

# THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

## A Thumb-Nail Historical Sketch

By Brig. Gen. Fred M. Waterbury, NYNG, Ret., Secretary

THE first real convention was held in St. Louis in October, 1879, and was known as the "Convention of National Guards." According to the preamble of the minutes of this meeting a conference of volunteer officers was held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1878 "to discuss measures of practical reform" and in January of 1879 a general convention of officers was called in New York "to consider this great subject." It was this meeting which led to the St. Louis convention in the Fall of that year.

The first president was General George W. Wingate of New York; the first Secretary was Adjutant General William L. Alexander of Iowa; and the first Treasurer was Adjutant General A. Hun Berry of Massachusetts.

Nothing is known of the second meeting of this organization but according to a copy of the proceedings, the "Third Annual Convention" was held in Philadelphia in March, 1881. The same officers were carrying on and were re-elected together with Adjutant General G. T. Beauregard of New Orleans as First Vice-President, and General James W. Denver of Wilmington as Second Vice-President.

It is known that conventions were held in Cincinnati in 1884, and in Washington in 1885, 1890 and 1902, but records are not available for the intervening years. In 1902 Senator Charles S. Dick (sponsor of the Dick Law) was elected President and Adjutant General James A. Drain of Washington State was appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee, serving in that capacity until 1907.

Brigadier General Thomas J. Stewart of Pennsylvania was elected President and Brigadier General Charles I. Martin of Kansas was elected Secretary at the Los Angeles convention in 1909, and they were re-elected at the St. Louis convention in 1910.

At Buffalo, New York, in 1911, the same President was re-elected and Brigadier General Elliott C. Dill of Maine was named Secretary. In 1912 the convention was in Norfolk, Virginia, and Brigadier General Guy E. Logan of Iowa was named Secretary.

No changes were made in the officer personnel of the Association during the years 1913, 1914 and 1915. In 1916 the Asheville, North Carolina, convention was called off due to the mobilization of the National Guard on the Mexican Border.

The annual convention was held in New York City in 1917 in the 71st Infantry Armory, the President being General Thomas J. Stewart of Pennsylvania and at which time Brigadier General E. LeRoy Sweetser of Massachusetts was elected President and General Stewart was named President Emeritus. In 1918, the National Guard being in the service of the United States, ten States organized a temporary association to carry on the work of the regular association, and Adjutant General Moss of Washington State called a convention at Richmond, Virginia. By 1919 the regular association was functioning again and the annual convention was held in St. Louis.

In 1920 the annual convention was scheduled for San Antonio but was not held. The next convention convened at New Orleans early in 1922. Since that time annual conventions have been held as follows: 1923—Indianapolis in February and Denver in October; 1924—Philadelphia; 1926—St. Augustine in January and Louisville in November; 1927—St. Paul; 1928—Hot Springs; 1929—Los Angeles; 1930—Boston; 1931—New Orleans; 1932—Norfolk; 1933—Chicago; 1934—Nashville; 1935—Santa Fe; 1936—Providence; 1937—Montgomery; 1938—San Francisco; 1939—Baltimore; 1940—Washington, D. C. In 1941 and 1942, because of the war, only the Council met. General Conferences were held again in 1943—Harrisburg; 1944—Baltimore; 1945—Des Moines; 1946—Buffalo; 1947—Columbus; 1948—St. Louis; 1949—Montgomery; 1950 and 1951—Washington, D. C.; and 1952—Denver.

The living Past Presidents of the association are: Colonel Bennett C. Clark, Missouri; Major General Milton A. Reckord, Maryland; Major General William G. Price, Pennsylvania; Colonel G. Angus Fraser, North Dakota; Major General Alfred F. Foote, Massachusetts; Brigadier General Robert J. Travis, Georgia; Major General Mathew A. Tingley, Iowa; Major General Thomas E. Rilea, Oregon; Major General S. Gardner Waller, Virginia; Major General George E. Leach, Minnesota; Major General James C. Dozier, South Carolina; Major General Walter A. DeLamater, New York; Major General Edward Martin, Pennsylvania.

The work of the Association has helped make the National Guard an effective part of the National defense of the United States.

# THE National Guardian



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dear guardsmen:

You've noticed (we hope) the color advertisements that have been appearing for the past several years on the back cover of "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN." Each one has singled-out a particular unit, or several units, of the National Guard, which have contributed especially dramatic and colorful episodes to the military history of the United States.

There are many such outfits. We have tracked-down a number of them, but we need your help in finding more. What we need is *not* simply the fact that a certain outfit participated in a certain war, or even a certain specific battle; we need to pin-point some specific, precise example of its performance that makes it stand out.

Many outfits have fought bravely, performed competently—that is expected; it is not out of the ordinary. To fit our purposes, we require *documented* references to outstanding performance, above and beyond the ordinary: quotations from official citations, or from published historical works, that will pin down and describe clearly just how the performance can be classed as extraordinary; something specific enough for an artist to dramatize in a painting or a drawing.

If you have a "candidate" for perpetuation in one of our "institutional" ads, please send it to us with as complete details as possible, down to a copy or extract from the official citation, or reference to volume and page of a published history.

THE STAFF

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### our cover

Under ordinary circumstances, our cover would feature a photograph of National Guard activity. But a 75th anniversary is not an "ordinary circumstance," so, in honor of the National Guard Association's Diamond Jubilee, we're using the same design that will appear on the Program for our General Conference in San Diego later this month. The Colonial-period rifle, of course, symbolizes the Guard's origin in those days, as well as its Army elements; the stylized jet, the Air Guard and modernity.