

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION1
CH 1 ~ A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE G.A.R.5
A Soldier's Vision	6
G.A.R. Membership Eligibility	8
Political Redirection	10
Near Collapse	11
Pensions to the Rescue	14
An Inevitable End	16
CH 2 ~ G.A.R. RECORDS17
What Can You Expect to Find?	18
The Glory Years	18
G.A.R. Structure: Blessing and Curse	19
What Is a Regiment?	21
Where Are the G.A.R. Records?	23
National Records	26
Departments Records	32
Post Records	34
Media Resources – Newspapers	38
G.A.R. Museums	39
CH 3 ~ G.A.R. AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS41
War-Time America	41
Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.)	43
Ladies of the G.A.R. (LGAR)	49
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)	50
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	53
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War	54
Affiliate Postcards	55
CH 4 ~ AFRICAN-AMERICAN G.A.R.57
Army Organization	57
Bureau for Colored Troops	58
Finding Black G.A.R. Members	60
African-American G.A.R. Posts	61
Valentine Grant Sketch	62

Table of Contents

CH 5 ~ BADGES, MONUMENTS & CANNONS63
Badges and Ribbons.....64
Buildings As Monuments68
Monuments and Statues.....70
Cannons Across the U.S.72
Cemeteries as Monuments74
Public Relations Machine76

CH 6 ~ FEDERAL RECORDS79
National Archives and Records Administration79
Additional Records and Sources93

CH 7 ~ STATE AND LOCAL RECORDS97
Regimental Histories97
Adjutant General Reports.....100
Bounty Records101
Personal War Sketches.....104

CH 8 ~ STATE G.A.R. RECORD SOURCES107
State by state107

APPENDIX A – REGIMENT TYPES118
APPENDIX B – PENSION FILE NUMBERING120
APPENDIX C – GLOSSARY122
APPENDIX D – RESEARCH CHECKLIST124
NOTES & RECOMMENDED READING.125
INDEX.128
BOOKS BY GARY W. CLARK130