

Re-union ~ Society of the Army of the Potomac May 6 & 7, 1885

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIGNAL CORPS.

The thirteenth annual re-union of this Association was held in Colonel Buchler's Hall, Gettysburg, July 2 and 3.

The meeting was called to order by the President, General B. F. Fisher. Major L. R. Fortescue, chairman of the Executive Committee, announced that the annual business meeting would be held at 7.30 P. M., and the re-union at 10 o'clock, Tuesday A. M., at the Court House. The members were requested to meet at 3 o'clock, Monday P. M., at Little Round Top, to select a spot for the location of the proposed Signal Corps monument.

Upon motion of Major Fortescue, General Jesse Merrill, of Lock Haven, Pa., was unanimously elected by this Association to represent it as Vice-President of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

W. M. Wires, of Lynn, Mass., of the Monument Committee, submitted designs, with specifications and estimates, which were discussed, but, upon motion, further consideration was postponed until evening.

At 3 o'clock, Monday P. M., a large number of members met upon Little Round Top to select a site for the proposed monument. Colonel Bachelder, of the Battle Field Memorial Association, was also present. Major James S. Hall, who was Signal Officer with General Warren, and who was stationed there on July 2, 1868, and his flagman, John Chamberlin, were present, and readily found the boulders occupied by them while on duty during the battle. After consultation with Colonel Bachelder, the flat rock directly in front of the boulder used as a signal station was selected.

In the absence of the President, General Fisher, the meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, W. M. Wires, at 7.80 P. M. About 75 members were present.

Records of last annual meeting read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was, in his absence, read by the Secretary:

Total receipts, August 1, 1887, to July 1, 1888....	\$128.75
" expenditures, Aug. 1, 1887, to July 1, 1888....	\$124.87
Balance on hand,	\$3.88

The report was referred to the Auditing Committee, and Van B. Sleeper and Fred. J. Amsden having been appointed to fill vacancies in that committee, the report was by them approved.

The Historian, Lieut. J. Willard Brown, made a verbal report, which was accepted as a report of progress.

The report of the Monument Committee was read, and upon motion, the report was accepted and the committee discharged, with the thanks of the Association.

Upon motion of Major Fortescue, it was voted that a committee of seven be appointed by the Vice-President, with full powers, to have charge of building a suitable monument upon the spot -elected at Little Round Top, and to arrange for the raising of money to defray its cost. The chairman appointed as such committee:

Major L. R. Fortescue, of Philadelphia.

Major A. 6. Capron, of Stillwater, R. I.

Captain F. J. Amsden, of Scranton, Pa.

Paul G. Botticher, of Newark, N. J.

Colonel Henry S. Tafft, of Providence, R. I.

John L. Pray, of White House, O.

William M. Wires, of Lynn, Mass.

The last named member of the committee was chosen by vote of the Association to fill a vacancy caused by resignation of the member appointed by the chairman.

The Committee upon Association Badge reported through Paul G. Botticher, who submitted twelve designs. After discussion, it was voted to adopt the design marked "3 A," with the addition of the letters "U. S."

The chair appointed the following committee:

On Nomination of Officers: Major A. B. Capron, Major James S. Hall, Van B. Sleeper, Lieutenant J. W. Brown, and W. Clark Johnson.

Said committee presented the following report:

For President: General Jesse Merrill, of Lock Haven, Pa.

Vice-President: Major James S. Hall, of Renovo, Pa.

Secretary and Treasurer: Sergeant Charles De Witt Marey, of Boston.

Historian: Lieutenant J. Willard Brown, of Cambridge, Mass.

Quartermaster: Oscar N. Bender, of Providence, R. I.

Executive Committee: James H. Kelly, of Albany, Paul G. Botticher, of Newark, and George E. Woodbury, of Pawtucket, R.I.

Auditing Committee: John Foster, of New York City, E. R. Dowler, of Braddock, Pa., and John M. Howe, of E. Brookfield, Mass.

The above nominees were unanimously elected. Major A. B. Capron was elected as delegate to represent this Association at the next meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

The President-elect was escorted to the chair, and thanked the members for the honor conferred.

The thanks of the Association were returned to the officers of the past year for the efficient manner in which they had discharged their duties.

It was voted that the Executive Committee be requested to fix the time and place of holding the next annual meeting and re-union at the time and place of the National G. A. R. Encampment.

Photographs of Signal Corps members were presented to the Association by Major Fortesoue.

A large number of letters from absent members were read.

Allen D. Frankenberry, of Point Marion, exhibited the flag in his possession with which the famous message, "Hold the Fort," etc., was flagged from Kenesaw Mountain to Allatoona, in October, 1864, and Lieutenant Round the flag placed upon the Capitol at Raleigh, N. C.

By vote, the Secretary was instructed to send a ribbon badge to each member, with the notice of the fourteenth re-union.

Votes of thanks for courtesies extended were returned, and the business meeting adjourned at 11 o'clock P. M.

The Re-union was held at 10 o'clock, Tuesday A. M., in the spacious County Court room. Past President General B. F. Fisher presided. The order of exercises was as follows:

Address by General Fisher; Poem by Major Adire B. Capron; Oration by General Jesse Merrill; Recitation by Major L. R. Fortescue; Address by Alexander Ashley, of Signal Office at Washington.

It was voted that the Secretary publish a report of the proceedings, including the oration and poem, with a roster of members of the Association, and forward a copy to each member.

The Re-union was brought to a close at 12 o'clock.

Charles D'W. Marcy,

Secretary.

Address, 155 Franklin Street, Boston.