

Grand Army of the Republic vets

BY C. W. LATTIN

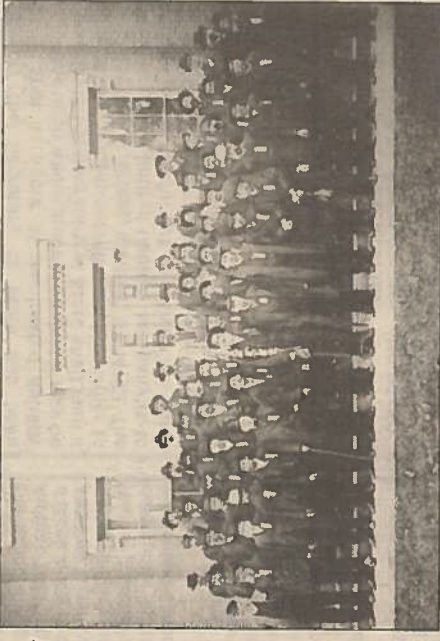
Orleans County historian

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The GAR veterans pictured on the steps of the Orleans County Courthouse, probably in the 1890s, are only a small part of the 1,928 men from this county who served in the Civil War.

They saw action from Harper's Ferry to Fredericksburg and from Antietam to Gettysburg. They suffered many hardships from weather, long marches and illness. Some were POWs like Ziba Roberts, who described the prison camp conditions, poor food, "fly-filled" soup, contaminated water, scurvy and home-sickness. These men of the Grand Army of the Republic saw 474 of their Orleans comrades die of disease or from wounds in battle.

One Medina veteran listed his fallen buddies: Irwin Starr, William Wright, Henry Fuller, Charles West,



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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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Nor should we forget their wives and children who suffered with them. Army pay was low and irregular. Many good neighbors raised money for the aid of families of the volunteers as well as helping with chores and other homely duties.

C. W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. His column appears every Thursday in *The Journal-Register* and *The Albion-Advertiser*.

Major Blake, Col. Edwin F. Brown lost an arm. Francis Balcom expressed his dreams for peace in a letter to his wife. "I hope for a time when ... this cruel and unnatural war (will) be brought to a close."