to meet with us. Bless the work which calls us together and grant the memory of our noble dead remain with us forever. We ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses, as we
Forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil; for Thine
Is the kingdom and the power,
And the glory forever. Amen.

Commander Le Valley: I am glad to see so many here this morning. I had not expected to preside and while I see many I know as old friends I will have to depend on Secretary Simpson to present the visitors and keep the business moving. I am sorry the room is not large enough so you can have chairs but you all seem pretty happy anyway.

Secretary Simpson: Commander, these ladies ARE old friends, tried and true—Mrs. Mary Etta Oman who has just closed her year as Department President of the Ladies of the G. A. R., her Secretary Mrs. Davis and the newly elected President Mrs. Lintner.

Mrs. Oman: We closed our meeting yesterday and remained over to greet our Comrades. I am very sorry to hear of the illness of Commander Towner but very happy to greet you again and wish for you a grand Encampment. I am happy to present our new Department President, Mrs. Meryl Lintner of Buchanan. Mrs. Lintner voices her pride in

the Grand Army and pledges the continued interest in every Comrade that has been shown by her organization in past years.

Mrs. Dorothea Davis: I congratulate you Comrade Le Valley on being able to preside at another Encampment and my very best wishes that many years of service lie in the future for you and our comrades. We are indeed sorry Commander Towner is ill but he has a faithful helper here.

We pause for more flowers and taking pictures for the newspapers.

Secretary Simpson: "There are no friends like old friends,
Who share our morning days
No welcome like their welcome
No homage like their praise."

Comrade Le Valley: I present Mrs. Genevieve Viets, Past Department President of the Ladies of the Grand Army who never fails in paying loving tribute to the Comrades and leaving a remembrance in honor of her father, Comrade Metzger.

Mrs. Viets: Thank you Secretary Simpson; and Comrade Le Valley. I want to say you have a Secretary who never forgets. I am glad I stayed over to greet you, I could not return to Niles without seeing the Comrades of my father. I am sad and do regret that no other was able to be with you. We are all proud and glad that you are with us.

Mrs. Viets presents a personal gift to Commander and five dollars to the Secretary for the Happiness Fund in memory of her father.

Secretary: Commander, another friend would greet you—the representative from Lyman Gilbert Corps No. 59 of Detroit.

Commander, flowers will fade but the memory of Comrade Lyman Gilbert will never fade in our Corps and I would like the Secretary to add our bit to her Happiness Fund, to brighten the day for some Comrade.

Mrs. Campbell presents check for three dollars and is warmly thanked by the Secretary who speaks of the fine work done in Detroit by Corps No. 59 and sends greetings with the thanks of the Department.

Commander Le Valley: I don't know what to say for all these gifts so our Secretary must see to all of this for us.

Mrs. Charles Wright National Senior Vice President of the Ladies of the Grand Army, enters and extends greetings.

Commander: Any business, Secretary? Yes but first I know our friends will like to hear the fund is now one hundred and fifty-three dollars.

Commander: That is grand. I well know how it brings lots of happiness to our comrades as I was with you in Vassar and to Comrade Perrigo's on his 100th birthday.

Secretary: God knows best when he calls our comrades, Home—but my prayer is that this year our offerings may all be used for happy days spent with our comrades as we remember them through the year.

A great bouquet bearing the card: "For the Secretary and her BOYS," is sent in which brings several stories, recent happenings—of her Boys, as Secretary Simpson thanks the unknown donor.

Commander: I think we are having a pretty good time, now any business?

Secretary: I have here the typed order prepared for the Commander; many details may be omitted as all important, appear in the Journal but the Address of Commander Towner with recommendations—and the Summary of the Adj. and Auditors should be received, and acted on.

These are presented with many interruptions as members of the Allied Orders call to pay respects to the Grand Army of the Republic.

ADDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS.

Comrades of the 67th Annual Encampment: As I review the past three months, it comes to me the words of the poet are true:

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some
have greatness thrust upon them."

In the passing of Commander Warner honors were thrust upon me which I felt I was in no way prepared to assume tho determined to do my best. It is a tribute to our Comrades who are gone from us, to serve the Department. My one regret is that the weight of my 97 years forbids my earning this honor of serving you as Department Commander.

I anticipated attending the Encampment at Bay City last June but illness and the long trip prevented this. I appreciate your thought of me in electing me Senior Vice Commander. God moves in ways we cannot understand. In March, Commander Warner answered the call to join his Comrades on that other shore and I was notified that I advanced to the Commandership of the Michigan Department.

Plans had been completed by our Secretary and my granddaughter for an "at home" to be held my birthday week; it was thought best to make no change—rather to add to our plans—accordingly on my 97th birthday surrounded by friends and members of the Allied Orders, I was installed by Perle Fouch Past Senior Vice Commander in Chief of our Sons, using the ritual service of the Grand Army. The memory of that day will remain with me, always.

I had not fully recovered from a serious attack of pneumonia and realized I would find it difficult to attend to my duties but the pledge

of Secretary Simpson to ease the way and the assurance of every member of the Allied Orders in Allegan that they stood ready to serve, gave me confidence to carry on and loyally have they stood behind me. With exception of attending my church, the snow and rain well into May prevented any outside activity. For many years I have attended the services on Memorial Day and since the death of Comrade Estabrook have been the only Civil War veteran in the community and have been given the place of honor in the parade. This year for the first time I led as Department Commander of the Grand Army. The parade started at the Auditorium, proceeded through town and to the Oakwood Cemetery where I placed the wreath in memory of our Comrades and Soldiers of all wars.

Our Allied Orders, American Legion, World War I and II Veterans, Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts and long lines of school children each had a share in this demonstration of patriotism and remembrance.

I cannot close this meager report without again mentioning our Allied Orders and patriotic soldier organizations in Allegan; the courtesies heaped upon me through the years have been greatly appreciated. May success crown their efforts as they carry on the work so soon to be laid down by the Grand Army of the Republic.

My heart o'er flows when I say—"Our Secretary"—May God's choicest blessings be hers as she devotes her life to our service.

Again my Comrades I express my appreciation of the honor that has been mine and the comradeship shown me. I commend you to God's tender care until we meet again.

In F. C. and L.
RALPH R. TOWNER,
Department Commander.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I. The possibility of no Encampment being allowed in 1946 owing to traffic restrictions, must be considered. I recommend—

That we continue the authority voted our Secretary last year, to represent the Department with authority to carry out all details as seems best to continue the activity of the Department.

II. Realizing the comfort the visits of our Secretary have been to our Comrades, I recommend these be continued so far as funds permit and that she represent the Department at the funeral services of our Comrades.

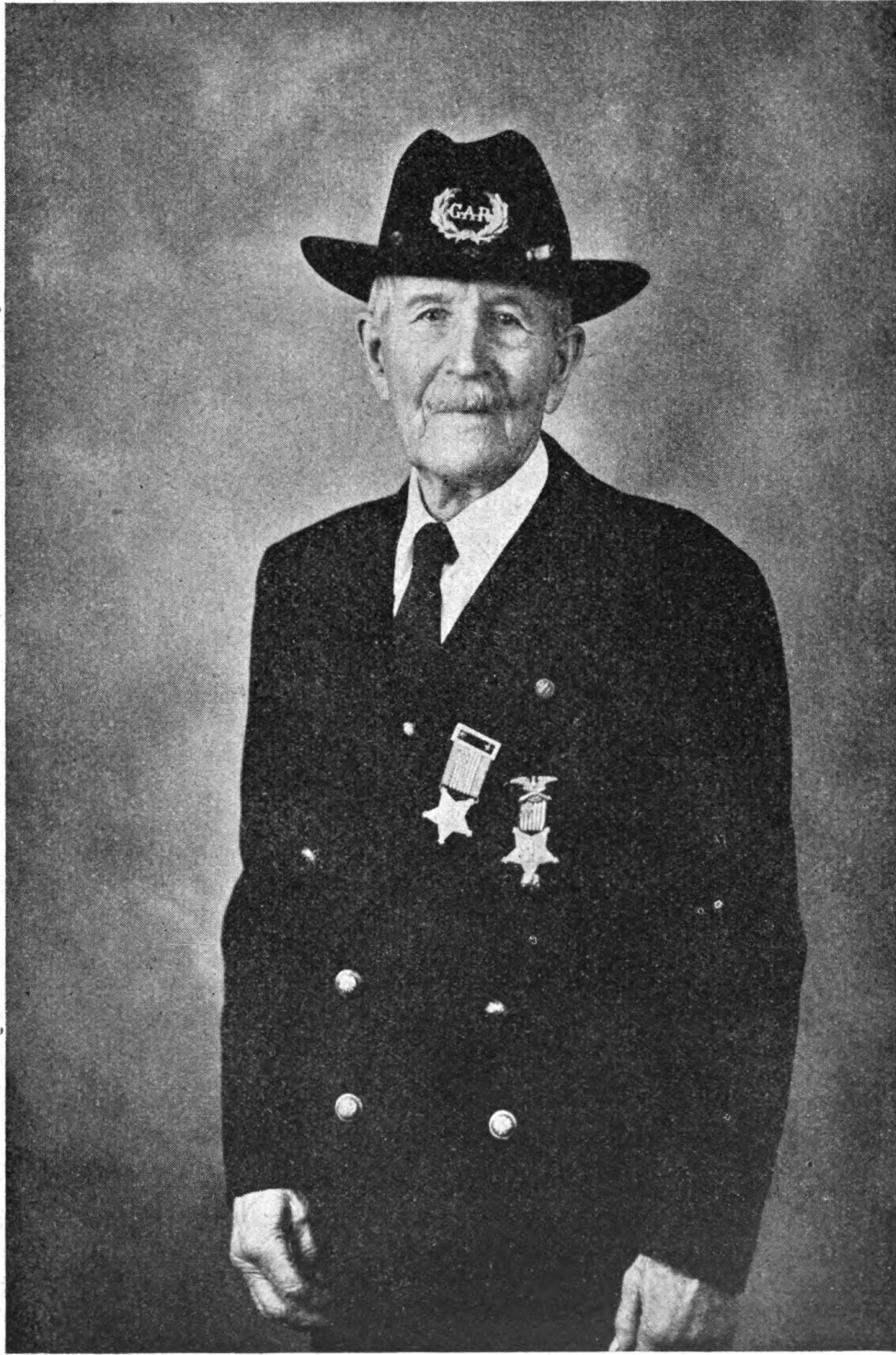
III. That again we affirm our loyalty to National decisions and agree to carry on so long as one Comrade survives.

IV. That the Department of Michigan go on record as favoring legislation for the rehabilitation of Veterans of World War II.

V. That we extend our thanks to our representatives in Washington, for the approval and passage of the legislation signed by President Roosevelt granting pensions to every Civil War widow—providing she has reached the age of 60 years and not remarried, and had lived with her soldier husband the ten years prior to his death.

Note: These recommendations were considered during my visit to Commander Warner in February, to prepare and present to members of the Council; after his passing in March they were sent to Commander Towner and received his approval.

LEAH M. SIMPSON,
Department Secretary.



ORLANDO LE VALLEY
Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General

REPORT OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER
GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Department Commander, Ralph R. Towner:

While the business of the Department is carried on at Headquarters in the Capitol, the Secretary has at all times kept me in touch with the work and while she visited at my home, together we review the year to prepare this report.

It is with a feeling of sadness we approach this Encampment as I realize few Comrades are able to attend. Last year in Bay City our group seemed pitifully small; today I think of Comrade Ferguson and Comrade Warner, two of the three with me then who have since answered the call of the Great Commander.

In September the same three made the trip to Des Moines and enjoyed every session of National, all social affairs and the parade. This is my birthday month and my custom to entertain at my home; this not being possible our Secretary remembered me with the Department greeting and birthday cake and I received many cards.

The sudden passing of Commander Ferguson brought the month to a dismal close. Gas restrictions and the long winter limited my activities but in March upon receiving the message that Death had taken Commander Warner my daughter made plans and we motored to Grand Rapids where I had part in the Grand Army service in the chapel of the Soldiers Home and continued on to Byron Center for the burial.

In May the annual visit of our Secretary to my home was planned to include a visit to Vassar Corps and to Comrade Perrigo's for his 100th birthday.

Returning to my home I received the itemized account of the daily work of Secretary Simpson, amazed at the record. More than 600 letters—cards, four General Orders and the Memoriams to write and mail out together with thousands of miles of travel is WORK; words of mine cannot express our thanks for this service.

Memorial Day I anticipate my usual attendance at the services in Caro.

Cash balance including Encampment gifts; 1944.

Woman's Relief Corps	\$ 150.00
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War	10.00
Sons of Union Veterans	25.00
Lyman Gilbert Corps, No. 59, Detroit	5.00
Total Cash	384.65

Receipts: 1945.

Woman's Relief Corps	\$ 100.00
Ladies of the G. A. R.	10.00
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War	25.00
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	20.30
Aux Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	10.00
Camp No. 7, Jackson, Sons of Union Veterans	10.00
Lyman Gilbert Corps No. 59, Detroit	3.00
Genevieve Viets	5.00
Dora Blodgett	1.00
Total	184.30
Disbursements June 1944—ending June 30, 1945	435.95
Cash balance	133.00
One Defense Bond	18.50

The Secretary joins with me in appreciation of the generous gifts which enable her to bring days of happiness to our comrades. We are also mindful of the interest and care of the Grand Army as shown in the continued maintenance of our Headquarters in the Capitol, by our Governor and State Officials. To every person who in any way has remembered us, I am grateful.

In F. C. and L.
 ORLANDO LE VALLEY
 Asst. Adjt. and QM. General

Commander Le Valley: I could not hear all the reports but am sure our Commander did all that he was able in the short time he had. The death of Commander Warner was a sad blow to our Department. Secretary explains the recommendation as formulated by Commander Warner had been approved by Commander Towner, these to be taken care of by the Secretary; this meets with approval of Commander Le Valley. No reading of other reports is agreed to, as all appear in Journal.

The invitation from Convention Bureau Manager and Hotel Pantlind is presented—to meet in Grand Rapids in 1946.

Commander Le Valley: We voted some years ago to leave all Encampment arrangements to our Secretary; we have not changed our Secretary and I see no reason to change that decision, but will say I like to meet in Grand Rapids, but it looks pretty uncertain for 1946. I know you and our Orders will do the right thing.

Secretary: Two years ago, the Army and Navy Union of U. S. A. offered honorary membership to every Comrade—no action taken, as so few Comrades at Encampment; it is again brought to our attention by Mr. W. P. Elcherott, Past Commander of Flint Garrison, the oldest Garrison in the state.

Commander Le Valley: I seem to have forgotten the details but that was left to you then so you do what you find is best. Secretary agrees

to take care of this honor offered the Comrades also all resolutions approved and thanks for the splendid entertainment furnished by Grand Rapids and the Allied Orders. Comrades will be remembered with the badge, gifts and greetings as usual. Permission to hold and care for the Charter of a disbanded Post is granted "any Order complying with the law." All business being finished, Election of officers is next order of business.

Comrade Le Valley: Think we had better omit that unless you know Comrades not here will accept, we could do that. Who will we have for Commander?

Secretary Simpson: You, are here and looking at the smiles on every face before you I think we would like to have YOU.

Comrade Le Valley objects to "electing himself" but the needs of the Department and the persuasive powers of the Secretary and many friends present, finally prevail and reluctantly he assumes the office; showered with good wishes he is declared elected Department Commander. For Senior Vice Commander, Cyrus Perrigo; Junior Vice Commander, Charles E. Riker. No opposition they are declared elected. Should there be a National Encampment it is understood that the delegates would be the Commander, any Comrade able to attend, and the Secretary.

Commander Le Valley thanks "every one." A happy forenoon is over; we adjourn for visit to Sons and luncheon with Woman's Relief Corps.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—Second Session.

Following the closing of first session, Comrade Le Valley and Secretary Simpson, visit the Sons to extend to Commander in Chief, Union W. Mackey the invitation to act as Installing Officer; this was readily accepted by Brother Mackey.

Department Commander Edgar Linsley greeted us and expressed pleasure upon hearing of the election of his long time friend, Comrade Le Valley as Department Commander. Brother Perle Fouch and others add a word of greeting. The Encampment badge is presented to each Son.

Upon hearing the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans was in session a short visit is made; we are royally received and welcomed to their conference, streamlined to conform to the ODT regulations but graciously presided over by Department President, Ruth Crouse who pays high tribute to the Grand Army; remembers us with gifts, and presents their honored guest, National President Edith Nile of Alliance, Ohio, who extends greetings from the Ohio Department and good wishes to Comrade Le Valley.

It is nearing noon and we hurry away to lunch with other dear members, Department President Leah M. Flansburgh and Aides of the W. R. C. Again real pleasure is shown as National President Laura Smith

responds to Comrade Le Valley's greetings. We enjoy this second "breaking of bread" with our co-workers, a happy surprise that any could be arranged for this meeting.

We return to Headquarters with little time for Comrade Le Valley to rest as more members and more flowers greet him. Promptly at 2:30 the second session is called to order.

Commander Le Valley: We will all join in repeating the Lord's Prayer. Department President Leah M. Flansburgh, accompanied by National President Laura Smith of Providence, Rhode Island, and all Past Department Presidents in attendance at the Department conference are announced and greeted by Comrade Le Valley. President Flansburgh began the reading of her report to Grand Army Department, interrupted by the entrance of the entire Encampment of the Sons, to witness the installation of Department Commander, by their Commander in Chief Mackey; Headquarters and halls filled with happy members; Mrs. Flansburgh concludes her report and presents the National President Laura Smith, who wishes "all good things for the Michigan Department" and predicts the same spirit of service will continue under the leadership of Comrade Le Valley.



LEAH M. FLANSBURGH
Department President Woman's
Relief Corps



BLANCH FLOWER
Department Secretary Woman's
Relief Corps

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT OF THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

Ralph R. Towner, Dept. Commander, Grand Army of the Republic:

As president of your Auxiliary I am happy to read to you the report of our year's work.

We are sorry that because of war time restrictions our delegation will be much smaller than in former years but you may be sure that every member of the Woman's Relief Corps will carry on the principles and perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

Number of Corps June 1, 1944	105
Number of Corps June 1, 1945	105
Number of Members March 31, 1944	5915
Number of Members March 31, 1945	6056
Cash disbursed to National for blood plasma	\$ 11,055.51
Cash disbursed for the relief of Civil War Veterans and their families	24.00
Number of widows of Union Soldiers assisted	47
Number of Spanish War veterans and nurses assisted	221
Number of World War veterans and nurses assisted	813
Number of members and others assisted	1288

Cash relief expended	\$ 1,130.87
Cash to Non-Pensioners	18.00
Bond Purchases	74.00
Relief other than money expended	33,493.33
For flowers	1,647.50
Red Cross	3,184.10
Child Welfare	124.61

Now our year is finished and time alone will tell how well the work has been done, we only hope it meets with your approval. To the Department Commander it has been an honor to serve the Grand Army and its Auxiliary and I pray that you and I will soon see the end of war and the beginning of a lasting peace.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

LEAH M. FLANSBURGH,
Dept. Pres. of Woman's Relief Corps.

Comrade Le Valley: That is a grand report. I can hardly sense more than eleven thousand dollars given to your National for the blood plasma project and all the other work done by our Auxiliary. The ladies remain for the installation.

Such a din of happy voices makes it almost impossible to hear the Secretary present Brother U. W. Mackey as Installing Officer but the dignity of the occasion brings a solemn quiet as Comrade Le Valley repeats the obligation, from the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Secretary Simpson asks the Department Commander, Edgar Linsley, to bestow the badge "over a heart always true to the Grand Army."

Commander Le Valley:

I can't make much of a speech but I thank every one who has been so kind and done so much for me. It has been wonderful.

Secretary Simpson: Commander, again I pledge my undivided attention to you, to every Comrade and to the work of our Department. If any worries come to you, pass them on to me—it is thus I pledge my service to the Grand Army.

Commander Le Valley: The Department wouldn't last long without our Secretary; the worries will all be yours and we are happy.

Nina Ketchum, Department President who served with Commander in 1942-43, offers congratulations on this second year to serve joined by all Past Department Presidents.

Despite the fact all meetings close before night the members seem loath to depart; an impromptu reception line forms as all who must leave pass and clasp the hand of Commander Le Valley; many remain for the closing.

Commander Le Valley :

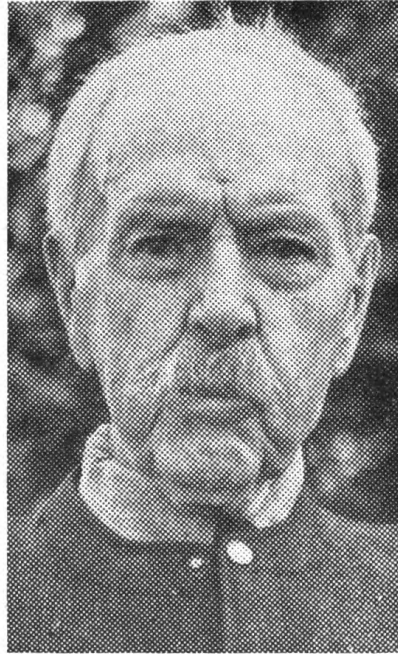
Secretary Simpson is there other business to come before us?

Secretary Simpson: Following our closing we are to visit the Daughters of Union Veterans meeting, and at four o'clock attend the Memorial service of the Woman's Relief Corps. All business of the Encampment is completed.

May I ask all to join in repeating the Mizpah benediction.

"The Lord watch between thee and me
While we are absent, one from the other."

Commander Le Valley: All business being finished I declare the 67th Annual Encampment of the Michigan Department, closed—sine die.



CHARLES E. RIKER
Department Chaplain

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Commander Towner :

I was reluctant to accept this honorable office until assured by our Secretary that active participation in the work was no longer expected; I realized I must have assistance in walking. Until a year ago I was able to assist in the cemetery at Memorial time. This year my thoughts will be with those performing this labor of love.

Reports coming in to Headquarters show that all over the state the Allied Orders and patriotic organizations have charge of the work the Grand Army now passes on to them.

In Allegan, Commander Towner led the parade and assisted in placing the Flag and flowers, tho far from well.

Orlando Le Valley, Asst. Adj. & Asst. Quartermaster General, led the parade and attended services in Caro.

The usual ceremonies were held in the cemetery at the Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids.

Last year the parade was routed past the home of Comrade Lyon; the Legion having charge in Menominee.

Comrade Holden Albro can no longer leave his home in Leslie. The Lansing Journal featured an article and his picture.

A most outstanding report from Mrs. Rozellia King of Benton Harbor, who visits Comrade Mott regularly, tells of services and placing Flags on 14 graves in Pearl Grange Cemetery, 21 in Bethel and 9 on the unidentified soldier graves in Morton Hill with a large wreath in memory of soldiers of all wars.

Comrade Oscar Mott rode at the head of the parade—the only Civil War Veteran.

It was not possible to secure the thousands of Flags needed for the soldier plots in Detroit. Large wreaths were placed at each Flag monument and several Flag staffs erected to float Old Glory.

In every community where a Civil War veteran resides, his picture with honorable mention appeared in the newspaper.

The Grand Army may not lead in this service but we do not forget. I cannot close without a word of sincere thanks to Secretary Simpson, who seems never to tire in doing for us; her visit, like a ray of sunshine made a happy day for me.

In F. C. and L.

CHARLES E. RIKER.

**IN MEMORIAM
MARTIN J. WARNER**

Chaplain in Chief

Commander, Department of Michigan
Grand Army of the Republic

Martin J. Warner born November 11, 1845, died at the Michigan Soldiers' Home where for the past twelve years he had lived, a loved and honored guest. He observed his 99th birthday last Armistice Day when hundreds from every Allied and Patriotic Order, veterans of all wars, the Last Man's Club, National and Civic officials gathered to pay him honor at an all day At Home sponsored by the Department and Custer Corps, Auxiliary of his Post.

He enlisted in company H. 17 Illinois Cavalry before his 17th birthday and spent much of the time of the Civil War fighting Quandre's Raiders, Jesse James terror Gangs and Bushwhackers who were conducting guerilla warfare against the Union. He was honorably discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, December 27, 1865.

Seventy-eight years ago he came to Michigan farming in the north and later working as builder and contractor—often his boast he helped Michigan grow. He was the last of his immediate family.

Comrade Warner first served as Commander following the death of Comrade Estabrook; at last Encampment was elected Commander serving until his death. Comrade Warner, with his happy personality, proudly wearing his many badges, was a well known figure at National and Department Encampments; always accorded an ovation as he called the long Roll of the 17th Illinois Cavalry, alphabetically from memory, never missing a name, how well we remember at last National Encampment in Des Moines, disdaining the microphone, how clearly his voice rang out over that vast Auditorium—a voice now still in DEATH. At Des Moines, he was elected Chaplain in Chief. Ever a friend of man, a true Soldier of the Cross, on March 12, 1945, he laid down the burden of life to answer "Here" When the Roll was called up Yonder—and join his company on that Eternal Camping Ground.

Rev. Cornelius Swart, Chaplain of the Home and National Chaplain United Spanish War Veterans, eulogized "his friend" speaking with assurance from Second Timothy, 4-7 confident of the truth of the words for Comrade Warner,

"I have fought a good fight
I have finished my course."

Grouped about the Flag draped casket, Past Commander Orlando Le Valley—the lone Civil War comrade who had travelled some hundred miles to pay a last tribute to his Commander; C. in C. Mackey, Department Commander Linsley of the Sons, President Freda Thatcher Custer Corps W.R.C. and Department Secretary Leah M. Simpson tenderly, solemnly read the Grand Army Ritual service. Burial was in Byron Center; Col. Walter Baker with members of the Home Board; Department Presidents of the W.R.C. and Daughters, with officers; Ladies of the G.A.R.; Department Commander USWV; American Legion; Members of Allied Orders and Auxiliaries stood in silent tribute as full military honors were rendered by the Home firing squad and bugler.

A great sadness is mine as I say good bye to Comrade Warner; I shall miss the quiet visits, the kind suggestions and deep interest in my service for the Comrades and close association with the Michigan Soldiers' Home that has been mine these many years. Faithful to every trust, he rests, and WE must carry on. In going away he leaves a record we may well be proud of and a memory of service to cherish and follow.

"And though the warrior's sun has set,
Its light shall linger round us yet
Bright, Radiant and Blest.

In loving tribute,
Leah M. Simpson
Department Secretary
Grand Army of the Republic.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME
Grand Rapids 5

March 19th, 1945.

Miss Leah Simpson, Secretary,
Department of Michigan,
Grand Army of the Republic,
Capitol Building,
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Miss Simpson :

For your information, the following is a copy of a resolution adopted by our Board of Managers at their meeting held here March 12th, 1945 :

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions, our beloved comrade and resident, Department Commander Martin J. Warner of the Grand Army of the Republic and

"Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to comradeship within this institution, now therefore, be it—

"Resolved that the Board of Managers of the Michigan Soldiers' Home in regular meeting assembled, on the 12th day of March in the year of our Lord nineteen-hundred-forty-five, does mourn the passing of our distinguished member; that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and be it further—

"Resolved, that in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be spread upon our official records and be presented to his family."

Sincerely,

WALTER J. BAKER,
Commandant.

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS

Miss Leah M. Simpson,
Secretary G. A. R.,
Capitol Building,
Lansing Michigan.

My dear Miss Simpson :

The sad news of the death of our good Comrade and Commander of Michigan G.A.R. has just reached us and while his failing health has more or less indicated his allotted span of life nevertheless it has been somewhat of a shock.

I wish to extend for the Commander of the Department of Michigan and the Comrades of this organization our deepest sympathy and consolation to you in this sad affair.

We have notified our local Camp at Grand Rapids and requested that they in some way convey the news to as many Comrades and Sisters as possible so that they could pay their last respects on Wednesday, March 14th, at 2 p. m.

Our Department Commander will be in attendance at this sad occasion.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN STRONACH, JR.,
Department Quartermaster.

MEMORIAL ROLL
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN G. A. R.
FOR THE YEAR 1944

CUSTER POST NO. 5—GRAND RAPIDS

Eugene Owen Private, Co. I, 117th Illinois Infantry

EDWARD POMEROY POST NO. 48—JACKSON

John Killeen Private, Co. E, 88th N. Y. Cavalry

SHIELDS POST NO. 68—SHELBY

E. M. Holt Private, Co. C, 88th Pennsylvania Infantry

COMRADES AT LARGE

Homer Sherwood Co. I, 5th Michigan Cavalry
George Culver Co. D, 7th and Co. C, First Michigan Cavalry
James Rooney Co. — Third N. Y. Cavalry
Nelson Porritt Co. D, 2nd Michigan Infantry
George Heusted Co. E, 9th Michigan Cavalry
William Dubay Co. G, 22nd Michigan Infantry
W. H. Ferguson Co. A, 137 and Co. B, 151 Illinois Infantry
Corydon Foote Co. F, 10th Michigan Infantry

The book of life is closed
And on its pages, fair
A record just and true,
For love of God and Country
Penned it, there

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE L. MORGAN

George L. Morgan, born February 14, 1848, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Cecile Miller, Grosse Pointe Park, April 15, 1945. Serving the Department as Senior Vice Commander last February, his Department officers with the daughter sponsored the observance of his 97th birthday. In his flower filled home, surrounded by friends, Comrade Morgan was proud and happy though a bit wearied with the weight of his ninety-seven years. Deep and fervent were the good wishes showered upon him and our prayers that God would spare him to us—"yet a little while"—but even as we prayed the Angel of Death drew near.

Comrade Morgan was born on a farm near Kirklín, Indiana; when a young lad the family moved near Rennesslaer where George began "city life and schooling" and where all his life he held legal residence. As the years passed he became known to the community as Rennesslaer's Grand Old Man and affectionately addressed by old and young as Grandpa Morgan.

In 1861 parental objection stayed his entrance into the Civil War, but Youth finds a way, and August 11, 1861, saw little George mustering in Company A, 87th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, the proud kid of the regiment—fourteen and a half years old and a full year and a half short of the sixteen year minimum.

The 87th soon left Indiana to begin the long marches through Kentucky and Tennessee, face death in the Battle of Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain—days and nights of minor skirmishes and weeks of guerilla warfare through 1862-1863 and 1864 and into the final months of the war. Always, George Morgan now approaching seventeen years of age was keeping up with the veteran troops till the triumphant 87th joined Sherman's March to the Sea. A glorious record. Following the close of the war he was mustered out near Washington, D. C., June 10, 1865, free to return home a seventeen-year-old schoolboy with a Veteran record.

Michigan pays tribute to her adopted Son because of his many years' residence in Detroit where he served with the surviving veterans of the Civil War as President of the Joint Memorial Day Association, sadly paying the tribute as one by one of his comrades answered the last call, till in 1944, he stood alone at the Soldiers' Monument to place the Memorial Day wreath, the only veteran of the Civil War in Wayne and Macomb Counties.

A good citizen—he cast his first vote in 1872 for General Grant for President and each Presidential year throughout his life, found him journeying back to Rennesslaer to vote as he thought right.

A well loved Comrade—his service in the hour of his Country's need and a life long devotion to the Flag he served are memories we will always treasure. Full military honors by American Legion and veterans of the late wars were accorded Comrade Morgan as he was laid to rest in the Weston cemetery, near Rennesslaer, Indiana.

Services were held in Detroit where hundreds gathered to pay him honor. The Michigan Department Grand Army of the Republic, represented by Secretary Leah M. Simpson, who paid the tributes for his Comrades.

The Sons of Union Veterans, in full army regalia; the Ladies of the G.A.R.; the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, rendered their full ritual services; countless floral offerings gave silent testimony to the love of friends.

The low sad notes of Taps float over us as we whisper a tender farewell and leave our FRIEND to God's keeping.

Ever near us though unseen
The dear immortal spirits tread.
For all the boundless Universe, is Life—
There are no Dead.

In loving tribute,
Leah M. Simpson,
Department Secretary,
Grand Army of the Republic.

MEMBERSHIP.

Since 1928 a steady lessening of Posts and members brings the realization the Grand Army has entered the Sunset Trail.

The following numbers show the gain and loss of Posts and members in the Department of Michigan after it was re-organized—year by year from January, 1879, to January, 1945:

Year	Posts	Members	Year	Posts	Members
1879	6	127	1913	279	8,226
1880	9	281	1914	271	7,821
1881	13	482	1915	267	7,452
1882	27	1,019	1916	263	6,995
1883	100	4,442	1917	252	6,257
1884	209	10,311	1918	240	5,553
1885	288	14,475	1919	238	5,115
1886	316	16,957	1920	227	4,667
1887	348	19,226	1921	212	4,000
1888	371	21,353	1922	197	3,386
1889	373	21,418	1923	193	3,105
1890	377	21,255	1924	190	2,836
1891	375	20,765	1925	149	2,377
1892	391	20,905	1926	125	1,882
1893	390	20,469	1927	119	1,563
1894	384	19,020	1928	112	1,212
1895	383	18,059	1929	109	991
1896	373	16,766	1930	102	817
1897	382	16,096	1931	97	656
1898	385	15,831	1932	89	550
1899	386	15,531	1933	81	418
1900	382	15,102	1934	78	314
1901	375	14,930	1935	68	244
1902	368	14,406	1936	66	198
1903	359	13,716	1937	45	120
1904	355	13,168	1938	35	78
1905	346	12,282	1939	31	59
1906	340	11,566	1940	26	50
1907	326	11,068	1941	21	35
1908	318	10,688	1942	16	47
1909	313	10,220	1943	10	33
1910	311	9,854	1944	6	21
1911	309	9,372	1945	4	12
1912	286	8,707			

Michigan is credited with 92,729 enlistments from 1861 to April 1865 not including Michigan men enlisted in other states, the Provost Marshal General credits 90,048 without reference to periods of service. 14,855 Michigan men gave their lives in battle, prison pen or in consequence of sickness or wounds. In 1869 the Legislature passed a joint resolution by the Senate and House of Representatives that one thousand dollars be appropriated for the compilation of a Roll inscribed with the names of all the casualties in the war of Michigan men. This roll, bound in two volumes is dedicated "Roll of Honor of Michigan soldiers who died in defense of the American Union, 1861-1865".

OUR COMRADES OF TODAY

The ranks of BLUE are fading; only seven who mustered out eighty years ago are left in Michigan. All honor to them as they carry on the ideals of the Grand Army of the Republic. They have seen their Country, whose unity they preserved, emerge victorious from three great wars—Wars of Progression and Protection, never aggression.

Homer Albro: Company G, 11th Michigan Infantry. Born in Jackson county March 4th, 1847, enjoyed his 98th birthday in the old home three miles west of Leslie where he has lived for more than fifty years. Commander of Shields Post in 1928 and as only surviving member still holds that honor.

Orlando Le Valley: Company E, 23rd Michigan Infantry; Passed his 97th birthday September 19th. Mustered in Whiteside Post in 1889 and through an active life, almost continuously in office; elected Department Commander in 1942 and 1945 and now serving the National organization on the Council of Administration.

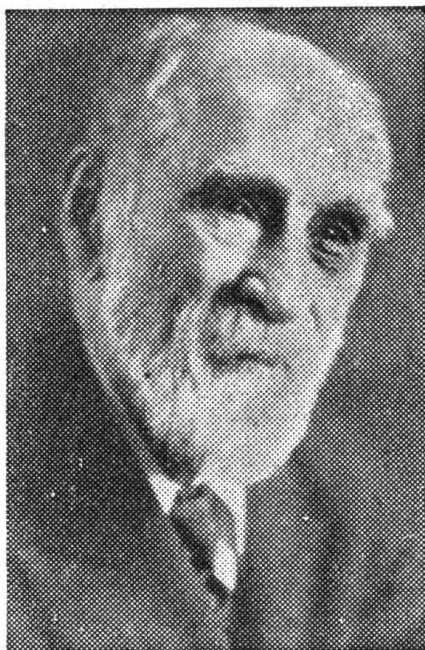
James F. Lyon: A life long resident of Menominee, enlisted in Company C, First Wisconsin Cavalry; in 1867 received the rank of First Lieutenant in recognition of distinguished service during the storming of Fort Tyler. His 102nd birthday Sept. 17, 1945, found him fairly well, but eyesight failing; enjoyed his Department remembrance of the day.

Martin A. Loop: Mustered in Company A, 17th Michigan Infantry when 18 years old. A member of Adrian Post and Past Commander; while living in California was Commander of the Post in Sacramento; has returned to Michigan and now anticipating his 103rd birthday January 14 in his old home city, Adrian. Has served the Department as Junior Vice Commander.

Oscar Mott: Company E, 12th Wisconsin Infantry. The honored and only Civil War veteran in Benton Harbor, will reach his 99th birthday November 16. He mustered in Post No. 14 in 1888, determined to carry on in memory of his comrades. He held the place of honor in the motorcade to the cemeteries on Memorial Day.

CYRUS PERRIGO: Only surviving member of Company I, First Michigan Sharpshooters, keen and active, celebrated his 100th birthday May 22, 1945, at his home in Vassar, pleased with the many greetings and the visit of his Commander and Department Secretary. Many years active in Post work is now serving Department as Senior Vice Commander.

RALPH R. TOWNER: Served under Gen. Grant in Company F, 186th N. Y. Volunteers. Holds the distinction of being installed Department Commander on his 97th birthday, March 16, 1945. The only Civil War veteran in Allegan; now serving Department as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General.



JAMES F. LYON
102 Years Old September 17, 1945

CITATION—James F. Lyon, Menominee, Michigan.

Know ye that I do confer on James F. Lyon, late a Corporal in Company C, First Wisconsin Cavalry Volunteers, the rank of First Lieutenant by Brevet, to rank as such from April 16, 1865, in recognition of distinguished personal gallantry and coolness manifested in the storming of Fort Tyler of that date where he was severely wounded.

Signed—**LUCIUS FAIRCHILD,**
Governor of Wisconsin, Nov. 16, 1867.

ENCAMPMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Year	Entertaining City	Presiding Commander
1868	Detroit	Russell A. Alger
1869	Lansing	William A. Throop
1870	Lansing	William Humphries
1879	Grand Rapids	C. V. R. Pond
1880	Grand Rapids	C. V. R. Pond
1881	Quincy	A. T. McReynolds
1882	Muskegon	Byron R. Pierce
1883	Battle Creek	Byron R. Pierce
1884	Detroit	Oscar A. Janes
1885	East Saginaw	Rush J. Shank
1886	Jackson	Charles D. Long
1887	Grand Rapids	John Northwood
1888	Lansing	L. G. Rutherford
1889	Bay City	Washington Gardner
1890	Adrian	Michael Brown
1891	Muskegon	Henry M. Duffield
1892	Ann Arbor	Charles L. Eaton
1893	Benton Harbor	Henry S. Dean
1894	Owosso	James H. Kidd
1895	Mt. Clemens	Louis Kanitz
1896	Saginaw	S. B. Daboll
1897	Greenville	Wm. Shakespeare
1898	Port Huron	Aaron T. Bliss
1899	Petoskey	Alex L. Patrick
1900	Grand Rapids	Russell R. Peeler
1901	Flint	E. M. Allen
1902	Pontiac	James Van Kleeck
1903	Muskegon	Edward C. Anthony
1904	Holland	D. B. K. Van Raalte
1905	Traverse City	George H. Hopkins
1906	Saginaw	E. C. Cannon
1907	Bay City	Joseph B. Griswold
1908	Detroit	William Jibb
1909	Kalamazoo	George L. Holmes
1910	Holland	James M. Greenfield
1911	Ypsilanti	Samuel J. Lawrence
1912	Port Huron	George W. Stone
1913	Lansing	John T. Spillane
1914	Jackson	Frank R. Chase
1915	Kalamazoo	Riley I. Jones
1916	Bay City	Eli Strong
1917	Battle Creek	Lucius H. Ives
1918	Saginaw	William O. Lee
1919	Traverse City	David S. Howard
1920	Port Huron	Edwin F. Lamb
1921	Flint	Henry Spaulding
1922	Detroit	J. J. Holmes
1923	Grand Rapids	William Mears
1924	Lansing	Lyman A. Gilbert
1925	Port Huron	M. C. Barney
1926	Jackson	John Seel
1927	Benton Harbor	James R. Stephenson
1928	Kalamazoo	Charles A. Bartlett
1929	Bay City	A. C. Estabrook
1930	Pontiac	A. C. Estabrook
1931	Grand Rapids	A. C. Estabrook
1932	Petoskey	Orestus Blake
1933	Saginaw	Orestus Blake

1934	Grand Rapids	John Killeen
1935	Mt. Clemens	Frank D. Keeler
1936	Battle Creek	Ira M. Stewart
1937	Detroit	Ira M. Stewart
1938	Grand Rapids	S. H. Carlton
1939	Jackson	A. C. Estabrook
1940	Ann Arbor	A. F. Chappell
1941	Lansing	M. J. Warner
1942	Grand Rapids	Sr. Vice Orlando Le Valley
1943	Lansing	Orlando Le Valley
1944	Bay City	W. H. Ferguson
1945	Grand Rapids	Orlando Le Valley

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Lansing 2, Michigan, July 1, 1944.

General Orders No. 1

Series 1944 - 1945

- I. By the unanimous choice of my comrades at the 66th Annual Encampment, held in Bay City, June 23-24, I was elected and installed Commander of the Department of Michigan, an honor I greatly appreciate. I hereby assume command, asking the continued support of every member.
- II. The following officers, elected or appointed, will serve on the official staff:

Department Commander Martin J. Warner, Grand Rapids
 Senior Vice Commander Ralph Towner, Allegan
 Junior Vice Commander George Morgan, Grosse Pointe Park
 Chaplain Charles Riker, Cement City

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Orlando Le Valley Caro
 W. H. Ferguson Kent City
 Cyrus Perrigo Vassar
 James Lyon Menominee

OFFICIAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
 Orlando Le Valley, Caro
 Judge Advocate W. H. Ferguson, Kent City
 Patriotic Instructor Oscar Mott, Benton Harbor
 Chief of Staff Homer Albro, Leslie
 Senior Aide George Culver, Milan
 Sergeant National Colors E. M. Holt, Shelby
 Sergeant Department Colors Homer Sherwood, Milan
 Delegate to National Encampment Orlando Le Valley
 Alternate M. A. Loop, Adrian
 Department Secretary Leah M. Simpson

- III. The Encampment was most successful, the business so well arranged by Secretary Simpson that Saturday was spent in visiting a session of each Allied Order. The Department gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts presented by each Department and the many personal gifts to every comrade at the Camp Fire Banquet, an evening long to be remembered.
- IV. We extend our sincere thanks to the management of the Wenonah Hotel; to the committees who worked to such a successful finish with General Chairman Mrs. Minnie Van Tuyl; to Mayor Wm. Tomlinson; the splendid speakers and all who had any part in the success and our enjoyment of the Encampment.
- V. The invitation from the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau and Pantlind Hotel was accepted. Accordingly, the 67th Annual Encampment of Michigan Department will be held in 1945 in Grand Rapids with Headquarters in the Pantlind Hotel, if no ruling from our Government prevents. This is left in hands of our Secretary. Any change will be promulgated in General Orders.
- VI. With exception of personal greetings please address all business communications and reports to Headquarters, Leah M. Simpson, Department Secretary, Box 433, Lansing 2, Michigan.
- VII. The 78th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held in Des Moines the week of September 10th. Michigan Headquarters in the Hotel Des Moines. Because of traffic problems, notify our Department Secretary as early as possible. Let us make this a Michigan reunion.
- VIII. To the leaders of our Allied Orders: May all success attend you; may God's loving presence surround you and be with you always. In serving the Department of Michigan, I ask the same loyalty and cooperation so freely given in past years.

By command of

MARTIN J. WARNER,
Department Commander.

Official:

ORLANDO LE VALLEY,
Asst. Adjt. and Quartermaster General.

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE HEUSTED—Department Junior Vice Commander, born October 29, 1850, the youngest surviving veteran of the Civil War in Michigan, died at his home in Mayville, May 26, 1944, after only one day's illness. He had anticipated having a prominent part in Memorial Day observance in his community.

Comrade Heusted was the last member of Mayville Post which he had served in every office. At the age of 12 he ran away from home to enlist, giving his age as 18. His parents would not consent to his becoming a soldier and he was sent home, but a year later ran away for the second time and by enlisting under the name of Gurney was accepted in Co. E. 9th Michigan Cavalry, which did flank duty for General Sherman on his "march to the sea". His great grandfather served seven years with George Washington in the Revolutionary War; three grandsons are serving in the present war. Full military honors were accorded him in burial services under the auspices of Morrison-Mead Post, American Legion. The Department of Michigan mourns the loss of this fine soldier.

JOHN KILLEEN—Past Department Commander and only surviving member of Pomeroy Post No. 48 at Jackson was born in Waterloo, New York, April 19, 1848, died May 26, 1944, age 96 years and one month.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Comrade Killeen made two unsuccessful attempts to enlist, only to be refused because of his age, but on March 12, 1863, was mustered in Co. E, 8th N. Y. Cavalry, not quite 15 years of age. He saw service at Swartz Creek, Culpepper House, Reaume Station and chasing Mosby's men at the last until the arrival of General Sheridan. He marched in the Grand Review in Washington and later was sent to Florida. Was returned to New York and mustered out at Elmira, after the close of the war. In 1867 Comrade Killeen came to Michigan and in 1886 became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic serving his first term as Post Commander in 1924; in 1933 was elected Department Commander. In these long years never failed in service to the Department. His passing disbands Post No. 48 at Jackson. Comrade Killeen rests in the Soldiers' Plot in Jackson where services with full military honors were rendered by the V.F.W. and the Sons of Union Veterans. Services were also held in Portland where the last fourteen years of his life had been passed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Green.

JAMES ROONEY—Department Chief of Staff, born in Toronto, Canada, October 31, 1844, died March 12, 1944 in Sarnia. When seventeen years of age Comrade Rooney left his Canadian home to journey to Buffalo where he enlisted in the Third New York Cavalry and saw active service in the Battle of the Wilderness and at Gettysburg and was at Richmond, Va., when General Lee surrendered. Always keen for service in the Grand Army, a year ago he led the parade in Port Huron on Memorial Day. Burial was in Sarnia, the family home.

"We thank thee God, for the gift of these men,
brave and true:

This may we do, our loyalty to prove,
Live as they lived; honor the land we love;
Stand fast, be true, our duty never forget.

The department mourns the passing of every Comrade from our thinning ranks.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Lansing, Michigan, November, 1944

General Orders No. 2

Series 1944 - 1945

The Seventy-Eighth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in Des Moines, Iowa, the week of September the 10th, found Commander Warner with Comrades Le Valley and Quartermaster General Ferguson enjoying all social activities and attending every session. The only department having three comrades in attendance, your Commander was proud of his delegation.

It was an outstanding Encampment. The President sent the U. S. Marine Band under direction of Captain Santleman to lead the parade and entertain us at every event of the week; the Governor and Staff tendered us a reception in the State House; four full companies of WACS staged a Grand Review at Ft. Des Moines; a greeting and hand clasp from Gov. Thomas E. Dewey upon his arrival in the city; the parade surpassing many of late years and the hours of comradeship with old friends combined to make the week never to be forgotten. The arrangements made by our Secretary for our comfort and travel were perfect; the difficulties in travel anticipated, vanished, we had none, a really delightful trip.

We were pleased that Commander-in-Chief, Jones, was able to preside at every session. To our newly elected C. in C. Isaac Sharp of Indiana, the Department of Michigan pledges continued loyalty. Department Commander Warner was elected Chaplain in Chief; William H. Ferguson was reappointed Quartermaster General with Secretary Leah Simpson to continue the bookkeeping and care of supplies at Headquarters. These honors are greatly appreciated by Michigan Department.

This General Order No. 2 closes the series of 1943-44. Per Capita Tax and reports are due with the closing of the year; the Secretary urges 100% return in this "grateful return for the benefits received"; the entire amount is sent to National. Members and Sponsors of Comrades at Large please report every activity of your comrade when making this return to Department. No comrade is expected to fill a detailed report blank but this report from YOU is invaluable for the records of the Department. Only fourteen comrades left to us, join the Secretary in keeping in touch with them.

Again we call attention to return of Charters. Any individual or Order holding Charter of a disbanded Post should request the right to hold it. No member of any Post can will or give away a Charter, it is the property of the Department when Post is disbanded. The location of several Charter and Post Flags has been reported, please voluntarily request the right to hold them that the records in Headquarters be complete.

ARMISTICE DAY: We look to Allied Orders and Sponsors of comrades to report the observance of this Day; see that a comrade shares your observance then report it to Headquarters.

The Secretary would remind you—we may combine two celebrations—on Nov. 11th our Department Commander will reach his 99th birthday.

“Life is not measured by years,
But by the use we make of them.”

Comrade Martin J. Warner has through the long years of his life scattered sunshine and given his best to his God and Country. May the future hold many Happy Birthdays.

THANKSGIVING DAY: Though Death claims our loved ones and war covers most of the earth, AMERICA may still give thanks for the peace and comfort of our homes. Count your many blessings and give thanks.

To avoid delay and confusion please address all business communications to the Secretary, Box 433, Lansing 2, Mich.

CHRISTMAS: Time moves on, soon we enter the Holiday week. Your Commander wishes every Comrade, every member of our Allied Orders a Merry Christmas and glad New Year, but if sadness must be your lot, strength and courage to endure. May the glad Christmas bells ring out the message of “Peace on Earth” and fill your hearts with a deep abiding Faith in America.

By command of

MARTIN J. WARNER,
Department Commander.

Official:

Orlando Le Valley
Asst. Adjt. and Quartermaster General.

Since closing this General Order the Department received the sad message of the passing of Comrade William H. Ferguson, Quartermaster General of the Grand Army of the Republic. Comrade Ferguson spent the week with us in Des Moines. His sudden passing is keenly felt.

Comrade William H. Ferguson, Quartermaster General died in office September 26, 1944, he was elected department commander in 1943 closing his year in June. Following the death of Comrade Eugene Owen he was appointed Quartermaster General and at the Des Moines Encampment was reappointed. He served as Corporal in Co. B. 151 Illinois Infantry after serving in Co. A. 137th Infantry, enlisting at the age of fifteen and received his discharge in 1866, a long honorable service.

Comrade Ferguson passed his 96th birthday May 8th, 1944. The Department mourns his passing.

Life's battles o'er and on your breast,
The flag you loved, lies folded.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Lansing, Michigan, March 26, 1945

General Orders No. 3

Series of 1944-45

- I. It is with profound sorrow we record the passing of one who has given years of devoted service to our Department; Death claimed Martin J. Warner, Chaplain in Chief of the National organization and Commander of the Department of Michigan, March 12, 1945 after an illness of less than a week.
- II. Last Armistice Day, the Department sponsored the observance of his 99th birthday, in Grand Rapids; keen, alert, as he greeted the many callers on that day, no thought was ours that soon the Angel of Death would beckon and Martin J. Warner would join his comrades—the last soldier of Co. H 17th Illinois Cavalry, to answer the call. His death disbands one of our Charter Posts, Custer Post No. 5, of Grand Rapids.
The Department appreciates the many messages of sympathy and tributes received at Headquarters.
- III. That I have been advanced to the honor so lately held by Comrade Warner, I greatly appreciate, while it brings the realization that the years have taken heavy toll from our ranks and that our strength to serve in upholding the dignity and ideals of the Grand Army, is limited; without the constant care and support of our Secretary Simpson, I would find it impossible to assume the honor that is mine. Her pledge of Loyalty and continued Service is the rock on which I lean.
- IV. All appointments of the year are continued; all business conducted by our Secretary at headquarters in the Capitol as usual—Box 433 Lansing 2.
- V. Our late Commander was in perfect accord with the law governing Encampments, made clear by letters from C. in C. Sharp.

“Departments shall hold an Annual Encampment between January 1 and July 1.” The Grand Army is in no way affected by the Ruling of the ODT. Accordingly our Secretary arranged a meeting of the heads of our Allied Orders, in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau to discuss conditions under which our Allied Orders could meet and conform to the rules laid down by the ODT. Each order renewed its pledge of Loyalty to the Grand Army and pledged to so arrange its representation that no more than fifty be in attendance—thus strictly obeying the ruling of the ODT. The W.R.C. with its large membership faces a real problem unless this ruling be modified but always our Auxiliary has found a way.

My heart warms to the Loyalty of our Allied Orders.

- VI. The 67th Annual Encampment of the Michigan Department will be held in Grand Rapids June 20-21, 1945 with Headquarters in the Pantlind Hotel.

Secretary Simpson plans a visit to every Comrade; she will make every arrangement for your travel and comfort; I urge each Comrade to accede to her plans and make every effort to attend this Encampment.

- VII. The approach of spring brings thought of the Anniversaries the Grand Army holds dear.

April 6, Army Day; recognized by Congress March 11, 1937.

Mothers Day—Second Sunday in May—wear a flower in loving remembrance.

“I am an American Day”—third Sunday in May.

VIII. MEMORIAL DAY

The day held sacred for soldiers of all wars. More than eighty years ago the Men of '61, offered their lives at the call of Abraham Lincoln, that from the carnage of war, Unity, Peace, Freedom might rise. Again death, destruction, the terrors of slavery, face our loved ones; with fervent prayer for the thousands offering their lives on the battlefields of the world, join with our patriotic orders, in some observance of Memorial Sunday and Memorial Day.

IX. FLAG DAY

God grant that soon our boys may come marching home under the folds of our glorious emblem, a lasting PEACE secured.

To this pledge be ever true
No RED shall wave above my fair land
Without the WHITE and BLUE.

- X. It was with joyous hearts we received the message that our C. in C. Sharp had returned to his home much improved. May every day bring added strength and comfort.
- XI. My 97th birthday will always be a cherished memory. My Granddaughter successfully carried out the plans of Secretary Simpson for a Department party which proved to be my installation as your Commander.

Gifts and flowers in profusion: The Woman's Relief Corps, Sons and Daughters, Commanders of American Legion and Auxiliary, Spanish War representative, our good friends and neighbors thronged to my home as Perle Fouch, Past Nat'l Sr. Vice Commander of our Sons read the obligation and Secretary Simpson presented the badge of honor. Refreshments were served by my Granddaughter and Great Granddaughters.

XII. Comrades, I assume this office in deep humility, it may not be possible to carry on as our late Commander would have done, I ask your loyal support. With this, I pledge the best I can give to the Grand Army of the Republic.

By command of
RALPH R. TOWNER
 Department Commander.

Official:
ORLANDO LE VALLEY
 Asst. Adjt. and QM. General

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

HEADQUARTERS MICHIGAN GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Ralph R. Towner, Department Commander.

JUNE 26, 1944 I returned to Headquarters to close the old and open a new administration for Commander Martin J. Warner, with no thought that only a few months would pass before his book of life would end and we would say a last farewell to one who has served the Department so well. The month closed with all the "thank you's" for the many gifts at Encampment, all resolutions prepared and a message of greeting with badge and gift to every Comrade, in the mail, and the new Ledger opened. One luncheon with Past President Club of the Daughters. I remain at Headquarters till Capitol closes July 3. Return to Jackson where a fine program and parade is staged for Independence Day.

JULY, unusually busy with many interesting visitors; assist five in making applications for the pension as widows of our Comrades, now eligible under the new pension law; one application for entrance in Soldiers Home; one request for headstone.

Received the message that Mrs. Marie Green, in whose home Commander Killeen was cared for many years, was seriously ill in St. Lawrence Hospital. I began visits which continued till death ended her suffering. Compile General Orders No. 1 and the stationery, type and send to printer, prepare the report to National for our QM. General Ferguson; address one club on "The Men of '61"; two Corps meetings; Past Presidents luncheon; address 300 envelopes for General Order; answer 48 official letters, closing the month.

AUGUST. Proof read G. O. No. 1; close National Quartermaster General Ferguson's report ending August 12; enjoy Pot Luck and regular session of Camp Blair, Sons of Union Veterans; two days in Detroit, visit Comrade Morgan who is pleased with Department remembrance but can make no plans to accompany me to Des Moines; make all reservations for my trip but upon returning to Lansing find a call from Commander Warner asking me to take him, as he does not wish to motor such a distance; on 21st visit Grand Rapids and make reservations; these were cancelled and again I visit Commander, completing arrangements for meeting him and Miss Giradot in Kalamazoo to continue our trip to

Des Moines. Attend Americanization class; close month with National G. O. and Department No. 1 in mails.

SEPTEMBER. Labor Day in Jackson; routine work at Headquarters till closing on 6th to spend one day at home before leaving for Kalamazoo to join Commander and Miss Giradot and continue on N. Y. Central to Chicago; a happy group, enjoy dinner, change to La Salle station and at five o'clock pick up our reservations and happily away to Des Moines. Arriving at hotel we are greeted by QM. General Ferguson, Mrs. Ferguson, Comrade Le Valley and daughters comfortably housed in hotel headquarters. The week that followed brought only happy hours; every session, banquets and social activities participated in by our comrades; the civic parade which followed the Grand Army, will never be forgotten, hundreds of marching soldiers and WAC from 1st Training Center, Fort Des Moines Army Post, 400th Army Service Post and the great all WAC Band, brought the War home to us.

Comrade Ferguson was re-appointed QM. General; I retain the honor, Secretary to QM. General and continue the Bookkeeping for the National organization; Commander Warner was elected Chaplain in Chief. The return trip was without incident, a perfect ending to a perfect week.

Return to Capitol on the 18th to find mail piled high; close Supplemental report for National and open new Ledger account. Issue General Order; mail badges and programs to each Comrade; remember Comrades Le Valley and Lyon on their birthdays; a busy week climaxed by a fall which fractured two ribs and obliged me to remain at home till on the 26th, with assistance returned to Headquarters to attend to special mail and National banking. Never will that day fade from my memory with no word of warning came the message that Death had taken QM. General Ferguson. Good friends came to my assistance and finding a bus left for Grand Rapids at 4 A. M. I decided to leave, expecting to arrange the Grand Army service for our Comrade; I reached Grand Rapids at seven A. M. only to find a service conducted by the American Legion would be held that afternoon in Sparta.

Again Miss Giradot proved her loyalty to the Grand Army of the Republic providing her car, we secured the National floral offering, notified Commander Warner we would call for him with Mrs. Gertrude Lewis to represent the W. R. C. and the president of the local Tent of Daughters, motored to Sparta to bid a last farewell to Comrade Ferguson who had served both National and Department so loyally. Burial was in Prairie City, Ill., the following Friday. I returned at once to Lansing as messages must be sent, closing in sorrow the month so long anticipated, the first two weeks of which had been spent so happily together.

OCTOBER. Tho the heart is heavy, work must go on. The month filled with social affairs but still needing assistance I decline three District Conventions, Inspections and WRC meetings; attend one Americanization class and the Sons and Daughters dinner in Jackson. Compile and type Gen. Order No. 2 ready for printer and special Memoriam for QM. General Ferguson. Answer appeal of Commander for a day

at Soldiers Home, with him check all Ledger accounts with bills for Encampment and make plans for his 99th birthday party.

Receive appointment as Capt. of Capitol Bldg. team for the Ingham County War Fund Drive; meet with committee in Library of Capitol; "Kick Off" dinner at Hotel Olds; endorse quota assessed the Grand Army; check mailing lists with State Librarian; proof read G. O. and prepare 400 envelopes. Meet with Custer Corps with plans for Commanders birthday; mail 66 invitations. Only a blurred memory of the last week in October is mine—called to Jackson by the serious illness of my only sister; the hurried trip to Grand Rapids that no delay or change in plans for Commander be made; of missing the late bus and sitting till 5 A. M. in the station; the long nights of prayer and vigil at sister's bedside until on Oct. 29th she slipped away, her long years of service in our orders ended. The depth of affection shown me by officers and members of our Allied Orders, the presence of my Commander Warner, the sincere tribute paid at the service by Brother Linsley, Department Commander of Sons of Union Veterans, these touched my heart and gave me strength to carry on. Truly in sunshine or shadow, we are one great family.

NOVEMBER third, return to Capitol. Congratulatory messages pour in from many states; autographed, from President Roosevelt; Senator Vandenberg; Representative Jonkman; the American Legion; Spanish War; Commander in Chief Isaac Sharp with every Department head of our Allied Orders, all interested in Comrade Warner's 99th birthday. On the 10th, I leave for Grand Rapids all plans complete for the first outstanding and unusual party, sponsored by the Department Grand Army; a day having a two fold meaning for us—Armistice Day and our Commander's 99th birthday, seemingly 99 year "young" entertaining all day and till late in evening the hundreds who called, bringing gifts and good wishes and "not a bit tired" as we motored to Soldiers Home and said good night—the end of a Perfect Day.

Again the Department is deeply indebted to Miss Giradot, for opening her spacious home to this happy throng, always the gracious hostess with a word of welcome for every one. To President Freda Thatcher of Custer Corps and her committee who so successfully carried out my every suggestion, so cheerfully working out every task, I am deeply grateful, with your Commander I can say, "you left nothing undone." The month closes with G. O. No. 2 in the mails; one Corps; one Daughters; one luncheon and Camp session with dinner. Finish typing 1944 Journal; Capitol closed for Thanksgiving, at home.

DECEMBER, the month of greetings; our list carries nearly 200; type 17 lists, names, addresses and birthdays of Comrades for members wishing to remember them at Christmas time with one to Department of Sons to appear in General Orders. Receive the usual box from Past Commander John Tiffany—a greeting for each Comrade; on 6th take bus to Mason, meet Mrs. De Mond and motor to home of Comrade Albro; find him fairly well tho nearly blind and splendidly cared for by his son and wife—in the old home, around which Comrade planted the trees "some fifty years ago"—his greeting to us "so glad you came." Attend

Corps No. 131 and tea following. On 7th represent Department at the reception tendered Sr. Vice President, Majel Drumm by Lansing Corps at the Presbyterian Church. On the 8th, a pathetic letter from Commander "not really ill" but lonely; check all Ledger accounts and confer with Mr. Whitwam, manager of Convention Bureau, while in Grand Rapids. On 14th receive notice to remove property of the disbanded Post No. 160 from the Court House in Corunna. Have dinner with the Corps and with President Mildred Cummings and Mrs. Goodall spend the day examining and checking the relics stored in the basement and halls. 22nd leave for Grand Rapids to meet Commander at Armory to take care of property of Post No. 5 but find him too ill to leave the Home; Pot Luck dinner with Custer Corps. Visit Soldiers Home and finding Commander improved, return to Lansing.

Christmas Dinner at Pagoda with Past Presidents of the Daughters. Prepare the six month audit; remember every Comrade for Christmas; clear desks of all work and close Headquarters for Christmas at home, return on the 27th hoping to receive the Journal to mail before closing on the 29th.

The passing of many with whom I had workaday contact these many years leaves a void that mere words cannot define, and while the Christmas Bells carried a note of sadness, pleasant memories of happy fraternal visits, of true friendships and never failing help in time of trouble go with me into the new year.

The book is closed, the record made
 The last deed done, the last word said;
 The memory alone remains
 Of all its griefs, its joys, its gains.
 And now with purpose full and clear
 I turn to greet the glad New Year.

JANUARY. The mailing of 300 Journals with the many trips to post-office opened the month; dinner with Sons and Daughters; session of Camp Blair; Comrade Loop reaches his 101st birthday and is remembered from the Happiness Fund as no party until his return from California; complete 4 applications for widow's pensions; type 24 records of Civil War service sending to five states; two days in Grand Rapids; meet Convention Manager Whitwam, arrange Preliminary meeting of "heads" to confer should favorable notice from ODT be received; on 17th answering call from National to meet in Indianapolis go to Detroit; visit Comrade Morgan; attend Corps meeting; official guest at 24th birthday party of Betsy Ross Tent in Otsego Hotel, Jackson, a brilliant event; Sr. Vice President Hammond, toastmaster; 40 official letters and five Get Well cards; Per Capita Tax for twelve members (\$12.00) sent to National with report.

FEBRUARY; tho a short month brought much happiness, two dinners; three days in Detroit; on 12th, guest of WRC No. 270 who fondly claim me as "mother" having been instituted ten yeears ago on my birthday; visit Comrade Morgan with Happiness greeting and arrange with his daughter for Department share in his birthday party on Valentine Day;

on 17th represent Department at Regional meeting held in Otsego Hotel, Jackson; confer with Superintendent of Capitol as to disposal of relics in Corunna, and with Mr. Sherman of Historical Commission motor to Corunna, meet President and Treasurer of Corps, list and bring to Capitol a large load; many books and war histories to be packed later. Speak at two Washington and Lincoln parties.

MARCH; represent our Department at banquet honoring Department President Hildreth at the Regent; attend session of Daughters; visit Commander, answering message from Commandant, but find him much better and able to visit and accompany me to the door as usual. Special notices from C. in C. Sharp that Encampment must be held, mailed. On 10th disquieting message from Grand Rapids and the morning of the 12th the sad word of the sudden passing of Commander Warner; I send telegrams to National and notify our Department leaders and leave for Grand Rapids to arrange for the Grand Army service as he lay in state in the Chapel of the Soldiers Home. Comrade Le Valley made the long motor trip from Caro, and with Commander in Chief Mackey and Department Commander Linsley had a part in this last tribute to a loved comrade, Chaplain in Chief of the National organization and our Department Commander. We motor to Byron Center for the burial service. I return at once to Capitol and leave on the 15th for Allegan, via Kalamazoo. A birthday party had been planned for Sr. Vice Commander Towner; no changes could be made and on the evening of the 16th after enjoying greetings throughout the day at his "at home" the Installation service was read by Past Commander Perle Fouch of the Sons and Comrade Towner began his service to his Department as Commander. I return to Headquarters to prepare General Orders and call meeting of Department heads, for the 24th in Pantlind Hotel. Close for Good Friday.

APRIL—with its rain and snow and a message that Comrade Morgan was ill presaged a dreary month for me but did not prepare me for his passing—scarce a month since we were together for our birthdays—I leave at once for Detroit to represent the Grand Army and pay the tribute in the service rendered by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Our tears will fall tho we know he is again with his Comrades. Proof read Order No. 3 and Chaplain in Chief Memoriam; write Memoriam for Sr. Vice, George Morgan; notice that all applications for widow's pensions have been granted brings happiness.

MAY—War bulletins everywhere as I opened Headquarters—Germany will surrender, VE Day near, Hitler suicide, but all quiet in Capitol as we wait official broadcast from President Truman. Complete mailing G. O. and Memoriams and begin officers reports for June Encampment; prepare two programs for Memorial Day; represent the Department at a dinner in Jackson, a unique affair as the Sons of Camp No. 7 are hosts, and serve the dinner to 60 guests; issue National Order No. 3; with Past Dept. Commander Hammond and Mrs. Hammond, Department Sr. Vice President motor to Cement City to visit Comrade Riker and wife, find Comrade can walk only with assistance and cannot expect him to attend Encampment; with co-operation of Vassar Corps

complete plans for observance of Comrade Perrigo's 100th birthday as I make my annual visit to Comrade Le Valley in Caro. The first bus on morning of 20th finds me enroute to Vassar, via Flint. Register at hotel and spend the evening with President Donald Horton, Corps No. 191. Comrade Le Valley and daughter join me the next morning and together we enjoy the banquet and gifts prepared by the Corps, the snow and rain prevent the attendance of Comrade Perrigo at his party, we motor to his home with many gifts, find him well and enjoying the radio and friends who call. Return to Vassar and continue on to Caro to review the year's work with Asst. Adj. General Le Valley preparatory to making his report; a happy visit but far too short, as the eight o'clock bus on the 25th carries me away from these dear friends. Two Memorial Day programs and one Flag presentation close the "Month of Memories."

JUNE—A report of the removal of headstones from graves of Civil War veterans buried in a Leonidas Cemetery and the subsequent use of these as a walk from house to barn of a nearby farmer, filled me with dismay and upon receiving all details known, I visit Law Library in the Capitol type the law and return to the complaining Grand-son, later confer with the Attorney General, receive address of Prosecuting Attorney for St. Joseph County and place copy of complaint before him; this was given to the Sheriff who has informed me the facts are true but that no desecration of graves had been intended; giving me the address of the farmer involved, I have written the law to him asking a reply as to removing the stones from his walk but to date have no reply. The subject will not be dropped by the Department of Grand Army of the Republic.

Message that Commander Towner had suffered a fall and was seriously ill causes us much concern. Routine work till closing June 15 to open Headquarters on the 18th in Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids. Comrade Le Valley our only Comrade able to attend.

Owing to ODT restrictions all conventions of Allied Orders, strictly streamlined in attendance and social affairs but cannot dim our pleasure and enthusiasm. In the absence of Commander Towner, acceptance of the many gifts and response to greetings falls to me at our banquet with Allied Orders, the presence of the National Presidents, the Commander in Chief of the Sons and city officials, enhance the pleasure of this great family dinner.

Comrade Le Valley presided at Grand Army sessions, was elected Department Commander and installed by Commander in Chief Urien Mackey. On 22nd, our happy good byes said, we journey homeward—**MIZPAH.**

MAILING.

National and Department General Orders	1,164
Special Memoriams	550
Official letters	591
Cards, all kinds, booklets	529
Applications—Pensions; Soldiers Home; Burial Funds	14
Badges, programs, reports	204
Journals	261
Service records, typed and mailed to applicants in 12 states	162
	<hr/>
Total pieces	3,475

I have made 31 calls on Comrades; represented the Department at four funerals where the service of the Grand Army was given—no call has been unheeded.

In carrying on the work of the Department by actual count received from travel agents I have traveled six thousand and sixteen miles by bus with an added five hundred by train in attending the National Encampment at Des Moines, Iowa. Travel has been a problem the past year because of change in schedule, cancellation of reservations and cars filled to more than seating capacity but always the privilege of serving the Grand Army of the Republic, has been my incentive. Life has been more worth while because of the enduring friendship of the veterans of the Civil War; for this and in gratitude for the service they rendered my loved AMERICA, I renew my pledge of service, Beyond the call of Duty, as I journey with them down the Sunset Trail.

Loyally yours,

Leah M. Simpson,
Department Secretary
Grand Army of the Republic.

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"Heritage of the Grand Army of the Republic"

"The Grand Army of the Republic is a unique organization. No child can be born into it. No proclamation of President, edict of King or Czar can command admission. No university or institution of learning can issue a diploma authorizing its holder to entrance. No act of Parliament or Congress secures recognition. The wealth of a Vanderbilt cannot purchase the position. Its doors open only on the presentation of a bit of parchment, worn, torn, and begrimed as it may be, which certifies to an honorable discharge from the armies or navies of the Nation during the war against the rebellion, and, unlike any other organization, no new blood can come in. There are no growing ranks from which recruits can be drawn into the Grand Army of the Republic. With the consummation of peace through victory its ranks were closed forever; its lines are steadily growing thinner, and the ceaseless tramp of its columns is with ever-lessening tread. The gaps in the picket lines grow wider every day. Details are made for the reserve summoned into the shadowy regions until by and by only a solitary sentinel will stand guard, waiting until the bugle call from beyond shall muster out the last comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic."