

McLean County Museum of History

**Auxiliary of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War
(ASUVCW) Collection**

Processed by Shawn San Roman
Spring 1998

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1918-1943
PROVENANCE:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Brief History

The Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, (ASUVCW) is an organization closely associated to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, (SUVCW). Both are considered allied orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, (GAR), which was established in 1866. By 1878, many units of the GAR had established some form of junior association. In part this was due to the recognition that the requirements of becoming a member of the GAR (an honorable discharged veteran of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the USA 1861-1865, who fought on the Union side) not only limited membership but would see membership decline as comrades died. The Cadet Corps of Post 94 of the GAR, Philadelphia, organized by Major A.P. Davis, became the front runner in the organization of a national association of allied orders of the GAR. In 1883, the GAR declared this organization to be the sole organization of the Sons of the Union Veterans. By a resolution of the 1883 National Encampment the GAR demanded that all posts disband all other organizations and break associations with all other organizations except the Sons of Veterans of the U.S.A.

At this time the SVUSA units were military in nature and functioned as National Guard units with some units serving alongside of state militia during the Spanish-American War. As of 1904, the organization elected to break from its official military capacity and become a patriotic civic organization. Then in 1922 the name was changed from Sons of Veterans U.S.A to Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, a name which has remained to this day. However, to keep the military tradition alive some units formed the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR). These units proudly served during the First World War. After the war, SVR units were listed as a training company of the United States Army. Currently, their mission has become one of a historic, ceremonial and commemorative society. However, before that, to further identify their heritage, the GAR before disbanding and before the death of its last member officially designated SUVCW as the sole legal heir and representative of the Grand Army of the Republic. And, on August 20, 1954 an Act of Congress official incorporated the SUVCW with the passing of Public Law 605 in the second session of the 83rd Congress.

As the SUVCW grew into its important role, there was recognition that there needed to be help. Thus, in 1883 the first Ladies Aid Society to assist the work of the SUVCW was organized in Philadelphia. Many similar organizations were formed around the county in rapid succession. By 1886 it was evident that a National Organization was necessary and desired. The first National Encampment of the Ladies Aid Society was held in Akron, Ohio in September 1887. Seven years later, the 1894 National Encampment saw the name changed to Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, eventually becoming most recognizable as Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. As the SUVCW grew into its important role, there was recognition that there needed to be help. Thus, in 1883 the first Ladies Aid Society to assist the work of the SUVCW was organized in Philadelphia. Many similar organizations were formed around the county in rapid succession. By 1886 it was evident that a National Organization was necessary and desired. The first National Encampment of the Ladies Aid Society was held in Akron, Ohio in September 1887. Seven years later, the 1894 National Encampment saw the name changed to Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, eventually becoming most recognizable as Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the

Civil War. As the SUVCW grew into its important role, there was recognition that there needed to be help. Thus, in 1883 the first Ladies Aid Society to assist the work of the SUVCW was organized in Philadelphia. Many similar organizations were formed around the county in rapid succession. By 1886 it was evident that a National Organization was necessary and desired. The first National Encampment of the Ladies Aid Society was held in Akron, Ohio in September 1887. Seven years later, the 1894 National Encampment saw the name changed to Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, eventually becoming most recognizable as Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The principles of the ASUVCW are:

A firm belief and trust in Almighty God and realization that under his beneficent care and guidance the free institutions of our land, by the assistance and sacrifice of our veterans, have been preserved and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained. ?A firm belief and trust in Almighty God and realization that under his beneficent care and guidance the free institutions of our land, by the assistance and sacrifice of our veterans, have been preserved and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.? ?A firm belief and trust in Almighty God and realization that under his beneficent care and guidance the free institutions of our land, by the assistance and sacrifice of our veterans, have been preserved and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.?

True allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and a respect for devotion and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws, with a firm opposition to anything that may tend to weaken loyalty, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our nation.

The purpose of the organization is to continue the memories of ancestors and their sacrifices in the maintenance of the Union. A major part of this is assisting disabled veterans, observing Memorial Day and instilling patriotism and love of the United States. At all levels, local, state and national, members are expected to participate in ceremonies and programs that commemorate and praise the honored dead who fought for the preservation of the United States during the Civil War. These acts include but are not limited to wreath laying ceremonies, publicizing national holidays and educating future generations. The purpose of the organization is to continue the memories of ancestors and their sacrifices in the maintenance of the Union. A major part of this is assisting disabled veterans, observing Memorial Day and instilling patriotism and love of the United States. At all levels, local, state and national, members are expected to participate in ceremonies and programs that commemorate and praise the honored dead who fought for the preservation of the United States during the Civil War. These acts include but are not limited to wreath laying ceremonies, publicizing national holidays and educating future generations. The purpose of the organization is to continue the memories of ancestors and their sacrifices in the maintenance of the Union. A major part of this is assisting disabled veterans, observing Memorial Day and instilling patriotism and love of the United States. At all levels, local,

state and national, members are expected to participate in ceremonies and programs that commemorate and praise the honored dead who fought for the preservation of the United States during the Civil War. These acts include but are not limited to wreath laying ceremonies, publicizing national holidays and educating future generations.

At the time of this writing, there exists a national organization, with subordinate state departments and local camps. Branches of the ASUVCW exist in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland-Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin. There is an Annual National Encampment held in conjunction with the SUVCW. At the time of this writing, there exists a national organization, with subordinate state departments and local camps. Branches of the ASUVCW exist in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland-Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin. There is an Annual National Encampment held in conjunction with the SUVCW. At the time of this writing, there exists a national organization, with subordinate state departments and local camps. Branches of the ASUVCW exist in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland-Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin. There is an Annual National Encampment held in conjunction with the SUVCW.

Membership requirements are as follows:

Female lineal or collateral descendants (daughter, grand-daughter, great-grand daughter, niece, grand-niece, etc.) not less than 12 years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines regularly mustered and honorably discharged for the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865. Female lineal or collateral descendants (daughter, grand-daughter, great-grand daughter, niece, grand-niece, etc.) not less than 12 years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines regularly mustered and honorably discharged for the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865. Female lineal or collateral descendants (daughter, grand-daughter, great-grand daughter, niece, grand-niece, etc.) not less than 12 years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines regularly mustered and honorably discharged for the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865.

Wives, mothers, widows of SUVCW in good standing. (Not associates)
Legally adopted daughters of SUVCW in good standing.

Or

A woman without the required ancestry can become an associate by demonstrating genuine interest in the Civil War and subscribing to the principles of the ASUVCW.

Background information acquired through Brief History of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW

- contained in the Collection and <http://suvchw.org/asuv.htm> (February 4, 1998)

Scope and Content Notes

The ASUVCW Collection consists of encampment proceedings (1933-40), constitutions and by-laws, rituals and other assorted materials (1918-43). The Collection also contains general orders from both the national headquarters (1930-42) and the state of Illinois Department headquarters (1929-43). This collection arrived as a component part of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Because of the size of the SUVCW collection, as well as recognition of the independence of the Auxiliary, the original box of SUVCW materials was divided into the SUVCW and the ASUVCW Collections.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Ritual Books of the ASUVCW

- 1.2 1930 Ritual
- 1.3 1935 Ritual

Folder 2: National Roster, Constitution and By-Laws

- 2.1 1918 By-Laws
- 2.2 1929
- 2.3 1934
- 2.4 1938
- 2.5 (Date unknown) By-Laws Indiana Department of the ASUVCW
- 2.6 1923 Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the ASUVCW
- 2.7 1927
- 2.8 1942
- 2.9 1933/4
- 2.10 1934/5
- 2.11 1935/6
- 2.12 1942/3

Folder 3: National Department ASUVCW Reports and General Orders

- 3.1 September 30, 1930 National Report of the Secretary
- 3.2 November 11, 1930 General Order Current Series 2,
Consecutive S. 256
- 3.3 February 7, 1931 3, 257
- 3.4 May 9, 1931 4, 258
- 3.5 March 25, 1931 Circular Letter #1
- 3.6 January 25, 1932 General Order Current Series 3, Consecutive
S. 262
- 3.7 December 30, 1932 2, 266
- 3.8 December 30, 1932 Circular Letter #1

3.9	December 1, 1933	General Order Current Series 2, Consecutive	
	S. 271		
3.10	February 7, 1938		3, 294
3.11	March 30, 1938	Circular Letter of the National Chaplain	
3.12	April 7, 1938	General Order Current Series 4, Consecutive	
	S. 295		
3.13	March 10, 1939		3, 299
3.14	November 1, 1939		2, 302
3.15	March 1, 1939		3, 303
3.16	May 15, 1940		4, 304
3.17	July 17, 1940		5, 305
3.18	September 20, 1940		1, 306
3.19	October 30, 1940		2, 307
3.20	February 25, 1941		3, 308
3.21	March 26, 1942		3, 313

Folder 4: Illinois Department ASUVCW General Orders

4.1	March 4, 1930	General Order No. 3	Series 1929-1930
4.2	May 13, 1930	4	
4.3	November 16, 1931	3	Series 1931-1932
4.4	February 15, 1932	4	
4.5	April 16, 1932	5	
4.6	February 6, 1933	3	Series 1932-1933
4.7	June 20, 1933	1	
4.8	October 9, 1933	2	
4.9	February 25, 1934	3	
4.10	May 12, 1934	4	
4.11	March 1, 1938	4	Series 1937-1938
4.12	May 1, 1938	5	
4.13	March 22, 1939	4	Series 1938-1939
4.14	April 25, 1939	5	
4.15	February 17, 1940	3	Series 1939-1940
4.16	June 29, 1940	1	Series 1940-1941
4.17	March 1, 1941	3	
4.18	May 5, 1941	4	
4.19	June 10, 1941	1	Series 1941-1942
4.20	October 1941	2	
4.21	November 29, 1941	3	
4.22	(Date unknown)	4	
4.23	June 28, 1942	1	(No Series dates)
4.24	October 20, 1942	2	
4.25	January 20, 1943	3	
4.26	June 4, 1943	4	

Folder 5: Proceedings of the 47th Annual National Encampment of the ASUVCW (1933)

- Folder 6: Proceedings of the 49th Annual National Encampment of the ASUVCW (1935)**
- Folder 7: Proceedings of the 50th Annual National Encampment of the ASUVCW (1936)**
- Folder 8: Proceedings of the 54th Annual National Encampment of the ASUVCW (1940)**
8.1 Proceedings Book of the 54th Annual National Encampment of the ASUCW (1940)
8.2 Officers Reports of the 54th Annual National Encampment
- Folder 9: Letter of Request for Bazaar Volunteers**
- Folder 10: Letter to Lester and Alta Steward from Em? Finch?**
- Folder 11: Miscellaneous Materials**
11.1 Brief History of the ASUVCW
11.2 The Americans Creed
11.3 Selections for Patriotic Anniversaries (1918)
11.4 Newspaper photo clipping caption reads, Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans Install Officers