

The Newcomer

Volume 11, Issue One
Winter 2006 • \$2.25

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County

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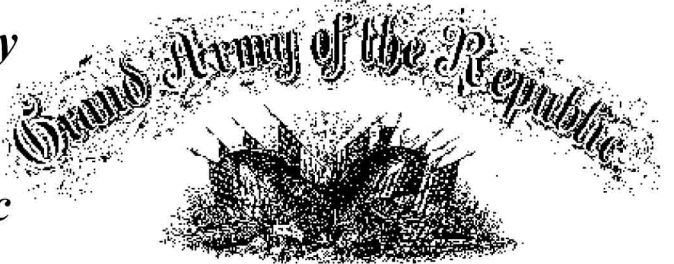
January-March 1906

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Newton County Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic

by Beth Bassett



There were a total of six Posts of the G.A.R. in Newton County., those being Post 57, Goodland, 1882-1912; Post 102, Kentland, or "McHolland", 1882-1931; Post 111, Morocco, 1882-1923; Post 253, Roselawn, 1883-1916; Post 298, initially named Pilot Grove, 1884-1888, then Mt. Ayr, 1884-1896; and Post 588, Brook, 1891-1932.

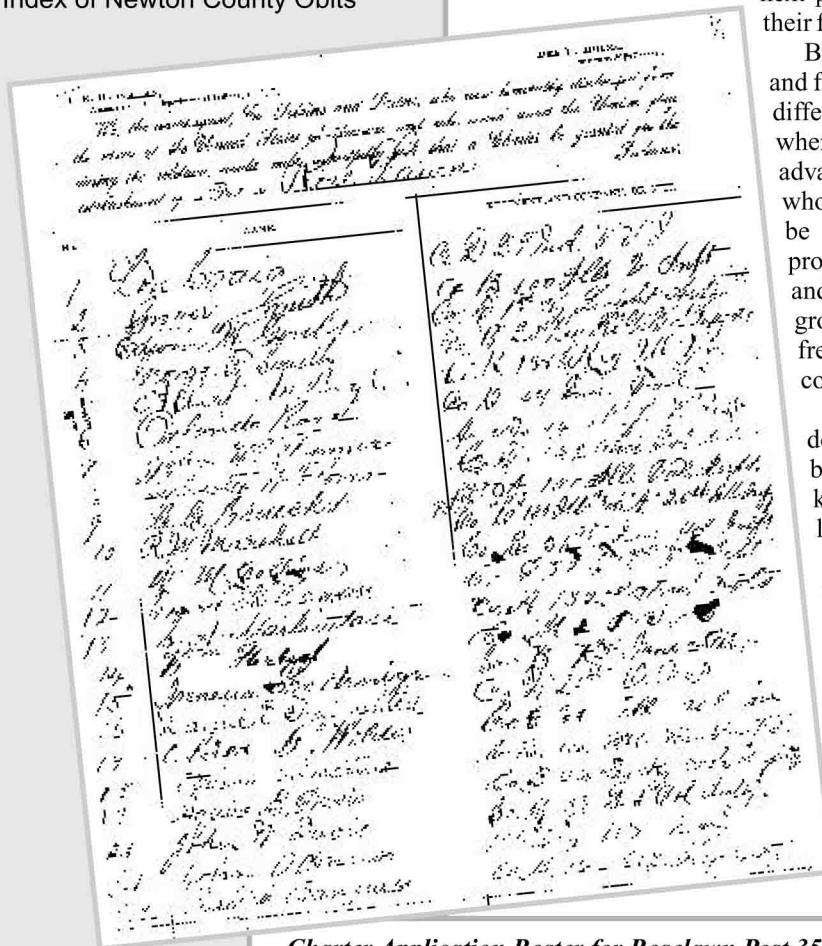
Before we begin a look at a collection of records of these Posts that were found in the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis, a bit of history on the organization as a whole and in Indiana will help clarify their significance to the organization in a time period of 1882-1892.

In early 1866 the United States of America--now securely one nation again--was waking to the reality of recovery from war, and this had been a much different war. In previous conflicts the care of the veteran warrior was the province of the family or the community. Soldiers were friends, relatives and neighbors who went off to fight--until the next planting or harvest. It was a community adventure and their fighting unit had a community flavor.

By the end of the Civil War, units had become less family and friend oriented; men from different communities and even different states were forced together by the onslot of battle where new friendships and lasting trust was forged. With the advances in the care and movement of the wounded, many who would have surely died in earlier wars returned home to be cared for by a community structure weary from a protracted war and now also faced with the needs of widows and orphans. Veterans needed jobs, including a whole new group of veterans--the colored soldier and his entire, newly freed, family. It was often more than the fragile fabric of communities could bear.

State and federal leaders from President Lincoln down had promised to care for "those who have borne the burden, his widows and orphans," but they had little knowledge of how to accomplish the task. There was also little political pressure to see that the promises were kept.

At the close of the Civil War, there were over a million men in the Union armies. Nearly two and a half million had served under the Stars and Stripes during the four long years of warfare, of whom three hundred and fifty-nine thousand had died. It was essential that those still in the service should disband and retire to civilian life. This was effected after a grand parade of the armies of the Potomac, the Tennessee, and of Georgia, on May 22 and 24, 1865, when one hundred and fifty thousand men marched through the wide avenues of Washington in review before the President and the commanding generals. From the glare and glory, the power and prestige of the soldier's career, they went into the obscurity of the peaceful pursuits of American



Charter Application Roster for Roselawn Post 353.

< from page 3 > general, a specific record of this type of transfer exist today. Some Indiana G. A. R post records did survive and are located at the Indiana State Archives.

Indiana G. A. R. posts were numbered from 1 to 593, but evidence indicates that when some G. A. R. posts went out of existence, their numbers were used again when a new post was formed. As a result, some G. A. R. post numbers were used for more than one post. The total number of G. A. R. posts that existed in Indiana were 636.

The G. A. R. national membership reached its peak in 1890 at 409,489; membership in the Department of Indiana reached its peak in 1889 at 25,173. As the veterans died, the membership inevitably declined. The national membership dropped to 213,901 in 1910 and 16, 597 in 1930, The Indiana membership from 13,006 in 1910 to 611 in 1930. As the doors closed on the Indiana G. A. R. in 1949, there were two registered members listed. The last surviving national G. A. R. member died in 1956.

In 1919, the Veterans of Foreign War's National Council of Administration unanimously adopted the following resolution: All members of the Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.) are hereby admitted as honorary members to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Presentation of their Grand Army identification card or button will entitle them to any meeting of any Post of the V. F. W. and to a seat.

Then, Commander-In-Chief Warner Karling said, "In honoring the G. A. R., we honor ourselves," in subsequent years, V. F. W. and G. A. R. Posts would conduct Memorial Day ceremonies together and hold joint conventions in some states. See related story



on Memorial Day.

Ironically, it was the refusal of the G. A. R. to admit Veterans of the Spanish American War that gave birth to the V. F. W. Though V. F. W. adopted many of G. A. R.'s rituals and organizational structures, it was committed to remaining "evergreen," thus rejecting the last-man syndrome of earlier groups like the G. A. R.

In 1949, there were nearly 19 million living American veterans. That summer, once again in Indianapolis, all veterans of the Civil War convened, or encamped as they called it, for their 83rd and very last time.

In 1949, V. A. records showed fewer than 30 Union veterans were still drawing pensions, ten of whom were G. A. R. members. Of these, only six would attend the encampment to settle the question of who would be the last commander. Theodore Penland, age 102, would be elected to that honored position, and he is quoted as having said, "new heroes would carry on guarding our nationhood." and to quote Barry Yeakle, author of the article, "GAR's Lasting Link in the Unbroken Patriotic Chain," from the VFW Magazine, "He was right."

That same year, the U. S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating the last encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Sources: www.SUVCW.com; The History of the G.A.R. by John E. Gilman, C.O., G.A.R., 1910; VFW Magazine, April, 2005, "GAR's Lasting Link in the Unbroken Patriotic Chain," by Barry Yeakle; "Indiana Civil War Veterans, Transcriptions of the Death Rolls of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, 1882-1948," by Dennis Northcutt. ■

W. H. CROCKETT, Secretary of the Department of Indiana, G. A. R.

We, the undersigned, Ex-Veterans and Ladies, who were honorably discharged from the service of the United States of America and who served under the Union flag during the rebellion, would most respectfully ask that a Charter be granted for the establishment of a Post at INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

NAME	RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS (IF KNOWN)
1. J. W. Adams	12th and Canal St
2. J. W. Adams	20 29th Bond Street
3. J. W. Adams	11 4 14
4. J. W. Adams	11 0 18
5. J. W. Adams	11 12
6. J. W. Adams	11 154
7. J. W. Adams	
8. J. W. Adams	
9. J. W. Adams	
10. J. W. Adams	11 97
11. J. W. Adams	12
12. J. W. Adams	11 28
13. J. W. Adams	11 15
14. J. W. Adams	11 76 2nd Col. Inf.
15. J. W. Adams	
16. J. W. Adams	11 21 1st
17. J. W. Adams	11 9 1st
18. J. W. Adams	11 77
19. J. W. Adams	11 118 1st Col. Inf.
20. J. W. Adams	11 1 1st
21. J. W. Adams	11 2 1st
22. J. W. Adams	11 5 1st
23. J. W. Adams	11 99
24. J. W. Adams	11 2 1st
25. J. W. Adams	11 80 1st Col. Inf.
26. J. W. Adams	11 5 1st
27. J. W. Adams	11 7 1st Col.
28. J. W. Adams	11 5 1st
29. J. W. Adams	11 5 1st
30. J. W. Adams	11 5 1st
31. J. W. Adams	11 97 1st

Charter Application Roster for the Morocco Post.

W. H. CROCKETT, Secretary of the Department of Indiana, G. A. R.

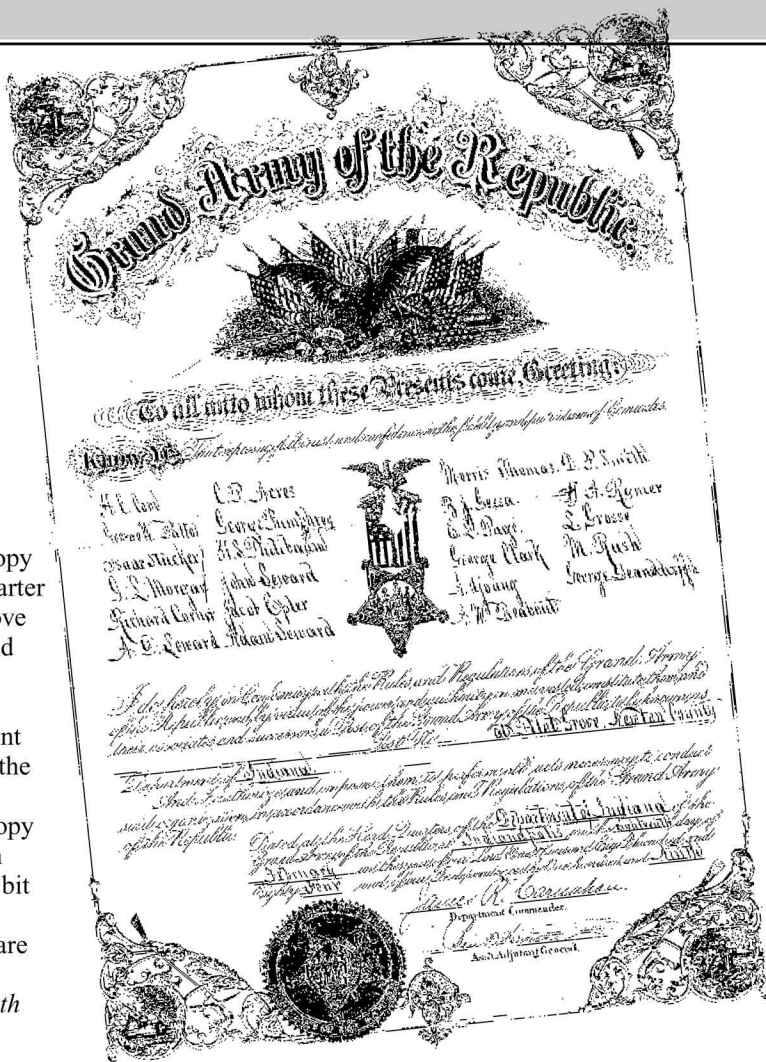
We, the undersigned, Ex-Veterans and Ladies, who were honorably discharged from the service of the United States of America and who served under the Union flag during the rebellion, would most respectfully ask that a Charter be granted for the establishment of a Post at Mt. Airy, INDIANA.

NAME	RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS (IF KNOWN)
1. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
2. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
3. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
4. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
5. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
6. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
7. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
8. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
9. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
10. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
11. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
12. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
13. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
14. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
15. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
16. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
17. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
18. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
19. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
20. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
21. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
22. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st
23. H. H. Adams	1535 S. 1st

Charter Application, 1890, Mt. Airy Post.

G. A. R. Charter

This is a copy of the actual Charter for the Pilot Grove Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The original document can be found in the Indiana State Archives. The copy was sent to us in two pieces, so a bit of the Charter member names are incomplete. Submitted by Beth Bassett.



Brook Band
March 31, 1891
J. M. Fuller, Q. M.
Geo. W. Knapp, Secy.
Near Brook, Conn.
Gen. J. B. Lyons, Pres.

not to strain and create as
they have thirty years ago
when the first year thousand
part to go on. It is now they
able to face failures. It is now
not to strain and create as
they have thirty years ago
when the first year thousand
part to go on. It is now they
able to face failures. It is now
not to strain and create as
they have thirty years ago
when the first year thousand
part to go on. It is now they
able to face failures. It is now

all we can do is to
proceed. It is now they
able to face failures. It is now
not to strain and create as
they have thirty years ago
when the first year thousand
part to go on. It is now they
able to face failures. It is now

Yours faithfully
Geo. W. Knapp

A letter from Geo. Knapp regarding the Brook Post Comrades.

You are aware of the fact that the old soldiers are not so strong and active as they were thirty years ago. When the first year thousand part to go on. It is now they are able to face failures. It is now not to strain and create as they have thirty years ago when the first year thousand part to go on. It is now they are able to face failures. It is now

gathering was patient and attentive, and nothing marred the beautiful exercises of the two days.

Notes
Morocco furnished a delegation of over 150 for the first day of the reunion.

The speech by Patrick Keefe was greatly appreciated by some while others did not like it.

The talk by Mr. Ade, on the early history of our county, was greatly appreciated by all, and unstinted praise was accorded Mr. Ade's efforts.

Recorder Boyles, Auditor Jones, Treasurer Ade, Clerk Drake and Supt. Kellenberger attended the reunion Friday.

Geo. Pumphrey and wife of Rensselaer came over Thursday to attend the reunion.

We don't like to mention the act, but nevertheless it is true, that the young men from one town in the county furnished twice as many drinks here on Thursday as all others put together.

Judge Thompson of Rensselaer was numbered among one of the ablest speakers present.

The welcome address by Ex-Sen. Geo. W. Knapp was highly gratifying to the old boys that wore the blue.

The committee can be commended for one thing, that is, they kept the streets and road leading to the grove sprinkled and free from dust.

As a commissary, Jack Esson can be classed as a No. 1, and the old soldiers who partook of the eatables furnished, can simply testify to that fact.

Grant Township may have the popular extemporaneous speaker, but some people do not think that way, unless he would stay within the vale of decency in language used before the public, and not make an ass of himself. Submitted by Beth Bassett.

O 1 d Settlers Reunion. In the evening of the first day, a large crowd was attracted to the grounds by the campfire, where good speaking and splendid music by the choir filled the program for the evening.

The second day was opened up with music by the band and choir followed by miscellaneous business matters and an election of officers.

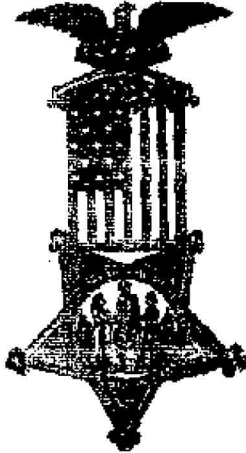
Mr. A. U. Beabout was elected President and Capt. Graves Secretary, both of Morocco, where it was decided to hold next year's reunion. The principle speaker of the afternoon, Col. James Dodge of Elkhart, Ind., arrived on the afternoon train from the north and was escorted by the band and Veterans to the grove, where he was introduced and delivered one of the best speeches ever heard in this vicinity.

The Brook Band furnished a delightful part in the program; the exercises being interspersed with some of the choicest selections.

To the Choir, whose music furnished one of the best attractions on the program, we can only say as many on the grounds said, that it was well worth going miles to hear. Brook can well be proud of her sings.

The heat was intense, but the large

SOLDIERS' REUNION
September 29 & 30, '91.



Kentland, Ind.

Reunited Again. Old Soldiers and Settlers Have A Grand Time - 13th Annual G. A. R. Reunion Held Here Thursday and Friday.

Brook Reporter, September 1, 1899

The Thirteenth Annual Reunion of the Old Soldiers of Newton County was held in the grove south of town, Thursday and Friday of last week. The register showed that there were 116 Veterans present, the largest number of ever present at a reunion in this county since the organization of the G. A. R.

While not as many were present as was expected, many were detained and others attended fairs and various attractions in the vicinity. The greatest number were present in the afternoon of the two days, Friday, where the crowd was estimated to be over 3,000.

On the forenoon of the first day, the people were entertained by a speaking by Ex-Congressman Hatch, Chaplain Beabout, Geo. W. Knapp and others. In the morning the meeting was called to order by President J. B. Lyons, after which the welcome address was delivered by Mr. Knapp, and the remaining time until noon was filled by other speakers.

In the afternoon was the First Annual

The Newton County G.A.R. Post Records

The State Archives have a record for each Newton County Post, but not from the same year. Some have been reproduced in this newsletter, and the remaining are on file at the Newton County Historical Society's Resource Center in Kentland, Indiana. On page six is an index of the names on the documents on file. Please note that these names were hand written, and some were very hard to decipher, they are listed here to the best of my ability to read them.

The first step in creating a Post required that an application be made by the Post Commander to the Commander of the Department of Indiana, G. A. R. at Indianapolis. A Chief Mustering Officer was then assigned by the Commander in Chief and would visit the Posts, then initiate the Post and its members, and in turn, send a roster back to the Commander in Chief for approval. Notes from the various Chief Mustering Officers indicate that every effort was made to "gather the boys together," in an organized fashion, and as quickly as possible. After all, our Posts were chartered beginning in 1882, which was 17 years after the end of the war, perhaps they felt they had waited long enough to re-organize the "boys in blue."

The Charter Application reads:

"We, the undersigned Ex-Soldiers and Sailors, who were honorably discharged from the service of the United States of

America and who served under the Union flag during the rebellion, would most respectfully ask that a Charter be granted for the establishment of a Post at (town, county written here,) Indiana."

Prospective members would then sign their name, and name their Regiment and Company, or Ship. Due to space restrictions, I will only list the names of those Veterans that appear on each Posts' Charter Application. ■

Descriptive Book of Mt. Ayr Post 298

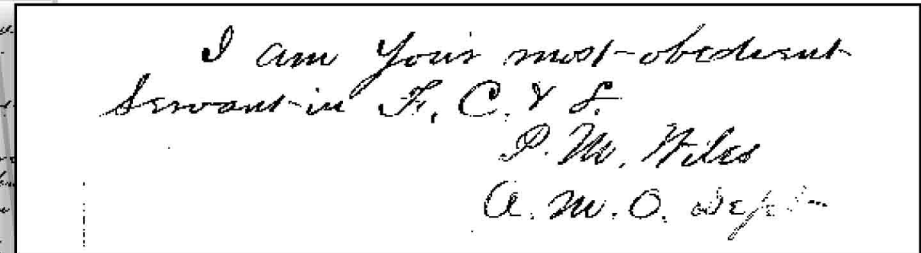
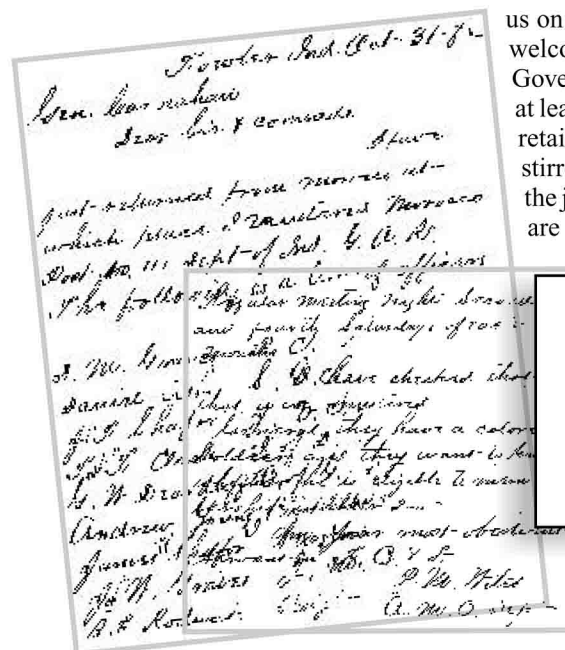
Copies made from the Newton County G. A. R. Post records included copies of pages from the Descriptive Book of the Mt. Ayr Post 298. The year these descriptions were taken is not stated, however, with close examination, there are duplicate entries for some of the Comrades, and the ages for those are different.

This book contains the following information: Comrade's name; age; birthplace; residence (current); occupation; entry into the Service (date, rank, Company and Regiment;) Final Discharge (date, rank, Company and Regiment;) length of service (month); and date of muster into the G.A.R. These columns were left blank: when honorably discharged, when suspended, when dropped, when dismissed, when reinstated, nature of wounds received, when and in what engagements wounded, and remarks. Just think of the knowledge we could have if they would have taken a few more minutes to "fill in the blanks!" *Submitted by Beth Bassett.* ■

"I am your most obedient Servant in F. C. and L." - What does that mean?

Amongst the copies of the Post information provided by the Indiana State Archives, (a Morocco letter is shown here,) were a few letters from the Mustering Officers, and the Post Commanders that accompanied the Charter Applications. I noticed that on the application, there was a common closure: "... yours in F. C. and L." Society member Kyle Conrad, who also is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), was able to provide information regarding my question as to the meaning of the initials.

"The Grand Army of the Republic proclaims as its fundamental creed **Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty**, - malice toward none, charity for all. We canonize no living man, but our dead heroes are the jewels in our imperial crown of glory, whose dazzling effulgence will kindle the spark of patriotism in the hearts of the next generation. We admire courage, manliness, and skill, even if opposed to us, and to such of our former enemies as have shown by their deeds - a willingness to embark with us on the great ocean of the future we concede perfect equality, an ardent friendship, a welcome to our campfires and a share in the charitable retreats established by Government for distress occasioned by the war; but we are human, and for one generation at least must prefer our own heroes, of which we have an abundance, and the privilege of retaining a suspicion of those men who did not fight, but from their places of safety stirred up sedition and conspiracy and fanned the flames of bitter discord which blinded the judgment of those who had a right to look to their leaders for the truth. Happily these are now nearly all gone, and the day seems near at hand when every intelligent man in



America will recognize the holy cause for which we fought and for which so many of our brightest and best youth so freely and so nobly gave their lives." This information was taken from the SUVCW web site, www.suvcw.com where you