

Grand Army of the Republic

To all unto whom these Presents come, Greeting:
Know Ye, That reposing full trust and confidence in the fidelity and patriotism of Comrads

M. M. Bell	W. J. Steen	D. R. Hartzell
B. M. Clark	G. H. McNary	A. C. Hughey
Christ ^r Steel	R. D. Morrow	J. B. Fife
J. B. Chalfont	A. J. McQuilty	A. D. Walker

I do hereby in Conformity with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested constitute them and their associates and successors a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic to be known as Capt Thos Espy Post No One hundred and fifty-three, Department of Pennsylvania at Mansfield, Pa.

And I authorize and empower them to perform all acts necessary to conduct said organization in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Dated at the Head Quarters of the Dept of Penna Grand Army of the Republic at Philada on the 31st day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine and of our Independence the One hundred and third

JM Vanderslice
Ass't Adjutant General

Geo. Laurence Brown
Department Commander

On 21 February 2007 the Carnegie Masons presented a check to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library toward restoration of the Espy Post. Conserving the charter was a priority. (Interestingly, the GAR ritual is based on that of the Masons.) The treatment included cleaning surface with eraser crumbs before and after two bathings in a puddle of cold clear water, lining the charter with toned Japanese paper and wheat starch paste, in-painting with watercolor and pastel pencil, adding back frame to increase depth of frame and separating charter from glazing, cleaning and disinfecting the glass, and cleaning wood frame. Archival methods and practices were employed. The task was completed by conservator Wendy Bennett in time for the ACFL's Civil War Exposition on 28 April 2007.