

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-
THIRD ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION,
AT ITS SECOND ANNUAL REUNION
ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF
NOVEMBER, 1866**

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Proceedings of the Twenty-third Army Corps Association, at its second Annual Reunion on the thirtieth day of November, 1866 by Isaac R. Sherwood

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ISAAC R. SHERWOOD

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD

ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION,

AT THE

SECOND ANNUAL REUNION

ON THE

THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1866,

AT

Indianapolis, Ind.,

WITH ADDRESS OF

Gen. THOMAS L. YOUNG, of Cincinnati,

AND A

POEM ON THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE,

BY

Gen. ISAAC R. SHERWOOD, of Toledo,

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Twenty-Third Army Corps Association,
ON THE
THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1866,
AT
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

The Second Annual Reunion of the Twenty-Third Corps Association was held on the 30th day of November, 1866, at the city of Indianapolis.

Morrison's Opera Hall was very beautifully decorated for the occasion by the Indianapolis Comrades, assisted by their lady friends. Swung around the circle of the gallery were festoons of laurels and colors and regimental flags of the various Indiana Regiments which had served in that Corps during its brilliant career in the late war to crush treason.

On either end of the stage was a group of tattered banners, furled but showing the marks of the struggle through which they had been carried. Pendant from these were two cavalry guidons, and at the base of the staves were the portraits of the late President Lincoln, with that of General Sherman; *vis a vis* photographs of the families of George Washington and Mr. Lincoln, were also hung upon either side of the platform. At the rear were the colors of the 65th and 123d regiments crossed, and resting in the pivot the portrait of General Grant. The stand was covered with the large post headquarters flag and at each corner, miniature cannons pointed to the portrait of General Thomas, under whose command the great victory at Franklin, Tennessee, which the meeting of the Corps was intended to celebrate, was won. This portrait was flanked by those of Sherman and Grant.

The effect was extremely fine for such an occasion. At half-past two o'clock the Association was called to order by the President, General John C. McQiston, and the band discoursed an appropriate air, after which the Senior Vice President General Strickland, explained briefly the objects of the assemblage.

It was not for a religious, political or civil purpose, but simply that the members of the old Twenty-Third Corps might annually meet on the day of some battle, and enjoy a pleasant reunion, and have their friendship strengthened and renewed by social intercourse. This Association was formed at Raleigh, North Carolina, about twenty months since. The first meeting was held at Cincinnati, where they had a jolly, jovial, good time, and although the number here to-day is not as large as it was then, that was no cause why the meeting should not be as pleasant.

THE NEXT ANNIVERSARY.

It was agreed that the next anniversary meeting should be held at Louisville, Kentucky, on the Wednesday following the 15th of December, 1867, to celebrate the two days' battle of Nashville, Tennessee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT.—Colonel Thomas Farleigh, of Kentucky.

VICE PRESIDENTS.—Senior Vice President—General John R. Bond, of Ohio.

For the State of Ohio—General Thomas L. Young.

For the State of Illinois—Colonel Fred. T. Milholand.

For the State of Kentucky—Captain W. C. Musselman.

For the State of Indiana—General Charles S. Parrish.

For the State of Michigan—Major John Carland.

For the State of Tennessee—General Joseph Cooper.

For the State of Minnesota—General M. W. Thomas.

For the State of New York—Major Fred. Clemeus.

For the State of Massachusetts—Captain Henry A. Hale.

SECRETARY.—Major A. M. Aten, of Ohio. *Cincinnati*

CORRESPONDING COMMITTEE.—Chaplain Pollock, of Ohio;

Captain Harvey, of Indianapolis; and Adjutant Speed, of Louisville, were appointed a Corresponding Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Captain Harney, of Indianapolis; Major Aten, of Ohio; Colonels Burgess and Schlater, of Indianapolis, were appointed as Finance Committee.

LOCAL COMMITTEE.—The President of the Association appointed Colonel Wood, Adjutant Speed and Captain Pratt, of Louisville, as a Local Committee to make arrangements for the next anniversary.

ORATOR AND POET.—Gen. Edgar Sowers, of Cleveland, Ohio, was selected as the next orator for the occasion, and Chaplain Pollock, of Ohio, selected as poet.

The following letters were read by the Secretary :

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE POTOMAC,
Richmond, Va., Nov. 28, 1866.

To the President of the Twenty-Third Corps :

DEAR GENERAL—I have just received your letter of November 18th, kindly requesting me to attend the second anniversary meeting of the Twenty-Third Army Corps at Indianapolis, on the 30th of this month.

Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than to meet my old comrades of that noble Corps, which I had the honor to command during the most eventful period of its history. My official duties will probably prevent my meeting you on the 30th, but I beg you to assure all who may be present of my undiminished affection and regard. I wish you many happy reunions on the anniversary of "Franklin."

Very truly your friend,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,

Major-General, U. S. A.

GREENSBURG, KY., November 28, 1866.

To the President of the Corps :

SIR—Your invitation to attend the meeting of the Twenty-Third Army Corps has been received. I regret exceedingly that my engagements are such as will prevent my attendance on the 30th instant. In future I will endeavor to be present and co-operate with the gallant officers and soldiers of the Twenty-Third Army Corps.

Very respectfully,

E. H. HOBSON,

Late Brigadier-General.

STATE OF OHIO, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, November 28, 1866.

MY DEAR GENERAL:—The fates are against me in trying to attend the Twenty-Third Corps' meetings. The time happens to be one which conflicts in the greatest possible degree with our State work. The fiscal year ending on the 15th of November, makes a press of work in all the Departments preparing for the Legislature; and in addition I am *ex-officio* President of the Agricultural Board, which is to meet in my office on the 30th, the same day as your Indianapolis

meeting. I must rely on you to explain my inability to our old comrades, and to greet them for me, as I should like to do for myself.

Ever yours truly,

J. D. COX.

To S. A. STRICKLAND.

LEADER EDITORIAL ROOMS,
CLEVELAND, November 26, 1866.

DEAR FRIEND STRICKLAND:

I hardly think it will be possible for me to attend the celebration at Indianapolis, as I am so much engaged here. I take a deep interest, however, in the celebration, and trust the organization will be kept up.

If possible, I will be with you. With many regards and wishes for success,
I am yours truly, I. R. SHERWOOD.

After concluding the business of the session the Association adjourned until half-past seven o'clock.

At night, a fine audience greeted the members of the Corps at the hall for their night meeting. General Strickland, the senior Vice President, presided, and introduced Governor Morton, saying that while in the South battling with the rebels he was one that stood by them, whose name was a tower of strength.

The Governor was received with applause. He had come to perform a pleasurable duty, which was to welcome them to the city of Indianapolis. The Twenty-Third Corps had seen much service, had had many opportunities to vindicate their love for their country, and it was simple justice to say that they had been improved to the utmost.

He then briefly reviewed the campaigns of that corps in the field, and more particularly while in Tennessee. The battle of Franklin, in which this corps bore the brunt, was one of the most important and decisive fought during the war. By that battle the power of Hood's army was broken, and it sat down before Nashville dispirited and disheartened. After the raising of that siege, the Twenty-Third Corps was sent to the East, and participated in the closing scenes of the rebellion.

He closed by saying that the deeds they had done were highly appreciated. Indiana had thirteen regiments represented in that Corps. They had fought side by side with those from Ohio, Kentucky, and other States. The country was saved, not by statesmanship, but by the strength and patriotism of its army. The sky looked overcast now, but he had confidence in the strength, invincibility and patriotism of the people. The

Governor thanked the meeting for the honor done him by its President, and expressed his joy at being present.

At the close of his eloquent welcoming address the Governor was loudly cheered.

THE ORATION.

The orator of the evening, General THOMAS L. YOUNG, of Cincinnati was then introduced, and delivered the following address :

GENERAL YOUNG'S ADDRESS.

COMRADES, we have met again on the anniversary of one of the leading events of the late war, to renew the acquaintances and friendships formed on the tented field. The occasion and the event both conspire to impose a theme for the hour. We could not pass it by without paying a tribute to the memory of the fallen, or referring to those events which are destined to stand evermore like pillars of fire on the shores of time.

The memory of the fallen! We approach the theme with mingled feelings of reverence and anguish and pride. Their deeds and their sacrifices inspire us with reverence and love—their sad fate fills us with the keenest anguish, and their conduct, devotion and heroism awakes within us the loftiest pride. By the free offering of their precious blood, the very soil of our nation has been hallowed and sanctified to a truer liberty. The names of Sanders, Elsner, Hutcheson, Camp, Prutzman, Lowry, Denny, Torr, Owen, Carnash and Gallup will ever be held in affectionate remembrance by those who learned their merits on the field. But these were only representatives of those who, with equal courage and patriotism, gave their lives for the same great end; and who now lie in nameless graves on the battle-fields of the nation. Scattered over the sunny South, their ashes rest in peace beneath the sod of the valleys—the mountains are their only tombstones, while rippling brooks and rushing rivers chant the endless hymns of their praise:

"On fame's eternal camping grounds
Their silent tents are spread;
While glory guards with solemn rounds
The bivouac of the dead."

Their memories and their fame are the rich inheritance of the Nation; their deeds will kindle admiration, their fate cause

a pang of sorrow, while their devotion and heroism will convince us that the love of liberty still lives in the hearts of our people.

Of Knoxville and Atlanta, of Franklin, Nashville and Wilmington, it is enough for you as soldiers to know that your heroism caused them to be inscribed on your banners as a glorious acknowledgment of your patience and courage. But to you, as patriots, a deeper significance is attached to those names and others. Those fields are not fixed in history merely for the deeds done upon them. That is indeed much, but it is not all. It is not that the grand strategy of Sherman, the brilliancy of Sheridan, the patient skill of Meade, the unerring judgment of Thomas, and the victorious combinations of Grant, were there displayed, so as to win for themselves and their countrymen the highest military honors. These great qualities and glorious results may not be forgotten, but they are not all. But it is that upon these fields the life of the nation was imperilled and was defended; it is that there the cause of constitutional liberty was betrayed and was rescued; it is that there the dearest rights of humanity were beset with dangerous enemies, and that there those enemies were overcome and confounded. It is for this reason that we, in common with all patriots, will hold those names in lasting remembrance. Hence it is not only for the heroism there evinced, but for the cause secured by that heroism, that patriots name with pride and gratitude the fields of national honor; and hence also it is that in the memory of the deeds done there the cause of constitutional liberty has its strongest fortress.

Gettysburg and Yorktown, Vicksburg and Saratoga, Franklin and Lexington, are linked in our memories by kindred ties, and awaken kindred emotions.

Who is there whose pulse does not quicken, whose patriotism does not glow with a steadier heat at the mention of those places where Washington and his compatriots led our revolutionary armies to victory and our people to liberty? Mark well the man whose feelings are cold—whose admiration is not kindled by their remembrance; and you will find in him the material of which ambition makes a traitor. That there are many such men in our midst, and that there have been many such men living in every generation since the beginning of our government, is a melancholy fact acknowledged by history.