

The Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.)

Olmsted Post 634

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was a national association of Union Civil War veterans, founded in Springfield, Il. in 1866. The G.A.R. was formed as an organization of veterans of the American Civil War that would provide them with political influence and opportunities to meet socially. Any veteran who was honorably discharged from the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps qualified for membership. Ten states, including Ohio, and the District of Columbia sent representatives to the GAR's first national convention in Indianapolis, IN, in Nov. 1866. The first meeting of the Dept. of Ohio, GAR, was held in Jan. 1867 in Columbus. By late 1868, some 303 local "posts" had been established statewide, including a number in Cleveland. With its membership centered in the local posts, the organization worked on both state and national levels for issues such as pensions and the establishment of soldiers' homes. By 1908 eight GAR posts existed in Cleveland and five other posts were located elsewhere in Cuyahoga County.

Olmsted GAR Post 634 was originally loosely organized as a group calling themselves the "Boys in Blue" in 1865, but it wasn't until April 1887 that they became affiliated with the national organization, becoming Olmsted GAR Post 634. Thus, some 23 years after the end of the Civil War, they began with forty-five members.



Grand Army of the Republic Convention, 1901

Two national GAR encampments (conventions) were held in Cleveland. Over 30,000 veterans attended the 35th Encampment, 12-13 Sept. 1901, to witness the "greatest" military parade in the history of the city. The last Cuyahoga County GAR member, Peter J. Diemer, died on 23 Feb. 1943. The exact date of the demise of Olmsted Post #634 is not known, but it is safe to say it was before this date. ★

Members of GAR POST 634

<u>From Olmsted Twp.</u>	Stone, Richard
Ames, Samuel	Taylor, Comfort
Barnard, Edwin A.	Taylor, Steven B.
Bartlett, F.	Underhill, Charles
Bartlett, J. R.	Vaughn, George E.
Broady, Andrew	Vaughn, H. A.
Carpenter, G.W.	Wagner, Phillip
Carpenter, Richard	Walrath, Wallace
Cooley, Truman	
Crittenton, Samuel O.	<u>From Dover</u>
Dailey, Hezekiah	Alexander, L.
Damp, Edward	Chappell, Benjamin
Durfee, Abram B.	Clargen, Tom
Eaton, Frank	Cooley, J. M
Elliot, Eugene W.	Demaline, John
Fitch, Harrison H.	Gessner, Jacob
Fitch, John G.	Hall, George S.
Fommanar, William	Hall, Reuben
Frary, Augustus	Jordon, John
Hammond, Thomas	Kennedy, George W
Hendrickson, James S.	Phillips, Phillip
Hubbard, Alton W.	Pics, Calvin
Hubbard, William	Porter, J. C.
Hurd, George W.	Price, B
Kelley, Thomas	Rose, Andrew
Kidney, Edward	Sperry, A.
Knapp, Charles T.	Stocky, Joseph
Lemmon, John H.	Williams, C.
Lilly, Erastus	
McCarty, Patrick	<u>From Columbia Twp.</u>
McKee, Stoneberry	Mitchell, Joseph
Muche, William	Nigh, James
Oberly, John	Porter, Albert
Paddock, Arthur W	Shapely, H. J.
Paddock, Orlando J.	
Perry, Daniel	<u>From Rockport</u>
Ruppenter, Frank	McDowell, William
Snyder, Joseph	Spencer, John
Sperry, Zinna	
Stearns, Asher	<u>From Berea</u>
Stearns, Casius	Parker, James
Stearns, Elijah	
Stearns, Orfilla	
Stokes, Thomas	

Ency. Cleve. History; Ohio History Central; Walter Holzworth, "Olmsted Twp."