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PULLMAN'S GREAT CIVIL WAR CELEBRATION OF 1912

by Robert E. King

SNOW SCENES OF WHITMAN COUNTY

Whitman County Historical Society

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COVER: Led by two flags, the grand parade marched south on Pullman's Grand Avenue toward Main Street on the opening day of 1912 GAR encampment. The area on the left side of the picture is now the location of the Cordova Theater.

Photo courtesy of Robert E. King.



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The Author

Robert E. King is a Pullman historian and an avid collector of Pullman memorabilia. While his collection included photos of the encampment, he was inspired to write this article after acquiring the two medals described in this article. King is currently the State Archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

The birthday of Abraham Lincoln, our Civil War President, was celebrated in 1932 by Washington State College students with an eight-foot snow statue of the 16th president. Using table knives, Paul Cramer, a senior in chemical engineering, and Milford Schultz, a senior in education, sculpted the statue from a large snowball on Campus Avenue. Neither student had a lesson in art. Local photographer R. R. Hutchinson forwarded a film of the statue to be used in newsreels around the country. Pullman experienced a record snowfall that winter.



Photo courtesy of Bob King

Looking east on Pullman's Main Street toward the campus as cadets from the college march with veterans of the Civil War.

PULLMAN'S GREAT CIVIL WAR CELEBRATION OF 1912

By Robert E. King

Introduction

During June 5th through 7th of 1912, in what was called the grandest celebration to that point in Pullman's history, citizens of the town successfully hosted the 30th annual state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).¹ An estimated 400-500 Union Army veterans of the Civil War came, with other guests (including a few former Confederate soldiers) bringing the total to over 1,200 attendees for the three-day gala event. Aging veterans, in their late 60s to nearly 90, came by train, wagon, or car to Pullman and left cheering the town's hospitality. This is the story of what happened that special June in the early 20th century and how it came about.

Preparations

Planning for the event started more than a year in advance. In June of 1911, special representatives of Pullman attended the 29th annual state encampment of this veterans' organization held in Wenatchee, and made a successful bid to host the next one in 1912. Pullman's planning soon began in earnest, and a General Organizing Committee² of volunteers formed that fall. Its task was to do preliminary planning for the major organizational kick-off by the citizens of the town, to begin in early 1912.

On January 5, 1912, banner headlines in the *Pullman Herald* trumpeted "Old Soldiers Will Be Given Royal Welcome Next June" and "No Effort Will Be Spared in Providing Entertainment for Civil War Heroes." The story reported that, on Tuesday evening, January 2nd, the Chamber of Commerce held an open public meeting in Pullman's Masonic hall to formulate plans. The Women's Relief Corps had prepared an abundant feast, laid on "long tables fairly groaning under the weight." After supper, attendees adjourned to the main part of the hall for an organizational meeting and virtual pep rally under the direction of Chamber President Frank M. Slagle, who opened the meeting by leading the group in a rousing rendition of "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground."

The meeting continued in high spirits, with four members joining an expanded General Committee, including Washington State College President, Enoch A. Bryan.³ Additionally, eight new committees were organized to focus on special

needs of the event. These included the Reception Committee, headed by Pullman Mayor Albert E. Shaw; the Finance Committee, chaired by Albertis B. Baker; and an Accommodation Committee, headed by WSC Professor Osmer L. Waller. For the latter, it was noted that the group would need to cooperate with other separate committees appointed by the Women's Relief Corps and Pullman's local GAR post.

The other five new committees were the Commissary Committee, with Thomas W. Savage, Chairman; the Badges Committee, headed by Karl P. Allen (editor of the *Pullman Herald*); the Program and Entertainment Committee under WSC Professor Charles Timblin, Chairman; the Buildings and Grounds Committee, led by Frank Sanger; and the Railroad and Transportation Committee, with William Goodyear of the *Pullman Herald* as head. In all, around 50 Pullmanites, including some from WSC, volunteered to serve on these eight new committees, with several people serving on more than one. Other members were to be added as needed. Only one woman, Mrs. Olive Porter, wife of William M. Porter, was initially included though more women apparently joined committees later. Otherwise, women assisted the efforts of their husbands or worked on efforts organized by the Women's Relief Corps or the GAR Auxiliary.

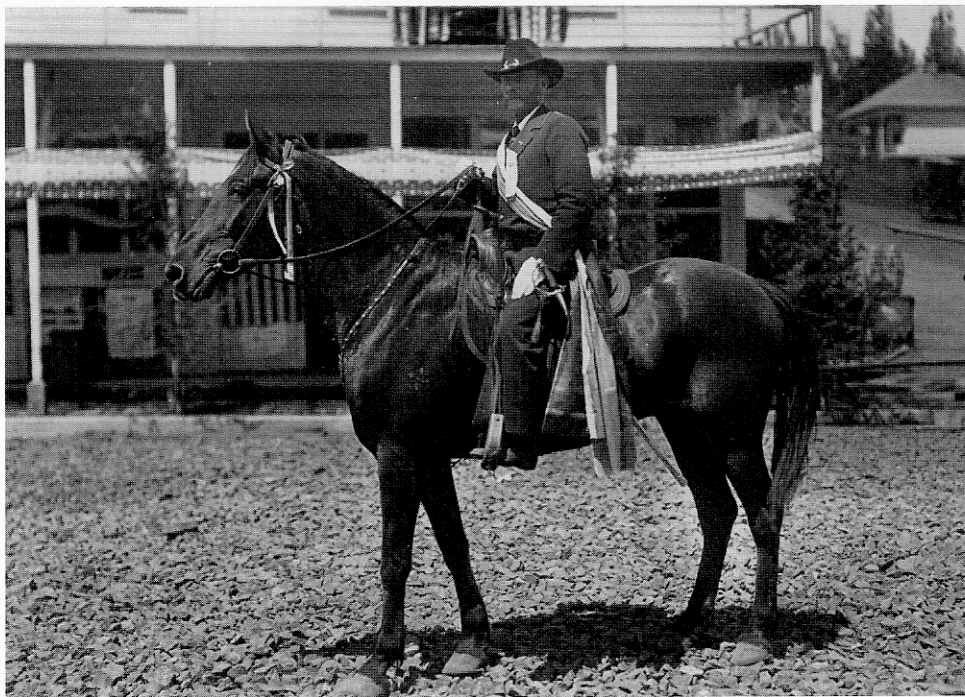


Photo courtesy of WCHS

K. P. Allen, Pullman's postmaster, poses on horseback in his Civil War uniform in front of the Baker Implement store at the corner of Grand and Olson Streets.

After formation of the new committees, the paper reported the singing of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” no doubt to reanimate persons beginning to doze off after the huge meal. Rousing speeches followed, with one by Professor Charles Timbin of the Program and Entertainment Committee setting out the challenges and sacrifices that lay ahead for such a small town to be able to host this major event. Literally, Pullman citizens were asked to temporarily give up their homes to the aging soldiers. Timblin “... advised every family to be prepared to live in tents during the encampment so as to turn their bedrooms over to the visitors.” He pointed out that the benefit was not only to honor the remaining heroes of the Civil War, but to meet “a great opportunity to make a reputation for Pullman as an enterprising and hospitable city.” And immediate evidence of that was his announcement that the local post of the GAR had already pledged \$1,000 toward the expenses of the encampment—though only to be used if subsequent funds raised by the town fell short of covering expenses. These included pledge card subscription and a general solicitation among the town’s businesses.

Cleverly, midway through the discussion of fund-raising and people signing up to help pay for the event, another patriotic song was sung to generate even more enthusiasm. This time it was a spirited delivery of “Marching Through Georgia,” amusingly described by the paper as sung with “a vim which made the windows rattle.” And indeed they probably did! The night ended with the town unified in enthusiasm and raring to stage what would soon be called the biggest event in Pullman’s history.⁴ This included the decision to cancel the traditional 4th of July celebration so that the town’s efforts would be fully focused on the GAR encampment.

Committees at Work

For the next six months, the local paper presented updates on accomplishments of the various committees in charge of events. The Finance Committee, overseeing fund-raising, reported that local camp Number 110 of the Woodmen of the World lodge donated \$250 to the June event. The February 2, 1912, *Pullman Herald*, applauded the lodge’s generosity as a wonderful “example of Pullman Spirit.” Not to be outdone, the 60 Elks residing in Pullman, though without a formal lodge, soon pledged \$2 each. The paper praised the \$120 gift by saying they were “the best people on earth.”⁵ In the same article, the members of the Evergreen Circle, Women of Woodcraft lodge, were noted to have donated \$75 to the cause, which was “deeply appreciated by the finance committee.”

By late February, considerable work in cleaning up Pullman’s “Reaney’s Park,” the main site for the encampment, had already been accomplished. R. Lanning of the Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that “all the dead wood has been cut out and number of trees removed where they were too close to each other. All

the trees in the park have been dug around and everything put in first class shape.”⁶ Apparently, the key reason for this early work was to further impress two state dignitaries key to the success of the event. One, Mr. Frederick H. Hurd, was the state Department Commander of the GAR, and the other, Mrs. Edith E. Harris, was the state Department Commander of the Women’s Relief Corps. Both were scheduled to arrive in Pullman on February 25th to assess ongoing preparations. Pullman was determined to put on a good show.

Subsequently, the March 1, 1912, Pullman paper proclaimed “All Hands to the Wheel for Big GAR Encampment; Department Commander of GAR Visits Pullman and Enthusiasm is Unlimited—Fifteen Hundred Visitors, Says Hurd.” The article reported that both Commander Hurd and Mrs. Harris were impressed with their warm reception and by the numerous encouraging reports and speeches from members of the various committees. Adding to those, College President Bryan pledged “every possible assistance from that institution to make the occasion a memorable and happy one.” Bryan also thanked the organizing committees for setting the date of the event early enough that “those in attendance at the College would be able to participate.” “The encampment,” he said, “would inculcate in the young people from all parts of the state who are attending the College, the true ideas of patriotism which would prove an education in the direction of useful citizenship.”

Professor Charles Timblin, head of the Program and Entertainment Committee, proudly announced that the college’s senior class, under the direction of Miss Augusta Roziskey, would stage a special patriotic play in the College Auditorium for the old soldiers. No admission would be charged to the members of the GAR or the Women’s Relief Corps. It would then be repeated during regular college commencement with the public invited at that time for a small charge to help defray expenses.⁷

Other announcements in the March 1 paper concerned anticipated housing for the old soldiers who would be offered options depending on their health. Those more feeble would be housed (Committee members hoped) in private homes, while others would be bedded down in Reaney Park in tents “provided with electric lights, good springs, and good bedding....” (Later, the plan also included turning over college dorm rooms surrendered by college students to encampment attendees.) Finally, Karl Allen’s committee on badges reported that 2,500 had been ordered, enough for all visitors as well as extras for all the old veterans living in the state’s two soldiers’ homes at Orting and Port Orchard. In keeping with what was becoming a tradition for all such meetings, the visit by Commander Hurd and Mrs. Harris ended with a blazing rendition of “Marching Through Georgia” and “America.” With that, Pullman was well on its way to a successful event!

Regarding the plans to house some of the old soldiers in tents in Reaney Park, members of the Accommodation Committee contacted local representatives to Congress and had a joint resolution passed in Washington, D.C. authorizing the



Photo courtesy of WCHS

Civil War veterans line up on Grand Avenue for this photo. Olson Street (on the right) continued westward up the hill in 1912.

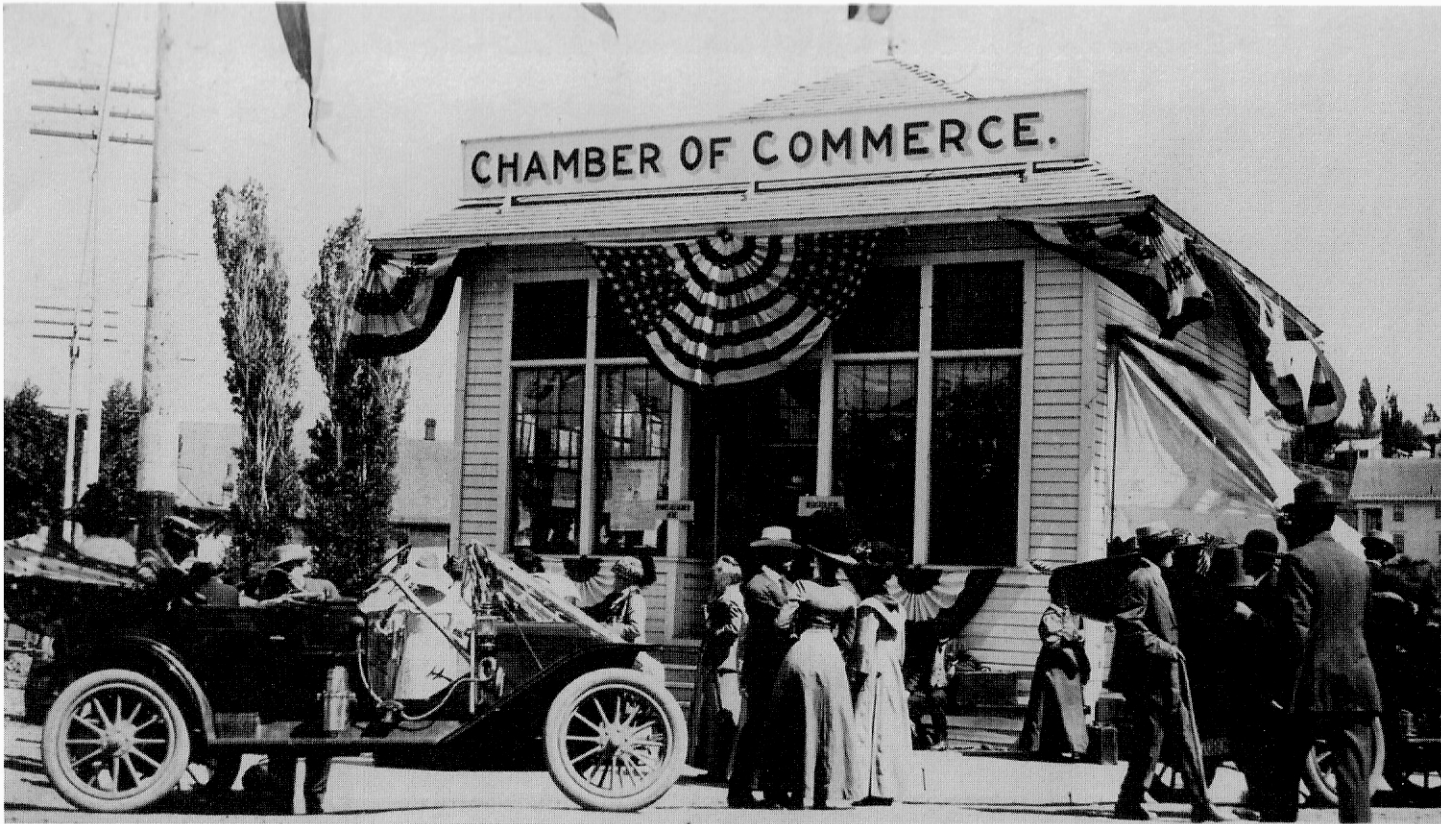


Photo courtesy of WCHS

The Pullman Chamber of Commerce office was a busy meeting place during the encampment. The building stood at a 45 degree angle on the southeast corner of Main and Kamiaken Streets. The Squires-McKenzie house at the extreme right still stands at the intersection of Paradise and Daniel Streets.

Secretary of War to loan needed tents and associated gear for the Pullman event.⁸ Later, when Pullmanites learned that they would have to pay substantial shipping fees to get and return the tents, they found a cheaper source, the firm of F. O. Berg of Spokane.⁹ Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that Congress went on record in support of Pullman's great celebration.

April 1912

By early April, about two months before the event, plans were reaching completion and several more committees formed to solve additional needs. The Decorations Committee, for example, hired William Siebels of Spokane to decorate the streets for \$125.¹⁰ Additionally, a "Welcome Arch" was to be erected at the entrance to Reaney Park. When the decorations were in place, many Pullman businessmen were so pleased with the results that they personally hired Siebels to further festoon their establishments. Thus, downtown Pullman achieved even more of a celebratory atmosphere, especially along Main Street and Grand Avenue. Another committee was formed to secure automobiles needed to shuttle veterans back and forth from their trains and to take them elsewhere around town.¹¹ Eventually, after a call to local citizens for the use of their vehicles, some horse-drawn buggies were also placed into service. Photos of the event show a mix of open-top large roadsters and older horse-drawn carriages hauling the aging veterans and their wives. For some, riding in automobiles was still a novelty of the new century, a luxury undreamed of 50 years earlier when the Civil War was raging.

Still another committee, the Commissary Committee, was formed to solve the enormous task of feeding the unprecedented number of anticipated visitors. On April 5th, the Pullman paper reported that this committee was "... asking the farmers around Pullman to donate chickens, eggs, vegetables, ham and fresh meat," and would "...secure the big tent of the Ewartsville Grange and serve one big hot meal a day to the visitors." Otherwise, waiters were to be "...present all the time and plenty of light refreshments on hand so that the veterans and other guests can get a cup of hot coffee and a sandwich or some cold meat whenever they feel hungry." For cooking, a "mammoth oven" was to be dug into the side hill at Reaney Park.

A month later, however, the paper announced that "on account of the prospects of a much larger attendance than was at first anticipated, it was decided to abandon the plan of maintaining a commissary department and serving meals in the park." Instead, the revised plan was "... to issue tickets to visitors which will be good for meals at the restaurants and eating places conducted by the church organizations." And to coordinate this activity, another "...special committee was appointed to take this matter up with the restaurant keepers and church organizations."¹² The paper later reported that "the ladies of five churches" served meals so that "the visitors had no trouble in satisfying the cravings of their stomachs."¹³



The Official Badge

which contained a large bust of Abraham Lincoln. This was surrounded by the words: “30th Annual Encampment — Pullman, Wash. 1912.”

Besides the official badge there was also a second medal, though its history was not documented in the paper. This medal, in two parts, was also bronze and depicted the bust of a goddess of agriculture, in front of whom was a horn of plenty spilling forth the lush produce of the Palouse. Beside the figure was one of Pullman’s artesian wells. On her other side were sacks of local wheat, with lush grain fields behind. The top part of the medal with a pin backing, stated “G. A. R. June 5-6-7 1912,” while the lower part said, “Pullman - The Home of the State College” plus “The Artesian City.”

May 1912

With less than a month to go, page 1 of the May 10, 1912, *Pullman Herald* proclaimed: “Everything in Readiness for Big Gathering of Civil War Veterans.”

Among new details reported were that WSC Professor Herbert Kimbrough was "...securing war time moving pictures and that two or three reels could be secured and would be thrown on the screen at the College Auditorium between the acts of 'Gettysburg,'" the special college play being produced for the event. The expenditure of \$15 to show the silent pictures was approved.¹⁵ In the same issue, the encampment plans were revealed. To begin the June 5th event, before the public festivities would start, the "Council of Administration" of the GAR would meet at 8:00 am in the GAR's Department Commander's headquarters in room 6 of the Palace hotel on Grand Avenue.¹⁶ This meeting would be followed at 9:30 by the official start, a "call to order" in the downtown Knights of Pythias lodge hall. The Committee on Credentials would be housed in the Haynes Building at the northeast corner of Main Street and Grand Avenue.¹⁷ Existing photos show veterans being brought by car or buggy to register.

Though notorious in the past for charging high fares, even the Northern Pacific Railroad decided to help with the event. Roundtrip rail tickets were offered at one and one-third the cost of normal one-way fares, with tickets to go on sale to Pullman starting on June 1, 1912.¹⁸ At the town's request, the railroad also made improvements to its right-of-way near Reaney Park, adding needed fill; while in mid-May the city began a fast-paced project to widen the street entering the park, thereby also changing the adjacent sidewalks.¹⁹ It was "bustle, bustle, bustle," and nearly the whole town was involved in doing something to make it a success.

In the final weeks before the much-anticipated encampment, still more details were worked out, including the funding of a special dinner to be held at the two soldiers homes at Orting and Port Orchard, Washington. This would be to honor the old soldiers unable to attend, with each to receive one of the special badges.²⁰ By May 24, plans were also laid to decorate the town's skating rink, chosen as the site of the public reception for the GAR officials. Also, all local doctors were appointed by this time to serve on a committee to maintain an emergency hospital during the event.²¹ This was in anticipation of treating possible health problems that might arise for some of the aging attendees.



The Medal



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Myklebust

Washington Governor Marion E. Hay (seated at the left in the car) was driven to Reaney Park where he addressed the encampment.

Encampment Program

The last *Pullman Herald* before the start of the encampment printed the official program on the first page and the next edition fully reported on the events.²² Highlights of the first day, June 5th, were to include the 9:30 am “Call to Order” ceremony, the official kick-off of the three-day celebration. A two-hour baseball game between Pullman and Colfax followed lunch. At 3:00 pm, the official welcoming ceremony of the guests by citizens of Pullman was scheduled in Reaney Park. Featured would be an address by Mayor Albert E. Shaw, after which he would present Commander Hurd with “an immense gilded key, assuring him that it would unlock any home in Pullman.” WSC President Bryan would make a further welcome speech on behalf of the college, pointing out that 50 years earlier, when the old soldiers were fighting, Congress “... passed the first bill providing for the establishment of institutions like the College.”²³ Next would be a presentation of the American flag to the Pullman High School by the Women’s Relief Corps, with the acceptance by Mr. B. Atherton, President of the School Board. Finally, Mrs. May Arkwright Hutton of Spokane would end the ceremony with an address entitled “The American Flag and the Relations of the Old Veterans Thereto.” But ending the day, between 7:30 and 8:30 pm, after dinner, was perhaps the most anticipated event of all, the grand parade through town. This was to follow a lively drill on Main Street by a regiment of military cadets of the college carrying arms.

This “loudly applauded” spectacle was followed by the sentimental parade of old soldiers.

Leading the column of veterans were flag bearers carrying the American and GAR flags. Following would be college band, the military cadets, and the former soldiers of half a century earlier who were still able to walk the distance along Main Street and Grand Avenue and back to Reaney Park. Drummers and other music would help keep the pace while further entertaining the crowd. “The yells of the College students were an important factor” in energizing the event. Rounding out the parade would be any other members of the enthusiastic crowd who might wish to join in.

At 8:30 pm, one final event of the first day would be a reception for officers of the GAR and the Women’s Relief Corps at the skating rink. Otherwise, various business meetings were to be held in Pullman during the encampment. Just north of the downtown area, the Women’s Relief Corps would assemble in the Christian Church, while across the street the Ladies of the GAR would gather in the then-new gray stone Methodist Church.²⁴ Additionally, the Daughters of the GAR would meet in the Masonic Hall. Among the business conducted was the election of new officers, with early Pullman resident, Mrs. Lula (Laney) Downen, elected Senior Vice-President of the Women’s Relief Corps.²⁵ Further, during the event, a new “Sons of Veterans” organization was organized in Pullman with 49 charter members. Dr. E. T. Patee was elected Commander, B. F. Campbell as Senior Vice-President, and Karl P. Allen, Jr. as Junior Vice-President.

With so much planned for the first day, the second day, June 6th, was scheduled for a later start, though unofficial entertainment and socializing would transpire at various times. After lunch, Washington State Governor Marion E. Hay (a former Union soldier) would give an address at 2:00 pm in Reaney Park. This would be followed by shorter speeches from WSC President Bryan, *Pullman Herald* official William Goodyear, and WSC Professor Charles Timblin. Afterwards, the *Pullman Herald* reported that even more people had spoken briefly, including “Judge L. F. Chester of Spokane and Robert C. (“R. C.”) McCroskey, who fought on the Confederate side [but] joined in tribute to their former foes.”²⁶ In addition, a telegram from U.S. President William H. Taft would be read in which he said: “Please convey my cordial greeting to those in attendance at your thirtieth annual encampment and my best wishes for a delightful reunion.” Following the addresses, for further entertainment, a tambourine drill would be performed by “eight little girls from the Ewartsville School, under the direction of Mrs. Wesley Lybecker, teacher.”

At 4:00 pm, the WSC band was to play in Reaney Park, including a new song especially written for the GAR’s 30th encampment in Pullman, entitled “The Old Soldier.” WSC Music Professor W. B. Strong composed the tune, while the words were written by none other than local newspaperman, William Goodyear. Among his lines were: “He left his all for the battle’s pail, at Lincoln’s call” and “He

fought the fight with all his might, for God and right.” The music would be followed by a review of cadets on Rogers Field. Finally, after supper, members of the GAR and its Auxiliary and “kindred organizations” would be treated on campus to the special Civil War play, “Gettysburg,” along with “moving pictures representing events of Civil War times” between acts.

The June 7th, *Pullman Herald* printed an account of the play:

“The presentation of the Civil War drama, Gettysburg, last evening by the Senior class of the State College was received with enthusiasm by the boys of ’61. It was the kind of a play with plenty of action and noise which would best suit the veterans. The work of the cast was very commendable, the costumes were good, the scenery new and the arrangements for the old soldiers especially good. The story of the play hinges on the dismissal of Tom Markham from a gun factory by a jealous foreman, Fairfax, the subsequent difficulties of the war and the final triumph of Markham as a colonel in the Union army over Fairfax in the Confederate army.”²⁷

The final day, June 7th, would start even later to allow the old veterans rest from the prior days’ events. This would also provide more time for socializing and reminiscing, amid other entertainment. One of the more unusual events of the morning was the uncapping of the artesian well at the Pullman City Hall, allowing people to see “a Pullman gusher in action,” a town trademark. At 4:00 pm a final concert would be staged by the WSC band, with time afterwards allotted for dinner. At 8:00 pm, a closing “Camp-fire” ceremony in Reaney Park with “special music” would bring the three-day event to a grand finale.

June 5-7, 1912 Encampment

All the months of local planning and work paid off when the encampment finally began with the arrival of the first old soldiers. The scheduled events were held as planned, with the June 7th paper, for sale before the last events were held, already proclaiming that the “Thirtieth Annual GAR Encampment [was] a Tremendous Success.”²⁸ Besides the good planning and memorable events, veterans costs had been non-existent. According to the paper, the veterans, members of their families, and the affiliated organizations “...were entertained free of charge in every way, lodging, board, shows, etc.; were driven in autos about Pullman and surrounding country, and treated to the best in every way, and not a penny’s charge.”²⁹ To do this, the town had raised over \$3,000.³⁰

The paper later reported the town might even net a small surplus over expenses “...providing that the cots which were brought from Wenatchee can be sold at \$1.30 each, which is the actual cost, plus freight.” To further boost sales, the paper added: “As the cots are as good as new, there is little doubt that they will all be sold at this exceptionally low price; and already a number of them have been ordered.”³¹

So who came? The June 7th Pullman paper listed the names of 406 soldiers who had registered at the beginning of the event, though the final tally had not yet been compiled thus omitting those who registered later.³² Besides names, the list also told where each veteran was from, and the state from which each had served along with his unit. Whitman County was well represented with 55 veterans coming from 11 county towns.³³

Many other Washington counties were represented, with in-state veterans making up about 95% of all attendees. From preliminary figures, only 22 old soldiers traveled from out of state to Pullman, with all but two of them coming from Idaho, Oregon, or Montana.³⁴ Union army veterans from Holland, Michigan (Peter Gulst) and West Union, Iowa (J. W. Weatherbee) made the longest trips to the encampment.

As to the states from which the 406 veterans served in the war, 73 enrolled from Illinois, 64 from Iowa³⁵, 50 from Wisconsin, 35 from New York, 33 from Minnesota, 29 from Missouri, 25 from Ohio, 20 from Pennsylvania, and lesser numbers from several other states. One even served from Virginia. He was Robert Kelly of Opportunity, Washington, apparently bucking the Confederate sentiments of Virginia to join Union forces.

Also at the event were a few Confederate soldiers, including W. M. Priest of Pullman who hosted a Union soldier in his home. The *Pullman Herald* found the story especially appealing, noting that the two old men had

Whitman County Veterans at the 1912 GAR State Convention

Colfax (9): Benjamin Alsup, Benjamin Baker, Eugene Brown, S. J. Greenhill, William A. Inman, Edwin Lake, W. R. Neil, G. B. Vickrey, Charles VonSoehnen; **Farmington (6):** James Charles, William Draper, H. Harns, John J. Hoback, Eugene W. Leonard, Richard A. Truax; **Garfield (2):** S. J. Scott, William W. Westacott; **Oakesdale (1):** W. E. Page; **Palouse (12):** G. W. Boyd, Andrew J. Choate, Thomas J. Collins, L. C. Hammer, J. W. Johnson, Charles H. Knapp, Joe McClellan, Stephen McCoy, David Nottman, J. W. Ross, J. H. Stover, Washington Wolheter; **Pullman (16):** K. P. Allen, W. Austin, Wiley Campbell, William H. Gillespie, J. H. Greer, G. M. Hardy, William Franklin Hickman, John Kettering, Edwin Laney, Thomas Mathews, Lafayette H. Noyes, John J. Pearsons, W. S. Pritchard, Patrick Ryan, Benjamin F. Taylor, and H. F. Taylor; **Rosalia (1):** William P. Ward; **Sunset (1):** James Rassmussen; **Tekoa (5):** George W. Cole, Frank P. Connell, John Crockett, John N. Edmonds, Henry H. Noble; **Wawawai (1):** Marshall L. Baxter; **Wilcox (1):** George Reynolds.



Photo courtesy of Bob King

Automobiles and horse-drawn buggies, shown here in front of the Chamber of Commerce Building, were pressed into service to transport veterans during the encampment. After registering, the veterans received their meal tickets and room assignments at the Chamber of Commerce.

“...fought against each other at Lexington, Mo., and naturally had a delightful visit, talking over as friends the incidents of the days when they were enemies.”³⁶ Indeed, many old friendships were rekindled in Pullman, with many more forged.

As the event drew to a close, the paper reported more statistics of the event.³⁷ While over 400 former soldiers attended, the total influx to the town was pegged at more than 1,200 people. Of those, rooms were assigned to over 800 people, with another 100 or more staying in local hotels. Also, over 100 commuted from Moscow and neighboring towns. Further, some visitors staying in private homes were never counted because they did not stop at the downtown Headquarters office to register. As another measure of attendance, over 5,500 meal tickets were issued through the start of the third day,³⁸ meaning that the final figure was probably over 6,000 meals served to attendees.

Whatever the final count was, the majority of those who came left well satisfied.³⁹ This even included the one accident victim of the encampment: Sanford C. West of Port Orchard, Washington, a former drummer for the Union Army. In what the paper described as “a very odd and unfortunate accident,” Mr. West was injured in the college auditorium on the evening of the second day when “he was on the stage playing with the fife and drum corps prior to the [“Gettysburg”] play, when a bulldog sneaked in and grabbed the drum stick in his teeth. Mr. West tried to

shake him off and in so doing slipped and fell, painfully wrenching his shoulders.”⁴⁰ After a hospital stay of around two weeks, the recuperating man and his wife returned to their home in western Washington, subsequently sending a letter of gratitude for the care given to them by the citizens of the town apparently without any charge.⁴¹ This was duly reported in the paper, along with other favorable comments from other attendees after leaving Pullman but still recalling the recent hospitality of the town.

Some were especially impressed by the town’s all-out efforts to host the event. Others cited their cordial treatment by college students, with one commenting that he would hereafter be a strong booster for the wonderful work done by the State College (just what Dr. Bryan hoped might happen). The Pullman paper went a step further, saying that the event had been a “good investment” in general for the town, with the experience of both the town and college “pulling together” in “hearty cooperation” being the “key” to its success—something not always occurring in the past.⁴²

Several years would pass before Pullman would again host a large influx of visitors not directly tied to a college event. With the town’s population in 1912 around 3,500 people, and with over 1,200 attendees of the 30th encampment, it would be the equivalent today of around 8,000 people descending on Pullman in 2003 in need of food, lodging, and other services. While the town could easily accommodate such an event today, it would once again need enthusiastic and dedicated people like those spunky committee members of 1912. Those 1912 Pullman citizens were obviously set to take on the challenge!

¹ The formal name was the Department of Washington and Alaska Grand Army of the Republic.

² The General Committee was initially composed five leading citizens of the town: A. B. Baker, William Goodyear, Karl P. Allen, W. E. Hapson, and A. F. Brownell.

³ The other new members of the General Committee were: O. L. Waller, F. M. Single, and C. M. Waters.

⁴ *Pullman Herald*, Feb. 23, 1912, p. 1

⁵ *Pullman Herald*, Feb. 16, 1912, p. 1.

⁶ *Pullman Herald*, Feb. 23, 1912, p. 1.

⁷ *Pullman Herald*, March 1, 1912, p. 1. When it was presented later for the general public on June 11, 1912, tickets were sold in downtown Pullman at Watt’s Pharmacy for 50 cents each (*Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 5).

⁸ *Pullman Herald*, March 8, 1912, p. 1.

⁹ *Pullman Herald*, May 10, 1912, p. 1.

¹⁰ *Pullman Herald*, April 26, 1912, p. 1.

¹¹ *Pullman Herald*, April 5, 1912, p. 1.

¹² *Pullman Herald*, May 10, 1912, p. 1.

¹³ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2.

¹⁴ *Pullman Herald*, April 26, 1912, p. 1.

¹⁵ *Pullman Herald*, May 10, 1912, p. 1.

¹⁶ This was also referred to as the “new” Palace hotel, so named after Pullman’s original Palace hotel burned on New Year’s Day of 1909. The new hotel, itself to burn in the 1990s, was located on the site of today’s Cougar Mall in downtown Pullman. In the 1920s it was renamed the “Pullman Hotel.”

¹⁷ *Pullman Herald*, May 17, 1912, p. 1.

¹⁸ *Pullman Herald*, May 10, 1912, p. 1.

¹⁹ *Pullman Herald*, May 17, 1912, p. 1.

²⁰ *Pullman Herald*, May 17, 1912, p. 1.

²¹ *Pullman Herald*, May 24, 1912, p. 1.

²² *Pullman Herald*, May 31, 1912, and June 7, 1912. The account of the “Encampment Program” is based upon these two issues of the *Herald*.

²³ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2. He was referring to the passage in 1862 of the Morrill Land Grant Act, which led to the establishment of state agricultural colleges.

²⁴ The Christian Church stood across from today’s Methodist Church, on a site presently occupied by the Wesleyan Building. The older gray stone Methodist Church was demolished in the 1960s following construction of a new building (the present structure) just to its north. Subsequently, a newer fellowship wing was added to the south side of the main part of the present Methodist Church in the 1970s, partly built atop the gray stone building’s former location. The rest serves as a parking lot.

²⁵ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2. Her father, Edwin Laney, was one of the 16 known former Union soldiers who attended the encampment from Pullman.

²⁶ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2. R. C. McCroskey served as a regent at WSC for many years. His former home in Garfield, Washington is operated today as a bed and breakfast.

²⁷ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 3.

²⁸ Clearly, Karl P. Allen, the *Pullman Herald*’s editor and himself the son of a former Union soldier, took a leading hand as an untiring promoter and booster for this event.

²⁹ This was reported in the *Pullman Herald*, June 21, 1912, p. 3, but taken from a report in the *Asotin County Sentinel* newspaper of Asotin, Wash. It was from information provided by Asotin attendees well pleased with the event. As another treat for the encampment attendees, the *Pullman Herald* “gave away over 1100 copies of its special 16-page encampment edition” of June 7, 1912 (reported in the June 14th edition on p. 2).

³⁰ *Pullman Herald*, June 21, 1912, p. 1.

³¹ *Pullman Herald*, June 14, 1912, p. 1.

³² The same June 7, 1912, paper (page 2) said that “430” old soldiers registered, with the specific names of the additional 24 not included. This may have been because their information was received too late for inclusion in the June 7th paper, which would have been set into type by hand the prior evening or early on June 7th.

³³ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, pp. 1, 8. In many cases, the paper only listed the first initials and surnames for these 55 veterans who resided in Whitman County in 1912. Further research in cemetery, census, and other records revealed the first names of 19 of them, with those added here.

³⁴ The 18 who came from Idaho included 5 each from Moscow and Genesee, 3 from Troy, 2 from Kendrick, and 1 each from Southwick, Remington, and Winchester, Idaho. Oregon was represented by a soldier from Freewater, while another came from Kalispell, Mont.

³⁵ Among those who attended the 1912 encampment was the author’s own great-great-grandfather, Benjamin King (1839-1921) from Iowa, then living in Davenport, Washington. This was unknown at the time research began on this article.

³⁶ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 7.

³⁷ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2.

³⁸ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2.

³⁹ No final figures were ever assembled, with the best estimate made after the event by the paper, and published in the on June 21, 1912 (p. 3), being that the attendance was “something between 1200 and 1400.”

⁴⁰ *Pullman Herald*, June 7, 1912, p. 2.

⁴¹ *Pullman Herald*, June 28, 1912, p. 1.

⁴² *Pullman Herald*, June 14, 1912, p. 4.



SNOW SCENES OF WHITMAN COUNTY

This Photo Essay is based upon photos contained in the collection of the Whitman County Historical Society.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

Mrs. Roy Wiggins and son on their cutter, which had been used in the 1880's to deliver mail, in front of Hutchinson Studio – now Swilly's – in Pullman.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

Men on the pile of snow before the Barber Shop – Colfax Main Street.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

This early snowmobile was built by Lafe Fields and Cliff Sheppard about 1921 to carry mail from Colton to the Bald Butte area. The route was 23 miles long. The first time the invention was used, the trip took all day, since the pins on the drive shaft kept shearing. The bank building still stands in Colton.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

Milton L. Crawford with his American Railway Express Cutter around 1925.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

A bobsled pulled by two horses carried this party of holiday revelers near the Washington State College (now University) campus around 1912. The driver of the sled was Murray Henry, 1865-1948. Henry, who came to Whitman County in 1879, was a prominent Pullman businessman and restaurateur.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

Horse-drawn cutters were used to haul sacks of grain in Whitman County early in the 20th century. This wintry scene was photographed in Tekoa, Washington.



Photo Courtesy of WCHS

Snow on Montgomery Street (US 195) in Uniontown in 1909, looking north.



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