

**RECORD OF THE AT THE SEVENTH
ANNUAL RE-UNION, HELD IN
THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.,
JUNE 6, 1876**

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Record of the at the Seventh Annual Re-union, held in the city of Philadelphia, PA., June 6, 1876
by Society of the Army of the Potomac

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SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

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ANNUAL RE-UNION, HELD IN
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SOCIETY
OF THE
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Seventh Annual Re-Union,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

June 6, 1876.

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SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

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OFFICERS.  
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PRESIDENT.

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

- First Corps*—General EDMUND L. DANA.
- Second Corps*—General A. A. HUMPHREYS.
- Third Corps*—General CHARLES H. T. COLLIS.
- Fourth Corps*—Colonel HORATIO C. KING.
- Fifth Corps*—Colonel SYNEX.
- Sixth Corps*—General M. T. MCMAHON.
- Ninth Corps*—General G. H. MCKIBBEN.
- Eleventh Corps*—General CHAS. DEVENS.
- Twelfth Corps*—General H. W. SLOCUM.
- General Staff*—Colonel GEO. G. MEADE.
- Cavalry Corps*—General D. McM. GREGG.
- Artillery Corps*—General R. BRUCE RICKETTS.

TREASURER.

General H. E. DAVIES, JR., 149 Broadway, New York City.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Colonel WILLIAM C. CHURCH, 245 Broadway,
New York City.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

General GEORGE H. SHARPE, Army and Navy Club,
New York City.

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL RE-UNION,
OF THE
SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, PA., JUNE 6, 1876.

THE Society of the Army of the Potomac convened for its Seventh Annual Re-union in the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, on the sixth day of June, 1876.

The weather was auspicious ; the attendance full. The laudable enthusiasm which has been a characteristic of the previous Re-unions of this Society was unusually manifested on this occasion, augmented, perhaps, by the "Centennial influences," but chiefly due to the growing good-fellowship—the *esprit de corps*—which has from its outset distinguished the association.

The Annual Corps-Meetings had been held earlier in the day. These, as heretofore, were largely attended and heartily enjoyed.

At twelve o'clock the great hall of the Academy presented a most pleasing appearance. The fronts of the three balconies, the orchestra and the proscenium boxes were tastefully decorated with red, white and blue bunting, evergreens and flowers. Pendant from the rail of the lower balcony were silken bannerets bearing the names of the several States and Territories, while small flags displaying the emblems of the several Corps of the Army hung

from the upper tier. On the stage a camp scene had been set in the upper grooves, and three field tents disposed at the back were in keeping with the scene. In front of these stood the headquarters flag of the Army of the Potomac. The foreground was occupied by stacks of arms, pyramids of drums and groups of battle-stained flags. The latter were tastily grouped over and about two mounted Parrot guns, one on either side of the stage at the front. A colossal copy of the Society badge depended over the stage from the proscenium.

The doors were thrown open at eleven o'clock, and at twelve the house was comfortably filled, the parquet being occupied by the members of the Society and the other portions of the auditorium by their friends and the public.

In the orchestra, Beck's Philadelphia Band, led by Prof. Aledo, played at intervals the popular airs of the day and those which were familiar during the war. At the conclusion of each piece a round of applause rewarded their efforts and expressed the appreciation of the auditors.

As the several Corps, each headed by a band of music, filed in and took their seats, they were loudly cheered. All present seemed imbued with the spirit of the occasion.

Shortly after twelve o'clock the officers of the Society, accompanied by the more distinguished guests, came upon the stage from the green-room and filled the chairs which had been placed for them. They were greeted with a storm of applause and cheers, and with strains of martial music from the orchestra. Among those seated on the stage were Gen. Sherman, Lieut. Gen. Sheridan, Maj. Gen. Hancock, Maj. Gen. Hooker, Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, ex-Governor of New York, Gov. John F. Hartranft, ex-Governor Andrew G. Curtin, Maj. Gen. Sharpe, William S. Stokely, Mayor of Philadelphia, Mr. William Winter, Capt. S. P. Semetsckin, Aid-de-camp to H. I. H. the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, A. Vander-Howen, of the Imperial Russian Guard Artillery, Lieut. Gen. Saigo Tsukumichi, Commander-in-chief of the Armies of Japan, and Lieut. Hidaka, his Aid-de-camp.

The President of the Society, Maj. Gen. Hancock, called the assembly to order, and said :

COMRADES OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC :

We are assembled here to-day, on the occasion of the Seventh Annual Re-union of our Society, for the purpose of renewing and cementing friendships formed on the field of battle ; of inquiring into the welfare of our absent comrades ; of determining the gaps made in our ranks by death : and of inaugurating such measures as may be necessary to assist worthy comrades in distress, and the widows and orphans of deceased comrades requiring our assistance. We have no other purpose in meeting. Here politics enter not to distract or disturb. We have met here simply as a band of brothers ; cemented in affection by memories of the past, of common dangers incurred, of glories gained, of privations suffered, and of hardships endured. It is indeed a pleasure to me to meet you here to-day, and I esteem it a privilege to preside at the re-union of so many of my worthy comrades.

Before proceeding with the regular exercises of the occasion it is fitting and proper that we should return thanks to Almighty God for His goodness in permitting us to meet here to-day in health, and also that we should ask His blessing upon all present. The Rev. Mr. McVickar will lead us in the expression of those thanks, and in the invocation of that blessing.

PRAYER.

Almighty God : King of kings, Lord of lords : Who dost behold from Thy throne on high all the dwellers upon earth,—accept the thanksgiving and the praises of Thy servants who are here assembled. We thank Thee for the mercies of the past. We feel that to Thy watchful care and providence we owe the peace and prosperity which to-day crowns our land. We are grateful to Thee for this opportunity of meeting once more, as in the past, friends loved and remembered, and of recurring with them to other days. O Lord, we pray Thee to be amongst us. Make our re-union a happy and a beneficent one. Make the memories of this hour blessed to us. Give us true hearts and more earnest hands in the great work which Thou hast given our nation to do.

We thank Thee for the memories of those days when we assembled in the camp and in the field, and when by our sides noble lives were laid low. We thank thee for that experience, because those days were days of trial, of manhood and of strength ; and because Thou didst then teach us that whenever the trump is sounded throughout the world there will be hearts ready to answer to it ; to stand for the truth ; to live for it, and if need be to die for it.

Let Thy blessing rest upon us to-day. Let Thy blessing rest upon the land for which we have fought and for which so many have died. Let Thy blessing rest upon the government whose name and honor we represent. May truth and justice rule in it. May righteousness and peace be the result of its labor. Be present, we pray Thee, in its halls of legislation. Give wisdom from on high to its judiciary. Raise up impartial men to its executive; and give bravery, decision and truth to its chief. And so may we be henceforth a land blessed of Thee; a land which shall prove a beacon and an encouragement to every down-trodden and oppressed heart, and a warning to despotism wherever it may be found.

And we pray Thee that the soldierhood of the past may be continued in us; not beneath the war cloud but in the pursuits of our daily life. May that same love of truth which aroused us and sent us to the field be strong in us to-day, to make us hate that which is not true and abhor that which is cowardly and which would sacrifice principle to policy.

May the memories of the camp make us loving and honest in our associations with our brother men. May all pride, prejudice, envy, hatred and malice give place to a larger spirit of amity and amnesty which shall extend its brave, soldierly forgiveness to all who have been brave and to all who are to-day honest men. So shall we be blessed; and so, as the years roll on, and our ranks grow thinner and thinner, as another and another of our comrades drop into honored graves, we may at least feel that their lives have not been given in vain, but that through their efforts truth and righteousness are flourishing, even over their graves.

And at last, when these re-unions here upon earth are finished, may we all answer to that mighty roll-call which shall be sounded and as the true soldiers of Christ march up the golden streets of the New Jerusalem which is above.

And to Thee, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, shall be all the praise forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all, evermore. Amen.

GENERAL HANCOCK.

COMRADES:—We are to-day the guests of the City of Philadelphia—the City of Brotherly Love; and the Mayor of the City, the Hon. William S. Stokely, is present with us and wishes to bid you welcome.

MAYOR STOKELY.

SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—As the Executive of the City of Philadelphia, it affords me pleasure to welcome you to our City, and to extend to you its hospitality on the occasion of your Seventh Annual Re-union.

When our land was devastated by war and the soldiers of the Republic were marching to the front, they were always kindly

received by the citizens of Philadelphia. Their wants were cared for while passing through the city. When sick and wounded, and in our hospitals, they were nursed with a mother's tenderness by our wives, sisters and daughters.

Now that the strife is ended and the bright wings of peace are spread over the land, we extend to you, the survivors of those who fought so nobly and so bravely to maintain the honor of the country, a right cordial welcome, and trust that your stay with us may be pleasant.

For those of your brave comrades who fill heroes' graves there is with us a memory which will ever remain fresh; and over their last resting places we will pay the homage of a grateful country, due to those who gave their lives in its defence.

Again, gentlemen, I welcome you to the City of Philadelphia.

MUSIC.—"Hold the Fort."

GENERAL HANCOCK.

I shall now have the honor of introducing to you, comrades and guests, one of the foremost men of our country; distinguished as a civilian by eminent service as a statesman and by scholarly attainment, and as a soldier by a brilliant record in two wars. He has a tongue to woo you, even if he speak in Latin or in Greek; and should any prove recreant as listeners, he has the nerve to "shoot them on the spot." [Applause.] The ex-Governor of New York, Major General John A. Dix, the Orator of the day, will now address you.

General Dix was received with great enthusiasm, and it was several minutes before the applause subsided and he was permitted to proceed with his address which was listened to with close attention.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC:

It is with no ordinary feeling of gratification that I appear before you, though the pleasure of our meeting would have been greatly enhanced by the presence of the heroic commander, by whom you were led, and whose distinguished military services have been crowned by the highest civic honors of the Republic.