

***Grand Army Of The Republic  
(G.A.R.)***

***Civil War Museum and Library***

4278 Griscom Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19124-3954

*"Where the Civil War Comes Alive"*



G.A.R. Membership Badge

**The G.A.R. Museum is a non-profit, historical and patriotic organization that actively seeks to preserve the American heritage and memorialize the history of the Civil War.**

**Located in the historic Ruan House, the museum hosts scheduled roundtables, programs and tours of its extensive collection of artifacts and invites students and researchers to utilize its documents, photos and 4,000-volume archive.**

**MISSION**

The Mission of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library is to preserve the heritage and history of the Civil War through the presentation of historical programs, forums, and exhibitions designed

to promote a better understanding of American history.

**THE MUSEUM**

Unique and historic Civil War artifacts, battle relics, personal memorabilia, paintings, documents, and photographs fill various rooms of the Ruan House. The extensive collection of artifacts and personal memorabilia was initially assembled by the veterans who formed **Post 2** of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Museum's holdings are recognized for their historical significance and are noted for their singular importance in documenting the history of the Civil War and Grand Army veterans. Among the artifacts on display are tree stumps from the Chickamauga Battlefield, each embedded with a cannonball; one of the few remaining original sections of the stockade from the notorious Andersonville Prison; many of the personal possessions of General George G. Meade; the handcuffs owned by John Wilkes Booth and intended for the kidnapping of Abraham Lincoln; a strip of the bloodstained pillowcase from the Peterson House on which lay the head of the dying President Lincoln; and dozens of other relics, each telling its own story of heroism and gallantry.

**THE LIBRARY**

The 4,000 volume archive possesses a wealth of literary resources, many original to the Civil War period. Approved researchers may examine the original *Harper's Weekly*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia Weekly Transcript* and other newspapers for the entire period of the war, the

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, as well as many magazines, regimental and unit histories, and other related historical volumes and accounts. The library is especially useful for those engaging in genealogical research.

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**THE RUAN HOUSE**

The Georgian Mansion built by Dr. John Ruan in 1796 is the home of the G.A.R. Museum and Library. The Ruan House, with its wonderful Victorian mantels and cantilevered circular stairway invites you to rekindle the spirit of the 1860's. The building is recognized for its architectural significance and is listed in the local, state, and national registers of historic places. With the Ruan House as its centerpiece, the Museum seeks to transport visitors back into the Philadelphia of the Civil War period where the memories of those who so gallantly served will always be perpetuated.

Lincoln Memorial – Philadelphia (1872)



**Website - [WWW.GARMUSLIB.ORG](http://WWW.GARMUSLIB.ORG)**

'Living-History' organizations such as the 28<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiments and other reenactment units meet at the museum. The men, women, and families in these groups are historians who rekindle the spirit of the Civil War period through the presentation of historical programs. The units also participate in local and national battle reenactments, parades and ceremonials. Any legitimate History group is invited to use the museum for meetings and/or ceremonies.

**We invite you to join the Friends of the  
G.A.R. Museum**

The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization founded after the Civil War to provide all veterans of the Union Armed Forces with a forum for social and political activities and as a venue for debate and reminiscence of their service in the Civil War. The G.A.R. Museum and Library was incorporated to provide a similar forum for generations to open a dialogue and exchange ideas, to initiate new programs, and promote a better understanding of the period of the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic. It is only through the support of its membership that the Museum can continue to realize these goals.

As a registered non-profit corporation all donations are fully tax deductible.

The Museum also supports membership in the Anna M. Ross, Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Auxiliary #1 and other historical associations and organizations.

For a membership application, go to the museum website:  
[www.GarMusLib.org](http://www.GarMusLib.org)

There are five membership categories:

**Individual Membership-\$20.00**

**Family Membership (includes 2 adults)-\$30.00**

**The Colonel's Honor Guard-\$40.00**

**General Meade's Staff.-\$50.00**

**Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army Award - \$100**



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***“Preserving the memory of the  
Union veterans of the Civil War”***

**For more information concerning  
membership, programs, tours, and  
schedules you can reach us by**

**Phone: (215) 289-6484**

**[web site: www.garmuslib.org](http://www.garmuslib.org)**

**[E-mail: garmuslib@verizon.net](mailto:garmuslib@verizon.net)**

**Outreach PROGRAMS**

The Museum hosts an admission-free OPEN HOUSE from noon to 5:00 p.m. on first Sundays. Visitors entering the Museum are transported back to the Philadelphia of the 1860's.

Presentations at 1:30pm feature a unique view designed to provide the visitor with a first-person perspective on aspects of the Civil War and life in Victorian-Age America. Visitors may come face to face with General Meade, discover the complexities of medicine, enjoy a program of Civil War period music, or learn about the rigors of a soldier's life.

The Museum is also open from **12:00 noon to 4:00PM** on Tuesdays (call to confirm) and on other days by appointment for groups, or individuals. As a part of its education outreach activities, the Museum presents off-site historical and living history programs for scouts, community groups, and associations.

In conjunction with the regular meeting of the **Anna M. Ross, Camp #1, SUVCW**, a series of lectures and discussions on topics of Civil War history are held on the third Monday of each month (unless otherwise announced). Speakers address a diverse range of issues that are of interest to all students of the war. These programs are open to the community without charge.

The **Anna M. Ross, Auxiliary #1, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans** meets on the third Monday of the month (unless otherwise announced).

**Location and Directions**

The G.A.R. Museum and Library is located in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. 4278 Griscom Street one block west of Frankford Avenue between Church and Ruan Streets, only one block from the Church Street stop of the Frankford elevated train (Frankford El).

From I-95 north or south bound, use Aramingo Ave. exit, left at light on Aramingo to next light Church St., left at light to Griscom St, turn left to museum on right side.

From U.S. 1 (Roosevelt Blvd.) North or South proceed to Oxford Circle; follow Oxford Ave. (to Griscom Street, turn right to museum.

Parking: there is a small lot behind the museum or on street parking.

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