

**Journal of the
70th
Annual
Encampment**

Department of Michigan

**Grand Army
of the
Republic**

★ ★

**Held at Grand Rapids
June 16-17-18
1948**



DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
DES MOINES, IOWA

JOURNAL
OF THE
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

GRAND ARMY
of the REPUBLIC

HELD AT
GRAND RAPIDS, JUNE 16-17-18, 1948

WITH
MEMORIAL BROCHURE
—
GENERAL ORDERS and
ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

FRANKLIN DE KLEINE COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS, LANSING, MICHIGAN





—*Courtesy, "Tuscola County Advertiser."*

Leah Simpson Marshall, Department Secretary and Charles Dexter, Department Commander, S.U.V. presenting gifts to Commander Orlando Le Valley in his home on his 99th birthday, September 19, 1948.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Headquarters Department of Michigan
Grand Army of the Republic
Lansing, 1948.

Hon. Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan:

Sir: I have the honor to transmit to you the Journal of the 70th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic, held in Grand Rapids, June 16-17-18, 1948, with reports, General Orders and such parts of the administration as may be of interest to the general public, as required by the statutes.

Respectfully yours,

ORLANDO LeVALLEY,
Department Commander.



HON. KIM SIGLER
Governor

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
1947 - 1948**

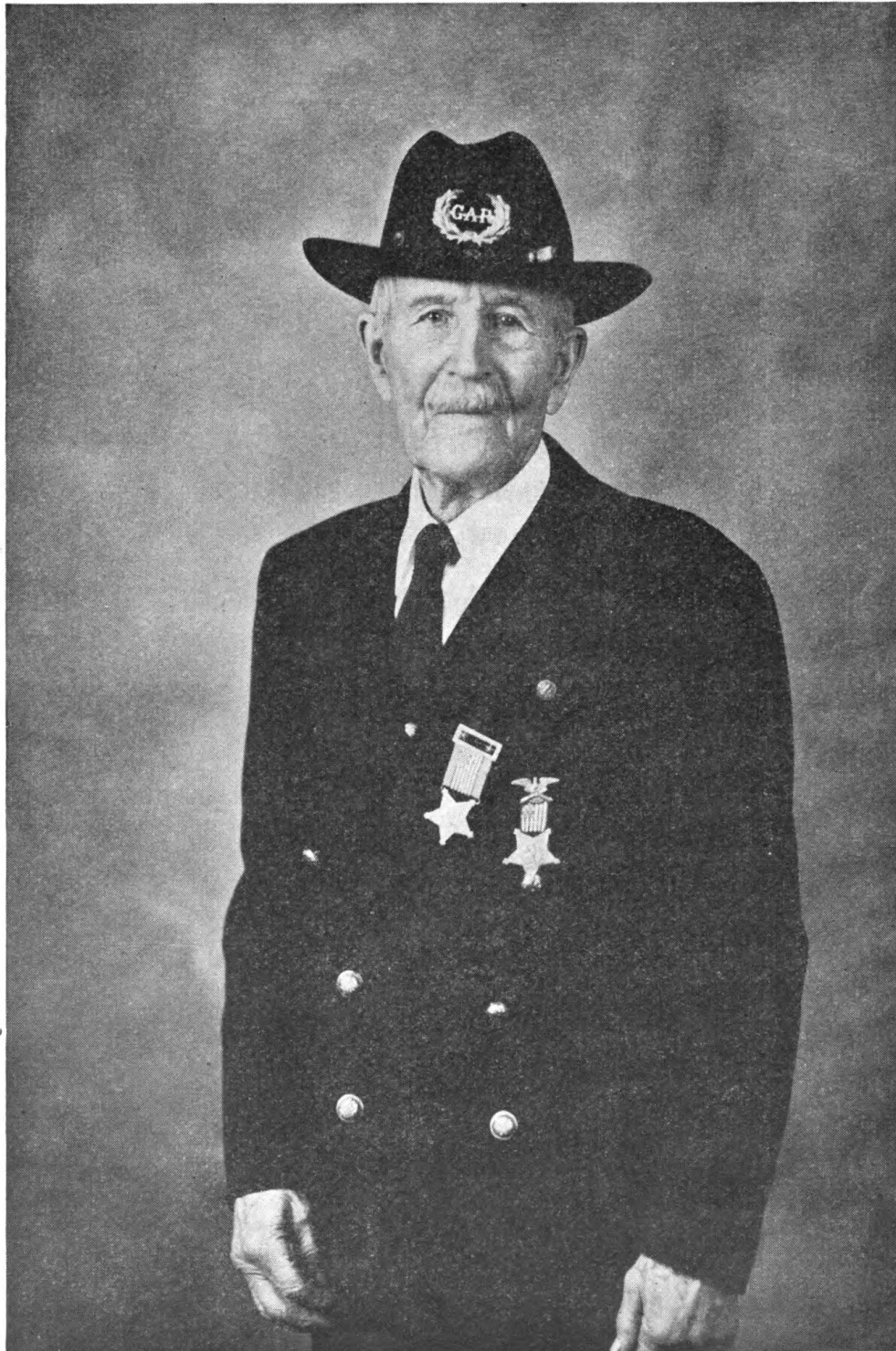
Orlando LeValley Department Commander, Caro, Mich.

OFFICIAL STAFF

Leah Simpson Marshall Department Secretary

Box 433, Lansing 2, Mich.

Headquarters, First floor State Capitol



ORLANDO LE VALLEY

**Department Commander, Grand Army of the Republic.
Past National Junior Vice Commander in Chief.
Died in Office, April 19, 1948.**



OSCAR MOTT
Assistant Adjutant General
In His Home for His 101 Birthday, November 16, 1946.
Died in Office, January 16, 1947.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

Russel A. Alger, deceased	Detroit, 1867
Wm. A. Throop, deceased	Detroit, 1868
Wm. Humphrey, deceased	Adrian, 1870
C. 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 Van Kleek, 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	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, deceased	Allegan, 1928-29
A. C. Estabrook, deceased	Allegan, 1929-30
A. C. Estabrook, deceased	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), deceased	Grand Rapids, 1940-41
John M. Park, (Orlando Le Valley presiding), deceased	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), deceased	Allegan, 1945
Orlando Le Valley, deceased	Caro, 1945-46
Orlando Le Valley, deceased	Caro, 1946-47
Orlando Le Valley, deceased	Caro, 1947-48

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, deceased	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
C. 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 LaCroix, (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, deceased	Caro, 1941-42
Cyrus Perrigo, deceased	Vassar, 1942-43
Ralph Towner (advanced), deceased	Allegan, 1943-44
Cyrus Perrigo, deceased	Vassar, 1944-45
Cyrus Perrigo (died in office)	Vassar, 1945-46
Martin A. Loop, deceased	Adrian, 1946-47

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	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, deceased Caro, 1940-41
 Cyrus Perrigo, deceased Vassar, 1941-42
 Martin A. Loop, deceased Adrian, 1942-43
 George Heusted, deceased Vassar, 1943-44
 George Morgan (died in office) Detroit, 1944
 Charles Riker, deceased Cement City, 1944-45
 Martin A. Loop, deceased Adrian, 1946-47

ROSTER
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
JANUARY 1, 1948

WHITESIDE POST NO. 143, CARO.

Chartered May 25, 1883.

Membership 1.

Post Commander—Orlando Le Valley.

Gen. Russell A. Alger the first Department Commander in 1867; the first Commander in Chief from Michigan, in 1890.
Gen. Alger died Jan. 24, 1907.

Orlando Le Valley mustered in Whiteside Post No. 143, in 1889; was Post Commander in 1925; Department Commander in 1943, again elected in 1945 serving until his death April 19, 1948.

HEADQUARTERS, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING — DECEMBER, 1948

June 1946 marked the last public appearance of Commander Orlando Le Valley as he presided at the 68th Annual Encampment, held in Lansing. In September, in fine health he attended the National Encampment in Indianapolis where he was elected Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

Before the close of the year plans for the 69th Annual Encampment were formulated and all completed in May.

June 24th. I opened temporary Headquarters in the Pantlind, Grand Rapids entirely unprepared for the announcement that Commander Le Valley had suffered a shock so un-nerving that all thought of attending and presiding at Encampment was relinquished.

Like good soldiers the Allied Orders carried out all programs for the week but always with a feeling that a dire calamity had befallen us. No lilting strains of Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching, greeted us.

In September, soon after his 99th birthday, Commander showed his old time interest and I began plans for the 70th Encampment—to be held in Grand Rapids the week of June 16, but a power greater than ours set at naught our efforts. April 19, Death claimed Comrade Le Valley; we entered the Valley and the Shadow. In memory of our Commander may we pledge ourselves to carry on where he left off. The torch of his life is dimmed, but the brightness of its flame remains with us in the world made better, because he lived.

Leah Simpson Marshall
Secretary.



ELEANOR F. STABLES
Department President



MINNIE VAN TUYL
Department Secretary

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

June 17, 1948

Report to the Grand Army Headquarters—In memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Leah Simpson Marshall, Secretary of the late Commander, Orlando Le Valley, Grand Army of the Republic.

It is a pleasure to submit to you the report of the Department Woman's Relief Corps of Michigan this year.

It is with sadness, I bring this report, but thankful to have had our late Department Commander, Orlando Le Valley for 10 months of my year.

Number of Corps, June 1st, 1947	96
Number of Corps, June 1st, 1948	95
Number of members June 1st, 1947	6,336
Number of members June 1st, 1948	6,246

Cash expended for relief	\$ 1,978.23
Cash expended for relief by Dept.	42.33
Cash expended for relief, Child Welfare, by Dept.	200.00
Cash expended for flowers by Dept.	40.08
Hospitalization by Dept.	180.00
Michigan Facility, Hosp. Women's Annex	135.00

Non Pensioner and Widows	12.00
War Veterans Cash	782.02
Soldier's Orphans Home	61.50
Americanization	82.10
Flowers for sick members	2,136.00
Grand Army Memorial Monument	3,000.00
Relief other than money	48,514.76
 Assisted relatives	 1,564
Total number of Veterans assisted	4,255

My year's work is nearly ended, our project, "The Grand Army, Memorial Monument," is started, the funds are in the bank for same. Dedication date to be set later.

I wish to take this opportunity, to thank you for all your work and your committees for all courtesies extended.

And, it is my hope, and wish that you will accept the Monument in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic at the Dedication Services. To the memory of all Civil War Veterans of the State of Michigan. From the Department of Michigan Woman's Relief Corps.

Yours Sincerely,
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

ELEANOR F. STABLES,
Dept. President.

CAMP FIRE BANQUET

The first Camp Fire held in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic may never be over shadowed. Miss Cora E. Gillis, National Secretary, brought the greetings of Commander in Chief, Robert M. Rownd of Ripley, N. Y.

The National President of each Allied Order was guest of the Department President; the Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans the guest of the Department Commander.

Rev. C. G. Swart National Chaplain U.S.W.V. and Mrs. Swart; Department Commander Witfoth, USWV, and Mrs. Witfoth; Department President, Mrs. Dickinson, Auxiliary U.S.W.V.; Col. Baker Commandant of the Michigan Veterans Facility; Mrs. Idella Mac Neal, Chairman, and Mr. Daniel Ottinger Pres. representing the Detroit Memorial Association; Mr. Whitwam our genial Convention Bureau manager; Past National officers, with our soloists, seated at the speakers table, a remarkable gathering of leaders in patriotic work.

It seemed a dispensation of Providence that Rev. Swart, many years so faithful in service to the Grand Army should have returned from Florida to render this last service as Chaplain, to the Michigan Department.

Secretary Leah Simpson Marshall presiding, pays tribute to Commander Le Valley, presents a letter from Governor Kim Sigler, messages from Senators Arthur Vandenberg, Homer Ferguson and Representative Bartel Jonkman. Asks that no mournful note be allowed to enter, rather, that gratitude for the long years of service and the inspiration the Grand Army has been to us be the keynote of the Camp Fire.

Mayor George Welsh made a flying trip from Detroit to add his happy welcome to that of Manager Frank Whitwam; Past National Treasurer, Minnie Van Tuyl radiates Loyalty to the Grand Army, a fellowship with all veteran organizations and true appreciation of the welcome extended to us by Mayor Welsh, Manager Whitwam and the people of Grand Rapids, in a brilliant response.

Each National officer of the Allied Orders and our guests from other military Organizations, pay tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic and give interesting account of the work in their Department. Mrs. Gladys Allen of Jackson and Mrs. Evelyn Camburn Grand Rapids bring to us the songs we love.

A beautiful Auditorium Flag, the gift of the five Allied Orders to Mr. Frank Whitwam was advanced to position by Edgar Linsley, National Patriotic Instructor of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Department Secretary Leah Simpson Marshall made the presentation. In thrilling words the Flag was dedicated by Mrs. Lizetta Coady Past National President of the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. Whitwam so deeply moved can only assure us the Flag will be one of his greatest treasures, reminding him of the comrades of the Grand Army he has been privileged to know, who fought and preserved it to us.

We pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, join hands as we sing "God be with You Till We Meet Again." Rev. Swart pays the last tribute and pronounces the benediction. Our thoughts turn lovingly to Commander Le Valley and the thousands of comrades who have been our inspiration. The last Camp fire of the Michigan Grand Army of the Republic, takes its place in our gallery of Golden Memories.

MICHIGAN WELCOMES A COMRADE

In September, Joseph Clovese, 104 year old veteran of the Civil War came from Louisiana to make his home in Pontiac. Happy in the thought that again he would find comrades with whom to recall the war days, not realizing that the Department had lost its last member.

I was happy to answer his letters and before his 105th birthday he was enrolled as Comrade at Large in the National organization.

His birthday, Jan. 23, was the occasion for a real patriotic day in Pontiac. Comrade Clovese was presented a medal by the Oakland County Council, making him an honorary Past Commander—the first time the Council has bestowed this honor. All military organizations, in full uniform attended the ceremonies held in the Methodist Church, participated in by representatives of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish War Veterans and Auxiliary; Ladies National League; Uniform Ranks of Colored Knights of Pythians; Protective Order of Elks; the V. F. W.; American Legion; Rema Club; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and many members of the Allied Orders from distant cities.

The gift from the city was presented by Mayor John Cowe. Dr. Howard Mc Neil gave the service record of Comrade Clovese who enlisted in company C at Blakes Carrier Miss. as a drummer boy in 1862 serving till after close of war in 1865.

Victor C. Breese of Flint—senior vice commander, American Legion gave an inspiring address on the freedoms of speech, assembly and religion. E. S. Capron of the 17th District, American Legion extended greetings.

Following the ceremony in the church, refreshments were served at the Southwest Community Center by Francis C. Butterfield Tent No. 9 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Comrade Clovese writes he enjoys Michigan and its grand people; that he walks to Clinton River every fair day and anticipates attending National Encampment in Indianapolis.

We heartily welcome him to our state with every wish that health and happiness, attend his days.

Loyally

Leah M. Simpson Marshall

MEMORIAL ROLL
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
1947 and 1948

Oscar Mott Assistant Adjutant General
January 16, 1947

Orlando Le Valley Department Commander
April 19, 1948

In Memoriam

ORLANDO LE VALLEY, Commander of the Michigan Department, Grand Army of the Republic; Past Junior Vice Commander in Chief; Past National Patriotic Instructor and member of the Council of Administration; "died in office" April 19, 1948, closing a membership of sixty-three years' service for the Grand Army of the Republic.

He was born in Lapeer county, Michigan, and had he lived till September, 1948, would have rounded out one hundred years of righteous living.

Comrade Le Valley was mustered into Company E, 23rd Michigan Infantry when only sixteen years of age and was discharged at Raleigh, N. C., on October 14, 1865. His passing disbanded the Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic.

Services for Commander Le Valley were held in the Caro Methodist Church and at the grave in Brookside Cemetery, Fairgrove.

TRIBUTE

By the Hon. Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan

Caro, Mich., April 22, 1948.

I come to you as your Governor to pay tribute to the memory of Orlando Le Valley on behalf of the great state of Michigan.

To me, it is an historic occasion. Comrade Le Valley was the last of more than ninety thousand Michigan men who served in the Civil War. They fought on such great battlefields as Gettysburg, Chancellorsville and Antietam.

I am deeply impressed by this out pouring of friends and community, the military organizations and the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, who would honor Commander Le Valley.

Orlando Le Valley came from that part of Michigan which is recognized as the good part of Michigan. Since this man was born, much has happened that has contributed to the happiness of the people.

There could not have been a great free Republic without such service as Comrade Le Valley gave, with others of the Grand Army of the Republic.

His life teaches a lesson to all of us. It teaches us to hold in mind the determination of all good citizens to do our duty and to keep forever our way of life free from the direction of a dictator.

On behalf of the people of Michigan I come to pay tribute to a man who lived among you for many years—the last of the Grand Army of the Republic. Let us always remember why we pay honor to him.

TRIBUTE

The march of the last Michigan veteran of the Civil War is over, and he lies down after it in the "house appointed for all the living." The shadow of Death's Angel has cast a gloom over every Department of the Allied Orders and closed an era in the affairs of the great State of Michigan.

Unlike other patriotic organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic has no reserves from which to fill its fast diminishing ranks. It had no Predecessors and can have no Successors; only a Union soldier, bearing the honorable discharge from the Government, showing service in the Union Army of the Civil War ever gained admittance to membership.

With the passing of Commander Orlando Le Valley the membership Roll of the Michigan Department is closed, forever.

God in His great goodness had spared our Commander to us long years beyond the allotted span of life and, while we prayed to hold him "yet a little while"—we give thanks for the many years shared together.

When war was declared in 1861, Orlando Le Valley, just entering his "teen age," offered his services and was promptly refused because of his youth. Determined to serve his Country, when sixteen years old he offered his life in service for another, content to follow the Flag where'er it led: was accepted and mustered into Company E, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry. When peace thru Victory came to a war-weary America, this "Boy in Blue" returned to Michigan to serve in peace as he had done in war. In 1873 he married and in 1876 settled on the farm where he has lived for 72 years.

Here he built his home, rearing his family in the principles of Justice and Honor and the ideals of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Orlando Le Valley achieved GREATNESS in the true American way. Never a hint of discredit blurred the record of his life.

That the Hon. Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan, Representative James Kirk, the Legislature in session, representatives of the people, pause in their official duties to honor him, is evidence that Michigan appreciates the life of Orlando Le Valley; that we glory in the service of more than 90,000 soldiers who went out from this state, and hold in sacred memory 14,855 Michigan Boys in Blue who died in defense of the Union in 1861-1865.

In 1883 Whiteside Post No. 143 was organized in Caro; fifty-nine years ago Orlando Le Valley signed the roll as the 111th member; he served his Post in every office and through twelve years as Post Commander. In 1941 he presided at the 64th Annual Encampment as Dept. Senior Vice and was elected Commander; again in 1945, serving till his passing. In 1945 he served his National as Patriotic Instructor; in 1946 he was elected National Junior Vice Commander in Chief. Too ill to attend the 1947 National Encampment, he was honored by appointment on the Council of Administration. Faithful to the end, he "died in office." No greater tribute can I voice.

It seems well that we should lay our Commander to rest in yonder quiet City of the Dead, where over him will bend the arching blue of the heaven as it did long years ago in great love, when our Boy in Blue, weary and footsore, lay down by the wayside or on the battle field for a few hours' rest. As he was then, so he is now—in the hands of his Heavenly Father.

Rest weary one
Lie down to slumber in the silent tomb;
Light from above has broken thru its gloom.

Commander Le Valley was justly proud of the five Allied Orders—his great "Family," the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of Union Veterans and the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans. Every Department is shrouded in gloom today, while in our hearts we renew the pledge to carry on in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In the passing of Commander Le Valley, a great void enters my life; endeared to me thru years of service together, God has answered your prayer that I go with your comrades—"to the end of the trail."

The end is dark and dreary but the brightness of Golden Memories will remain with me always.

O bravest, truest, best
Well earned the quiet rest,
Beneath the daisied sod.
No more the volleying gun
No more the scorching sun
For you, O tired sleeper, watched by God.

For Orlando Le Valley, last veteran of Company E, Twenty-Third Michigan Infantry,—

Taps are sounded . . .
Lights out . . .
A soldier sleeps.

Caro, Methodist Church
April 22, 1948

LEAH SIMPSON MARSHALL,
Department Secretary,
Grand Army of the Republic

TESTIMONIALS OF ESTEEM

Full military service and honors were accorded Orlando Le Valley on April 22, 1948, in Caro, under direction of the Posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars with veterans from every Post in the county cooperating. A squad of uniformed United Spanish War Veterans was special escort.

Messages of esteem were received from the Michigan members of Congress and Departments of veteran organizations; Senator Vandenberg's carries a challenge we should heed—"Commander Le Valley was our final symbol of the great American dedication to constitutional unity. We who remain must be faithful to this supreme objective as he and his comrades were in the Grand Army of the Republic."

More than five hundred veterans of three wars with representatives of the five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic filed past the bier while Commander Le Valley lay in state in the Methodist Church where veterans of the Army, Navy and Marines formed the guard of honor. Flags and the Colors of patriotic and veteran organizations with countless floral offerings were massed around the casket.

The Hon. Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan, with Representative James Kirk, flew from Lansing to represent the state. In the church, Scripture reading was by Rev. Clossen, pastor of the church. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Kuhlman, life-long friend of Commander Le Valley. Official tribute in memory of the last Michigan veteran of the Civil War was paid by the Hon. Kim Sigler, who was introduced by Representative James Kirk. Tribute of the Grand Army of the Republic was given by Department Secretary Leah Simpson Marshall, who was introduced by Rev. Oluf C. Jensen, former Chaplain World War II. The benediction was read by Rev. Kuhlman preceding the service at the grave.

Loud-speakers carried the tributes to the waiting hundreds who thronged the streets for blocks, unable to gain seats in the church. Every store was closed. Schools were dismissed in order that the younger generation might pay honor to a soldier of the Civil War whose passing closed an era in Michigan history.

Eight veterans of World Wars I and II were active pallbearers.

Honorary pallbearers assigned to position by Chief Marshal Earl Baur following the military escort were: the Hon. Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan, with Representative James Kirk; President George Bieth of Caro Village; Leah Simpson Marshall, Department Secretary of the Grand Army with Rev. Oluf Jensen; Lisle Craig, Dept. Adj. American Legion; Commanders of American Legion and the V.F.W. of Caro; Charles Ingram Post No. 24, Saginaw U.S.W.V.; Department heads of the five Allied Orders or representatives; Eleanor Stables, W.R.C.; Ida Storrs, Ladies of the G.A.R.; Alberdena Baker, Daughters of Union Veterans; Albert Sullivan, Sons of Union Veterans; Grace Sullivan, Auxiliary to Sons of Veterans.

As the funeral cortege with its hundreds of cars wound its way slowly through the streets, a hush fell upon the throng gathered to pay honor to one, who, through long years, had walked with them in daily life.

Eight veterans of World Wars I and II formed the firing squad, under command of M. Sgt. William Blackburn of the U.S. Army recruiting service.

Commander Le Valley rests in Brookside Cemetery, Fairgrove. His burial was an impressive sight, long to be remembered. The Flag-covered casket, borne by the active pallbearers of World Wars I and II from the roadside to the grave, through long lines of Blue and Khaki of the uniformed ranks; the Vassar W.R.C., in white with Flags and banners; the firing squad; Flags and Colors of every organization and above all, the Flag of our Country floating proudly in the breeze—the Flag Orlando Le Valley had loved and served;—all these combined to present a most memorable scene.

The Rev. Oluf Jensen, former Chaplain in World War II, conducted the service at the grave.

Flowers of memory have been laid upon his grave; a volley of rifle shots resounds; Taps is heard in the distance; the grave receives its own.

The last honors have been paid one who, for more than half a century gave faithful service to the Michigan Department, Grand Army of the Republic.

Our hearts overflow with loving sympathy for his bereaved family.

“We paused and breathed a prayer above the sod,
And left him to his rest, and God.”

Leah Simpson Marshall.

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	William 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 Kleek
1903	Muskegon	Edward C. Anthony
1904	Holland	D. B. K. VanRaalte
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

Lansing, July, 1947.

General Orders No. 1,
Series 1947-1948

To my very great regret, a sudden illness prevented my attending the 69th Annual Encampment of the Grand Army and conventions of our Affiliated Orders. The many greetings received, the flowers from the Sons and the report from our Secretary that the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of Union Veterans and Auxiliary to Sons of Veterans planned the happy surprise to continue the Happiness Fund this year, together with personal gifts from Lyman Gilbert Corps, and friends of long standing prove your interest in the Grand Army of the Republic. I am indeed grateful and anticipate the visit of Secretary Simpson to hear the detail of the happy events.

In 1939, and in succeeding Encampments and General Orders the Michigan Department concurred in the law of the National organization permitting us to function as a Department while one member of the Grand Army was held on our Roll for whom we pay Per Capita Tax to National. No Tax from our members has been collected in many years but always the correct amount has gone to National; Accordingly I remain Department Commander with authority to "elect myself and Secretary", with her assistance I will proudly carry the honor first bestowed on me by my comrades of other years.

Secretary Simpson carried my greetings to the U.S.W.V. Encampment held at Kalamazoo and was royally received; I appreciate this courtesy and regret I was not at Grand Rapids to receive their Commander, Mr. Frank Witfoth, Mrs. Dickerson, Department President of the Auxiliary and Mrs. Witfoth, who came to greet me not knowing we held no sessions.

I have been appealed to for a decision on the wording of a Resolution presented by the Sons to each of the Affiliated Orders to become effective June 26, 1947. I take this opportunity to explain that the same subject has been presented to National many times and refused. To my knowledge Michigan has never gone contrary to the wish or law of National and that until a definite decision has been promulgated by the National I withhold my personal opinion.

The amended House Bill No. 395 has been signed by Governor Kim Sigler whose kindly interest was ours from the first

reading. To the Detroit Patriotic organizations, with whom our Secretary has been connected many years, the Chamber of Commerce, the U.S.W.V. our Affiliated Orders and every person who in any way aided us in protesting the wording of the Bill, I express thanks. Secretary Simpson received the closest consideration from Senators, Representatives and Committees on Military Affairs, conferences resulting in the Amendments honoring the Grand Army of the Republic.

No. 1—"The Michigan Department shall remain undisturbed until the Department is disbanded, Secretary writes the last Journal and presents to the Governor" . . .

No. 2—"After closing Michigan Department G.A.R. a tablet eulogizing the Grand Army of the Republic shall be placed by the Superintendent of Capitol, in or in the vicinity of the old Headquarters Room." We could ask no more. All Department business will be conducted as in the years since this room was set apart for our use by Act of Legislature in 1897. Continue to address the Secretary, Box 433, Lansing 2, Mich.

The 81st National Encampment will convene in Cleveland, Ohio the week of August 10-14 with Headquarters in Hotel Cleveland. While I shall miss many familiar faces, I anticipate attending—my strength permitting the long journey. As Jr. Vice Commander in Chief and Department Commander of Michigan I feel a double duty is mine.

In this the first General Order for the year, I can only repeat what has always been in my heart—a true appreciation of all the kindness and honors you have shown me and our Secretary thru many years. With glad hearts we open another year of service to the Grand Army of the Republic.

By command of

ORLANDO LEVALLEY,
Department Commander.

Leah Simpson Marshall
Department Secretary

Lansing, November, 1947

General Orders No. 2-3.

Series 1947-1948.

1. The 81st National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, with Commander-in-Chief John H. Grate, presiding, was held in Cleveland, Ohio, the week of August 10, 1947. Due to the extreme heat and long journey, I was not permitted to meet with the four comrades who joined our Commander-in-Chief. Secretary Simpson was the only representative from our Department.

Robert M. Rownd, Commander-in-Chief in 1938, was elected to serve again this year. To him and every comrade Michigan Department renews its pledge of cooperation and loyalty.

2. Mr. Frank Whitwam was on hand to present the invitation to National to hold the 1948 Encampment in Grand Rapids. This was left to decision of Commander-in-Chief Rownd and Miss Cora E. Gillis, National Secretary.

3. Gratefully I acknowledge and express my real pleasure in every gift, the beautiful flowers, more than 200 greeting cards from our Allied Orders, and the very generous check presented by our Department Secretary from the Happiness Fund. While my health prevented any public observance, I welcomed many visitors to my home during the week of my 99th birthday. While I realize the place the Grand Army holds in your hearts, such personal expressions touch me deeply.

4. Mrs. Stables, Department President of our Auxiliary, has visited me to present the PROJECT of the Woman's Relief Corps for the year: A splendid monument on beautiful Belle Isle dedicated to the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic—my comrades.

It may seem a great task, but never has the Woman's Relief Corps failed the Grand Army and this great monument will stand long years to proclaim to every passerby—you do not forget the Men of '61-'65.

5. House Resolution 3961 has been signed by President Truman, granting a 20 per cent increase to all Civil and Spanish War pensioners, their widows and dependent ones. Only 84 Civil War veterans on the September pension roll.

Like the leaves, that slowly falling
Whisper their work is done,
So our Grand Army is passing,
Passing, one by one.

6. October 22, while just another busy day for our Commander-in-Chief Robert M. Rownd, was a day of happy remembrance for hundreds throughout the states as he reached his 103rd birthday.

Our Department Secretary has been given three states to direct the radio work on our special days. Reports not one station refused to give of their time on this 103rd birthday of one who has served his country in peace and in war.

My thanks to the stations and members in the states allotted our secretary and to our Michigan stations—Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Dearborn, Saginaw, Bay City, Ypsilanti, Flint and Jackson, where Gladys Allen, “the Song Bird of the Grand Army,” was featured to our great enjoyment.

7. During the visit in September of our Secretary to my home, I advised a meeting of the “heads” of the Allied Orders be called, disregarding the resolution promulgated in the General Orders of our Sons and their Auxiliary—stressing my desire that the Allied Orders meet with Grand Army in 1948 Encampment.

The meeting was held in Olds Hotel, October 4. Every “head” being present and on roll call pledged the Department each represented to meet with the Grand Army in 1948 Encampment.

After long discussion of the five cities inviting us, on motion of Department Commander of our Sons, Detroit was tentatively chosen; our Auxiliary and Ladies of the Grand Army giving a reluctant consent. Secretary to present details of hotels, rates, session rooms and complimentary features at a subsequent meeting called for November 1 in Detroit. At this meeting, while I appreciate the interest and cooperation of Book-Cadillac and Detroit Leland management, no decision could be reached and Secretary, on motion carried, instructed to drop Detroit negotiations and close plans with Grand Rapids Convention Bureau, providing the date first assigned the Grand Army had not been released. My thanks to my Secretary for making the long journey to my home that I might be fully informed of these meetings. I had been reluctant to add one burden to our Grand Rapids members since knowing National would be held there in September. Mr. Whitwam assures me this will not cause even a slight difficulty.

Appreciating the consideration and loyalty to the Grand Army shown by Mr. Whitwam of Convention Bureau, and

Mr. Walker of the Pantlind, I gladly announce the 70th Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and conventions of the five Allied Orders will convene in Grand Rapids, June 16-17-18, 1948, with headquarters in Pantlind Hotel.

God willing, I shall be with you again, should this be impossible, important legislation now in the making, will be presented each Allied Order by our Secretary for your consideration.

8. November brings many memories to my mind: That first glad Armistice Day, Dedication Day, Thanksgiving. Today the great ships are bringing back thousands who gave their lives in foreign lands—back to rest now in their homeland. To them we rededicate our lives that their sacrifice “shall not be in vain” while we give thanks for the freedom and blessings of our AMERICA.

9. Word has been received that Rev. and Mrs. Cornelius Swart have established a new home in White Cloud, Fla. since his retirement from the Veterans Facility. Our true friend for many years as Chaplain in our old “Soldiers’ Home” in Grand Rapids, he has comforted many of my comrades, voiced the last prayer and paid the last tribute for their service to their country. In the sunshine of Florida may he regain health to carry on God’s work.

10. Because of the winter days before us I have closed my home and will be with my daughter, Mrs. John Dunham. For the present, to avoid delay and complications, address all mail except personal, to our Secretary, Box 433, Lansing 2.

11. A preliminary meeting of “heads” and appointed representatives will be called early in the NEW YEAR.

12. Closing this order brings thoughts of Christmas with all its merry days. Our Secretary joins with me in wishing that the bells ring out peace, joy and happiness to you and your loved ones. May the Prince of Peace abide your homes.

By Command of

ORLANDO LE VALLEY,
Department Commander.

Attest:

Leah Simpson Marshall,
Department Secretary.



LEAH SIMPSON MARSHALL
Department Secretary

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY.

June 1947

Closing temporary Headquarters of the 69th Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Pantlind Hotel, at which no Commander or comrade had been present, I make a farewell visit to the Allied Orders in sessions, a last appeal to meet together as one great patriotic family in memory of the Grand Army when none may meet with us.

Open headquarters in the Capitol; mail gifts and checks to Commander; mail resolution adopted by the Sons to Commander in Chief for decision; programs and reports to all on courtesy list; outline General Orders and prepare for hurried trip to Caro closing the month.

JULY—opens with a rush of school groups and members of Parent Teachers Association who call for 17 service records; three requiring correspondence with other State Secretaries two with Washington D. C. all eventually completed.

Each year, following Memorial Day services in the Cemeteries, has brought calls for Headstones and Flag Holders, this year has been no exception; three applications for headstones and five for Flag holders.

A report from Leonidas that nothing had been done before Memorial Day regarding the dismantled headstones in that Cemetery; another letter goes out to officials.

Receive ruling from National that NEVER has the Grand Army designated any person or order as Successors of the Grand Army of the Republic; the law can never be changed; commend Commander Le Valley and Department Secretary on stand taken by Michigan Department.

Issue National general orders No. 4; spend Independence Day in Jackson military meeting, parade and dinner with Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; with National decisions and outline of new work, visit Commander, happy to find him surprisingly well and keenly regretting that he had not agreed to Mrs. Kirk's plan, after daughter Ivah's marriage—and been with us to preside at the 69th Annual Encampment; Mrs. Kirk happy and ready to care for him. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson returned to the farm after the wedding trip.

The 10th, I visit Kalamazoo to confer with Chamber of Commerce and Hotel managers; relative to holding 1948 Encampment in that city; lack of halls and session rooms make this impossible. 15th, guest of W.R.C. No. 7; 18th., dinner and session Camp No. 7 with Mrs. Dunn member of N. J. Dunn Corps, Saginaw.

A great heat wave spreading over the country, Commander suffers a slight heart attack but still holds the thought of attending National Encampment in Cleveland. I make all arrangements for Mrs. Kirk to accompany us.

Mrs. Hutchinson writes she will soon be moving from the farm and no plans for special observance of Commander's 99th birthday are to be made; that Commander directs all Departments be notified that plans are to be held in abeyance till after National Encampment. This was done with real regret.

Send check to Commander for "cooling drinks" as distance prevents our daily calls and on 24th, leave for Caro with my daily work sheets, bills and cancelled checks the record of two years on file, our law requiring all destroyed after two years filing, as we begin a new administration.

A question had come to him as to the amount of money he had received and with only two years to check the amount seemed almost unbelievable. Keenly interested in every item and truly appreciative of the many hundreds recorded, with a touch of pride in his voice admits—"checks don't lie—but you all have been too good to me—I have done nothing in return"; this I roundly disclaim as the inspiration of our comrades has been beyond words of appreciation and never can be measured in terms of dollars and cents. These can only be thought of as the tangible evidence of our love and esteem.

My appreciation of the generosity of the women of our Allied Orders is as great as Commander Le Valley's as we reminisce of the many miles I have traveled, the joyful birthday parties for the comrades, the gifts, flowers and feasts—now gone forever—Many sad days have been mine as the years slipped away but these have been lightened by your thought for "my boys" as I placed your memory flowers and voiced a last farewell.

"Gratitude is the fairest flower of the soul," ours is truly sincere.

In 1938 the entire work at Headquarters, with power of Attorney was given me by Administrative Board but always it has been my custom to submit an outline of every General Order, often the Memoriams, to the Commander before sending to be printed; never has a suggestion or alteration been made while each Commander seemed to appreciate the courtesy; We outline the general order, this finished I returned to Capitol.

I shall long remember this quiet week with its long serious talks as it proved to be the last review of our work ever made. The closing of the month finds general orders at the printers; 32 records cleared; attend meeting of Past Presidents Club in Lansing. Heat continues; Dr. forbids all thought of Commander attending.

AUGUST—Encampment in Cleveland O. Again cards to all Departments reporting Commander's condition. Calls for 12 records two not Michigan enlistments, one necessitating a letter to New Mexico—surely we spread "widely the teachings of patriotism". Address 300 envelopes ready for General Orders, delivered on the 7th by working late have 180 in mails before leaving on the 8th for Cleveland Ohio reluctant to believe Commander Le Valley cannot be with me.

Only five comrades braved the heat and long journey from home. A remarkable group as each comrade was over 100 years of age; this the first time I had no Michigan comrade to care for. I carry Michigan greetings to every comrade and attend every activity through the week; the Memorial Meeting; Banquet to Commander in Chief; Semi-Official meeting; Campfire; Get together of Sons and Daughters; placing wreath on Soldiers & Sailors monument; attend N. Y. and Michigan receptions; session of the Juniors; enjoy the annual concert of the U. S. Marine Band under direction of Capt. Santleman and add my bit to the ovation tendered the band as they swing into an original song—

"Old soldiers never die, they live forever
Old soldiers never die, let come what may
Proudly they march along proudly we say
Old soldiers never die—they simply fade away."

A fine tribute to a grand organization. On Wednesday I join the cheering throng as our comrades ride slowly through the streets—the outstanding event of the week—the Parade of the Grand Army of the Republic headed by the U. S. Marine Band and their escort one hundred

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. A most exhaustive week in terrific heat; I pay a good bye visit to each comrade and leave in the cool of the evening for Michigan, via the Lake front and Grand Army Highway.

Lansing Headquarters on 18th. Send check and remembrance with badge and reports of National sessions to Commander. Disturbed and disappointed to receive a letter from Ivah Le Valley Hutchinson that failing strength of our Commander and the uncertainty of his home life make it impossible to plan any event in observance of Commander's birthday; she will be moving from the farm very soon. Commander asks Departments be notified to drop all plans for a special observance. Regretfully I send the notices with 88 cards suggesting a "card shower" and gifts sent direct to Commander for the 19th.

Labor Day, capitol closed I remain to work on Journal. Notified of appointment as Chairman of Special Committee to direct the securing of three thousand dollars for a monument, honoring the Grand Army of the Republic, to be placed on Belle Isle, I prepare a Circular letter for the Woman's Relief Corps and begin issuing suggestions and programs numbering 104 to launch the Project of the Michigan Department.

Requests for 19 old National and Department Journals, require hours of delving into old boxes and checking duplicates of State Library with only partial success, convinces me the futility of trying to complete groups needed in many States while I appreciate the revival of interest shown in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic.

SEPTEMBER—on 11th Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson move from the farm to begin housekeeping in Caro. Commander, far from well suffers keenly, bewildered and distressed that this break should come in his home life. Mrs. Kirk soon brings order out of confusion; installs a housekeeper and with the help of Commander's twin daughters—Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Culbert who gladly alternate in staying on the farm—though each has home and family cares—soon the old home so dear to them regains its serenity and a happy home life opens for Commander. Answering his first request, I leave on the 16th to remain over his birthday. Register at Hotel Montague and motor daily to the farm. Commander shows a feebleness never before apparent but is all interest in "Department doings"; together we outline plans for the 1948 Encampment "wherever I can place it and call a Preliminary Meeting." Through the week and on the 19th Department heads and many members of the Allied Orders were welcomed by Commander and Mrs. Kirk in the old home, Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Culbert assisting each day.

A happy surprise visit of Charles Dexter, Department Commander of Sons of Union Veterans to break bread with his Commander and present the honorary badge of membership first worn by Commander Dexter when admitted to membership in the Sons, Camp 8 of Detroit.

Many pictures were taken indoors as the pouring rain made changes necessary. Gifts and flowers made the home beautiful; more than 200 greetings received; I present the last check from the Happiness Fund; we share the birthday cake from Sons in Grand Rapids.

Commander enjoys it all, admitting a "little tired" but "glad you all came" and seemingly suffers no ill effects.

Among the many requests for records waiting, as I return to Headquarters, one most interesting—I find our comrade a direct descendent of a soldier in the George Washington Army.

Accept Chairmanship for directing Radio broadcasting in three States for Special Anniversary Days observed by the National Woman's Relief Corps, compile script with full and part time interviews for my committees.

Issue call to Department heads, for Preliminary meeting; accept appointment on Public Service Division for Red Feather Community Chest; enjoy luncheon with Allison Bryant, WRC No. 32; twenty-nine pupils from Flint schools spend an hour in Headquarters taking notes from my informal talk on the Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic for use on "Know Your America" programs.

I have no explanation for the influx of visitors to Headquarters this month; the record shows 103.

OCTOBER—on the 4th preside at Preliminary Meeting of Department heads held in the Brown Room of Hotel Olds, courtesy of Mr. Bruce Anderson.

With no reference to the Resolution passed by Sons at June Encampment on roll call each Department pledged allegiance to the Grand Army of the Republic and will meet together in 1948 Encampment when called by Commander Le Valley.

Department Commander Dexter presents Detroit for consideration as an Encampment city, seconded by Department President of the Daughters and Department President of Auxiliary to Sons. All invitations fully discussed; I was elected General Chairman with instructions to visit Detroit and report results at a subsequent meeting to be held in Detroit.

Appointed on the State Service Division of Red Feather Community Chest drive, attend meeting addressed by Gov. Kim Sigler and receive supplies; 7th, dinner and Inspection of WRC No. 7; represent Department and present letter from Commander at the banquet in Deyo St. Church in Jackson, a special event sponsored by Sons and their Auxiliary.

16th, "kickoff dinner" for Red Feather workers in Hotel Olds; spend two days in Detroit conferring with Convention Bureau and Hotel managers; welcomed in regular session of Farquhar Corps No. 69; in evening as Charter Secretary, guest of Aux. No. 8 dinner and Inspection; visit Royal Oak; motor to Almont, place flowers and Flag on graves of two Civil War Veterans.

Open Headquarters at 7:30 on 20th but find it impossible to attend meeting of Red Feather committee as two groups of high school pupils

claim my attention; 22nd. my first duty a telegram to Commander in Chief Rownd as he reaches his 103rd birthday. Throughout the day an enviable record was made; Dearborn station co-operating with Margaret Sharon Dept. Senior Vice President W.R.C. arranged a local program in Ripley, N. Y., the home of Commander in Chief Rownd; Indiana and Dakota are credited with 20 broadcasts; Mrs. Gladys Allen, Department Songbird of Michigan Grand Army, again featured Civil War songs. No station appealed to through the year refused either part or full time periods.

National Chairman M. Della Moats in her report gives first place to Michigan reporting number of broadcasts. To the stations and committees I express thanks.

Oct. 26, Victory dinner in Hotel Olds for Red Feather workers; clear records for widow in application for Pension; make application for admittance for widow to Annex of Veterans Facility. Attend part time sessions of Dist. No. 3 meeting in Memorial Bldg. Type seven records for mailing into 4 states; leave Saturday, 30th, to continue Encampment duties in Detroit, these meetings held on Saturday that they may not conflict with routine Headquarters work.

NOV. 6—Preside at meeting of heads of the Allied Orders; Department Counselors, Hammond and Cowdin, Sons and Auxiliary, were interested visitors.

I present all results of the many conferences with fact no date in Statler Hotel is available in June; making it necessary to scatter the Departments in three hotels; this caused the proposal that I reopen negotiations with Mr. Whitwam in Grand Rapids. Motion presented by Department President Baker of the Daughters, seconded by Department President of Aux. to Sons, that discretionary power to close contract with Grand Rapids provided the date given at last Encampment closing, had not been released, be given Chairman Simpson; Department Commander Dexter asks I hold action until Wednesday of the next week; motion then prevailed with four Orders voting, Commander of Sons not voting.

I spend the evening with Sterling Tent No. 3 holding a Festival in the building; the Tent had complimented us the use of the parlor for our session, a kindness I appreciate.

ARMISTICE DAY IN GRAND RAPIDS: on 13th, with Past Department President Loveva Hammond, motor to Caro to spend the day with Commander Le Valley who has been seriously ill; happy to find him "having a good day" and eager to hear the news that the five Allied Orders will meet in Grand Rapids where Mr. Whitwam assures us he had held the date given us, waiting our decision and that a warm welcome waits our coming.

Mrs. Kirk the gracious hostess, Commander with us at dinner, a most delightful day is ours.

Return to Capitol to send the cheering news to Departments; compile General Orders; Routine work till Sat. 22nd with Past Department Presidents Climie and Hammond of the Daughters, I motor to Vermontville Inspection and cooperative dinner with Tent No. 49.

Welcome Department President Stables and Sullivan to my home.

The prospect of long cold winter months brought thought of the comforts of a modern home to our Commander; he decided to close the farm house and go to "daughter Neva's" (Mrs. Dunham). Here I visited him, with aching heart I note his pallor, the short and difficult breathing, his loss of vigor—sadly realizing our Commander is not better though able to be about the house and sit with us at table. This slight improvement was short as before Christmas every letter told of days of suffering.

Capitol closes for Thanksgiving Day, clouds may hover near, yet can we say—

"Dear God, we thank Thee for this home
This bounteous birthright of the free,
Where wanderers from afar may come,
And breathe the air of Liberty."

DECEMBER—Complete General Orders; address envelopes; issue National General Orders No. 2; attend regular session and venison dinner with Camp Blair, the "treat" provided by Mrs. Frank Griffes; on 6th motor to Ann Arbor, a special session of Department Sons of Union Veterans and their Auxiliary. Banquet in evening.

National President Katherine Joyce honor guest of the Auxiliary sessions where Department President Sullivan proved a presiding genius and delightful hostess.

Representatives from all the Allied Orders attended the banquet, happy in the decision reached by the Sons to meet with Allied Orders as one great patriotic family at next Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Before leaving for our homes more than fifty enjoyed the "midnight snack" in the old Welch Post rooms, the scene of many happy gatherings for our comrades in past years.

A busy week anticipated I return to Headquarters on Sunday to find 27 letters waiting; shop for Commander's "expressed wish" for Christmas gift; my mind turns to the many it has been my privilege to prepare in the years of my service; on 11th begin addressing the Department Christmas Greetings. In 1938 approximately 400 needed, today I realize with the passing of the Grand Army our courtesy roll has dwindled—less than 200 will cover all the States.

Issue National general orders; check 81 letters for the Monument Project; carry Commander Le Valley's greetings to Allison Bryant Corps No. 32 enjoying Christmas dinner, program and exchange of gifts. Attend session of Auxiliary. On 24th General Order No. 3 delivered, by working late I have 180 in mail before closing for Christmas. Return on the

29th to clear unfinished work incidentally adding five requests to those carried to the new year.

The stress of extra work during weeks of legislation affecting the Department, the hundreds of visitors, the many sessions of the Allied Orders required of me, the long trips to Commander Le Valley in Caro and always the shadow of his failing health, have made this year most difficult.

Yet with it all the old year so filled with rush and worryment, is closing peacefully.

God has spared our Commander "yet a little while"—to travel the Sunset Trail.

Hopefully we face another opportunity to serve, in gratitude for a service so great that no tribute of voice or pen can be too sincere for the heritage I claim—Daughter of a Union Veteran of the Civil War.

The work is done,
How well, only the Master knows.
One never sees the fruit of all the seed he sows.

JANUARY 1948, Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic. The New Year opens with a rush of callers and overflowing mail box. Two service men, enroute to their home in Oregon, waiting for their grandfather's record as I open Headquarters; for an hour they read the regiment history as recorded in "Michigan in the War," and marvel at the miles marched, the battles, skirmishes and suffering endured.

Jan. 2: represent our Commander and carry his greetings to joint Installation of Sons, Daughters and Sons Auxiliary in Jackson.

5th. clear desks of requests for records and leave for Battle Creek the guest of Wm. Forward Corps to enjoy a perfect Installation ceremony, with Mrs. Loni Tennyson the Installing Officer, following the banquet at Williams Cafe.

Farragut Corps No. 4 not in session during the week, Mrs. Tennyson entertains officers and members in her home to meet with me and plan work on the Monument project. A happy break in routine work at Headquarters—meeting old friends in this delightful home.

Return to Lansing to act as Chaplain at Installation of Officers of Aux. No. 5. Cora Clark, friend of many years, assisted by Marie Lueders, Past Dept. President, conducted the work. A bounteous dinner was served.

19th, prepare the letter to Senator Perry W. Greene requesting the State to appropriate 2,500 dollars to carry on the 82nd National Encampment, to convene in Grand Rapids the week of September 26. Approved by Commander Le Valley who gladly affixes his signature, in replying to me quaintly saying "glad to do my bit for MY National."

Attend sessions of Pomeroy No. 5 and Chas. T. Foster No. 7. Represent Department at the 27th birthday party of Betsy Ross Tent 19, in

Jackson. Issue National General Orders; Unfavorable report from Commander, notify all Departments; call heads and committees for meeting in Grand Rapids; clear 7 records; mail with 4 old Journals; appropriation for Contractual Work, assured, I begin compiling the 1947 Annual Journal; complete mailing General Orders No. 2; close month in Grand Rapids, preside at sessions of Encampment committees; am retained as General Chairman. Mr. Frank Whitwam, Convention Bureau manager, and Mr. E. J. Brunette, Executive manager of the Pantlind, meet with us.

FEBRUARY—On the second, leave with Mr. and Mrs. Kirk to visit Commander Le Valley in the lovely home of his “daughter Neva” (Mrs. John Dunham). His interest in Grand Army affairs never lessens but with sad heart I note his pallor and failing strength though able to be about the house and sit at dinner with us. Returning, to save time and expense not allowed from our Appropriation, I stop in Saginaw to contact officers and members regarding the Monument Project.

Meet with Budget Committee; type Journal for State printer; more pictures and interviews for Sunday papers; address joint observance of Lincoln and Washington birthdays; address 300 envelopes for Journal. Commander suffers several slight heart attacks, plans being made for his care in Caro Hospital where he may receive daily visits from his physician; prepare for a hurried trip to Caro.

On 28th represent Department at the Regional of the Sons sponsored by Camp No. 7 held in the Church House of St. Paul Episcopal Church in Jackson. A spirited meeting. 88 representatives from other Districts, Department officers of the Allied Orders and members enjoyed the banquet and unusual program, featuring the new Minstrel Troup of members and the Ledgerdemain artist; we still ask HOW all the Flags and banners disappeared.

Close an unusual record for the short month; visitors 49; letters 104; applications for headstones 2; Flag holders 11; old Journals 9; check 41 records in unfinished file, waiting more detail from applicant or confirmation from Washington, D. C. Regretfully decline 9 invitations from Allied Orders because of illness of Commander Le Valley.

MARCH—Proof read 1947 Journal by galleys as released by printer; on 12th Commander taken to Caro Hospital where Mrs. Kirk and Mrs. Dunham share a day and night vigil with Mrs. Culbert happy to share relief hours that our Commander may never be alone.

Dark forebodings mine until on 16th a change for the better reported. I attend the 64th Anniversary of Chas. T. Foster WRC No. 7 in Memorial Building, Lansing; a joyous birthday party, gifts, favors and flowers in profusion; the program with Prudence Bowman, Past National Senior Vice President, as toastmistress was delightful. Mrs. Piper their only Charter member and several Department officers honor guests.

17th, a chicken dinner and program in Mason, interest of the Monument Project; 19th, a jolly evening with Camp Blair No. 7, the Sons,

hosts to Daughters and Sons Auxiliary and Department guests, had prepared a "Jiggs Dinner" as always, Camp 7 the perfect host.

On receipt of a letter from Representative Earl C. Michener, I spend hours in State Library tracing records of Michigan monuments erected by Civil War veterans and communities in 1861-67, memorializing the soldiers of the Civil War.

Receive notice from Claims Dept. that the 2,500 dollars had been granted to carry on the National Encampment and same added to our appropriation. I notify National Secretary Cora E. Gillis, Commander Le Valley and Frank Whitwam, Convention Manager.

We gratefully acknowledge the ready response of our State thus honoring the Grand Army of the Republic and appreciate the outstanding service of Senator Perry W. Greene who has accepted the General Chairmanship of the 82nd National Encampment for the week of September 26.

March 22, a perilous trip to Caro through flooded roads and detours, the North almost closed to traffic. My first visit to Commander in Hospital; find him sitting up a part of each day but difficult breathing made conversation almost impossible.

Thus began weeks of sadness and hopelessness as I realized our Commander was slipping away—while always the same brightening of the eyes, the same warm hand clasp and interest in my work greeted me. His interest in the many callers at Headquarters was amazing. His one desire to greet the coming spring in his old farm home. Mrs. Dunham returns many days to the old home to warm the rooms in anticipation of his return.

Return to Headquarters and remain through Saturday to notify all Departments; send Easter gift to Commander and greetings to all on our Courtesy roll; complete and mail all script to my committees for the broadcasts on Army Day, the Day so long observed by the Woman's Relief Corps as GRAND ARMY DAY, the Anniversary of the organization of the first Grand Army Post by Dr. B. F. Stephenson in Decatur, Ill., on April 6, 1866.

Give an entire day to clearing records which have necessitated letters to Ohio, Tennessee, New Mexico and Washington, D. C.

The guest book shows a month of interesting callers. I note an informative hour with John J. Forrest, Louisville, Ky., a grandson of General Forrest of the Confederate Army. He shows great interest in my C. V. R. Pond Library of Union and Confederate battles.

A veteran of World War I and two of World War II secure records of their Grandfathers' service and find the regiment Flags in the cases in the rotunda.

Two groups of pupils numbering 79 with four teachers and P.T.A. members enter in relays to listen to my talk on Civil War and Grand Army; I type several records and on promise to clear one not on our Roll, later received the information which enabled me to trace the name

in our old Post file disclosing WHY no record in service book though the family was positive he was a Michigan soldier. Comrade Hyde was born and enlisted in New York; this the family had not known. In 1884 had moved to Michigan and mustered in Post 160; following through the file I found his death reported in 1891 with burial in Corunna. Again the value of the Post records is proven. These files are priceless in clearing records of the men who served our State.

Featured articles and more pictures of these old file boxes bring more visitors to Headquarters than can be itemized in this report, I find it necessary to work after closing hours and many forenoons on Saturday to clear routine work. Club week brings 31 ladies from Detroit, Monroe and Dearborn. A group of 15 thrilled in being received by their Representative in the House.

A resident of Lansing, accompanied by a World War II veteran who carried the scars of battle on face and hands, toured the Capitol and stand in quiet reverence before the battle Flags, gladly take old Journals and General Orders to read; the elder, a resident for forty years in Lansing, had not known the Government maintained this Headquarters for Civil War business and the Preservation of service records of more than ninety thousand Michigan men.

A partial list of school visitors—more than half securing records or sent out later as little research work can be done while visitors demand attention.

Albion, 15 pupils, 2 teachers; Jackson, 8 grandsons; Lowell, 16 pupils, 2 teachers; Ionia, 66 pupils, 4 teachers and parents; DeWitt, 8 Boy Scouts, 1 teacher; Moores Park, 35 pupils, teachers and mothers; 2 groups, 40 pupils, 4 teachers; a group of High and Intermediate pupils.

While it is not possible to give undivided attention to each one, I have been serious in my endeavor to instill a spirit of patriotism and love of America in the hearts of the young people with a desire to Serve their Country should future years require it.

If again mid shot and shell
Our Flag must be unfurled,
God grant that we shall keep it, still unstained
Before the world.

APRIL—The first day presages a busy month as inquiries for Flag holders, Memorial Day Orders and requests for programs pile up. A request from Petoskey to locate a Coat of Arms made by a soldier while in Civil War and deposited some 20 years ago in Capitol. This may seem a task but often it has been my good fortune to locate relics not displayed in the cases. Recently I located a roll of newspapers printed in 1865, for a daughter of our comrade Hackett, her home now in Missouri.

I check the first day work as—16 High with 12 Intermediate pupils and 3 teachers; 3 W.R.C. members from Flint; Forest School Dist. 7, approximately 50 pupils; indicates continued interest.

April 6th, visit Commander who is still in Hospital apparently stronger, we enjoy the day; Commander leaves the Hospital on the 12th for his old home now in charge of Mrs. Kirk, Mrs. Dunham and Culbert sharing this loving care.

On 15th, guest at the reception honoring Evelyn Yeo, Department Jr. Vice President W.R.C. sponsored by Allison Bryant Corps No. 32 in their usual perfect attention to every detail. Close the week attending cooperative dinner and session with Auxiliary No. 5.

Sunday the 18th long distance message reaches me that Commander had suffered a serious relapse and failing hourly. I prepare to leave Jackson with Mrs. Loveva Hammond and a group of Daughters enroute to a District meeting; we arrive at the Capitol before eight o'clock, a prayer in our hearts that Commander may be spared to us, but this was not to be. Death's Angel hovered near and just as the sun rose over the old homestead, Orlando Le Valley closed tired eyes to its beauty and peacefully slept. The last member of the Michigan Department Grand Army of the Republic joined his comrades in that other land.

Gloom seemed everywhere, the while, I realized many duties lay before me.

I inform the Governor who at once makes plans to either attend the services in Caro or prepare a tribute for me to express.

Messages to National and Department officers and prominent citizens of our state; notices to military organizations; long distance conversations with Director in Caro to assist in arrangements to be carried out by Posts of American Legion; floral offerings for National and Department to be ordered before leaving on the 20th for my last sojourn in the home of Commander Le Valley.

No services other than the tribute given by Governor Kim Sigler for the State and my farewell for the Grand Army of the Republic could be added to the regular church service conducted by the pastors of the church but through the days Commander Le Valley rested in his home every Allied Order paid him all honor. Charles Dexter, Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans, came from Detroit to pay this last solemn tribute to his Commander. He was assisted in rendering the Ritual by W. H. Marshall, Department Council member and the Department Secretary of the Grand Army.

Officers and uniformed Color Guards of Vassar Corps No. 191 arranged an impressive ceremony; the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic gave the beautiful wreath service; Alberdina Baker, Department President of the Daughters with members from Pontiac voice love and service for "our Fathers"; Grace Sullivan, Department President of Aux. to Sons accompanied by Brother Albert Sullivan, Department Senior Vice Commander, recently released from hospital, braved the trip from Belleville to pay their last tribute of respect and pledge of continued service. Department President Stables, W.R.C., arrived in Caro for the service in church April 22. A day of mourning in Caro, long to be remembered.

Governor Sigler, accompanied by Representative James Kirk, arrived by plane; officers of every military organization and the Allied Orders filled the little Methodist church; all schools and business places closed; hundreds who had motored miles to honor Orlando Le Valley, their life long friend, waited in the streets to hear the tributes paid by Governor Sigler and Department Secretary of the Grand Army, brought to them by loud speakers in the down town area.

Slowly the funeral cortege moved through the silent streets past the home where never again would the gentle smile of Comrade Le Valley welcome us; tears dim my eyes as I renew my pledge, that the memory of one who offered his life for his Country shall not grow dim with the passing years.

The veterans pass, but leave in trust to you and me,
The task of holding high, the torch of Liberty.

On the 27th I returned to Headquarters to find a flood of messages needing attention. Letters from other states offering assistance in dedicating this room or creating a Memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic. It is heart warming to learn the sentiment of the people; I can only reply the future of this room and a worthy Memorial lies with the Government; that it may be dedicated in memory of the Grand Army will be the objective for my future service.

The publicity and pictures of the old Headquarters with its priceless records brings an increasing number of callers each day. Some only to see a room occupied by one Order for half a century; some belatedly conscious of their soldier ancestry needing true records; others with true altruistic motive—to honor an organization whose motto has always been Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

A retired Lieut. Col. U. S. from North Hollywood California pays tribute to Grand Army as "one soldier to another". A group of Sixth grade boys from Benton Harbor proudly tell of many talks with our Quartermaster Mott a life long resident of their city; A bevy of Battle Creek graduates with 2 teachers delighted to have their pictures taken as they admire the great picture of our Past Department Commanders and the 1879 Charter; Mr. Bremner with 57 pupils from Alma; Mr. John Mc Crath now living in the same old home occupied by his Grandfather, Capt. John Mc Crath when he enlisted in 1861 in Grand Rapids—truly a house of memories.

Prepare article for the National Tribune; issue National General Orders; wearily close this memorable month—121 recorded visitors many reported calling while the Headquarters was closed. While the routine work is interrupted, I gladly welcome the opportunity to clear their problems if possible and spread widely the history and ideals of the Grand Army of the Republic. The passing of the Grand Army of the Republic is a distinct loss to our state.

MAY: Instructed to carry on the work as usual in Headquarters with the Annual Encampments according to plans so happily anticipated

and many complete, I notify all Departments and set the day for official conference in Grand Rapids.

No longer my duty to carry the greetings and messages from a Commander to sessions of the Allied Orders, I attend only two social activities. The 50th Anniversary of Michigan Corps in Detroit and a dinner and session of Auxiliary No. 5 in Lansing.

May 24th. a surprise meeting in Headquarters of Department Commanders and members of all Congressional Chartered Military Organizations in Michigan met to discuss the Enrolled Act No. 146 which partly provided for the closing of this Department and removal of the Grand Army of the Republic from the Capitol headquarters. Certain Amendments to be proposed; others stricken out or changed; John Stronach, Dept. Adjutant and Quartermaster, U.S.W.V. was chosen Secretary; subsequent meeting to be called; this has not been done and our status remains the same.

MEMORIAL week brings the usual call for the now famous General Orders No. 11 issued by Gen. John A. Logan May 5 1868 setting the first Memorial Day. I mail 24 copies with suggested programs. Receive 5 Applications for Headstones which cannot be filled before Memorial Day; the Government requiring at least a month after application is received in Washington.

The month closes with 12 records from the long outstanding file, cleared and mailed; applications for headstones and Flag holders 9: Cemeteries visited 3; observe the Day in Detroit. Our debt to the men of '61-'65 so great that no tribute of words, pen or flowers can be too great. Capitol closed on Monday in observance of the day; I open Headquarters early.

JUNE 1st. The sad message that death had called Mr. John Dunham the son-in-law, at whose home Commander Le Valley had spent the winter months tenderly cared for by the daughters, Mrs. Kirk and Mrs. Dunham. Our sincere sympathy encircles "daughter Neva" in her hours of sadness.

In April, Mr. Frank Whitwam had requested me to maintain Headquarters of the Grand Army, as usual, through the Encampment week in the Pantlind where visitors might pay their respects to an organization so long identified with the patriotic life of Michigan. Gratefully appreciative of this thought, on the 14th. I leave Lansing to open temporary Headquarters in the hotel Pantlind. For this gracious courtesy I offer sincere thanks. For the last time I unfurl Department Flag and banner in the suite assigned me, beautified with baskets and bouquets of flowers presented by the local committees and friends.

Confer with all committees; visit headquarters of each Allied Order to greet visiting National officers; receive Miss Cora E. Gillis National Secretary of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Wednesday attend opening session and in evening preside at the Camp Fire banquet and present the Flag to Mr. Whitwam for use in Convention Bureau in the Civic Auditorium.

During the week pay tribute to the Grand Army at the Memorial of Woman's Relief Corps and the joint Memorial of Sons, Daughters and Sons Auxiliary in the Civic Auditorium; attend session and Flag presentation of Auxiliary, Department President Grace Sullivan, presiding; enjoy the annual luncheon of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, their honor guest National President Mangel, Department President Mabel Kemp the charming hostess; Renew friendships and interest in the work of the Daughters under leadership of Alberdena Baker and Anna Dolan National President. Attend session of the Juniors; receive the Past Department Presidents, National President Grayce L. Vedetta, with Department President Eleanor Stables as she presents her Annual report to the Grand Army as has been the custom through all the years, this to appear in the Annual Journal 1947-1948 when issued. I receive her formal invitation to accept the monument in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic, to the memory of every Civil War veteran of Michigan, when dedicated on Belle Isle. This dedication was made on Armistice Day Nov. 11 1948 and was a most outstanding event.

June 27 I return to Grand Rapids to address the opening session of the Annual Encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans an honor that has been mine through many years, cementing the friendship and service of two great soldier organizations. With National and Department officers enjoy dinner at the Colony Club. A happy ending for the month as Department Secretary of the Grand Army of the Republic.

MAILING RECORD

National and Department General Orders	880
Special Memorial Brochure	300
Service records recorded	348
Applications; cards; greetings	414
Official letters	932
National and Department Journals	381
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Total pieces ending June 30, 1948	3,255

Through the years of my service to the Grand Army of the Republic, it has been my custom to close the Annual Journal in June and following the National Encampment in September, to compile and issue a General Orders No. 4 carrying report of the National sessions and the officers elected for the year.

This Order I omitted as it was my privilege to attend the National Encampment in Grand Rapids, free to visit the six comrades in attendance and attend a session of each of the Allied Orders of which I am a member that a short account of this last Encampment ever to be held in Michigan could be recorded in the 1948 Michigan Journal—the last Journal to be issued from the Michigan Department.

SEPT. 1948: Commander in Chief, Robert M. Rownd was too ill to attempt the journey from Ripley N. Y. In his absence Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Theodore A. Penland and National Secretary Miss Cora E. Gillis, presided.

In discussion as to 1949 being the last Encampment, all agreed it should be the final meeting; another year the burden of travel would be too great. Indianapolis was chosen for this last meeting—the seventh time chosen since November 20, 1866 when the first National Encampment, convened in that city.

While much of the activity of former years was lacking, the programs of the week found comrades in attendance and every comrade braved the rain to ride in the Parade led by the United States Marine Band, to the Civic Auditorium, to have a part in the Camp Fire.

Through the week every comrade had words of praise for the comforts provided by Michigan and for the outstanding leadership of Senator Perry W. Greene, who presided at all public activities.

Theodore A. Penland—age 99—elected Commander in Chief.

John H. Grate—age 103—Senior Vice Commander in Chief.

Wm. H. Osborne—age 104—Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

Robert M. Rownd—age 103—Chaplain in Chief.

John C. Adams—age 101—Quartermaster General

Charles L. Chapel—age 102—Patriotic Instructor

Albert Woolson—age 102—Chief of Staff.

The National Secretary Miss Cora E. Gillis was elected permanently in 1946. No other person has the knowledge of the inner life of the Grand Army National organization, that is hers through years of close association. The care and placing of the records of the organization, in the Archives of our Country is safe in her hands. After Feb. 1st. National Headquarters will be located at 1326 18th St. N.W. Washington 6 D.C. for many years the legal address in accordance with the incorporation of the Organization.

A sense of depression is mine with the closing of this Journal and the thought that soon we must write FINIS, to the record of the Grand Army of the Republic. Too soon will the Great Commander open wide the portals of Heaven and bid the last soldier of the Civil War, come Home—and one of the greatest chapters in the history of America will be closed, forever, unless every true American reaffirm his belief in the principles for which the war was fought; proud to put on the mantle of service and fearless to proclaim—I am an American.

Loyally yours,

Leah Simpson Marshall,
Secretary.

COMPILED BY
LEAH SIMPSON MARSHALL
DEPARTMENT SECRETARY
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

JUNE 1947 - SEPTEMBER 1948

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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."