

FINAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

A Presentation by
David Plunkett
April 26, 2023

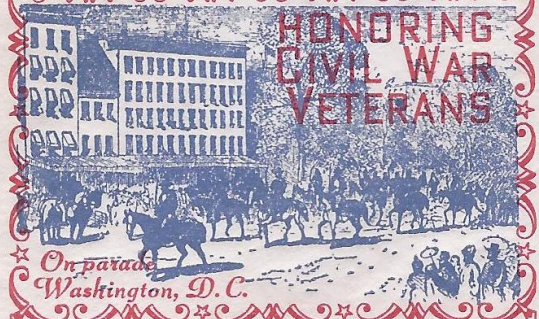
For
The Philatelic Society
of Lancaster County



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC FORMED

G. A. R. was formed in 1866
in Decatur, Illinois.

★ FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ★
★ GRAND ARMY OF THE ★
★ REPUBLIC ★

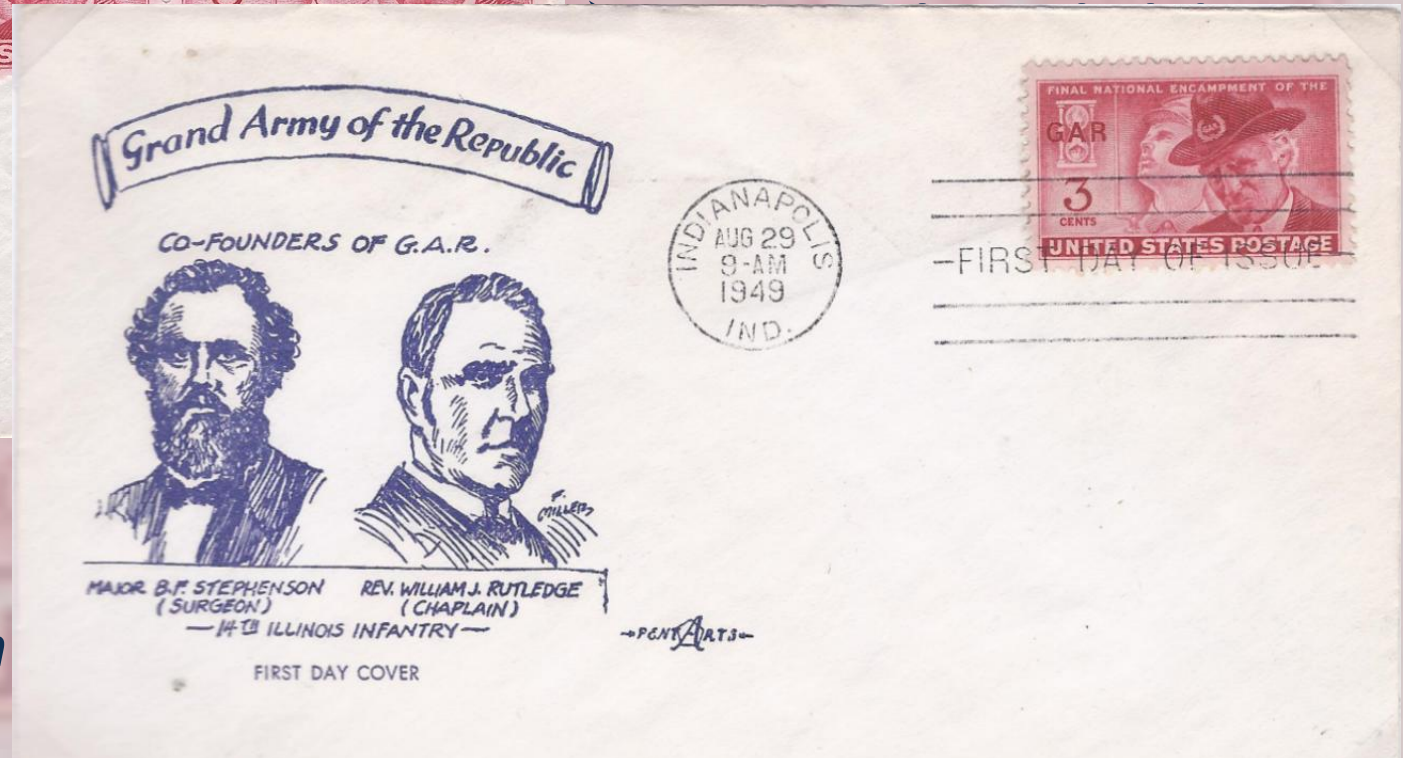


On parade
Washington, D. C.
Veterans of the Union Army 1865
Sanders



- Linking men through their experience of war.
- G.A.R. among first organized U.S. advocacy groups.
- Black veteran's voting rights.
- Patriotic education.

- Lobbying for veterans' pensions.
- Supporting political candidates.
- *GAR Influence peaked in 1890 with membership of 409,487.*



For 83 years the G.A.R. met yearly in national “Encampments” rotating sites around the country. In August 1948 the GAR’s 82nd National Encampment passed resolution urging Post Office Department to honor their final encampment, in 1949 with a commemorative stamp.

81st CONGRESS
1st Session

H. J. RES. 35

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1949

Mr. MARTIN of Iowa introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the issuance of a special series of stamps commemorative of the Grand Army of the Republic.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Postmaster General is authorized and directed to
4 issue a special series of 3-cent postage stamps, of such
5 design as he shall prescribe, in commemoration of the
6 Grand Army of the Republic, and such stamp be first
7 offered to the public at Indianapolis, Indiana, on August
8 28, 1949, on the occasion of the final National Encamp-
9 ment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Legislation was introduced by;

- Representative Charles A. Halleck, IN - February 2nd,
- Senator Hickenlooper, IA - March 17th
- Representative John W. McCormack - April 14th
- Senator Langer, ND - May 24th.

NONE OF THE BILLS PASSED!

Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson recognized the need of a GAR stamp authorizing issue June 28, 1949.

Designs
Not
Used



Donaldson



Photo Essay of Approved Design



THE STAMP ANNOUNCED

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mr. James M. Bell

ryland

"Reprint of notice which appeared in the POSTAL BULLETIN OF JULY 26, 1949"

INSTRUCTION OF THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

3-CENT GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

The Department will issue a 3-cent stamp through the Indianapolis, Ind., post office, on August 29, 1949, to commemorate the Final National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The stamp will be 0.84 by 1.44 inches in dimensions, arranged horizontally, printed by the rotary process in red, electric-eye perforated, and issued in sheets of 50 subjects. The printing of 110,000,000 G. A. R. stamps has been authorized.

The central design depicts a G. A. R. veteran as he is today; old, wrinkled, head bowed, near the end of his road. Behind him, he is shown in his youth, as a Union soldier; bathed in light, looking upward, confident and strong, at the beginning of his long road. Across the top of the stamp is the wording "Final National Encampment Of The" in white-face Gothic. In the upper left corner of the design is an hourglass representing time, most of which has run out, as indicated by the sand in the lower half. Across the face of the hourglass are the letters "G. A. R." in dark Gothic. Centered below the glass is the denomination "3c" in dark modified Roman with the word "Cents" in dark Gothic underneath. In a panel at the bottom appears the wording "United States Postage" in white-face Gothic on a dark background.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancellations of this stamp may send a limited number of addressed envelopes, not in excess of 10, to the Postmaster, Indianapolis, Ind., with postal note or money order remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed. Postage stamps and personal checks will not be accepted in payment. Envelopes submitted should be of ordinary letter size and each must be properly addressed. An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope and the flap either sealed or turned in. An outside envelope must not be sent for return of first-day covers. The envelope to the Postmaster, Indianapolis, Ind., should be endorsed "First Day Covers." Collectors should refrain from requesting hand cancellations since covers will be machine canceled so far as practicable. Orders for first-day covers must not include requests for uncanceled stamps.

For the benefit of collectors desiring stamps of selected quality for philatelic use, the 3-cent G. A. R. commemorative stamp will be available at the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., on and after August 30, 1949. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the Agency should include no other stamp issues. The Philatelic Agency does not service first-day covers.

Postmasters at direct- and central-accounting post offices will receive an initial supply of the G. A. R. stamps on orders prepared in the Department. Therefore, postmasters at these offices will not submit requisitions for the same. Direct- and central-accounting postmasters are furnished commemorative stamps as fast as they can be manufactured. They are, therefore, requested to refrain from reporting the nonreceipt of shipments until a reasonable time has elapsed after the first day of issue.

Postmasters at district-accounting post offices may obtain needed quantities of the 3-cent G. A. R. commemorative stamps by requisition on the central-accounting postmaster.

Postmasters will please post a copy of this notice on the bulletin board, give information to the press, and notify all local stamp clubs regarding the issuance of the 3-cent Grand Army of the Republic commemorative stamp.

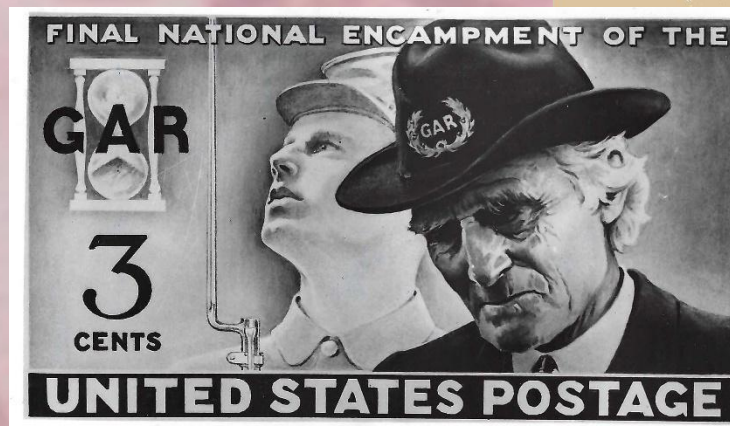
Postmasters are cautioned not to place the stamp herein announced on sale before August 30, 1949.

850301* (Ed. 3,000.)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1949

Associated Press notice announcing GAR Issue

Reprint of page from Postal Bulletin announcing GAR Issue



GAR STAMP

POSTMASTER GENERAL JESSE DONALDSON HAS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON THAT THIS STAMP WILL BE PLACED ON SALE FOR THE FIRST TIME AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND., AUG. 29, TO HONOR THE FINAL NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC THERE FROM AUG. 28 TO SEPT. 1. THE STAMP, PRINTED IN RED INK, SHOWS A GAR VETERAN OF TODAY AND AS HE APPEARED IN HIS YOUTH AS A

UNION SOLDIER.
ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
A LIST WX RM NA NYONEG (25)(NY14)
EE 7-20-49 HO WF 1230P

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ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Design: C.R. Chickering of the Bureau of Printing & Engraving

Engravers: Charles A. Brooks – Vignette, A.W. Christensen - Outline frame, lettering and numerals

Stamp measures 0.84 inches by 1.44 inches.



- Central design depicts veteran in 1949, wrinkled, head bowed, near end of journey through life.
- Background he is in his youth, bathed in light, looking upward, confident and strong, starting his long journey through life.
- Top is wording “Final National Encampment Of The” in white faced Gothic.
- Upper left corner an hour glass represents time, most of which is run out, indicated by sand in lower part.
- Across face of hour glass is “GAR” in dark Gothic.
- Entered below glass is denomination “3” in dark modified Roman with word “Cents” in dark Gothic underneath.
- Panel bottom appears “United States Postage” white-faced Gothic on dark background.

- The GAR commemorative went on sale August 29, 1949, the opening day of GAR Final Encampment, Indianapolis, IN.
- 117,020,000 issued remaining on sale until March 14, 1952 at Philatelic Agency. Stamps printed using 6 plates of 200 images.

This sheet of 50 is postmarked on the first day and is signed by Signed by Indianapolis, Postmaster George J. Ress



Host Hotel

The host hotel for the last encampment was the Hotel Severin, and the ceremonies took place at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, in Indianapolis, Indiana.



In August 1949 only 24 Union veterans, all over 100, were still alive.

NAME	AGE	Born	Died	Service With	BORN/DIED
Thomas Ambrose	13	1848	After 8/29/49		Unknown New York, NY
Charles W. Bailey	15	2/10/1848	1/29/1951		Watertown, Wi - Baldwin City, Ks
Robert Tolliver Barrett	14	11/4/1846	1/12/1951	Pvt—17th Kentucky Cavalry	Kentucky - Eddyville, Ky
Israel Adam Broadsword	14	12/23/1846	7/25/1952	Pvt—Co. H 19th Kansas	Ottawa, Oh - Sandpoint, Id
George Carroll	22	1839	After 8/29/49		Unknown - Cincinnati, Oh
Charles I. Chappel	17	7/7/1847	9/19/1949	Co. D New York 10th Infantry	New York - Westminster, Ca.
John Greene Chisum	13	2/19/1848	6/11/1951	Arkansas	Calico Rock, Ar - Sand Gap Ar
Daniel A. Clingaman	18	9/25/1846	2/18/1951	Co. D—195th Ohio Vol. Inf	Seneca Co., Oh - Wauseon, Oh
Joseph Clovese	17	1/30/1844	7/13/1951	Pvt. Co. C 9th Corps d'Afrique	St. Bernard Parrish, La - Pontiac, Mi
Charles Douglas	14	5/23/1847	1/19/1950	Co. C—15th Connecticut Vols	New Haven, Ct - New Haven, Ct
John Simon Dumser	14	11/25/1847	12/9/1949		Illinois - Alameda Co., Ca
Lewis Fablinger	14	1847	3/14/1950	Co. H 21st Ill Inf. - Co. C 140th Ill inf. Co. F 96th Ill Inf.	Maryland - Jo Daviess Co. Md
Hiram Randall Gale	15	11/8/1846	3/15/1951	Pvt. Co. K 46th Wisconsin Infantry	Washington Co. Vt - Pierce Co. Wa
James A Hard	20	1841	3/12/1953	Pvt—32nd New York Infantry	Windsor, NY - Rochester, NY
James Marion Lurvey	15	12/2/1847	4/7/1950	Co. A 40th Ma Inf - Co. B Vet Res Corp Co. H 4th Ma Hvy Art.	Lowell, Ma - Londonderry, NH
William Allen Mcgee	17	8/19/1846	1/23/1953	Pvt Co. M 12th Ohio Vol Cavalry	Ohio, - Van Nyes, Ca
James P. Martin	13	11/10/1847	9/20/1949	Battery H 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery	Scotland - O'Brien Co. Ia
Theodore A. Penland	16	1/23/1849	9/13/1950	Co. A 152nd Indiana Vol. Infantry	Goshen, In - Portland, Or
James Wilson Smith	18	7/8/1842	3/22/1951	Oregon Cavalry	Unknown - Lebanon, Or
Douglas T. Story	18	2/19/1848	6/11/1951	Co. I 136th Illinois Volunteer Inf.	Illinois - Los Angeles, Ca
Michael Joseph Thralls	18	1/16/1843	11/30/50	Co. C 57th Indiana Inf	Vigo Co. In. - Ontario, Or
Alvin Eugene True	16	3/00/1845	After 8/29/49	Cpl Co. C 7th Maine	Lincoln, Me - Fowler, Co
Lansing A. Wilcox	15	1846	9/29/1951	4th Wisconsin Cavalry	Cadott, Wi
Albert Woolson	17	2/11/1847	8/2/1956	1st Minnesota Volunteer Artillery	Watertown, NY - Duluth, Mn

Six were able to attend “Final Encampment”: Theodore A. Penland, of OR; Albert Woolson, MN; Robert Barrett, KY; Charles L. Chappel, NY; James A. Hard, NY; and Joseph Cloves, LA.

James A. Hard

Birth: July 15, 1843 - Death: March 12, 1953. Last surviving combat veteran, outliving all but one of 2,675,000 Union soldiers.

Claimed birth in 1841. Census figures show he may have lied about his age to enlist. (Last survivor a musician enlisted final weeks of war.) Enlisted four days before Ft. Sumter. Private in 32nd New York Infantry, fought at Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, South Mountain and Antietam.



GAR Stamps signed by James Hard

GAR Stamps postmarked Hard's hometown





1st Day Cover signed by Theodore Penland

1st Day Cover honoring James Hard



Theodore Augustus Penland

Birth: January 23, 1849 Goshen Elkhart County, Indiana

Death: September 13, 1950 Vancouver, Clark County, Washington

Last Commander-in-Chief of GAR. At death he had almost fifty living descendants. Father John Penland, a Union soldier, died as a result of wounds at Battle of Stone's River. Penland, just 16 years old lied about age to enlist. Enlisted Company A, 152nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry at Goshen, Indiana, mustered out August 2, 1865 at Charlestown, West Virginia. Post-war vocations of farming, railroad work, and lure of adventure, drew him repeatedly the west.



In 1868 he walked from Indiana to California, lived briefly Cheyenne, Wyoming, and resided in both Sacramento, California and Nevada. He worked in Sierra Nevada Mountains on Union Pacific Railroad through 1869 when golden spike completed the transcontinental line at Promontory Point.



GAR Stamps signed by Theodore Penland

Postmarked at Theodore Penland's hometown return address is hand written by him.





Albert Woolson

Birth: February 11, 1847 Watertown, New York Father moved family to Minnesota. Albert's father joined Union forces from Minnesota in 1861, injured at Shilo he returned home. Joined Janesville, Minnesota, August 10, 1863 age 16 in drum corp. Head Drummer Chattanooga November 1863 and Drum Major during Sherman's march. Mustered out at Nashville in September 1865.

Post war Albert worked mills and logging camps northern Michigan.



GAR Stamps signed by
Albert Woolson

GAR first day cover signed by
Albert Woolson



Postmarked at Albert Wolson's hometown



Joseph Clovese

Birth: January 30, 1844 St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana

Death: July 13, 1951 Burial: [Perry Mount Park Cemetery](#)
Oakland County, Pontiac, Michigan

Private, Co C, 9th Corps d'Afrique, Louisiana (Union), and later Private, Co C, 63rd USCIVolunteers; he received pension from 1911 until his death.

. *** LAST NEGRO CIVIL WAR Veteran***

Joseph (Uncle Joe) Clovese, last surviving Negro Union veteran, died July 13, 1951 Dearborn Veterans Hospital. 107 years old Michigan's last survivor of Civil War. Home was Pontiac. Born a slave St. Bernard Parish, La. Deserted his master to join Union Army during Siege of Vicksburg. In Union Army, as drummer, then infantryman. A private Co. "C", 63rd Colored Infantry Regiment.



GAR Stamps signed by
Albert Woolson

Postmarked at Joseph Clovese's hometown



Charles L. Chappel

Birth: July 7, 1847 - Death: September 19, 1949

Company D, New York 10th Infantry.

Commander Stanton Post 55, Long Beach.

On Sept 19, 1949 refused treatment for heart attack and after a second hours later, taken to Naval Hospital where he died. Prior days seen scooting about streets in electric three-wheeler.

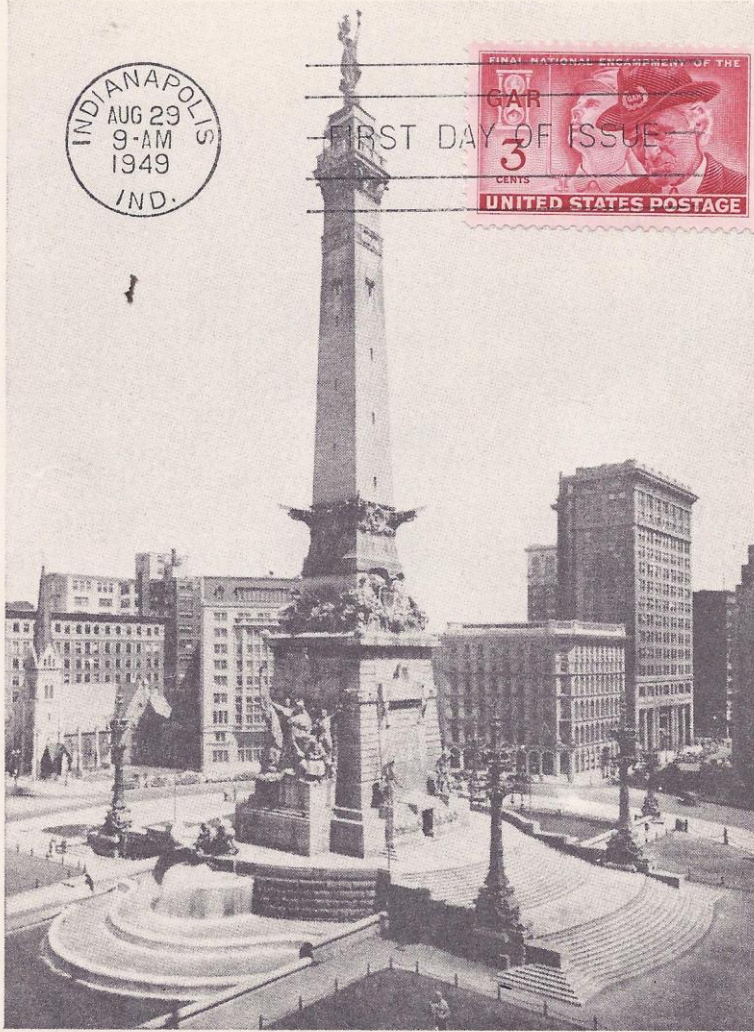
September 2nd flew back from last encampment. Chappel's had hoped to be National Commander. Comdr. Penland, let him hold the gavel symbolically closing his career as a delegate. Chappel was also Commander of California-Nevada Department of GAR. At 17, Chappel enlisted Company B, 10th New York Infantry, as a private. Stood picket duty at Appomattox Courthouse April 9, 1865, when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered.



GAR Stamps signed by
Charles Chappel

Postmarked at Charles Chappel's hometown





*Soldiers and Sailors Monument
Indianapolis, Indiana*

First Day Ceremonies

Ceremonies were
held at the
Soldiers and Sailors
Monument
in
Indianapolis,
Indiana

PROGRAM

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

of the

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Honoring the

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



Monday, August 29, 1949 — One-Thirty P. M.

Monument Circle

Indianapolis, Indiana

First Day Covers

I have been able to accumulate over 225 different cachets with first day cancellations. These appear on covers with many different types cachets.



Hand painted cachets make up one group. These two Dorothy Knapp cachets are part of the 26+ different hand painted cachets that have been identified



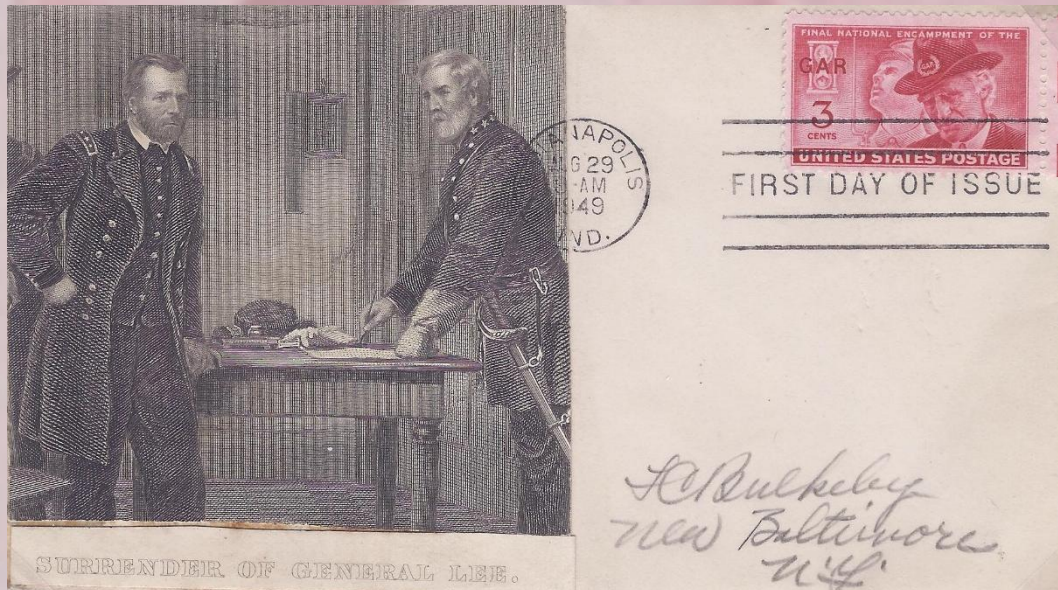
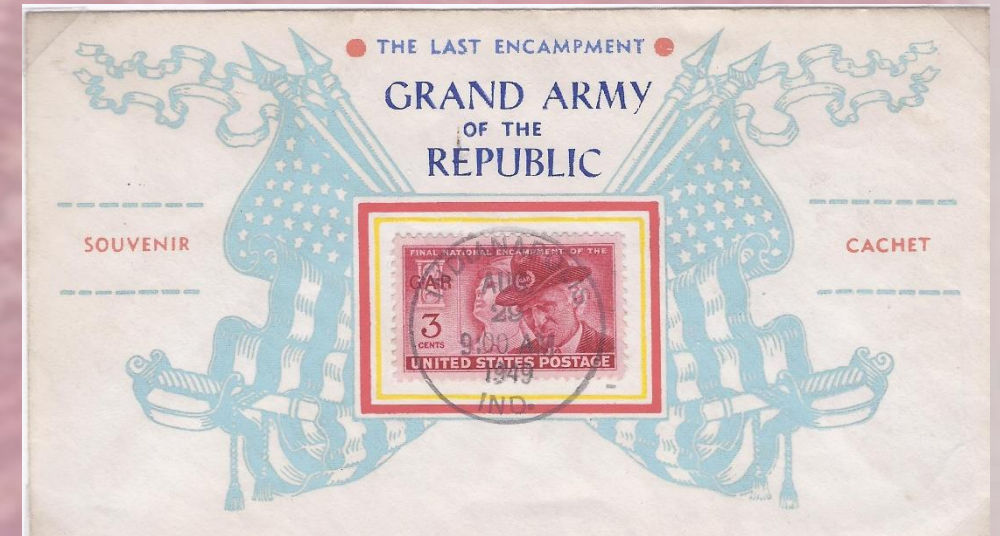
Patriotic Cachets

During the Civil War thousands of patriotic covers were created to support our troops. Many of the covers remained unused in 1949. I have accumulated over 50 of these covers franked with the GAR issue and cancelled on the first day of issue.



Commercially Prepared

Many commercial cachet makers created cachets for the G.A.R. issue. Over 60 different cachets have been identified and three of them can be seen here.



Standard Commercial Envelopes



Standard commercial envelopes were also used to create first day covers for the G.A.R. issue. Over 16 different commercial envelopes have been identified and two of them can be seen here.



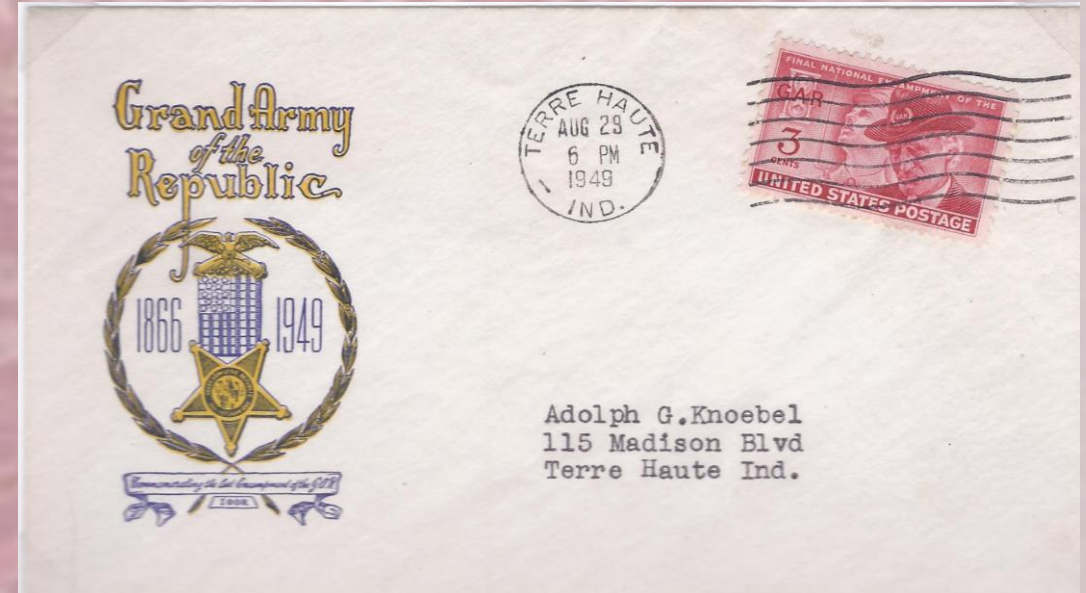
Picture Post Cards

More than 25 picture post cards, many with scenes of Indianapolis, were also used to create first day covers for the G.A.R. issue.



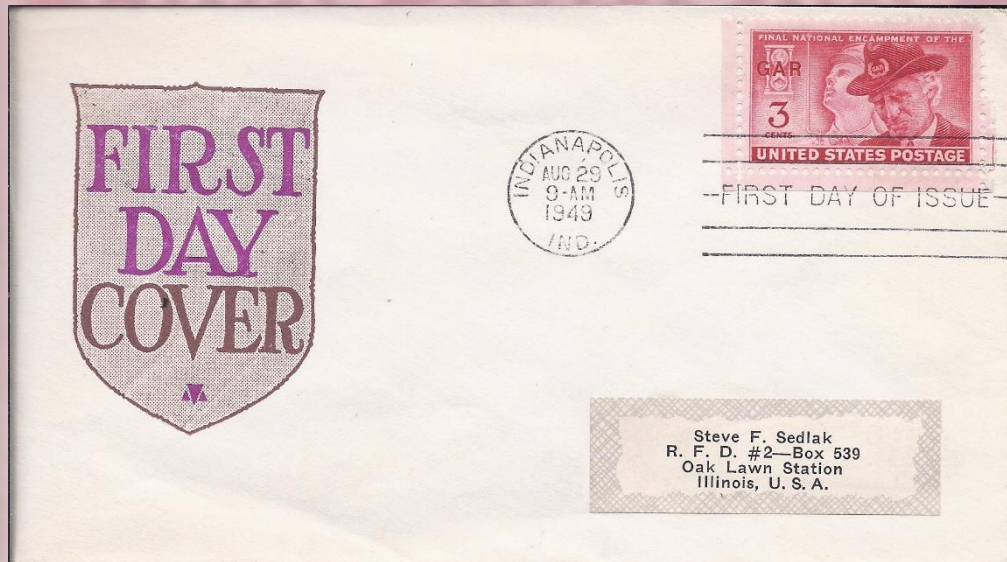
Unofficial Cities

Some collectors like to have a stamp first day canceled in an unofficial city. Over eight unofficial cities have been identified. In most case this would involve a purchase of the stamps in the first day city and driving to the unofficial site. In some case these unofficial sites were Navy ships that would have had access to a supply of the new issues.



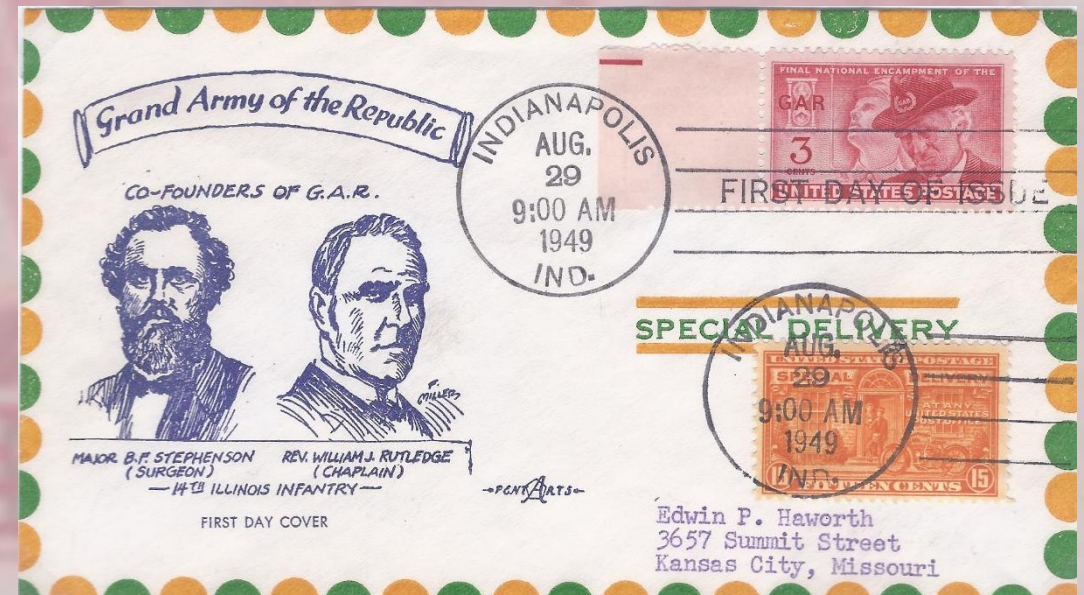
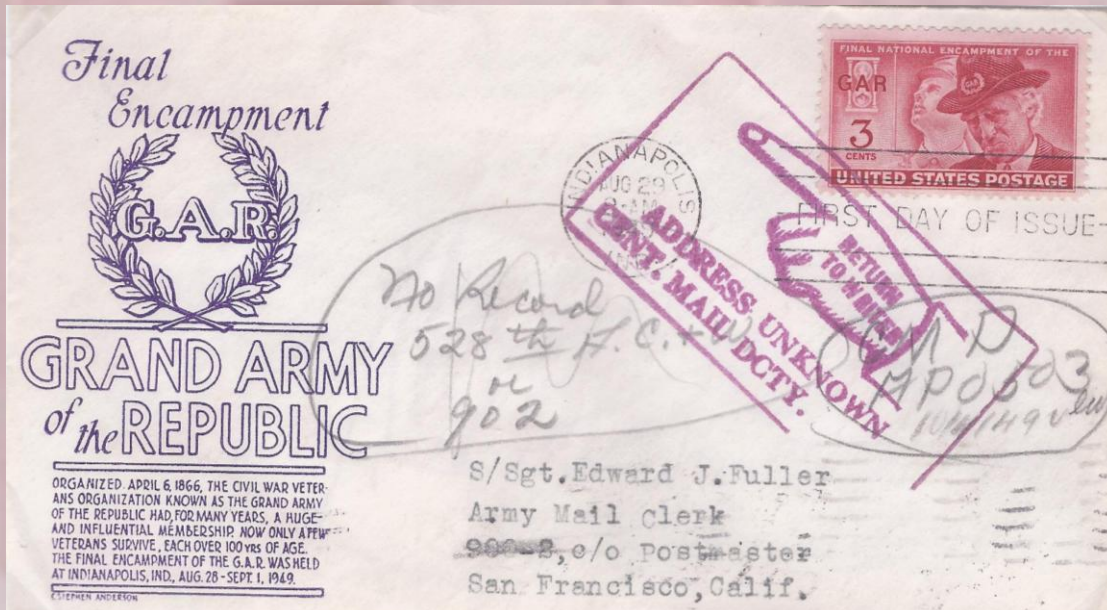
Unrelated Cachets

Often collectors like to use generic or non related cachets. Over 16 unofficial or generic cachets have been identified.



Special Handling

Some collectors like have first day cancelations applied to special handling rates. Over 8 special handling envelopes have been identified. Seen here an airmail rate, special delivery and a return to sender.

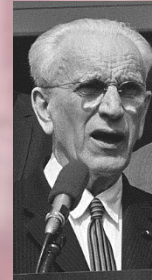


Dignitary Signatures

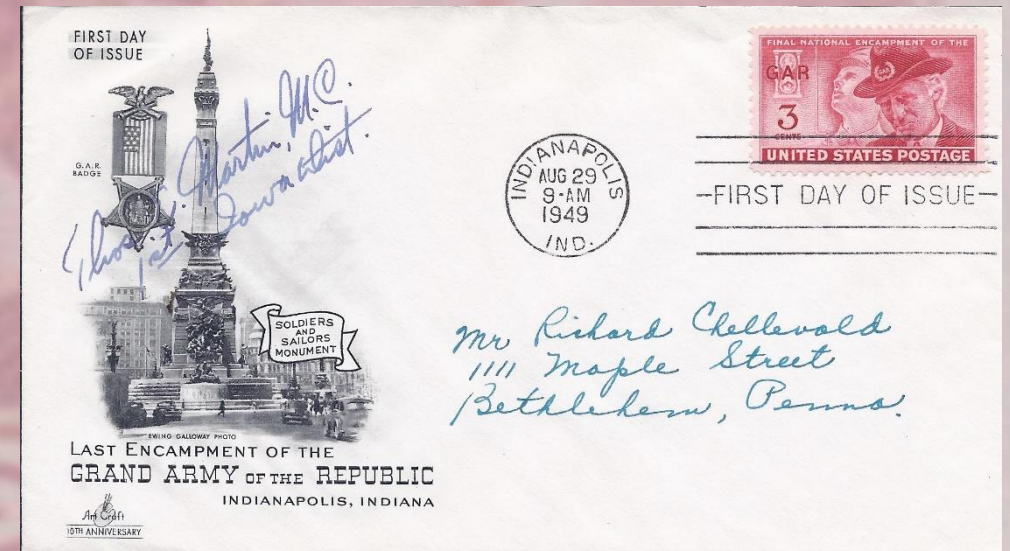
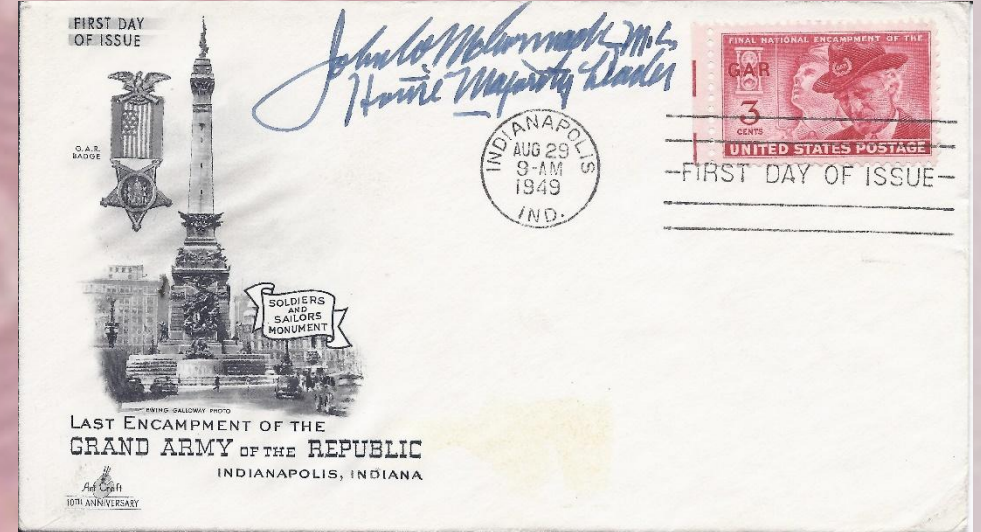
Charles
Abraham
Halleck
Indiana
co-sponsored bill
for GAR issue.



Majority Leader
John W.
McCormack
GAR stamp
sponsor.



Thomas
Ellsworth
Martin
co-sponsored
bill for GAR
issue.



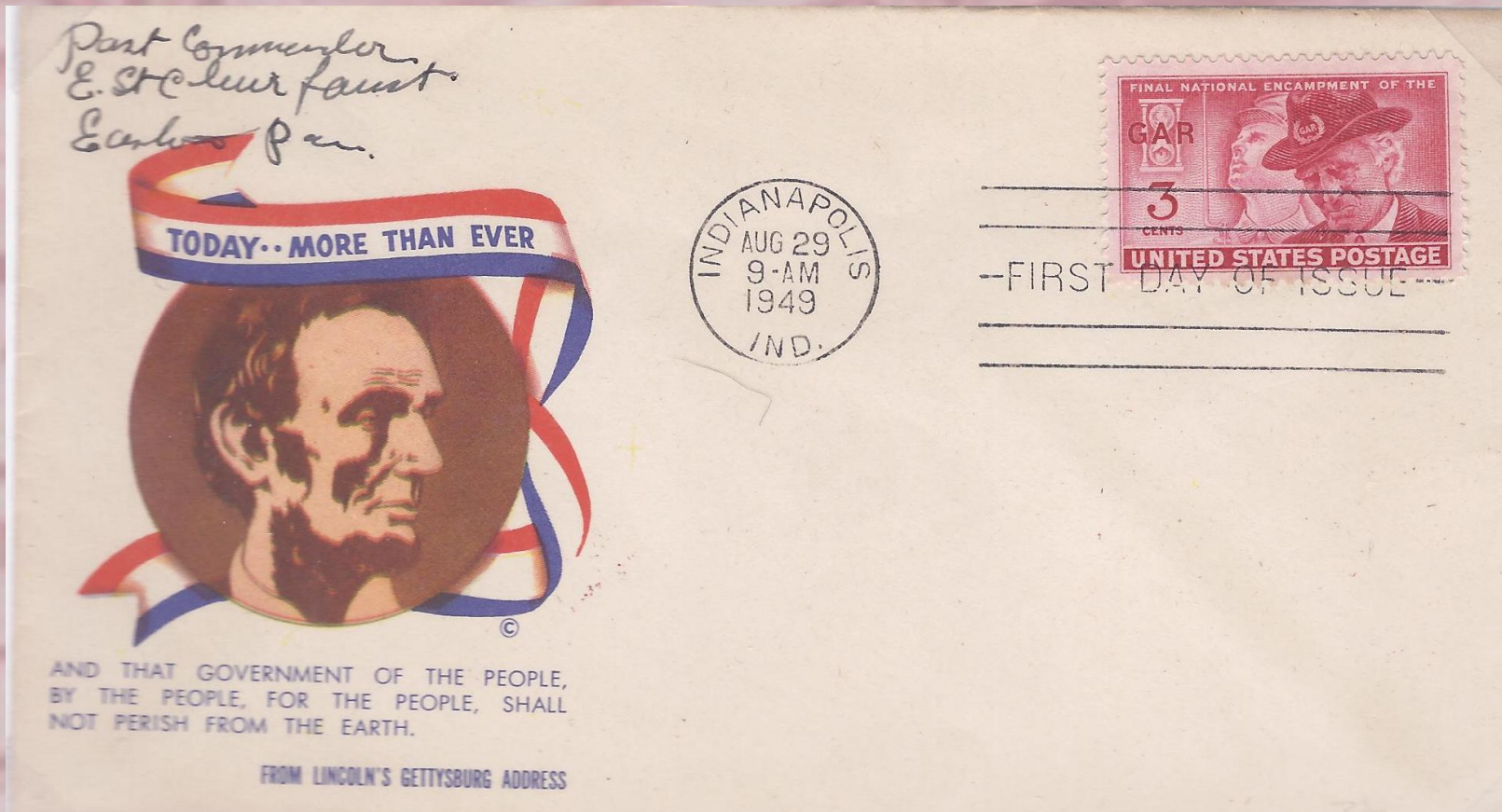
Anniversary Covers

Sometimes a collectors will use a first day cover and have it postmarked on an anniversary of the original issue. Here are examples of the 30th, 40th, and 50th anniversary covers.



Miscellaneous Covers

Cover signed by E. St. Clair Faust. Born 1890, E. St. Clair Faust grandson of Sgt. John S. Funk, of Company A 174th Regiment during Civil War. On May 10, 1900, when Easton, Pennsylvania civil war monument was dedicated, he was there wearing his grandfather's Civil War blue uniform. Sgt. Funk attended with him.



Last Day of Final Encampment

The final encampment of the G.A.R. lasted from August 29, 1949 to September 1, 1949.

The cover seen here sports a last day cachet and was machine canceled on the September 1, 1949 in Decatur, Illinois birth place of the Grand Army of the Republic.



Formal Dissalution of the G.A.R.

On August 2, 1956 the G.A.R. came to a formal end on the death of Albert Woolson at the age of 109. This cover, postmarked August 2, 2016 commemorates the 60th anniversary of the end of the G.A.R.

