

. . . PREFACE . . .



THE matter of the publication of the records of Maryland troops, who fought for the preservation of the Federal Union during the great Civil War from 1861 to 1865, was inaugurated by the survivors of that war, through their representative organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Maryland. The survivors of the Civil War and their descendants in the State of Maryland had, for years, hoped that the example set by the other States of the Union, in the compilation and publication of the records of their heroic sons, would have been an incentive to the people of our State to do likewise, as the record of the gallantry of a part of our people would be the common heritage of all.

Over three decades had passed—in fact, a third of a century had rolled on since the close of the greatest civil war history has recorded, and the archives of the State failed to show the muster rolls of her sons, or even a brief record of their splendid achievements.

The survivors and their descendants believed that if anything was to be done in the premises, it should be done at once; moreover, the times were propitious, much of the bitterness and prejudice engendered by the Civil War had passed away, and only its glories and substantial benefits remained.

The Committee on Legislation of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, for the year 1895, had, through the courtesy of Governor Frank Brown and Adjutant-General Douglas, carefully examined such of the muster rolls as were on file in the office of the Adjutant-General of Maryland, and the members of the committee were surprised at the incompleteness and paucity thereof. Not a single regiment or battery was complete, and, in some cases, the muster rolls of entire regiments were missing. Consultations were had, whenever practicable, with the survivors of the different regiments, batteries and companies of the commands accredited to the State of Maryland, and estimates were obtained from the War Department to cover missing data. A bill was then drafted by the committee, and petition and exhibits were prepared. The good offices of Governor Lowndes were asked for, and, upon the assembling of the new Legislature for Maryland in January, 1896, the committee of the Grand Army of the Republic appeared before committees of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland and urged action.

The matter was deemed non-partisan and patriotic, and prompt action was urged by a number of distinguished Representatives in both Houses of the General Assembly, especially by Colonel John R. Rouzer, of the House of Delegates, from Frederick County, himself a gallant Union soldier of fine record.