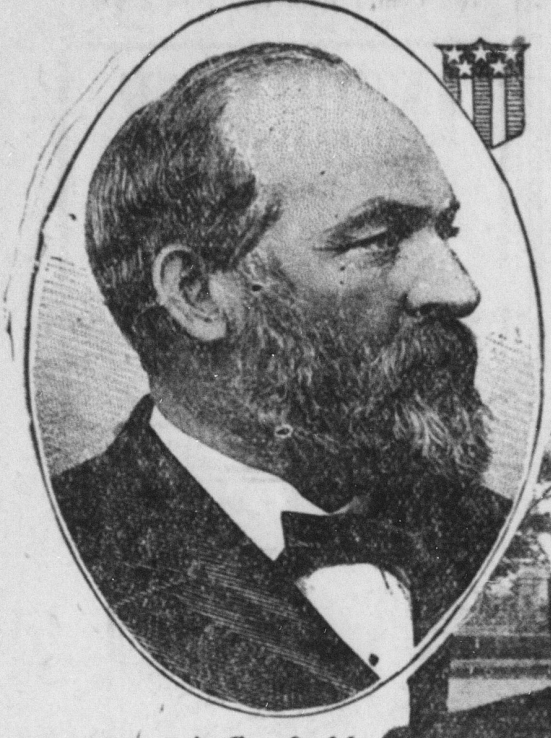


# The First Memorial Day



J.A. Garfield

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON.

ONE can say for certain just where and when the idea of Memorial day originated. A recent historian, Lloyd Lewis, attributes it to the grief which swept the nation at the death of Abraham Lincoln. Writing in Liberty magazine two years ago under the title of "Memorial Day is Born" he says:

"Always there will be a dispute over where the day began, because the day itself came from nowhere and everywhere. The greater the number of claimants for its birthplace, the plainer the proof that the Republic was aching vaguely with eagerness to speak its grief after four years of killing. Seven hundred thousand men, Blue and Gray, were dead. "The funeral of the war's greatest figure pointed the way.

"Each little fugitive decoration of graves across the land was a seed springing from ground that had been harrowed into fertility by the Lincoln funeral spectacle. Sentiment crystallized as that burial drama, with its pomp and storms of flowers, fitted into the mood of the moment."

As for the various claimants, there can only be regarded the facts of their observances, each of which contained the germ of the idea, in their chronological order without attempting to assign any priority to any one. On June 1, 1861, Warrentown, Va., held memorial services over the grave of a Confederate hero, John Quincy Marr. On May 1, 1865, a memorial service was held in Charleston, S. C., which had been organized by James Redpath (war correspondent and later founder of the Redpath Lyceum Bureau) who was then superintendent of the freedmen's schools in that city.

That same year, some time in the spring of 1865, the women of Columbus, Ga., had decorated the graves of their war dead and the following January the members of the Ladies' Aid society there decided to perpetuate the custom. They picked upon April 26, 1866, the anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Joseph Johnston, the last formal act of the Civil war, as the date for their Memorial day celebration. Montgomery, Ala., observed the same day, April 26, 1866; Fredericksburg, Va., decided upon May 10, 1866, and Camden, Ark., decorated graves in November, 1866. Up North at least one memorial service was held in 1865. Gen. John J. Murray of Waterloo, N. Y., and some of his comrades in the Union army are said to have decorated graves in their home cemetery on May 22, 1866.

But even though it is impossible to establish definitely any exact priority in the matter of the origin of this day, it is possible to trace a succession of events which led to the observance of what, perhaps, may be characterized as the "first Memorial day" in its close resemblance to the event as it is now celebrated. On April, 1866, the women of Columbus, Miss., held memorial services in the cemetery of that town and decorated not only the graves of the Confederate war dead but also those of some Union soldiers buried there.

The next spring there appeared in a New York newspaper a brief paragraph which stated that "the women of Columbus, Miss., have shown themselves impartial in their offerings made to the memory of the dead. They strewed flowers alike on the graves of the Confederate and of the National soldiers." Among those who read that item was a young lawyer named Francis Miles Finch who was living in Ithaca, N. Y. It inspired him to write the following verses:

**THE BLUE AND THE GRAY**  
By the flow of the inland river,  
Where the fleets of iron have fled,  
Where the blades of the grave-grass  
quiver,  
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the one, the Blue,  
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory,  
Those in the gloom of defeat,  
All with the battle-blood gory,  
In the dusk of eternity meet;

Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the laurel, the Blue,  
Under the willow, the Gray.  
From the silence of sorrowful hours  
The desolate mourners go,  
Lovingly laden with flowers  
Alike for the friend and the foe;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the roses, the Blue,  
Under the lilies, the Gray.

So with an equal splendor,  
The morning sun-rays fall,  
With a touch impartially tender,  
On the blossoms blooming for all:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the roses, the Blue,  
Under the lilies, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth,  
On forest and field of grain,  
With an equal murmur falleth  
The cooling drip of the rain:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Wet with the rain, the Blue,  
Wet the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,  
The generous deed was done,  
In the storm of the years that are  
fading  
No braver battle was won:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the blossoms, the Blue,  
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war-cry sever,  
Or the winding rivers be red;  
They banish our anger forever  
When they laurel the graves of our  
dead:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Love and tears for the Blue,  
Tears and love for the Gray.

When this poem was published it achieved instant popularity. It was widely reprinted and later set to music so that its message of reconciliation was carried to all points of the country.

Meanwhile on April 6, 1866, there had been organized at Decatur, Ill., a group of Union veterans who took the name of the Grand Army of the Republic and within a short time thousands of men who had worn the blue were members of the G. A. R., as it became familiarly known. In 1863 the national commander of the G. A. R. was Gen. John A. Logan of Illinois. On a cold, raw day in March of that year a party from Washington set out to visit the battlefields around Richmond. The leader of the group was Col. Charles L. Wilson, a Chicago editor of that time, and with him were his niece, fiancée and Mrs. John A. Logan. They rode from one scene of desolation to another, touched by the poverty of the region, once the proud capital of the Confederacy. And above all they noticed the numberless Confederate graves, most of them decorated with faded flowers and bunting, with here and there an improvised gravestone.

Returning to Washington, the Richmond pilgrims went to the rooms of General Logan, who had been unable to accompany his wife on the trip because of the pressure of congressional business. The war-torn country about Richmond was described to him; the rows of graves, each marked by some loving hand, now covered by a gentle snow that, nevertheless, could not dim the tokens of devotion left upon them.

"The Greeks and Romans," said General Logan, "in the day of their glory, were wont to honor their hero dead by chaplets of laurel and flowers, as well as bronze and stone." And he added that this thought should be carried over to the United States. It could be done, he believed, by the issuance of an order from him, as commander in chief of the G. A. R. to the posts established throughout the North.

General Logan immediately set about writing the order and the following night called a meeting of the G. A. R. staff officers in his rooms at the old Willard hotel, Washington, where the order he had written was submitted for their approval. The staff was unanimous in agreement and not long thereafter "Order No. 11" was broadcast from G. A. R. headquarters all over the country. In part that famous order reads as follows:

## GENERAL ORDERS NO. 11

Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
448 14th Street, Washington, D. C.  
May 5, 1868.

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating, the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, hamlet and churchyard in the land. In this observance, no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will, in their own way, arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect, as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines, who united together to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes. Their soldier lives were the revivification of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security, is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her plain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic.

If other eyes grow dull, and other hands slack, and other hearts grow cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well, as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us. Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains, and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us, in this solemn presence, renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude—the soldier's widow and orphan. If it is the purpose of the commander-in-chief to inaugurate this observance, with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By order of **John A. Logan,**  
Commander-in-Chief.  
Official: **N. P. Chipman,**  
Adjutant General.

As a result of this order formal exercises were held at Arlington, Va. (later the site of the present Arlington National cemetery) on May 30, 1868, the principal ceremony being the decoration with flags and flowers of the monument to the "Unknown Dead," a memorial that had been erected to the memory of 2,111 unidentified dead found on the fields of Bull Run and the route to Rappahannock. The principal address was delivered by James A. Garfield, twelve years later elected President of the United States. As yet the term Memorial day, or Decoration day, had not been linked with the observance, and his address, afterward printed in pamphlet form in Cleveland, Ohio, was simply entitled: "Oration of Hon. James A. Garfield, delivered at Arlington, Va., May 30, 1868, on the Occasion of Strewing Flowers on the Graves of Union Soldiers."

The idea spread rapidly and at the ceremonies held by the G. A. R. in Monument cemetery in Philadelphia on May 29, 1875, it was recorded that "the annual floral decoration of the graves of our dead soldiers has become a national custom." For it was doing much to heal the wounds of the war and, in uniting to honor their dead, the North and the South were forgetting the bitterness of a few short years before. One of the most significant bits of evidence of this occurred in Brooklyn when on the eve of May 30, 1877, a great throng assembled in the Academy of Music to hear the chief orator of the day—Judge Roger A. Pryor, formerly brigadier general in the Confederate army.

## Community Building

### National Movement for Beautifying of Homes

Kansas City has had a worthy reminder of the better-homes movement at the exposition that was conducted at Convention hall. This type of local activity is being supplemented increasingly each year by national observance of a better-homes week.

The purpose is to carry into every community of the United States, if possible, the gospel of attractiveness, comfort, convenience and good order in home life. This is effected through co-operation with the schools, civic and other organization leaders. In Missouri, it is reported from Jefferson City, more than 150 communities already have enlisted in the enterprise for this year. That is a much larger number than had become interested at this time last year, which points to a growth of the movement. Farm communities, small towns, cities and counties are being organized.

Beautification and other improvement of homes, inside and out, the planting of flowers and shrubs, clearing off vacant lots and removing unsightliness of other kinds all are included in this educational plan. It seems to be the kind of endeavor in which every community of the country could profitably engage. It suggests that the day may come when any city, town or other area that ignores such enterprise will become notorious for its backwardness and indifference.—Kansas City Star.

### Money Well Spent in Remodeling Old House

The cost of modernizing a residence is low. Only a few hundred dollars may be needed to make a home strictly up to date.

An investigation recently made reveals that the average cost of remodeling a house is about \$2,000. This sum covers everything—exterior and interior.

The financing of the remodeled house is taken care of by banks and building and loan associations who are willing to put their money into such projects. For their experience shows them that \$2,000 invested in a \$5,000 house increases its value more than the addition of the expenditure.

The house becomes worth \$8,000 or \$9,000 after remodeling—a wise investment, as every one will admit.—Exchange.

### Built-In Garage

In addition to the considerable saving given the home builder by the built-in rather than the detached garage, the esthetic sense is satisfied by the elimination of that sometimes objectionable little building at the rear of the yard. From the utilitarian standpoint as well as the artistic, the most complete house is the one which holds within its walls all the features required for modern living; and with the automobile occupying so important a part in our lives, shelter for it should also be provided.

Gardens, too, occupy an important place in the true home, and the small suburban lot can sometimes ill afford the square feet of ground occupied by the detached garage. The built-in garage is apt to be popular with the garden lover.

### City Planning Increasing

A total of nearly 700 centers of varying sizes now have adopted the city-planning idea. Only about 200 of these have a population of 25,000 or more. Population of the others ranges down to 1,000 or even less. Communities near the large centers have been especially active in this undertaking; but it is not confined to such areas.

In view of such expansion, it seems reasonable to expect that within another decade the village, town or city that has taken no steps to regulate its growth in the interest of attractiveness and general welfare will be about as backward as the most remote rural communities.

### Daily Fire Toll

A small city burned today—931 homes, five schools, five churches, fifteen hotel buildings, one hospital, four warehouses, six department stores, two theaters, eight public garages, three printing plants, three dry goods stores and ninety-six farm buildings. That is the average daily toll taken by fire in the United States.

This same destroyer day after day snuffs out twenty-seven lives, nine being children under ten years of age. It is a horrible thing, fire, but its ravages can be controlled.—Washington Star.

### Shade Trees Important

Few features add more to the yard than well-placed shade trees. It is not necessary to plant so many trees that a crowded appearance results but a few in proper locations add accent to the landscape and an atmosphere of security to the home. Trees may be considered for shade as well as ornament and in making up planting lists, at least one or two should be included.

### Prosperity's Foundation

It is seldom that the home owner has room to regret his ownership. Once he reaches this state he may then seek other fields of investment to his advantage.

# Ouch!

Here's the sure, quick, easy way to kill all mosquitoes indoors and keep 'em away outdoors!



**Spray clean smelling FLIT**  
The World's Largest Selling Insect Killer

Genius, Not Talent  
"Brown has taken up painting now, and he's sold four pictures—he inherited his talent from his father."  
"Was he a painter?"  
"No, he sold pictures."—Stray Stories.

Hot Air Foundation  
Our civilization is erected on after-dinner speeches; in fact, the whole existing show is held together by gentlemen in clean dress shirts who get up on their hind legs and commence by saying, "Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen."—American Magazine.

Most secrets are greatly magnified in importance.  
Nature doesn't care for individuals. But she gets results in the large.

Farmers have to pay their taxes whether Providence gives them an income or not.

**Doctor's PRESCRIPTION when system is sluggish; costs nothing to try**

When your bowels need help, the mildest thing that will do the work is always the sensible choice. Take a laxative that a family doctor has used for all sorts of cases of constipation. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is so pleasant to the taste, so gentle in its action, it is given children of tender age and yet it is just as thorough and effective as stronger preparations. Pure senna, and harmless laxative herbs; ingredients that soon start a gentle muscular action. Avoid a coated tongue, bad breath, bilious headaches, etc. Every drug store has Dr. Caldwell's famous prescription in big bottles. Or just write Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, Monticello, Ill., for a free trial bottle.

**Happy Movie Endings Popular With Edison**  
The great inventor, Thomas A. Edison, has been called super-human by many admirers, but those who really know him claim he is human to a marked degree. Although he does not like bridge or golf, he is quite a movie fan and especially partial to "westerns."

If there is any reason to believe at the end of the picture that the hero and heroine are not going to live happily forever after, Mr. Edison is highly indignant and on more than one occasion has written producers and registered his rebuke for putting on such a story.

"We are all working for human happiness," remarked Mr. Edison, after a rather disappointing picture, "and while we may not succeed in real life, we can surely make our characters happy in pictures."

**On the Old Branch Line**  
"Is this train ever on time?" growled the troupe passenger.  
"Oh," replied the conductor, "we never worry about it being on time. We're satisfied if it's on the track."  
—Stray Bits.

**Devil Aids Doctors**  
For several years the British authorities in New Guinea tried every way possible to induce the natives to be vaccinated for smallpox. Finally Sir Herbert Murray, the lieutenant governor, was successful by calling the leading chiefs together and informing them that a great black devil was coming out of the mountains to destroy them and that their only escape would be to have the government charm branded on their arms. Thousands of the natives immediately flocked to the government clinic and were vaccinated.

**Acid stomach, heartburn and nausea are corrected with the use of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills. They're Sugar Coated. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.**

**The Funny Mortal**  
Funny mortal! He lives in a town where it is commercial suicide to offend the Local Big Guy, and yet feels superior to the free man on the farm. —Los Angeles Times.

We all have "pasts," but many of them are utterly barren of anything important.

**Castoria**  
A try in the night may be the first warning that Baby has colic. No cause for alarm if Castoria is handy! This pure vegetable preparation brings quick comfort, and can never do the slightest harm. Always keep a bottle in the house. It is the safe and sensible thing when children are ailing. Whether it's the stomach, or the little bowels; colic or constipation; or diarrhea. When tiny tongues are coated, or the breath is bad. Whenever there's need of gentle regulation. Children love the taste of Castoria, and its mildness makes it suitable for the tiniest infant, and for frequent use. And a more liberal dose of Castoria is always better for growing children than some needlessly strong medicine meant only for adult use. Genuine Castoria always has Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper. Prescribed by doctors!

**Free from pimples!**  
What a relief it is to know that your skin can be free of pimples. Anoint it gently with CUTICURA OINTMENT, then wash off in a few minutes with CUTICURA SOAP and warm water. A very simple but satisfying treatment of pimples!  
The CUTICURA Treatment has been used for years in thousands of homes throughout the world.  
Soap 25c. Ointment 25c. and 50c. Talcum 25c.  
Preparations: Foster Drug & Chemical Corporation, Malden, Mass.

