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Sons
of
Veterans



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:::OF:::

Koltes Camp No. 171

(TROOP K)

Sons of Veterans

NEW YORK DIVISION



COMMEMORATING THE

16th Annual Encampment

AT ;

UTICA, NEW YORK

June 27th and 28th, 1899

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ACTING BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN A. KOLTES.
(Killed at the Battle of Bull Run, August 30th, 1862.)



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A Brief History ❀❀❀

... OF THE ...

SONS of VETERANS,

U. S. A.

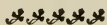
GENERAL JOHN A. KOLTES

Koltes Camp No. 171 ^{TROOP}
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NEW YORK DIVISION, S. V., U. S. A.



*Biographical Sketch of the City of
Utica and Autograph Letters
of Famous Americans.*



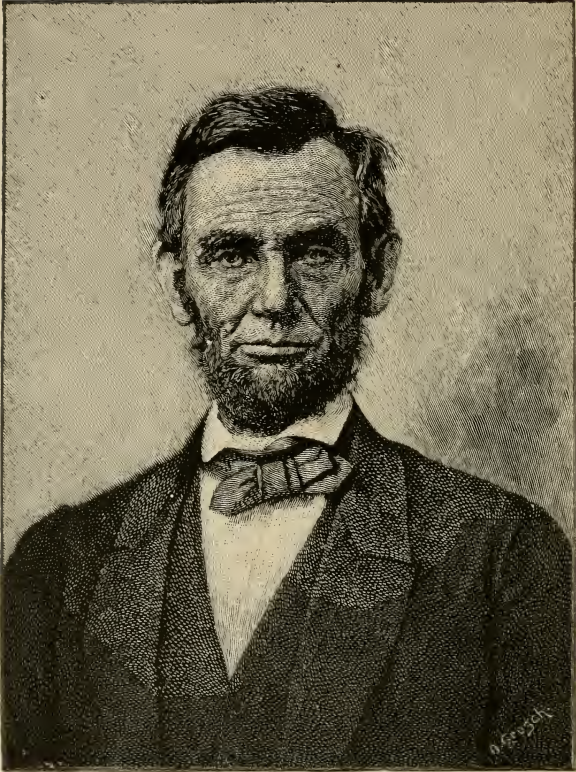
Authors :

Dr. CHARLES VETTER Jr.

CHARLES H. HEIMSOOTH.

JOHN R. RUSSELL.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

IN MEMORY
OF THOSE GALLANT MEN,
BOTH NAVAL AND MILITARY,
WHO GAVE UP THEIR NOBLE LIVES
DURING THE WAR OF THE REBELLION
THIS VOLUME IS LOYALLY
DEDICATED.

Introduction.

I N presenting this volume to the members of the order and the public we do so with the hope that it will fulfill a long felt desire of the order; to have an authentic history of the origin and growth of their order.

It has been no easy task to collect data, from which to compile these pages, so little having been written upon this subject. And should this prove of any service to those unacquainted with the history of the order the writers will consider themselves sufficiently repaid for their labor.

Our thanks are especially due to those gentlemen of the Army and Navy who were kind enough to express their sentiments for the welfare of our order.

We are also greatly indebted to Mrs. Pauline Eck and Adjutant-General George B. Abbott for the valuable information they have so cheerfully given us.

To the Subscribers and Advertisers, we extend our heartfelt thanks for their co-operation in the production of this work.

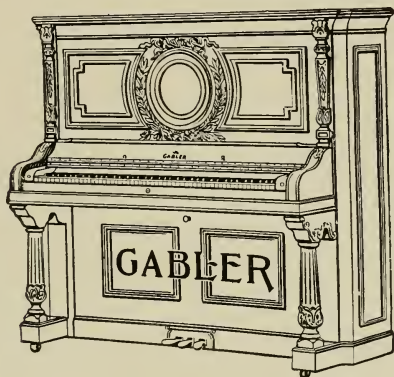
THE AUTHORS.

*** THE ***

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FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.

Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard.

FRANK LYMAN SHEPARD was born in Barreyville, Henry County, Ill., December, 1867. Received his education at the village school, the college of Beloit, Wis., and the Chicago College of Law, from which he graduated in the year 1891. He taught school for a year and a half, and then took up the practice of law in the city of Chicago. He was appointed First Assistant District Attorney for Cook County in 1895, a position which he still holds.

Brother Shepard was mustered in the order as a charter member of Union Volunteer Camp No. 197, at Nunda, Ill., in 1888; he filled some of the important offices in this Camp. In 1889 he moved to Chicago, and became a member of Gen. George A. Custer Camp, No. 6, serving this Camp as Quartermaster, First Sergeant and Captain.

In 1892 he was appointed mustering officer of the Division of Illinois by Col. Wells, and in 1893 was elected a delegate from the Illinois Division to the Twelfth National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief held at Cincinnati. In this year he also served Col. Marsh as Inspector of the Division of Illinois, and continued the same under Col. Hall through 1894.

In 1894 he was elected Colonel of the Illinois Division, serving in that capacity with marked success.

He was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Order of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at the Seventeenth National Encampment held at Omaha in 1898.



ADJUTANT-GENERAL GEORGE B. ABBOTT.

Adjutant-General George B. Abbott.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT was born at Dixon, Ill., late in the 50s. Much of Brother Abbott's life was spent in southern Illinois upon a farm. In 1869 he moved with his parents to Chicago, and attended the public schools of that city. He then attended a medical college from which he graduated; and for fifteen years practiced his profession in the city of Chicago. In 1892 he moved to Honduras in Central America, for climatic and business reasons, and resided there until called to fill the position which he now holds.

His father was N. W. Abbott, who served as Surgeon in the 33rd and 30th Regiments of Illinois Volunteers during the Civil War. George Abbott became connected with the Order of Sons of Veterans in August, 1884, joining General George A. Custer Camp No. 6, of Chicago.

In 1885 he was transferred to Chicago Camp No. 1, of which Camp he was elected Second Lieutenant; at the same time appointed aide on the staff of the Division Commander. In 1885 he was appointed Chaplain of the Grand Division, also elected as a delegate to the Fourth National Encampment of the Commandery in Chief, held at Grand Rapids; at the close of this encampment he was appointed Inspector-General on the staff of Gen. Walter S. Payne. In 1887 he was elected Colonel of the Illinois Division, and at the Sixth National Encampment held at Des Moines, Iowa in 1887 Brother Abbott was elected as Commander-in-Chief and re-elected in 1888 at Wheeling, W. Va.



COL. ELDRIDGE W. ESTES,
New York Division, S. V., U. S. A.

Colonel Eldridge W. Estes.

ELDRIDGE W. ESTES was born in Norfolk, Va., April 8th, 1867. His father, M. D. Estes, enlisted at the beginning of the war in the United States Navy, and served one year on the U. S. S. *Montgomery*. On the expiration of his first term, he re-enlisted in the 3rd New York Cavalry and served until the end of the war. His brother Eldridge was lost in Wilson's Cavalry raid and is believed to have died in Andersonville prison. Brother Estes became interested in the formation of the Sons of Veterans early in life by aiding in the organization and becoming the first Captain of the Cadet Corps, connected with the Veteran Battalion of Rochester in 1881. Out of this Corps grew Glidden Camp. Brother Estes also organized the W. Niles Smith Camp, No. 220, of Clayton, N. Y., and was elected its Captain for four terms. He was also Captain of Reno Camp, No. 102, N. Y. City. Frederick Townsend Camp, No. 1, Albany, N. Y. Chairman of the New York State Division Council in 1893 and 1894. At Syracuse in 1894 he was elected delegate at large to the Knoxville Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. At the Waverly Encampment in 1896, he was unanimously chosen Senior Vice-Commander. In 1898 at Peekskill, Brother Estes was elected Division Commander.

As a son of a veteran, he is one of the most popular members of the order; thoroughly imbued with its principles, enthusiastic and tireless in laboring for its advancement. The order is fortunate in numbering him among its loyal sons.



CAPT. CHARLES VETTER, JR., D.D. S.
Koltès Camp, No. 171 (Troop K).

Captain Charles Vetter, Jr., D.D.S.

CHARLES VETTER, JR., was born on September 28th, 1876, in New York City. He was educated in the public schools of New York City, attending Grammar Schools No. 13 and 79, graduating from the latter. Also attended the East Side Evening High School for two seasons and a private school for two years. After this he took a three years' course at the New York College of Dentistry, graduating from the latter in the year 1896 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, then attended the Bellevue Hospital Medical College for one year.

His father, Dr. Charles Vetter, landed on American soil early in the year 1864—three months after landing he was imbued so deeply with the spirit of American freedom that he became a patriot at once, and on July 14th, 1864, he enlisted for three years in the 69th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel Owen commanding. The regiment took part in the following battles: Reams Station, Va., '64, Hatcher's Run, Oct. 25, '64, Dabney's Mill, Feb. 5, '65, and High Bridge, Va., Apr. 7, '65, and was honorably discharged therefrom on July 1st, 1865 at Munson's Hill, Va.

Charles Vetter, Jr., began his career as a practising dentist with his father in the city of New York. Upon the death of his father in May, 1898, he took entire charge of the business and has carried on the same successfully since. He also holds a position at the New York College of Dentistry as assistant to Prof. Starr, on operative dentistry and dental therapeutics, and also as demonstrator of operative technics. He is also dental surgeon to the Sisters of the St. Francis Hospital.

Charles Vetter, Jr., became connected with the order of Sons of Veterans on February 11th, 1896, joining Koltès Camp, No. 171, holding office as Second Lieut. in 1897, also serving on the Camp Council, and as a Judge Advocate, and elected as Captain on January last to serve during the year 1899.

Other than being a member of the Sons of Veterans, he is an associate member of the American Orinthologists Union, an Odd Fellow, a member of the First District Dental Society of the State of New York and the Medico-Legal Club.

As a member of the Sons of Veterans, none are more loyal than Captain Vetter and by his untiring efforts he has made Koltès Camp, No. 171, one of the most successful and prosperous Camps in the N. Y. Division, and he is sure to be highly honored some day for his painstaking labors in behalf of the order of the Sons of Veterans. The Order is fortunate in numbering him as one of its loyal Sons.



1st LIEUT. CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH.
Koltès Camp, No. 171 (Troop K).

First Lieutenant, Charles H. Heimsoth.

CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH was born in New York City, N. Y., May 17th, 1868, and was educated in Public School No. 42 on Allen Street, near Canal, also attended the College of the City of New York for one year and Evening High School for three years.

His father, Henry F. Heimsoth, was a member of the 11th N. Y. Militia at the outbreak of the Civil war, but his regiment not being one of those ordered to the front at the first call, he enlisted for three years in the 9th N. Y. State Volunteers, in May, 1861. This regiment on December 7th, 1861, became known as the 83rd N. Y. State Volunteers, Colonel John W. Stiles, commanding. The regiment left New York on May 27th, 1861, for the front, and took part in numerous battles, the most notable being Cedar Mountain, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Totopotomoy and Cold Harbor.

His father was severely wounded at the battle of Antietam, Md., September 17th, 1862, and died from the effects of said wound on July 28th, 1887.

Brother Heimsoth became connected with the order of the Sons of Veterans in February, 1898, joining Koltes Camp, No. 171, of which Camp he has held office as Chaplain, Serg't of the Guard, and is now First Lieutenant of this Camp, also an Aide on the staff of Colonel E. W. Estes.

Brother Heimsoth is an ardent and patriotic worker. He was presented with a handsome framed etching, properly inscribed, as a token of the faithful services he has rendered to his Camp since his connection with the same.

He is the New York representative of Joseph G. Darlington & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., which position he has held for a number of years.



2nd LIEUT. JOHN R. RUSSELL.
Koltès Camp, No. 171 (Troop K).

Second Lieutenant, John R. Russell.

JOHN R. RUSSELL was born in New York City on September 12th, 1873. He was educated in Public School No. 19, 14th Street, between First and Second Avenues, St. Bridgets Parochial School and the La Salle Institute.

On October 1st, 1889, he took up a two years' course aboard the U. S. S. *St. Mary*, graduating at the head of his class on October 21st, 1891. About three months after graduating, he left New York on an American merchant vessel and continued seafaring for about five years, visiting nearly all the prominent ports of the globe and holding honorable discharges from all vessels upon which he served. During this time he held with honor such positions as mate, second-mate and quarter-master.

About this time the trouble in Hawaii began and he enlisted in the Hawaiian army, assisting in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, and installing President Dole as Chief Executive of these Islands. Upon the expiration of his term of enlistment in the army of Hawaii, he returned home only to find his father very ill, from which illness he soon died. He then took control of his father's business, that of liquor dealer, until the outbreak of the Spanish-American war when his patriotic spirit was again aroused, and on June 24th, 1898, he enlisted in Company D, 1st U. S. Volunteer Engineers, Colonel Eugene Griffen commanding, and served with credit during the war in Porto Rico, receiving an honorable discharge therefrom January 25th, 1899, by reason of the ending of the war.

He derives his right as a Son of Veteran from his father, Sylvester J. Russell, who, at the outbreak of the civil war enlisted as private on July 15th, 1861, in the 47th Regiment, N. Y. State Volunteers, for three years. He was promoted as Corporal for gallant services rendered at the battle of Chester Heights, Md., and as Sergeant for such services during the battle at Cold Harbor, Va. Discharged therefrom on August 8th, 1864, for reason of expiration of services.

John R. Russell became a member of the order of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in the year 1890, being one of the charter members of Cameron Camp. Upon the discontinuation of the same he became a member of Koltcs Camp, No. 171, in 1896, holding office as First and Second Lieutenants respectively.

He is instructor of military tactics of this Camp which position he fills with credit to the Camp and to himself.

As a Son of a Veteran, he is one of the most patriotic workers of the order; thoroughly imbued with its principles, enthusiastic and tireless in laboring for its advancement, especially of the military features.

History of the Sons of Veterans.

AN organization whose cardinal principles are Friendship, Charity and Loyalty, composed of male descendants of honorable discharged Union Soldiers, Sailors or Marines who served during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865.

This organization was founded in the city of Philadelphia in the year 1878. The principle promoters were the members of Anna M. Ross Post, No. 94, Grand Army of the Republic; the records of this Post dated August 27th, 1878, show that on the motion of Comrade James P. Holt, a committee of five was appointed to devise means of forming a cadet corps, to be connected with that Post.

The following committee was appointed: Comrades, Levy W. Shengle, Carl Frederick, James P. Holt, Charles Weiss and William H. Morgan.

The committee on September 17th submitted a plan for organization, which was adopted by the Post; and on October 15th, a constitution was reported and adopted, and the committee was instructed to receive applications for membership.

On September 29th, 1879, the Anna M. Ross Cadet Corps, No. 1, Sons of Veterans, was formally organized; shortly after this a cadet corps was formed in connection with Post No. 51, of Philadelphia, other Posts in this city and throughout the State of Pennsylvania followed the example of the Posts above named in the organization of cadet corps. These junior corps were officered by members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and their principle object was the observance of Memorial Day in conjunction with their respective Posts.

In July 1880 a Division organization was completed and Conrad Linder was elected Colonel, which position he held until July 1882, when James H. Classon was elected to succeed him. This order spread into the States of New York, New Jersey and Delaware, in the year 1881; during this year a National organization was formed and Alfred Cope was elected Commander.

On November 12th, 1881, Major A. P. Davis of Pittsburg, Pa., a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic formed an organization in that city under the title of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. A Constitution, Rules and Regulation and a Ritual was adopted, providing for Local, State and a National organization.

Dissensions had arisen among the members of the Pennsylvania Division under Col. James H. Classon, and in 1883 thirty-three of its local organizations withdrew from the parent organization and joined that founded by Major Davis, this left but three local organizations in Pennsylvania of the original order, but the National order remained intact and Commander Cope created a provisional division in Pennsylvania with L. M. Wagner as provisional Colonel.

A permanent organization for Pennsylvania was effected on February 22nd, 1882, and what remained of the original order continued in existence until 1886, when a consolidation took place with the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

In the meantime similar organizations were formed in Massachusetts and New York, the former under the command of Comrade Earp, the latter under command of Comrade Proine. The New York Division was organized in New York City, November 26th, 1883, and incorporated in 1892.

At the First National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., the United States was divided into six Grand Divisions, the New England States forming the first, the Eastern Middle States the second, the Western Middle States the third, the Rocky Mountain States the fourth, the Pacific States the fifth, and the Southern States the sixth. These Grand Divisions maintained separate headquarters with their respective Commanders. These Grand Divisions, however, were discontinued by the Fourth National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Grand Rapids in 1885.

The Second Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief was held at Columbus, Ohio, and Frank P. Merrill, of Maine, was elected Commander-in-Chief. It was then that the real work of building up the organization began. At that time the order was deeply in debt, the membership scattered, with much contention existing in the various Divis-

ions. However, Commander Merrill brought unity and harmony out of chaos, advanced the necessary funds for placing the organization on a sound basis, and devoted much hard, earnest work, to building up the organization.

The Third Encampment was held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1884, and Harry Arnold, of Johnstown, Pa., was elected Commander-in-Chief. During his administration fair progress was made, and the policy established by Commander Merrill was carried out with good results.

The next Encampment, the Fourth, was held at Grand Rapids, where the most important legislation connected with the order was enacted. A fair ritual was promulgated following that Encampment, the Constitution was amended to eliminate many inconsistencies, and the order was placed in a position for progress. General Walter S. Payne, of Fostoria, O., was here elected Commander-in-Chief. He brought experienced business ability into the management of the organization and created considerable enthusiasm. He surrounded himself by an able staff, and the order for the first time became self-sustaining financially.

General Payne was re-elected at the Fifth Encampment at Buffalo. At the close of his second term at the Sixth Encampment at Des Moines, Ia., his reports showed a membership in the order approximating 24,000. The order had become unified and all of the Sons of Veterans' organizations in the United States were then under the banner of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., except those of New York and a portion of New Jersey, which had persistently refused to get into line.

At Des Moines G. B. Abbott, of Chicago, was elected Commander-in-Chief. Many of the Divisions being led by very able Commanders, General Abbott was enabled to make a record in the order that has not been equalled since, so far as numerical strength and financial growth are concerned. It was during his second year that an agreement was reached with the New York Branch, whereby it united and came in under the banners of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. General Abbott was re-elected at the Seventh Encampment at Wheeling, W. Va., and surrendered his command at the Eighth Encampment at Paterson, N. J., to Charles F. Griffin, of Indianapolis, showing a membership in the order of about 57,000.

Commander Griffin systematized the records. During his administration the order began to develop the stability of character which it has since maintained, although the membership is not quite so large, owing to natural causes, and in accordance with the history of all organizations, which sprang up with the rapid growth of the Sons of Veterans.

The following commanders have been elected and served with honor and distinction:

Leland J. Webb, of Kansas, elected in 1890, at St. Joseph, Mo.

Bartow S. Weeks, of New York City, elected in 1891, at Minneapolis.

Marvin E. Hall, of Hillsdale, Mich., elected in 1892, at Helena, Mont.

Joseph Maccabe, of Boston, elected in 1893, at Cincinnati.

William E. Bundy, of Ohio, elected in 1894, at Davenport, Ia.

W. H. Russell, of Kansas, elected in 1895, at Knoxville, Tenn.

James Lewis Rake, of Pennsylvania, elected in 1896, at Louisville, Kentucky.

Charles K. Darling, of Boston, elected in 1897, at Indianapolis.

Frank L. Shepard, of Chicago, elected in 1898, at Omaha.

The principles and objects of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in their organic law are as follows:

PRINCIPLES.

“A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, and a realization that under His beneficent guidance the free institutions of our land, consecrated by the services and blood of our fathers, have been preserved, and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained. True allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, based upon a respect for, and devotion and fidelity to, its constitution and laws, manifested by the discountenancing of anything that may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our National Union.”

OBJECTS.

To keep green the memories of our fathers, and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union. To aid the members of the Grand Army of the Republic in the caring for their helpless and disabled Veterans; to extend aid and protection to their widows and orphans, to perpetuate the memory and history of their heroic deeds, and the proper observance of Memorial Day and Union Defenders Day. To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our order. To inculcate patriotism and love of our country, not only among our membership, but among all the people of our land, and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty, and justice to all.

The order is formed as follows:

First, local organizations known as Camps; second, State organizations known as Divisions, and third, a National organization known as the Commandery-in-Chief.

The order is semi-military in its character. Camps maintain the same order and work as companies. Divisions correspond to regiments and the Commandery-in-Chief to the army.

The officers of a Camp are: the Captain, First and Second Lieutenants; Camp Council consisting of three members, all of whom are elected by ballot. The Captain appoints his staff as follows: Chaplain, First Sergeant, Quartermaster Sergeant, Sergeant of the Guard, Color Sergeant, Principal Musician, Corporal of the Guard, Camp and Picket Guards.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age of honorably discharged Soldiers, Sailors or Marines, who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War of 1861-65, provided he has never been convicted of any infamous crime or who has, or whose father has never borne arms against the Government of the United States of America.

While recognizing the over-ruling hand of an all-wise Providence, the order is neither political nor sectarian, and the discussion of topics relating to politics or religion, in the Camp room, is strictly prohibited.

In no way is our order a competitor for the honors and privileges accorded to the G. A. R. Their victories and their achievements can never be divided.

At the Twenty-second National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at Columbus, Ohio, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved: That this Encampment endorse the objects and purposes of the order of the Sons of Veterans, U.S A., and hereby give to the order the official recognition of the Grand Army of the Republic, and recommend that it aid and encourage the institution of Camps of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Past-Commanders of the New York Division.

Former Post System.

*WM. A. HYDE,

JOB C. SAWYER,

JOB E. HEDGES,

ADOLPH HOFFLING.

Camp System.

*JAMES E. PURDY, 1883.

MORTIMER J. DOWNING, 1884.

*GEO. J. FOSTER, 1885.

*CHARLES T. RAIN, 1886.

*ERNEST F. FELLOWS, 1887.

E. W. HATCH, 1888.

GEO. ADDINGTON, 1889.

W. H. WYKER, 1890.

CLARENCE E. HOLMES, 1891.

W. S. OBERDORF, 1892.

W. H. ROBERTSON, 1893.

LEWIS J. MACY, 1894.

LEWIS J. MACY, 1895.

A. G. COURTNEY, 1896.

JOHN M. DIVAN, 1897.

E. W. ESTES, 1898.

**Deceased.*

John A. Koltes

was born in Drea, Prussia, in the year 1825. His father's wish was for him to become a priest, but this was not suited to young Koltes' taste for his ambition was to become a soldier. At the age of sixteen, he left his native town and came to the United States and settled at Pittsburg, Pa., where he taught school for some time. After this young Koltes came on to Philadelphia, Pa., and when the Mexican war broke out he enlisted on November 14th, 1846, as Sergeant in Company E, Captain F. W. Binders, 1st Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, to serve during the war with Mexico. Was honorably discharged on the 29th day of July, 1848, the regiment being mustered out of service at Philadelphia.

Sergeant Koltes then enlisted in the Marine Corps and was stationed at the Navy Yard at Philadelphia.

After his term expired at the Navy Yard, he was employed at the United States Mint at Philadelphia for several years, and while here employed the cloud of dissension which had been brewing in some of the southern states, broke, and the Civil War began.

When Lincoln called for volunteers, none responded with greater alacrity or enthusiasm than did John A. Koltes, and he immediately began to raise a regiment and when completed, tendered its services to the State of Pennsylvania which was accepted and thenceforth known as the 73rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The 73rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers of which John A. Koltes was Colonel, was originally known as the Pennsylvania Legion, "45 of the line," was recruited in the City of Philadelphia during the months of June and July, 1861. It was organized on the 3rd of August, by the choice of the following officers:

John A. Koltes, Colonel; G. H. Muehlick, Lieutenant-Colonel; Leopold Schoot, Major, and William Moore, Adjutant.

A considerable number of both officers and men had

belonged to militia rifle companies existing in Philadelphia. A camp of rendezvous was established on Engle's and Wolf's farms at Lemon Hill, on the 24th of September. The regiment was fully armed and equipped.

Left Philadelphia and proceeded via Washington to Roach's Mills, Va., where it was assigned to Gen. Blenker's Division. It was here largely employed in building forts, in which service Gen. Blenker was eminent. Drill and discipline when relief from fatigue duty permitted was rigidly enforced. About the middle of October, it was moved to the neighborhood of Hunter's Chapel, where a new camp was established. A few days later it was pushed forward to Rose Hill and placed upon the picket line.

On the 25th of October ex-Governor Pollock presented the command with a set of colors in behalf of the ladies of Philadelphia.

The line of pickets was advanced soon afterwards to Anandale, with headquarters at Fitzhugh's Farm and remained in this position until the 16th of November. On the 15th of January, 1862, the altered Springfield muskets with which it was originally armed was exchanged for Austrian rifled muskets. The regiment at this time numbered 855 rank and file. On the 18th of January, the State flags were presented to the Pennsylvania regiments of the brigade. The officers and color guard of the 73rd alone were present upon the occasion, the rest of the regiment being out upon its picket line. On the 3rd of March 350 men were added to the ranks, a part of what had been the 66th Regiment, just disbanded.

The regiment moved with the army on the 10th of March upon the campaign to Manassas. The most of the army soon turned back, and proceeded to the Peninsula. Blenker's Division remained and the regiment was engaged in picket and out-post duty, occasionally meeting bands of the enemy. After remaining in the neighborhood of Cattlett's Station until the 6th of April, it returned through Warrenton and proceeded with the Division to West Virginia, arriving at Petersburg on the 11th of May. The Division was here reviewed by Gen. Fremont and was incorporated with the Army of the Mountain Department. The advance of this army under Milroy and Schenck having been defeated at McDowell by Jackson.

The balance of the command was moved hastily to Franklin to their support, arriving the day after the battle. For several days it was engaged in reconnoitering and in fortifying the position, the men suffering greatly from hard working and insufficiency of food. On the 25th, Fremont moved back to Petersburg and proceeding via Moorfield, crossed the mountains into the Shenandoah Valley, but too late to intercept Jackson who, having defeated and driven Banks, was now hurriedly returning. On the 8th of June, Fremont came up with the enemy as Cross Keyes and a severe engagement ensued.

The 73rd was held in reserve, and in the progress of the fight was moved from point to point where most needed. Jackson returned across the Shenandoah River, burning the bridge after him, and Fremont returned to Strasburg. The latter was superseded in command of the army soon afterward by Gen. Sigel. Until the 20th of July the regiment was engaged in picket and guard duty at Luray, Thornton's Gap and Sperryville, when Sigel moved to the support of Banks who had been attacked and driven at Cedar Mountain. When Pope's army, composed of the commands of Sigel, Banks and McDowell, began to fall back from the Rapidan, the 73rd was engaged with the rear guard in destroying bridges, kindling decoy fires, and in obstructing the roads to impede the progress of the enemy. In this retreat it was frequently under fire and at Freeman's Ford where Gen. Bohen was killed, it was for two days engaged on the skirmish line.

The Division arrived upon the plain of Manassas on the evening of the 28th of August, 1862. In the movement of that day, Adjutant Henry Bauers, while engaged in calling in the skirmishers was captured.

Early the following morning the battle was opened near the little village of Groveton, the corps of Heintzelman, Sigel and Reynolds being confronted by Jackson and Longstreet. The 73rd with a battery was early in the day sent forward to meet the enemy, taking position on the left of the Centreville Road near the stone house, and until four in the afternoon was warmly engaged. It was then relieved and ordered to a position near the bed of a railroad which had been graded but never completed. The battle on the Union right was early renewed on the following

day, and by three o'clock in the afternoon raged with great violence, the enemy following up every advantage and sweeping the field with grape and cannister. The brigade commanded by Colonel Koltes, had till this hour been held in reserve. It was now ordered forward to check the enemy's impetuous advance.

Before a shot was fired, it was discovered that the rebels were already in its rear, and it was obliged to change front, moving up the wooded side of a hill upon its flank. It soon opened upon the infantry, but their artillery, which had played upon it with frightful effect while making this movement and thinned its ranks, had already retired. Scarcely had the line of battle been formed when Captain Aug. Bruecker, Acting Major, and in command of the regiment was killed. The cloud of smoke was so dense that friend could with difficulty be distinguished from foe. Colonel Koltes seeing the critical position of his command, rode to the centre of his own regiment and while in the act of rallying his men and apparently about to lead them in a charge was struck in the back of the head by a shell and instantly killed. Rider and horse sank upon the ground together and neither moved afterward. Taking up the body of their leader the men fell back and formed in line with a regiment of regulars, but were soon compelled to leave the field altogether. At night they bivouacked on Bull Run Creek lying around the dead body of their Colonel, and on the following day reached the breastworks in front of Centreville. The loss in this disastrous battle was nearly half of its effective strength, being 216 in killed and wounded.

The body of Colonel Koltes was taken to Washington where it was embalmed.

While his body was being borne to the R. R. station prior to its departure to Philadelphia under a large military escort, President Lincoln made the following remark: "He was a brave man and a noble officer."

Arriving at Philadelphia, under an escort composed of comrades of his own regiment, the remains laid in state for a time, at the State House. It was then taken to St. Peter's church where the burial services were conducted and then placed in its last resting place in the Scott Legion Vault, Glenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the above named vault only veterans of the Mexican war can be placed.

Colonel Koltes at the time of his death was thirty-seven years of age, six feet two inches in height, of soldierly and prepossessing appearance and manners.

His widow, Pauline Koltes, died May 9th, 1888.

There were three sons and one daughter born to the Koltes family, John, William, Eugene and Pauline. The surviving members are Eugene and Pauline, now a Mrs. Pauline Eck, residing at present in the City of Philadelphia.

There is a G. A. R. Post, a Camp of Sons of Veterans and an Auxiliary Daughters of Veterans named in his honor both in Philadelphia and New York City.





Utica, N.Y.

1899

W. C. GRAY, ESQ.,
CHAIRMAN OF ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE :

DEAR SIR :

As Chief Executive of the City of Utica, N. Y., I wish to extend to your worthy order throughout the New York Division, a most hearty welcome from our officials and the good people of this town to attend the next Encampment of the Sons of Veterans to be held here on June 27, 28, 1899.

Our City at that time will have taken on all the beauties of nature and abundantly able to maintain its reputation as an ideal Convention City.

The gates of the City will be swung wide open and the freedom of the City extended to you while you remain our honored guests.

Respectfully,

A. O. Kinney

Mayor.

PROGRAMME.



MONDAY, JUNE 26th, 1899.

THE brothers and their friends will leave for Utica, N. Y., at 10:45 P. M. from headquarters, Beethoven Hall, 431-433 6th Street, going by way of special train, via New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, arriving at Utica 7 A. M. June 27th.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27th, 1899.

Encampment will be called to order at 10 A. M. by Colonel E. W. Estes at the Utica Music Hall. Address of welcome by the Hon. Thomas E. Kinney, Mayor of Utica, N. Y. Response by Past-Colonel Winfield Scott Oberdorf.

Reports of Committees, etc.

Balance of afternoon is left entirely to the disposition of the delegates and their friends.

7:30 to 8:30 P. M. Reception tendered to the Sons of Veterans by the Ladies' Aid Society.

8:30 P. M. Camp Fire at the Utica Music Hall.

Music and addresses by comrades of the G. A. R., prominent Sons of Veterans and others.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28th, 1899.

Business session called to order at 9 A. M.

1:30 P. M. Grand Parade.

Business session called immediately after the parade.

7 P. M. Closing session and mustering in of newly elected officials.

9 P. M. Grand Military Ball.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29th, 1899.

Reveille at 7 A. M.

The homeward journey will then be commenced, arriving in New York City about 6 P. M. with many happy recollections.

History of Koltes Camp, No. 171

(Troop K)

N. Y. Division, S. V., U. S. A.

KOLTES Camp, No. 171, was organized on December 5th, 1882, in New York City, the Charter members being, Philip G. Kloeber, C. C. Maul, Philip Bickler, Henry Albrecht, Frank Dyruff, August Hartmann, Max Adamsky, Charles H. Schaefer, Aug. Faust, George F. Johnson, Harry M. Schloss, Abe Schloss, F. Buehler, Jr., Jos. Bickler, John R. Farlow, A. M. Brada, C. F. Schmidt, J. Schmidt, Caspar Strippel, Conrad Steuert, H. A. Schnacke, L. H. Richter. J. C. Sawyer was Department Commander at that time. Koltes Camp, No. 171, was then known as Koltes Post, No. 17, and continued as such until December 15th, 1890, when it was mustered into the Order of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and received its charter on March 12th, 1891, with rank from December 11th, 1882; W. H. Wyker being Division Colonel and Leland J. Webb, Commander-in-Chief. The Camp, since its organization has mustered about four hundred recruits. It is one of the wealthiest and most charitable Camps in the New York Division. It is at the present time equipped as a Cavalry Troop, the officers being supplied with belts, sabres, 38 calibre revolvers and holsters, gauntlets, regulation boots, and campaign hats. The non-commissioned officers and privates with the Peabody 50 calibre carbine, belts, cartridge pouch and holster, leggings and campaign hats.

During the past winter the Troop has taken up cavalry tactics, having been regularly instructed under the supervision of Second Lieut. John R. Russell, in everything prescribed by the U. S. Army Drill Regulation, and is now capable of executing all the manœuvres contained therein.

Names of past Captains since the organization of
Koltcs Camp, No. 171 :

1882. Philip G. Kloeber.	1890. Louis Bohl.
1883. Philip G. Kloeber.	1891. Louis Bohl.
1884. Charles Ahrens.	1892. August Haas.
1885. Charles Prigge.	1893. Gustav Taigel.
1886. Charles Prigge.	1894. Charles Gerlach.
1887. Charles Prigge.	1895. Casper Walters.
1888. Louis Bohl.	1896. Casper Walters.
1889. Louis Bohl.	1897. Gustav Goebel.
1898. Henry Kassebaum.	

OFFICERS OF KOLTCS CAMP, FOR 1899.

CHARLES VETTER, JR., D.D.S., CAPTAIN. 152 Second St.	
CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH	- - - - - First Lieutenant.
JOHN R. RUSSELL,	- - - - - Second Lieutenant.
EMIL MULLER,	- - - - - Chaplain.
CHARLES LEITNER,	- First Sergeant, 608 Third Ave.
CASPER WALTERS,	- Q. M. Sergeant, 42 Amsterdam Ave.
CHRISTIAN DEININGER,	- - - - - } Color Sergeants.
MICHAEL KROM,	- - - - - }
FRANK DIDIER,	- - - - - Principal Musician.
FRANCIS W. HEITMAN,	- - - Sergeant of the Guard.
WM. A. WELZ,	- - - - - Corporal of the Guard.
HERMAN MOST, JR.,	- - - - - Camp Guard.
PHILIP YOUNG,	- - - - - Picket Guard.
CHARLES FROMANN,	Trustee.

Camp Council.

EMIL MULLER, Chairman. CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH, Clerk.
NICHOLAS REUTER.

Surgeon to the Camp.

WM. BALZER, M.D., 218 East 13th Street.

In connection with the Camp there is an auxiliary composed entirely of Daughters of Veterans, known under the title of Auxiliary of Koltcs Camp, No. 171 (Troop K), Daughters of Veterans, with a membership of about 75.

This auxiliary has presented the Camp with a stand of colors. It has also proved itself a worthy aid in all our charitable work and other enterprises.

Miss Mathilda Schneider is now the presiding officer and under her careful guidance the organization has reached the acme of prosperity.

Brief Sketch of Utica.

THE original settlement made at Utica took its name of old Fort Schuyler erected during the French and Indian war. This fort was destined to guard the fording place in the Mohawk River above it. It was situated on the south bank, a little south-west of the present intersection of Second and the Central Railroad. This fort was named in honor of Colonel Peter Schuyler, an uncle of General Philip Schuyler, of Revolutionary fame.

Utica was a very insignificant place when it was incorporated as a village, and received its first charter in the year 1798.

It became a city on February 13th, 1832, when it received its charter as a municipality. It was not a very important place. The opening of the Erie Canal, however, gave it an impetus. As the traffic on this great waterway began to increase, the business and population steadily grew. Progress was maintained in all directions until the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, which, for some time, interfered materially with the growth of the city. At the close of the struggle for the maintenance of the union, Utica took on renewed life, and in 1870, the population was about 29,000. Five years later, this had increased to about 35,000. The census of 1880 gives the number of inhabitants as 33,913 and that of 1890 as 44,007, and in 1898, 60,000.

Utica, the county seat of Oneida County, is situated near the geographical centre of the State in the heart of a country exceedingly fertile. It is the great centre for dairy products and is one of the most important cheese markets in the United States. It is ninety-five miles west by northwest of Albany.

Utica has fifty-three churches, or distinctive religious societies. These, for the most part, have their own houses of

worship, and many of the church edifices are as handsome in their architectural proportions as any to be found in the state.

There are twenty-three brick school buildings with a force of 212 teachers; also one public library numbering about 52,000 volumes.

Utica has three institutions that provide a home for the aged; one for aged women, one for aged men and couples, and one for aged and indigent masons and their families.

There are thirty-six miles of paved streets, twenty-three of which are asphalt.

There are three fine parks within the city, and an excellent driving park on its eastern boundary. There is also a waterworks which has a capacity of over 400,000,000 gallons annually.

There are rich deposits of iron ore immediately to the south which are now being worked on an extensive scale. The principal industrial products are woolens, cottons, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, steam engines, stoves, lamps, farming implements, mill stones and drain tiles.

The Police and Fire Departments are as good (if not better) than that of any city of its size.

On March 30th, 1836, a bill was passed by the Legislature for the establishment of the New York State Lunatic Asylum to be situated in Utica. A committee of three was appointed to buy a site not to exceed \$10,000; there was also an appropriation of \$50,000 for the erection of the Asylum. In the summer of 1837, a site was purchased for \$16,300, of which the State paid \$10,000 and \$6,300 by the citizens of Utica.

The Part That Utica Played During the Civil War.

With Lincoln elected President, after one of the most enthusiastic campaigns ever known in the United States, mutterings came from the South.

A meeting was held at Utica about this time, and Ward Hunt was the presiding officer. A series of resolutions

were adopted in support of the Government. President Lincoln visited the city on February 18th, 1861, at 11:30 A. M., addressing a large assemblage of citizens.

Upon the firing of Fort Sumter, the city became filled with enthusiasm, and when Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, no city responded more promptly than did Utica.

Captain William Christian at once began to organize a volunteer battalion of four companies, which number was later increased. This finally became the 26th New York Volunteer Regiment.

On the 17th of April, the Citizens Corps tendered its services to the Government and announced its readiness to march within forty-eight hours.

At this time there were eighteen recruiting offices and four hundred men were enrolled within ten days.

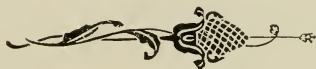
A day after the bombardment of Fort Sumpter, James McQuade offered his services and also the whole of the Citizens Corps of which he was Captain, for two years. They then became part of the 14th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers.

This regiment passed the winter near Washington. In the Spring of '62, it was ordered to advance, and took part in the seven days' fighting from June 27 to July 3.

This regiment returned to Utica on May 21st, 1863.

In the call of July 6th, 1863, for 300,000 volunteers, Utica furnished 325 men.

There are four Grand Army Posts, two Women's Relief Corps, one Ladies Aid Society and a Camp of Sons of Veterans in Utica.





PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

From President William McKinley, who was Major of U. S. Volunteers during the Civil War, and was elected President in 1896. In dealing with the difficult problems which arose between this government and Spain, he displayed great wisdom, judgment and statesmanship, and devoted his entire time in his endeavor to settle the question by diplomatic measures, but failing in that, he declared war against Spain on April 21st, 1898, and from that time handled the affairs of the nation in a high, honorable and firm manner to a glorious and successful victory.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON.

February 25th, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR :

Replying to your letter of the 23d inst., I beg leave to state that the pressure upon the President's time recently has been so great, that he is unable to communicate with you personally at present, but begs me to convey to Koltcs Camp, No 171, S. V., his deep interest in the Organization of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and of his best wishes for its success.

Very truly yours,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. W. Cortright". The signature is written in dark ink and is the central focus of the letter's closing.

Assistant Secretary to the President.

LIEUT. CHARLES H. HEIMSOOTH,
111 5th Avenue,
New York, N. Y.



HON. JOHN HAY, SECRETARY OF STATE.

From Secretary of State, the Hon. John Hay, an American, talented in letters and statesmanship alike.

Non cuivis adire Corinthi.

It is not given to everyone to be the biographer of Abraham Lincoln, the author of "Little Breeches" and "Jim Bludsoe," the American Ambassador to England, and the Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

April 26th, 1899.

DEAR SIR :

I thank you for your letter of the 25th, and for the kind invitation therein conveyed. You are right in taking it for granted that the work in which you are engaged has my heartiest sympathy. I am

Very respectfully yours,

John Hay



HON. JOHN D. LONG, SECRETARY OF NAVY.

From Secretary of the Navy the Hon. John D. Long, under whose noble supervision and untiring energy, the glorious victories of our naval battles at Manila and Santiago, are largely due.

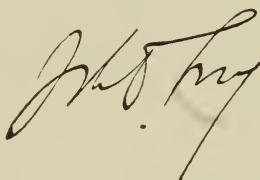
NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.

March 15th, 1899.

DEAR SIR :

Yours received, and I am happy to send you this autograph letter for the souvenir book which you are preparing for the Koltes Camp, No. 171 (Troop K), Sons of Veterans.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John S. King". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name of the recipient.

MR. C. H. HEIMSOTH.



MAJOR-GENERAL NELSON A. MILES, U. S. A.

From the battle-scarred "hero of a hundred fights," Major-General Nelson Appleton Miles, commanding the United States Army. The masterly campaign in Porto Rico proves that the right hand which bore so stout a sword from Bull Run to Appomattox, and in all the subsequent Indian warfare, has lost none of its cunning in the art of war.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON.

February 21st, 1899.

LIEUT. CHAS. H. HEIMSOOTH,
Koltcs Camp No. 171, S. V., U. S. A.,
111 5th Avenue, New York.

DEAR SIR :

I have your letter of the 20th, expressing the belief that I feel in full sympathy in the noble work the Sons of Veterans are engaged in. I take pleasure in confirming your impressions in that respect.

Very sincerely yours,

Nelson A. Miles



MAJOR-GENERAL WESLEY MERRITT, U. S. A.

From that gallant veteran of the Civil War and captor of the City of Manila, Major-General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., whose good sword, supported by the gallant Dewey's guns, has added an Empire of unparalleled richness to the possessions of his country.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND,
NEW YORK.

April 27th, 1899.

LIEUT. CHAS. H. HEIMSOTH,
Koltes Camp, No. 171,
New York City.

DEAR SIR :

I have no doubt that your Camp of the Sons of Veterans is doing a most noble work. My time and attention are so thoroughly occupied now that I cannot write more.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wesley Merritt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Major-General U. S. Army.

JOHN F. BETZ,

*Manhattan
Brewery...*



*LAGER BEER, ALES
AND PORTER* ❁ ❁ ❁

*129th Street and
Amsterdam Ave.,*

....New York City.

From that brave, determined and ideal soldier, Major-General John R. Brooke, who distinguished himself in many battles during the Civil War. In the war with Spain he has proved himself an invaluable adjunct in Porto Rico and Cuba. He is now Governor-General of Cuba.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF CUBA,
HAVANA.

May 9th, 1899.

1st LIEUT. CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH,
111 5th Ave., New York.

DEAR SIR:

In reply to your note of the 5th inst. it gives me pleasure to say to you that I am fully alive to the importance of the organization of the Sons of Veterans, and of the purposes of the order. It may interest you to know that I had a full company in my army corps, the First, of Sons of Veterans. It belonged to the 12th Minnesota. The veterans are rapidly passing away, and we will soon live only in the memory of our country and in the hearts of our "Sons." History will give us that place on its pages that our services in the cause of human freedom gives us the right to occupy. I am

Very Respectfully,



Maj.-Gen'l.



MAJOR-GENERAL OLIVER OTIS HOWARD, U. S. A

From the gallant and good soldier of the Civil War, Major-General Oliver Otis Howard, U. S. A. (retired), who, veteran of one of earth's greatest conflicts, hurried to the front to minister to the material and spiritual comforts of his grateful "boys in blue."

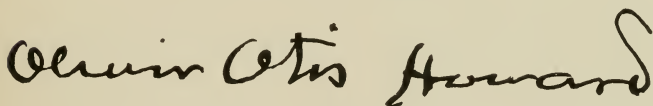
NEW YORK, February 28th, 1899.

LIEUT. CHARLES H. HEIMSOTH,
111 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

MY DEAR SIR :

Your object is a noble one, and I am very glad to comply with your request this day received. With my companions I am trying to build a veritable monument in the very mountains that Lincoln loved, a monument to his name, which shall educate young men and young women, and make them co-equal in advantages in the race of life with the young men and young women of our eastern, southern, northern and far western sections of the country. We fought the battles in which your comrades of the Koltas Camp bore a distinguished part, that is, the veterans ; and of the sons of such veterans we are proud. We hope and trust that after the storms through which their fathers passed may come the fair weather of peace and progress, and the upbuilding of every part of our country. Some of us wish to put Lincoln's name at the head of a great educational movement. He broke the chains of slavery, now let his grand name help us at Cumberland Gap to forge the chains of love, fellowship and true progress among our people, and especially among those in the mountains which are honored by containing his birth-place.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oliver Otis Howard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Major-General U. S. Army, retired.



Copyright by Rockwood.

MAJOR-GENERAL JOSEPH WHEELER, U. S. V.

From that true Southern gentleman and dashing American cavalry commander, Major-General Joseph Wheeler, U. S. V., "The fighting Joe Wheeler" of the Confederate Army and "The famous Joe Wheeler" of the Santiago campaign.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON.

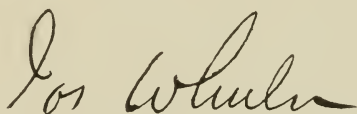
May 9th, 1899.

LIEUT. CHAS. H. HEIMSOTH,
111 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

MY DEAR SIR :

It is a great pleasure to me to be able to express my high appreciation of the noble work which is being done by the Sons of Veterans, and am glad to know that you propose issuing a book containing their history. I wish for them continual prosperity and increasing success. With respect,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jos Wheeler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Jos Wheeler".



Copyright by Rockwood.

MAJOR-GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE, U. S. V.

From the brave patriot whose fortitude in Havana reflected credit on the flag he served—the gallant Major-General Fitzhugh Lee, U. S. V. His pathetic utterance as to a re-united North and South : “ This is the day mine eyes have long wished to behold,” will live in history equally with General Grant’s “ Let us have peace.”

OFFICE OF MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDING.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY CORPS AND
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF
HAVANA, CAMP COLUMBIA.

HAVANA, April 29th, 1899.

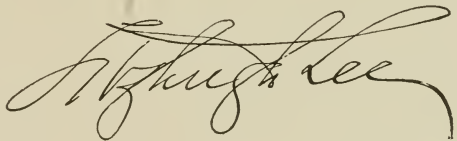
CHAS H. HEIMSOTH,
111 5th Avenue,
New York City.

MY DEAR SIR :

Your communication of the 25th inst. in reference to the Koltes Camp, S. V., U. S. A., has been duly received, and I write to say that I am always glad to hear that the Sons of Veterans have organized themselves into associations for the purpose of preserving the history of the deeds of their fathers.

I am sure this opinion is endorsed by all, whether they fought for the North or for the South in the war 1861-65.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours very truly,".



BRIGADIER-GENERAL FREDERICK DENT GRANT.

From Brigadier-General Frederick Dent Grant, the oldest son of the famous Union leader, General U. S. Grant, who as Police Commissioner of New York city, served with credit under trying conditions; as Minister to Austria he well represented this country as an American. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he was appointed Colonel of the 14th Regiment, N. Y. State Volunteers, and afterward made Brigadier-General.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
MADISON SQUARE, NEW YORK.

MR. C H. HEIMSOOTH,

DEAR SIR :

I appreciate exceedingly your kind invitation for the meeting of the "Sons of Veterans" at Utica, and regret that official duties prevent my accepting it much as I would like to be with the sons of my father's old comrades, on the happy occasion.

With appreciative thanks for your thought of me.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "F. D. Grant". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Grant".



Copyright by Rockwood.

HON. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

From the Governor of the Empire State, the fearless, frank and free-spoken American patriot; statesman and soldier alike, Theodore Roosevelt (late Colonel 1st. U. S. Vol. Cavalry). Essentially a leader of men, whether at the head of the Metropolitan Police, organizing our peerless navy, or leading his ever-victorious regiment of "Rough Riders" to the storming of Spanish entrenchments.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ALBANY.

January 26th, 1899.

MR. C. HEIMSOTH,
1st Lieut. Koltes Camp, No. 171,
S. V., U. S. A.

MY DEAR MR. HEIMSOTH :

I wish you all success in your undertaking. I have the greatest sympathy with the Sons of Veterans, and hope you can get out a wise and suitable memorial volume as good in execution as it is in patriotic purpose.

Faithfully yours,

Thos. W. Corser



COL. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

From the standard bearer of the silver wing of the Democratic party, William Jennings Bryan (late Colonel Commanding, Third Nebraska Infantry, U. S. V.), who has sheathed his sword with peace and returned to the triumphs of the forum.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN,
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

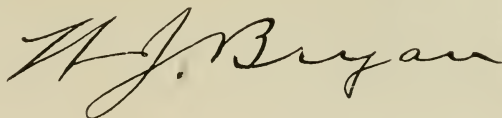
March 3rd, 1899.

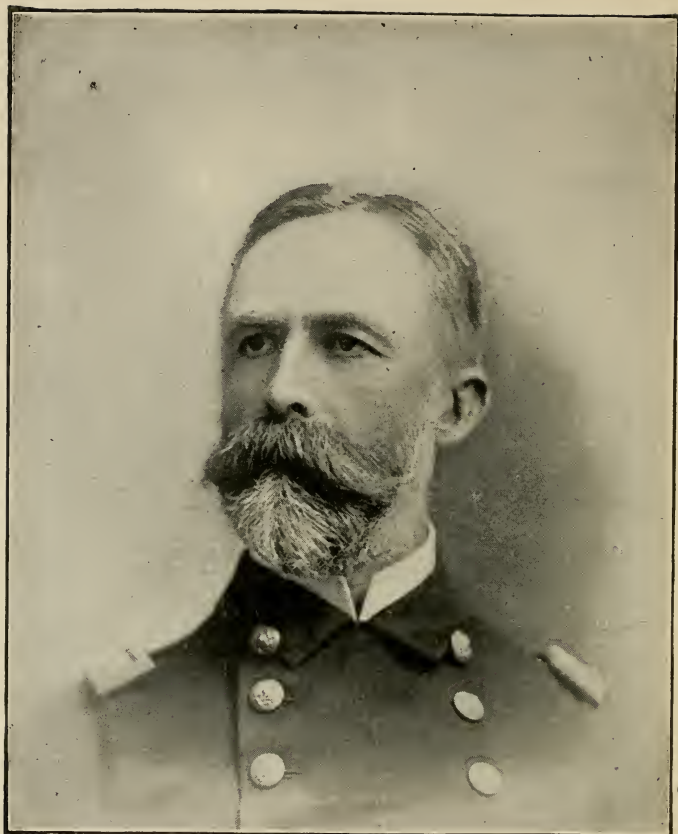
MR. CHARLES H. HEIMSOOTH,
111 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

MY DEAR SIR :

In response to your request for an autograph letter, I beg to congratulate the Sons of Veterans upon the work they are doing, and to assure them that in their laudable endeavor to stimulate patriotism, and keep alive the memory of those who fought for the Union, they will have the hearty co-operation of all classes and all sections.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. J. Bryan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours truly,".



REAR-ADMIRAL WILLIAM T. SAMPSON.

From Admiral William T. Sampson, who in 1864 (as a Lieutenant) was detailed to the ironclad *Patopsco*, and got his first taste of war against the Confederates. At the outbreak of the war with Spain he was made Acting Rear-Admiral by the President, and was in command of the American fleet off Santiago de Cuba, which destroyed the entire Spanish Squadron.

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP NEW YORK.

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 10th, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR :

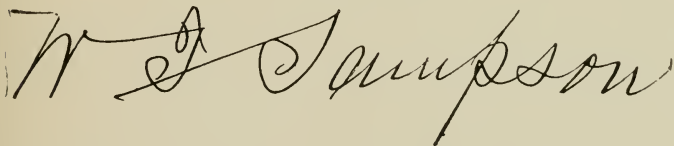
Your letter of May second was duly received. The great amount of mail awaiting my attention on the arrival of the squadron from the winter's cruise, precluded an earlier answer.

I do not recall having received a former application from you. Owing to the continuous movements of the ships, it is probable that your letter never reached me. If so, it was probably overlooked among the great mass of mail matter which daily reaches my office. If such was the case I hasten to apologize, and to assure you that it was purely an oversight, as I am always glad to be of even such slight service to an organization as the one which you represent.

Allow me to wish the Sons of Veterans in general, and your Division in particular, my best wishes for your success in honoring the deeds and enlivening the memories of your gallant fathers who sacrificed so much, and some of them their all, that the Union might be preserved. To them is due the fact that when the United States was assailed by a foreign power, we were strong enough to give victorious battle to the enemy. In these days, no less than '61, the watchword of every nation is and must be "UNITY." In the next war, as in the one just over, the nation must largely depend upon the noble self-sacrifice and generous devotion to Country and to Right, of the sons of the "boys" of '61, already united together by reverence of similar qualities in their ancestors. This I understand to be the great principle which actuates your society.

Therefore I renew my assurances of interest in the welfare of your organization and in its several members.

Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. A. Sampson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Rear Admiral, United States Navy.

MR. CHARLES H. HEIMSOOTH,
No. 111 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.



REAR-ADMIRAL WINFIELD SCOTT SCHLEY.

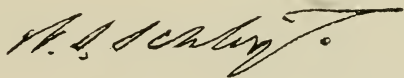
From the brave and gallant Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, U. S. N., famous in the annals of naval warfare for his defeat of Spain's second Armada ; and dear to the hearts of his countrymen for his epigrammatic utterances : " I have the Spanish ships bottled up and they'll never get home." " This is a great day for our country ;" and, " The victory is big enough for us all."

THE EVERETT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

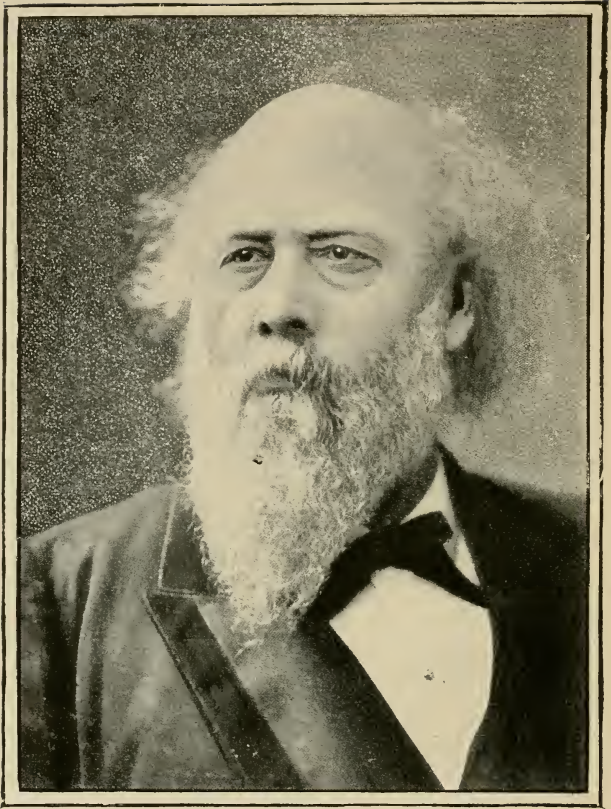
DEAR SIR :

I hold that the organization of the Sons of Veterans deserves all the encouragement that their worthy fathers won, and that their purposes are as patriotic in keeping alive the memories of those grand men. The continuance of our freedom, and the welfare of the nation depends so largely upon the patriotism of the Sons of Veterans, and surely no body of our citizens can feel greater pride in our country than the sons of those who did so much for it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. S. Seelye". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below.

CHARLES H. HEIMSOOTH,
111 5th Avenue,
New York, N. Y.



REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE WALLACE MELVILLE.

From the brave and gallant civil war veteran, Rear-Admiral George Wallace Melville, Engineer-in-Chief of the U. S. Navy. To him is primarily due the wonderful success of our ships in regard to motive power. During the civil war Admiral Melville distinguished himself as a hero throughout the entire struggle. In 1873 on the *Tigress* he made a memorable trip to the Arctic, and six years later, in the *Jeanette* again entered the Polar seas on an expedition marked by heroism of a lofty character.

BUREAU OF STEAM ENGINEERING,
NAVY DEPARTMENT.

May 5th, 1899.

KOLTES CAMP, No. 171, S. V., U. S. A.,
431 Sixth St.,
New York City.

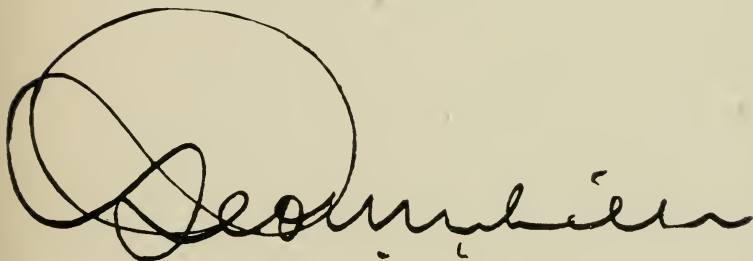
GENTLEMEN :

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of the courteous letter written by your Adjutant, under date of the 29th ultimo, and trust that your proposed souvenir will be a great success in every way.

The results of the past year have shown that the sons of the veterans of '61 to '65 were able during the war with Spain to render just as good an account of themselves as their sires did more than thirty years ago.

In a free country like ours, where our traditional policy is against the maintenance of a large army, we shall always have to depend upon the citizen soldiery, and in order that this may be a firm reliance the patriotic spirit of devotion to the country and admiration of gallant deeds must be kept alive. This admirable work your organization is calculated to accomplish very thoroughly, and consequently all who love our country and wish it success must wish your organization God speed.

Wishing you continued success, believe me,
Yours very sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Meade". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning.

Rear-Admiral and Engineer-in-Chief,
U. S. Navy.



REAR-ADMIRAL CHARLES O'NEILL, U. S. N.

From the brave and gallant veteran of the civil war Rear-Admiral Charles O'Neill, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau, U. S. N., famous in the annals of naval warfare for his bravery on board the *Cumberland* and the *Rhode Island*, and for his onerous duties in supplying all the vessels of the navy during the war with Spain, both at home and abroad, with ammunition of all kinds, and to rapidly accumulate a reserve supply, and in no instance was anything lacking that was essential to the efficiency of our vessels.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 1st, 1899.

TO THE MEMBERS OF
GENERAL JOHN A. KOLTES CAMP, No. 171
(Troop K), N. Y. S. V., U. S. A.,
431 Sixth St., New York City.

GENTLEMEN:

It affords me much pleasure to contribute my autograph to your proposed souvenir.

I know of no better way to keep alive those sentiments of patriotism, upon which the future of our Republic must depend, than in perpetuating the deeds of those who, in the past, gave their lives or services in the defense of the principles of liberty, equality and justice, upon which our institutions are founded.

I trust that your Annual Encampment will give pleasure to all concerned and that all may be spared to participate in many similar occasions.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles Steele". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rear-Admiral U. S. N.,
Chief of Bureau of Ordnance.



REAR-ADMIRAL JOHN W. PHILIP, U. S. N.

From the fearless Rear-Admiral John W. Philip, of the U. S. Battleship *Texas*, whose utterance ; "Don't cheer boys, the poor devils are dying," was one of the finest tributes a warrior ever paid to humanity.

NAVY YARD,
NEW YORK.

February 28th, 1899.

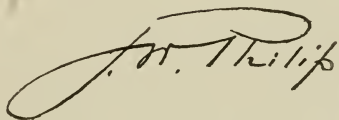
1ST LIEUT. CHAS. H. HEIMSOTH,
111 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR :

I am in sympathy with the noble work the Sons of Veterans are engaged in, but am not vain enough to class my name in the class you were pleased to place it.

I thank you for your kind personal expression, and remain,

Yours truly, etc.,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. M. Philip". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Yours truly, etc.,".



CAPTAIN CHARLES DWIGHT SIGSBEE, U. S. N.

From the brave and gallant Captain Charles Dwight Sigsbee, who, while he so doughtily helped to avenge the destruction of his command, the U. S. Battleship *Maine*, rose to the loftiest heights of true statesmanship with his historic caution to his countrymen :— “ Public opinion should be suspended until further report.”



U. S. S. TEXAS.

U. S. S. TEXAS,
AT SEA, PASSAGE HAVANA TO
CIENFUEGOS,

March 11th, 1899.

I have the honor to send greetings to Koltes Camp,
No. 171 (Troop K), Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and to
wish the organization success in its Annual Encampment
at Utica.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. D. Sigsbee," with a flourish at the end.

Captain, U. S. Navy.



CAPT. JOSEPH B. COGHLAN, U. S. N.

From the fearless and daring Captain Joseph B. Coghlan of the *Raleigh* who fired the first shot at Manila in the Spanish-American War, and who warned Admiral Von Diederich's fleet for once and all that America would brook no further interference at Manila.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., May 22d, 1899.

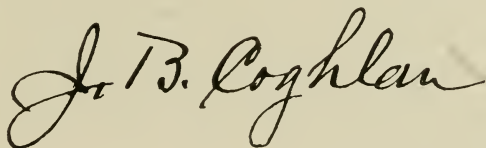
MY DEAR MR. HEIMSOTH :

It is impossible for me to comply with your request, of April 19th, '99, for my photograph, as I haven't one in my possession. Should I get any in the future I will try to remember you.

Of course I feel in sympathy with your organization, as I am a Veteran of '61-'65 myself, and have a son.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. B. Coghlan". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

Captain, U.S.N.



CAPTAIN A. T. MAHAN, U. S. N.

From the scholarly author and skilled American naval strategist, Captain A. T. Mahan, U. S. N. To him, as a member of the Strategy Board, is due in great measure the success of America's Navy in the war with Spain; while the Anglo-Saxon race owes him a debt of gratitude for his brilliant works on naval affairs.

160 West Eighty-Sixth Street.

March 13th, 1898.

DEAR SIR :

Replying to yours of the 10th, I must confine myself to expressing good wishes for the success of your undertaking.

Very truly yours,

A. J. Mahan



LIEUTENANT JOHN B. BERNADOU, U. S. N.

From that bold sailor, Lieutenant John B. Bernadou, U. S. Torpedo Boat *Winslow*, whose brilliant exploit would have brought praise from a Decatur or a Nelson. Wounded severely in Cardenas Harbor, May 11, 1898, when the *Winslow* and its heroes attacked artillery in position, the vessel disabled and five of its crew killed or wounded, Bernadou, the brave, never "gave up the ship."



THE "WINSLOW" IN ACTION.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

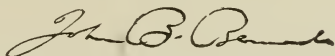
March 6th, 1899.

KOLTES CAMP, No. 171, S. V.

GENTLEMEN :

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. and beg leave to express my cordial sympathy with your noble and patriotic work.

Very truly yours,



Lieut. U. S. Navy.



SERGEANT WILLIAM ANTHONY, U. S. N.

THE STORY OF A TRUE HERO.

"When the turn was reached, some one ran into me violently. It was private William Anthony, the orderly at the cabin door. He said something apologetic and reported that the ship had been blown up and was sinking. * * * Anthony has been pictured as making an exceedingly formal salute on that occasion. The dramatic effect of a salute cannot add to his heroism. If he had made a salute it could not have been seen in the blackness of that compartment. Anthony did his whole duty, at great personal risk, at a time when he might have evaded the danger without question, and deserved all the commendation that he received for his act. He hung near me with unflagging zeal and watchfulness that night until the ship was abandoned."—From the "Personal Narrative of the *Maine*," by her Commander, Captain Charles Dwight Sigsbee, U. S. N., in the *Christmas Century*.



Copyright by J. C. Hemmit.

MARINE BARRACKS,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

March 14th, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR :

Yours of 10th inst. at hand. Being on a short leave I did not receive it until this A. M. Be assured that I am in hearty sympathy and accord with the sons of men who laid their lives on their country's altar, in order to perpetuate our glorious union. A united country, cemented by their blood, is proof to the world, that those who fell did not die in vain. May God in His infinite mercies extend to them the beatitude craved by us all.

With many wishes for the success of your organization,
I am very truly yours,

Fre. Anthony

Serg't. U. S. Marine Corps.



REAR-ADMIRAL PHILIP HICHBORN.

From Rear-Admiral Philip Hichborn, who comes of a stock that contributed to the sinews of colonial independence (Deborah Hichborn being the mother of Paul Revere). After thirty-nine years of faithful service, he has achieved the honorable position of Chief Constructor of the U. S. Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 7th, 1899.

COMRADES :

I address you as Comrades, although not possessing the honor of belonging to your Association, because of the fact that having been connected with the Navy of the United States ever since my boyhood days, I have inculcated into my life a fraternal feeling for all organizations, which, like your own, foster the spirit of patriotism and devotion to our form of government and its free institutions. The strength of our future greatness lies in the education of the present generation in the perpetuation of the memories of the struggles of our ancestors to secure the privileges we now enjoy, and to your Association which seeks to perform such good work, I extend a hearty greeting.

Very truly yours,



Rear Admiral,
Chief Constructor, U. S. Navy.

KOLTES CAMP, NO. 171, S. V., U. S. A.,
431 Sixth Street, New York, N. Y.



MAJOR GENERAL ELWELL S. OTIS.

From Major-General Elwell S. Otis, whose spurs were won as a volunteer in the Civil War. As Commanding General of the forces in the Philippines he has proved himself an able and determined soldier.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
AND EIGHTH ARMY CORPS,
MANILA, P. I.

April 10th, 1899.

KOLTES CAMP,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

GENTLEMEN:

I regret to say Major General Otis is so deeply engrossed in his duties here at the present time, that he is unable to answer personal correspondence. I trust that you will appreciate this situation and excuse the failure to respond with a personal letter. I am,

Very truly yours,

L. P. SANDERS,
Captain First Montana Vol. Infantry,
Aide-de-Camp.



CAPTAIN ROBLEY D. EVANS, U. S. N.

From "Fighting Bob." Evans of the U. S. S. *Iowa*, as brave a sailor as ever trod a quarter-deck. Famous for his historic characterization of the American sailor :

"So long as the enemy showed his flag they fought like American seamen ; but when the flag came down, they were as gentle and tender as American women."



U. S. S. "IOWA."

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY,
WASHINGTON.

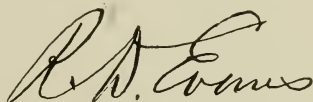
May 27th, 1899.

KOLTES CAMP, No. 171, N. Y. S. V.

GENTLEMEN :

In reply to your letter of May 15th, I beg to say that it gives me pleasure to send these lines for the book you propose to issue. It is your duty to keep before the young men of this country the noble patriotism of your gallant fathers to whose sacrifices we owe our present position as the leading free nation of the world.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. D. Evans". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Captain, U. S. N.



Copyright by Buffham.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTOR R. P. HOBSON, U. S. N.

From that true hero, Naval Constructor Richmond Pearson Hobson, who, having led a forlorn hope with the dash of a Cushing, and unspoiled by praise, preferred to eulogize the gallant "Jackies" who followed him rather than tell of his own deeds.



THE STEAMER "MERRIMAC."

HONG KONG, May 1st, 1899.

CHAS. H. HEIMSOTH, ESQ.,
111 5th Ave., New York, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

I assure you it only gives me pleasure to comply with the request of your letter of Feb. 25th, now to hand, and I beg to express my very best wishes, not only to the full success of the Annual Encampment of Troop K, next month, but also for the general welfare and progress of Sons of Veterans in their splendid work.

Appreciating the compliment of your request, I am,
Sincerely yours,

Richmond Pearson Hobson.

CARL DIETZ,

IMPORTER OF AND.....
WHOLESALE DEALER IN

RHINE, MOSELLE
AND BORDEAUX

WINES.

PORT, SHERRY, BRANDY, WHISKEY.

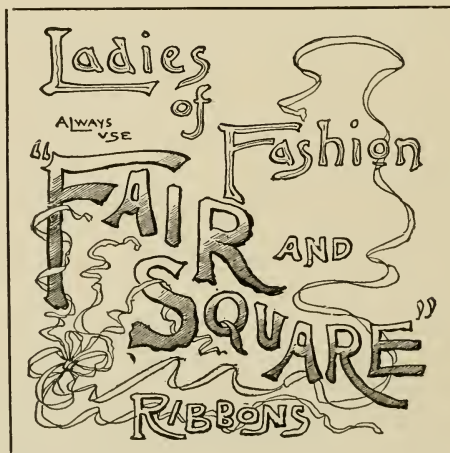
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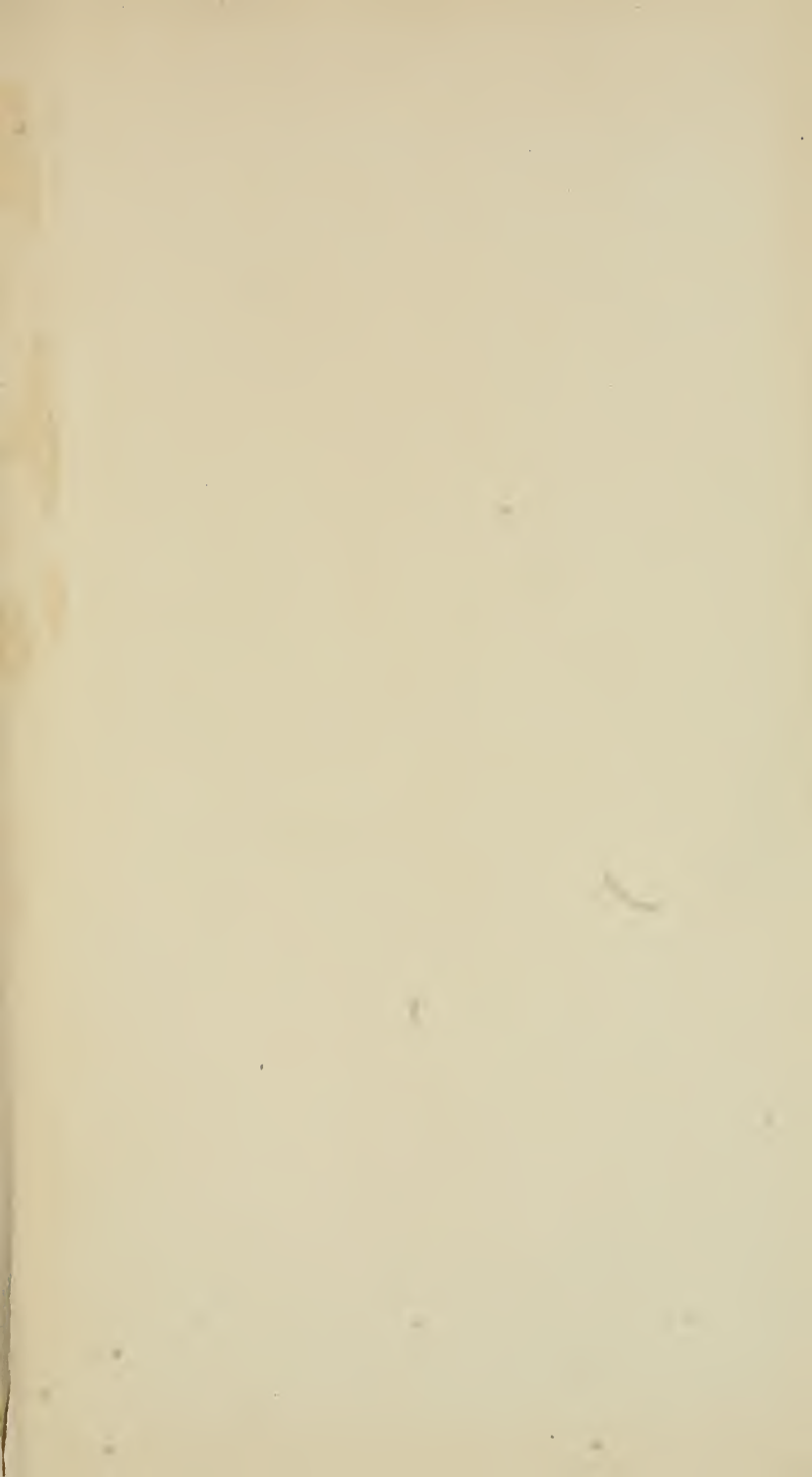
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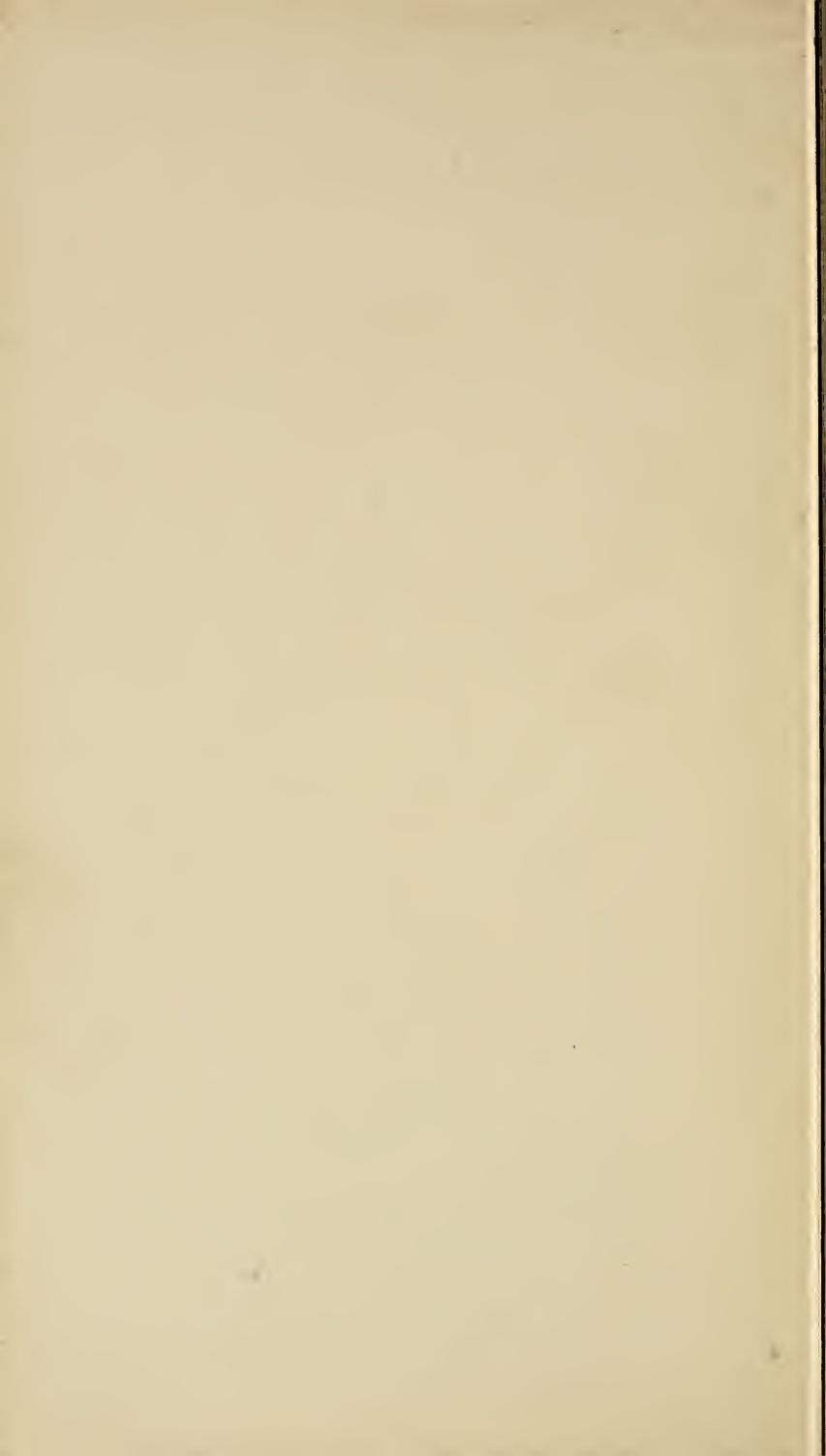
IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC

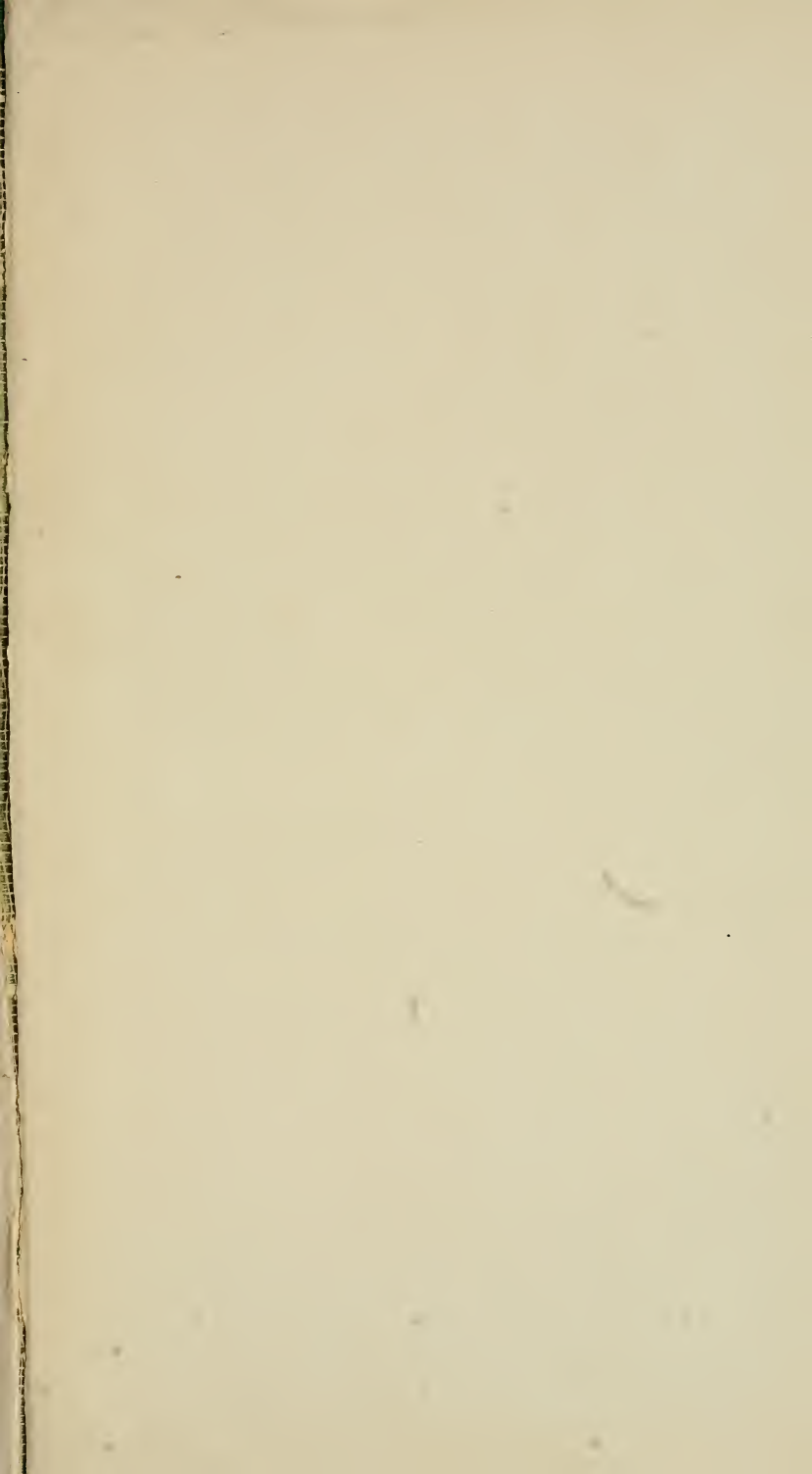
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