

LADIES OF THE G.A.R.

Booklet owned & presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Apologies for the quality, but the booklet is very fragile and could not be scanned.



Notes about some of the ladies mentioned....

In this booklet, "Ladies of the G. A. R.," Amanda V. Riggs was the President at the time of publication, circa 1909. Pictured below her is Lillian Riggs, identified as her daughter. At that time, it says Amanda's husband was "Comrade Riggs of the J. C. Caldwell Post."

Amanda V. Riggs, the former Amanda V. Connor, was born February 6, 1858, the d/o Edward Connor and Sarah Dowler of Marshall County. She married W. F. Keyser August 10, 1881. She was a widow, age 43, when she married Civil War Veteran, William Marshall Riggs, a widower, age 57, on March 20, 1901 in Marshall County.

Apparently, Amanda Connor and W. F. Keyser had a daughter, Lillian Edna Keyser. Lillian married Ryland L. Riggs on January 7, 1905 in Moundsville. Ryland was one of numerous children of William Marshall Riggs and his first wife, Mary Harris, who had lived in Doddridge County. Ryland died May 27, 1908 at age 39. At the time of the 1910 Federal Census, Lilian E. Riggs, daughter-in-law of William M. (and d/o Amanda), was residing with William and Amanda. Also in the home was Mary Ursula Riggs, Ryland's daughter from a previous marriage. - On August 15, 1912, Lillian Riggs married Chester L. Wilkinson.

During the Civil War, William Marshall Riggs served in Company "E" 3rd West Virginia Infantry, which became the 6th West Virginia Cavalry. He mustered in July 5, 1861 and then re-enlisted February 1, 1864.

Born March 19, 1844 in Tyler County, William was the son of Alexander Riggs and Margaret Thomas. In the 3rd Infantry, William was an orderly to General Averill. He was captured at New Creek, Va., Nov 28, 1864. He was exchanged and returned to duty April 11, 1865, which was near the end of the war. Possibly because he still had time to serve, he might have continued with the cavalry in campaigns in the west. From his Service Record, dated Jan 18, 1868: "Tried on the charge of mutiny and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, with loss of all pay and allowances due or to become due and imprisoned in the Missouri State Penitentiary for five years, G.O. #12 Department of the Missouri Series of 1865."

The circumstances of that conviction in Missouri are not known, but after the war, he lived in Doddridge County, West Virginia and raised a large family. In 1887, he applied for and received a government pension, Certificate #435284, so the criminal issue must have been resolved.

After his wife died, he moved to Marshall County where he was a Justice of the Peace and worked as a guard at the state prison. He was active in the G.A.R. and was a member of the J. C. Caldwell Post G.A.R. in Moundsville.

William Marshall Riggs died January 27, 1929 and he is buried at Greenlawn Cemetery, Moundsville. His wife, Amanda V. Connor Keyser Riggs, applied for and received a Widow's pension based on her husband's service. She died March 20, 1938 and she is buried at Allen Grove Cemetery, Sherrard.

Anna Parker Hall

<http://www.wvgw.net/ohio/nurses/cw-parkerhall.htm>

Miss Nellie Cozad, named as the Patriotic Instructor, was never married. Born in Ohio on December 21, 1887, she was the daughter of Samuel Claudius Cozad and Laura Bash. She is found in Wheeling City Directories. According to her death record, she resided at Woodruff, Marshall County until she was removed to the Magnolia Nursing Home in Sistersville, Tyler County. She died June 13, 1957.



Ladies of the G. A. R.
DEPARTMENT
— OF —
WEST VIRGINIA

THE Department of West Virginia, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized by Mrs. M. Anna Hall at her own expense which she donated to the department. The department was instituted on Saturday, August 29th, 1896 by Mrs. Carrie V. Sheriff of Pennsylvania. Mrs. M. Anna Hall served two terms as president and organized every circle in the department to date.



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Department President—Mrs. Amanda V. Riggs Moundsville, W. Va.
 Department Vice—Mrs. Anna H. Richmond Mt. Claire, W. Va.
 Jr. Vice—Mrs. Gertrude Moser Morgantown, W. Va.
 Secretary—Lillian Riggs Moundsville, W. Va.
 Secretary—Mrs. Ida F. Koontz, Morgantown, W. Va.
 Chaplain—Mrs. S. A. Thatcher, Moundsville, W. Va.
 Counsellor—Miss Wynnye G. Williamson, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Organizer—Mrs. M. Anna Hall, Wheeling, W. Va.
 Patriotic Instructor—Miss Nellie Cozad Wheeling, W. Va.
 Musical Director—Miss M. Virginia Hall, Wheeling, W. Va.
 Inspector—Mrs. Bettie Hensley, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Press Correspondent—Mrs. Cornelia Harden Fairmont, W. Va.
 Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Wingrove, Morgantown, W. Va.
 Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Le Roy Shaw Kingwood, W. Va.
 Council of Administration—Mrs. Belle Shroyer, Chairman, Mannington, W. Va.; Mrs.
 Ella Fair, Wheeling; Miss Marie Cairney, Morgantown.

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

M. Anna Hall Wheeling
 Olivia S. Botsford Wheeling
 Anna Bell Topp Moundsville
 M. J. Guy Braddock, Pa.
 Ruth Hall Tucker Newark, Ohio
 Sallie Rector Clarksburg
 Nellie H. Nesbitt Wheeling
 M. Virginia Hall Wheeling
 Helen Whitwam Clarksburg
 Sarah A. Williamson Parkersburg
 Sarah A. Lloyd Fairmont
 Wynnye G. Williamson Parkersburg



MRS. AMANDA V. RIGGS
Department President

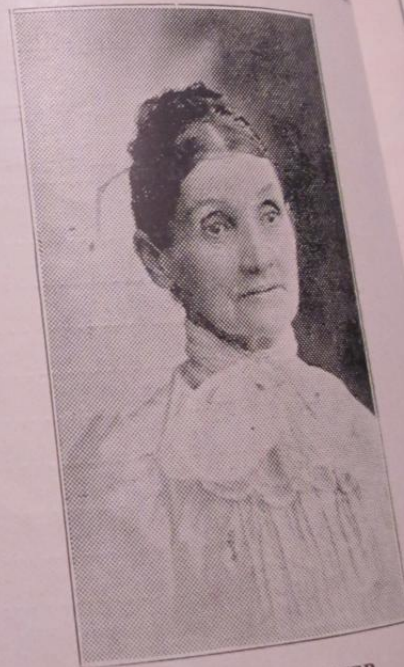
Is the wife of Comrade Riggs of J. C. Caldwell Post. Mrs. Riggs is possessed of fine courage and patriotism which makes her an ornament to the elevated position she holds.

Mrs. R.
honorary
is a nob



LILLIAN RIGGS
Department Secretary

Lillian Riggs is the daughter of our Department President and is a charming young woman, combined with sweet simplicity, grace and tact.



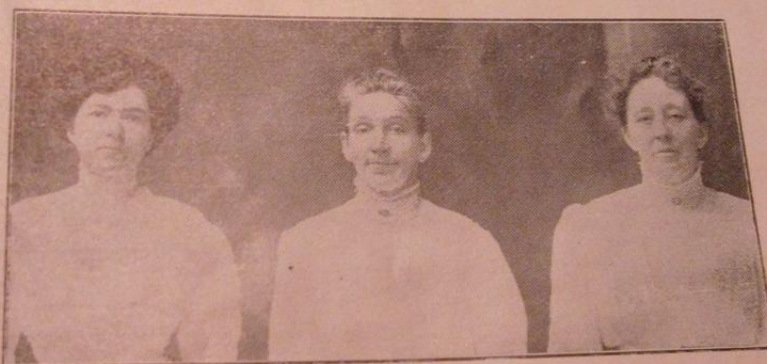
MRS. S. A. THATCHER,
Department Chaplain.

Mrs. S. A. THATCHER, is the beloved Chaplain of our order, and personifies a high type of American gentlewoman and is the widow of a soldier who gave noble service to his country.



MRS. ANNA H. RICHMOND
Senior Vice-President

Mrs. Richmond is the widow of our own Rev. Taylor Richmond, who was a staunch honorary member of order and espoused our cause on every occasion. Mrs. Richmond is a noble cast of character and her chief pleasure is in serving others.



MRS. GERTRUDE MOSER

MRS. IDA F. KOONTZ

MRS. WINGROVE

MRS. GERTRUDE MOSER, Junior Vice President, is a daughter of a soldier, and is one of the representative women of the Ladies of the G. A. R. She and her husband are both patriots, and are familiar with patriotism.

MRS. IDA F. KOONTZ, The Treasurer of the department, possesses a mind of great breadth and superiority. She is singularly adapted to the work of the Ladies of the G. A. R. and has splendid executive ability. Is the daughter of a soldier.

MRS. WINGROVE, Corresponding Secretary of the Department, is the daughter of a soldier who composed the song—"Hold the Fort."

MRS. LE ROY SHAW, Corresponding Secretary, is the wife of a soldier, who gave brave service



MISS WYNNYE G. WILLIAMSON
Department Counsellor

Is the daughter of a soldier, and possesses grace and great literary attainments and executive power, and lends heart and hand to the alleviation of distress.



MRS. M. ANNA HALL,

State Organizer and Past National President.

Is a sister of Captain William H. H. Parker, who gave his life for his country in her girlhood day's, was a nurse and assisted Mother Holliday in the old Sprigg House or hotel, (now the Windsor hotel) which was used as a hospital, and also at Graham hospital. Examples of her fortitude and sacrifice are on record in her ministrations to the wounded and dying, and served without pay, as did Mother Holliday.

MRS. M. ANNA HALL.

Mrs. BAETTIE HENSLEY is the Department Inspector. A daughter of a soldier, and is liberal and charitable and has a fine intellect.

Mrs. CORNELIA HARDEN, wife of a soldier, Chairman of Press of the Department, a splendid press Writer—accurate and careful in reporting.



MRS. NETTIE E. GUNLOCK

Originator of the beautiful custom of the Ladies of the G. A. R. of placing the flag on the breast of a Comrade after death, he who offered his life that our flag would wave forever.



MRS. BELLE SHROYER,
Chairman Council of Administration.



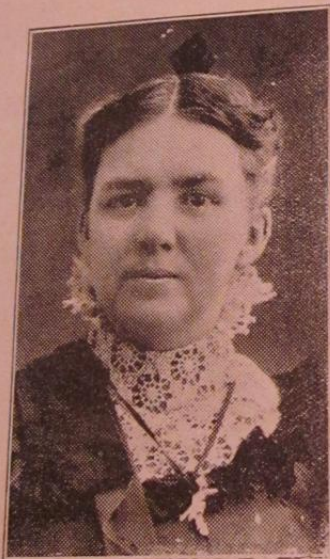
MISS MARIE CAIRNEY,
Member Council of Administration



MRS. ELLA FAIR
Member Council of Administration.



MRS. FRANCES WOOD
One of the Founders of the Ladies of the G. A. R.



MRS. ANNA BELL TOPP,
Past Department President



MRS. MAUD C. BLEAKNEY
Chairman of Flag Desecration Committee.
She is a daughter of a Soldier.

Miss M. VIRGINIA HALL, Musical Director of the Order is the sweet singer of the Department. She is the grand-daughter of a soldier, was born on Apamattox Day, April 9th, and has ever, from childhood assisted the Grand Army of the Republic in its high and holy mission.

Mrs. ELLA FAIR is a blood kin neice of a soldier, and an enthusiastic member, and has the work at heart.

Miss NELLIE COZAD, is blood kin neice of a soldier, is our Patriotic Inspector of the Department. The instilling of patriotism is the glory of our work, and exacting the reverence and love of our flag.

Mrs. ANNA BELL TOPP is the wife of a soldier, and a friend to all soldiers.



HEADQUARTERS Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

Your attention is respectfully invited to the following statement of the objects of the order known as the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the only organization of women in the world to-day that represents in its entirety the Union soldiers and sailors of the Civil War, and the only order of women that can in the full sense of the word ever perpetuate the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE OBJECT

The object of the Society is to transmit the honor that belongs to the Union veterans of the Civil War to their families, they being the rightful partakers of it, and to preserve with sacred fidelity the memory of the noble deeds and sacrifices of those who fought for the preservation of the Nation in the great war of 1861-5, and to keep this inheritance a sacred one. To unite with loyalty love for each other. To practice the precepts of true fraternity towards all sisters of our order, thus emulating the spirit which unites our fathers, husbands, sons and brothers. To honor the memory of those fallen, and to perpetuate and keep forever sacred "Memorial Day."

To assist the Grand Army of the Republic in its high and holy mission, aid, encourage, and sympathize with them in their noble work of Charity. To extend needful aid to members in sickness and distress. To aid sick soldiers, sailors and marines. To do all in our power to alleviate suffering. To look after our Soldiers', Orphans' Homes. To see that the children obtain proper situations when they leave the Homes. To watch the schools and see to it that the children are properly educated in the history of our country, and instructed in patriotism.

To look after Soldiers' Homes. Also to keep from almshouses the mothers, wives and widows of permanently disabled soldiers, to perpetuate and transmit to our descendants a true and correct record of the names of the women who are related by ties of blood and marriage to the men who freely offered their lives upon the altar of their country that this Union might be saved.

ELEGIBILITY

The Ladies of the Grand Army restricts its members to those women who belong to the families of the Union veterans of the Civil War.

Those eligible to membership in the Ladies of the Grand Army are the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, and bloodkin nieces of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. Army nurses are admitted as honored members.

Members of the Grand Army of the Republic and other honorably discharged veterans may be admitted to membership as honorary members. Sons of Veterans are admitted as honorary members, thus making the family circle complete.

Comrades who join as honorary members are not required to pay initiation fees or dues, they have no vote, but may take part in the exercises of the circle, thus making a G. A. R. home for them when posts are no longer able to keep up an organization.

This organization will be perpetuated by lineal descendants. It is founded upon similar lines as the Daughters of the American Revolution and will be perpetuated and hold in the future, as high and honorable a place as the D. A. R. does to-day and is destined to hold in the future. His-

torically considered, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic is most important and valuable as an Order of Records.

The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic is a distinct and independent organization, its constitution strictly forbidding it to become auxiliary to any other society or organization. It is having a very rapid growth in membership and has a department in nearly every state in the Union, and expends large sums every year in relief of veterans and wives and their widows and orphans. It has established and maintains homes for veterans and wives for widows and orphans in several states. Who shall say that the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic has labored in vain?

Comrades, Will you not in what few years remain to you for active service, lend your aid to establish this order, whose sisterhood seeks to circle, guard and shield this precious heritage and transmit it untarnished to those who follow after us, thus by keeping our identity to ourselves our children's children will in future years be the envy of all.

CHARTERS

The application for a charter shall be signed by at least ten persons eligible to membership, and accompanied by the charter fee of five dollars. These organizations are known as Circles of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. Each Circle may choose its own local name, subject to approval of the President granting the charter.

Any further information will be gladly furnished, or any question relative to the Order answered with pleasure by addressing

Mrs. M. Anna Hall,
2140 Market St., Wheeling.

HISTORY OF THE Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The first organization of women affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic had its birth in Portland, Me., in 1869. Its membership was limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of honorably discharged Soldiers and Sailors who had served the Nation during the War of the Rebellion.

During the next few years many similar organizations were formed in different States of the Union, all of them auxiliary in spirit to the Grand Army and each of them devoted to forwarding the work of that heroic band. These various societies were known by various names but in all the fifteen or more States in which they existed only the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and nieces in the direct line of Union Soldiers and Sailors were admitted to the privileges and duties of the organization.

Then in July, 1883, at the Seventeenth National Encampment of the G. A. R., in Denver, an effort was made to unite these various patriotic organizations. The Woman's Relief Corps was the result of this movement.

Most unfortunately, in the opinion of many thoughtful women of the original societies, the new order, desiring to increase its membership and revenues, proceeded to throw open its doors to "all loyal women of good moral character."

Many thousands of those who had been most active in creating the parent organizations and who had been untiring in their efforts to establish a national order felt that this new departure was really a subversion of the principles for which they had so long labored. They therefore stood firm in their objection to this radical departure and formed the order known as the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, an order which is identical in everything except name with that first organization formed in Maine in 1869.

Their patent of nobility is written in the blood of heroes.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech.

Lincoln's 100th Birthday, Feb. 12, 1909.

Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

November 19, 1863.

Every school boy and girl should commit this speech as a recitation:

LADIES OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA
WHEELING, WEST VA.

The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic stands today one of the largest bodies of patriotic women in the world, banded together under the banner of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty." Our object is to assist and care for our nation's heroes, to make beautiful and bright their pathways as they march toward sunset, and after they have answered the last roll call, to keep their memory bright and green in the hearts of a grateful people; to carry comfort and sympathy into the homes of desolate widows and helpless orphans and to inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country in the communities in which they live. How well these sacred duties have been performed in the past, only the veteran and his dependent ones know. This large and efficient membership has grown from a few earnest, devoted women, filled with an undying love for the dear old flag, with its glittering

stars and its gleaming stripes, and for the men, brave and true, who carried it untarnished through four years of blood and carnage and they are just as zealous, just as willing to work for the old soldier now, in his old age and feebleness, while the sunshine of peace floods our land with blessedness and prosperity.

The work of the American women during the war was Relief. Relief on the battlefield, or in the hospital, for the sick and the wounded. Relief for the widows and orphans of those who never returned from the war. The Ladies of the Grand Army hail with joy the birth of a reunited country and pledge themselves anew to Old Glory and the soldier who wore the Blue, and may the homes into which our little book goes find responsive hearts is the prayer of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

William H. Taft, President of the United States, is an Honorary Member of the Ladies of the G. A. R.

From Philippi to Apomatox, Virginia, the first and last engagements of the war of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865, April 9th when Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant, fifty years ago this year.

The smallest tribute of gratitude this government could bestow upon the veterans of the Civil War in their few remaining years is that they be tendered transportation and entertainment to both State and National Encampments.

The honor belongs to Mrs. C. E. Dugan, who introduced strewing the waters with flowers in memory of our unknown and sailor dead in West Virginia.

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Less than three years ago the American Woman's League was only an idea existing in one man's mind. To-day it is a powerful National organization with a membership of upwards of eighty-five thousand women. It has strong organized chapters in over a thousand towns and a large number of beautiful chapter houses scattered in different parts of the United States stand as monuments to the energy and combined efforts of this band of noble women.

Among the great advantages of the American Woman's League to its members, is the splendid educational courses it offers to them without cost.

The first of the League's great central University buildings has been built at a cost of \$125,000. In addition to its central University, five independent correspondence schools, each a leader in its field, are allied with the League, giving their instructions free of charge to members.

The American Woman's League has behind it a purpose, an ideal, a useful-

ness of the highest nature. It places within the reach of ambitious women the widest possible opportunity for themselves and their children, giving them the assistance and advantages of a mighty national organization, great educational institutions, and a beautiful local club house.

There are over two hundred correspondence courses offered free of charge to League members by the People's University and its affiliated schools. They include elementary courses and every subject taught in the best schools. They also include the fine and applied arts. Only the best instructors are employed and the courses are of the very highest order.

A call for the first national election, which is to be held at University City in October, has been sent out from headquarters, the purpose being to elect Governors for the different states, Senators, Representatives and cabinet officers, and organize the League into a great national Republic and carry out the idea announced some time ago. This will undoubtedly greatly strengthen the organization, and it is believed will prove one of the greatest forward steps yet taken by the League.

The board of management is now largely in control of a corps of bril-

liant able women, among them, Mrs. Ida B. Cole, of Missouri, Secretary of education; Mrs. Pearl Adams Spaulding, of California, Secretary of the Treasury. Mrs. Alma Z. Moore, of Illinois, Secretary of State; Miss Eleanor Foster, of Indiana, Secretary of the Interior.

Any one interested in the work of this great organization, can obtain full information, terms of membership, etc., by addressing headquarters of the American Woman's League, University City, St. Louis, Mo., or the 2140 Market Street, Wheeling.

The Wheeling Chapter of the American League meets twice a month at the Board of Trade. There are members and Chapters in Morgantown, Parkersburg, Hinton, Fairmont, Charleston, Elm Grove. The State Officers are Mrs. M. Anna Hall, chairman; Mrs. Alice Kelley, treasurer; Miss Bettie Beck, secretary; Mrs. Sherman D. Clegg, Lecturer; Miss Willa Butcher, Fairmont; Mrs. E. W. Peter, Hinton; Mrs. Ross, Morgantown; Miss Alma Schmidt, Elm Grove; Miss H. Grady, Parkersburg; Mrs. H. A. Blackburn, Charleston, W. Va.; Miss Mary B. Wright, Grafton, W. Va.; Miss Minnie Worthing, Morgantown, Corresponding Secretary.



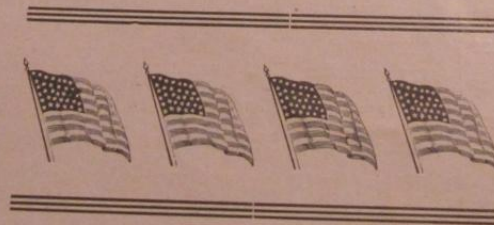
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Today, and Forever



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of the Grand Army.



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