

**Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War
Dr. Ralph Sheldon
Commander-in-Chief
1907 / 1908**



Commander-in-Chief Ralph Sheldon, M.D., was the oldest son of Dr. Andrew Flint Sheldon and Lucetta Salsbury, and was born in Pultneyville, New York, August 12, 1870. He graduated from Lyons High School in 1888 and Albany Medical College in 1892. When he joined the Sons of Veterans is not known. However, he was elected New York Division Commander in 1899 and was a charter member of Jacob H. TenEyck Camp #154 in Albany. He had the honor of being a charter member of the Camp and signing the charter as Division Commander in 1899. The Camp still exists today but is known as Col. George Willard Camp #154.

At the 26th National Encampment in 1907, held in Dayton, Ohio, he was elected Commander-in-Chief. He established his headquarters as Commander-in-Chief at 291 State St., Albany, New York, a 10 minute walk from the state capitol.

He married Margaret Klinck of Lyons, New York on November 6, 1895. She died in 1947. There were no children that we know of. He did have an adult brother, Albert F. Sheldon, who was manager of the International Silver Company, Factory D, in Lyons.

Brother Sheldon lived until 1950 and is buried in a small cemetery on Route 14, just north of the village of Lyons.

Commander-in-Chief Sheldon's father, Dr. Andrew Flint Sheldon, was the son of Ralph Sheldon and Minerva Flint and was born in Huron, Wayne County, New York on October 27, 1830. He received his early education at district schools and Red Creek Academy. He graduated from the Medical Department of the University of New York in 1852. They had six children. Three died in infancy. He was commissioned an assistant surgeon of the 7th New York Cavalry for about six months and a month with the 78th NYSV. He was on the staff of General Wadsworth where he served as executive officer in the Medical Director's office, a position he held for 20 months. He was given charge of Campbell U.S. General Hospital at Washington, D.C., a position he held for about two years.

Dr. Sheldon has the credit of in the War Department of originating and putting into practical use the continuous tent hospital which became in general use during the war. He was commissioned by

Abraham Lincoln, as assistant surgeon, USV, on October 4, 1862 and surgeon, USV, April 13, 1863. Andrew Johnson commissioned he brevet Lt. Col. on August 15, 1865 for faithful and meritorious service.

He was elected treasurer of Wayne County, New York, and was a member of A.D. Adams Post GAR, President of the Soldiers' and Sailor' Association Wayne County, Medical Director of the New York Department, GAR, the Grange and numerous other organizations.

The Banner.

OFFICIAL ORGAN SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

W. G. Dustin, Pub. Dwight, Ill., Entered at the postoffice at Dwight, Ill., as second-class mail matter. Guaranteed Circulation, monthly 22,500

VOLUME XI.

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER, 1907

NUMBER 9

Given under the hand and seal of the Commander-in-Chief, at Altoona, Pa., this tenth day of August, A. D., 1907.

EDWIN M. AMIES,
Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.

II. And also in the matter of Court Martial proceedings of William B. McNulty against James H. Tawney, Past Commander of the Pennsylvania Division, the report of the Judge Advocate, together with finding thereon has been received. The charge in this case was "Violation of the obligation and disobedience of orders" under which nine specifications were attached.

Verdict.

The verdict of the Court was "guilty of the charge and specifications" and the sentence of the Court was "that James H. Tawney should be dishonorably dismissed from the Order."

Decision.

The finding of the Court seems to be warranted by the evidence submitted and it is hereby approved, and the following order concerning same is hereby promulgated:

In the matter of the Court Martial proceedings of the case of W. B. McNulty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., against James H. Tawney, Past Division Commander of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., the Court, which was appointed to try all matters at variance preferred by the said W. B. McNulty against the said James H. Tawney, adjudged that the "Defendant was found guilty of the charge and specifications" and the sentence of the Court was that James H. Tawney should be dishonorably dismissed from the Order.

Now, therefore, in conformity with Art. XXIV, Courts Martial Section 4, page 26, the above finding is approved, and it is hereby ordered, under the power and authority therein given, that the said James H. Tawney, be and he is hereby dishonorably discharged from the Order of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

The Commander of the Pennsylvania Division is hereby directed to so conform to the above sentence that the result thereof shall be duly promulgated to the parties interested, throughout said Pennsylvania Division.

Given under the hand and seal of the Commander-in-Chief Altoona, Pa., this tenth day of August, A. D., 1907.

EDWIN M. AMIES,
Commander-in-Chief,
S. V., U. S. A.

RALPH SHELDON, M. D., Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.

GENERAL ORDER NO. VIII.

Headquarters Com.-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A.

Altoona, Penna., August 10, 1907.

General Order No. 8%, Series of 1907.

Court Martial Finding and Decision.

I. In the matter of Court Martial proceedings of John Bower, Jr., against James H. Tawney, past Commander of the Pennsylvania Division, the report of the Judge Advocate, together with the finding thereon, has been received.

The charge in this case was "Violation of obligation and disobedience of orders," under which five specifications were attached.

Verdict.

The verdict of the Court was "guilty" as to specifications 1, 2, 4 and 5" and the sentence of the Court was "that James H. Tawney be sentenced to suspension of two years with loss of rank."

Decision.

After a thorough examination of the evidence as submitted the finding of the Court thereon is approved, and the following order concerning same is hereby promulgated.

In the matter of the Court Martial proceedings of the case of John Bower, Jr., Past Commander of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., the Court, which was appointed to try all matters at variance preferred by the said John Bower, Jr., against the said James H. Tawney, adjudged that the verdict under the charge was guilty—as to specification I guilty; as to the specification II guilty; as to specification III not guilty; as to specification IV guilty; and as to specification V guilty, and the Court further decided that James H. Tawney be sentenced to a suspension of two years with loss of rank.

Now, therefore, in conformity with Art. XXIV, Courts Martial, section 4, page 26, the above finding is approved.

The Commander of the Pennsylvania Division is hereby directed to so conform to the above sentence that the result thereof shall be duly promulgated to the parties interested throughout said Pennsylvania Division.

GENERAL ORDER NO. IX.

Headquarters, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 6, 1907.

General Order No. 9, Series, 1907.

The twenty-sixth annual encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., was held at Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 20th-23rd. The following officers were elected and installed: Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Ralph Sheldon, Albany, N. Y.; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Fred W. Spear, Bennington, Vt.; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, William Reeder, Dayton, Ohio; Council-in-Chief, Thos. J. Hannon, Dedham, Mass.; Thos. J. Blair, Fort Wayne, Ind.; James B. Adams, Atlantic City, N. J.

Headquarters.

National Headquarters have been established as follows: Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Ralph Sheldon, 291 State St., Albany, N. Y.; National Secretary, Horace H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.; Chief-of-Staff, Gen. R. M. J. Reed, Commanding Sons of Veterans Reserves (Military Dept.), 2510 West Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

Staff Officers.

The following Staff Officers have been appointed: Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. W. J. Patton, D. D., Mason City, Iowa; National Counselor, F. T. F. Johnson, McGill Bldg., Washington, D. C.; National Inspector, E. E. Schoening, St. Louis, Mo.; National Patriotic Instructor, H. V. Speelman, U. S. Sub-Treasury Office, Cincinnati, Ohio; Personal Aid, Sons of Veterans, D. Sherman Smith, Lancaster, Pa.; Personal Aid, Ladies Auxiliary, Anna E. Williamson, Albany, N. Y.

Inspection.

Division Commanders will arrange at once with their Division Inspectors for an inspection of all camps in their respective divisions. In accordance with Art. XXII, C. R. & H., the inspection should begin promptly and must be concluded by Dec. 31st. Inspection blanks will be furnished by the National Secretary on requisition. One inspection report will be forwarded to the Division Inspector of camp inspected. Divisions must arrange for an extra blank if Di-



Graves of Ralph Sheldon + Margarette Klink
and Andrew Sheldon + Lucetta Salisbury
- cemetery on Route 14, with the limits of Lyons, N.Y.
Wayne County north of the village

Andrew Sheldon, MD
father of
Ralph Sheldon, MD
in C. Sons of
Treason, 1907-1908



ANDREW F. SHELDON,
Medical Director.



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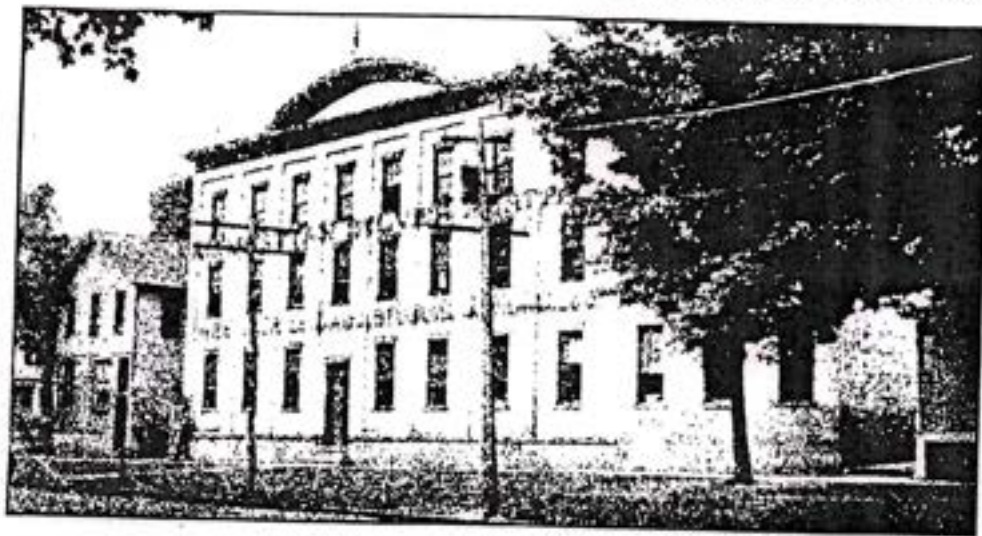
ANDREW F. SHELDON,
Medical Director.



ANDREW FLINT SHELDON, M. D.
RALPH SHELDON, M. D. ALBERT F. SHELDON.

sequently proprietors of the house. Finally Wm. Smelt took the place and gave it the present name, Congress Hall. This was in the early sixties. The house afterwards took fire, and in 1868 the upper part was rebuilt by Henry Hano adding to the building a Mansard roof, giving it an extra story. Mr. Hano ran the hotel from Dec. 10, 1869, to July 7, 1874. [See view on page 102.]

The Exchange Hotel [see view on page 60] was erected by George Benton in 1825 on the site of Dr. Ambler's residence, the present site of the Hotel Baltzel, the southwest corner of Broad and Pearstreets. Among his successors were Messrs. Payne and Walrath.



Huswell, Photo.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO., FACTORY D.

Dr. Andrew Flint Sheldon, son of Ralph Sheldon and Minerva Flint, was born in the town of Huron, Wayne Co., N. Y., October 27, 1830, receiving his education at the district school and Red Creek Academy. He was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of New York in the spring of 1852 and has practiced his profession in Wayne county, N. Y., mostly since that time. He married Lucetta Sabbury in May 1855. There were born to them six children, of which two are living, Dr. Ralph Sheldon of Albany, N. Y., and Albert F. Sheldon of Lyons, N. Y. Dr. A. F. Sheldon was commissioned as Assistant Surgeon by the Governor of the state of New York in August, 1861, and served in the war of the Rebellion with the 7th N. Y. Cavalry six months; about a month with the 78th N. Y. Infantry, and on General Wadsworth's staff as Executive officer in the Med-

ical Director's office in Washington, D. C., for a year and eight months when he was given charge of Campbell U. S. General Hospital at Washington, D. C., of which he had charge until the close of the war--about two years.

Dr. Sheldon has the credit in the War Department of originating and putting into practical use the continuous tent hospital which became in general use during the war. He was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, as Assistant Surgeon U. S. Volunteers, October 4, 1862, and as Surgeon U. S. Volunteers, April 13, 1863. President Andrew Johnson commissioned Dr. Sheldon Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, August 15, 1865, for faithful and

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meritorious services. After the war he practiced medicine at Pultneyville, N. Y., until January, 1880, when he was elected Treasurer of Wayne county and moved to Lyons, serving in that office nine years, since which time he has practiced his profession at Lyons. He is a member of A. D. Adams Post, G. A. R., and President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Wayne county. He was raised on the farm and has always taken a deep and lively interest in the betterment of farm life. He organized the Fire Relief Association of Wayne county, a grange association, which has proven a grand success and of great value to the farmers of Wayne county. He has been its secretary continuously since its organization. He is a member of the National Medical Association, the N. Y. State Medical Society and the Wayne Co. Medical Society. Of his children three died in infancy. A daughter, Nora Bell Powers, died at early womanhood. Dr. Sheldon is a fair example of what a young man, who commences life without

Lucetta Sheldon, was born March 14, 1872, at Pultneyville, N. Y. He received his education at the Lyons High School. He married Mary Carolyn Hersey of Watertown, N. Y., February 5, 1895. He was secretary of the Silver Metal Mfg. Co. of Oswego, N. Y., and its superintendent for three years, and is now manager of the International Silver Company, Factory D, at Lyons, N. Y., where he now resides.

Early Physicians—Dr. Ambler, who lived on the present site of the Hotel Baltzel, was the first practicing physician in the village of Lyons. Among other of the earliest physicians here were Drs. Prescott and Willis.

The records of the Wayne County Medical Society give the following practicing physicians throughout the county who became members previous to the dates mentioned:

1830—A. L. Beaumont, Daniel Chapman, Henry



Russell Photo.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO.'S EMPLOYEES.

First Row, left to right—John Seitz, Charles Kessler, Henry Reiter, George Hossinger, William Voolburgh, Karl Engel, Ray Myers, Arthur Engel, George Wickman. Second Row—Henry Myers, Henry Alfred, Robert McMillan, Fred Voolburg, Charles Wilk, Albert F. Sheldon, George W. Styer, Harry D. Bolton, P. J. Scanlon, William Kragman. Third Row—Neil Stevens, Albert Timon, Simon Kessler, William Voolburg, sr., Thomas Murray, Joseph Dolomanty, Fred Kern, Tracy Seitz, George Haessig. Fourth Row—Claude P. Shuler, Oscar Czorny, William Parkman, Joseph Weeks, Charles Casson, Friend Soggs, August Althen, John Reynolds, Chester Compton, William Parkman, Joseph Matthes. Fifth Row—Joseph J. Devine, George Mayer, John Philip, Floyd W. Campfield, Albert Hulstead, Lewis Myers, Philip Buisch, Frank Cody, George Tillson, James Higgins, Albert Haessig, George Earnst, William Crawford. Sixth Row—John Woolsey, Henry Matthes, Henry Myers, Elwin Parkman, Bert Feick.

any means, can accomplish by industry and perseverance.

Ralph Sheldon, oldest son of Dr. Andrew F. Sheldon and Lucetta Salsbury, was born at Pultneyville, N. Y., August 12, 1870. He was graduated at the Lyons High School in 1888 and at the Albany Medical College in 1892. He was Commander of the Sons of Veterans of the state of New York in 1900 in which organization he has always taken a lively interest. He married Margarette Klinek of Lyons, N. Y., Nov. 6, 1895, and located in Albany, N. Y., where he has since practiced his profession and where he now resides.

Albert F. Sheldon, son of Dr. Andrew F. and

Hyde, Luther Cowan, G. Robinson, A. Duane, J. S. Eggleston and W. H. Peckham.

1850—Wm. Green, H. G. House, E. R. Wright, A. W. Marsh.

1854—Samuel T. Ninde, Joseph Smith, Dr. Spollsberg. '55—J. B. McNett, L. Whitcomb, John Coventry. '59—Dr. Yale.

1860—George Kellogg, D. H. Armstrong, H. D. Whitbeck, L. A. Crandall, D. W. C. Van Slyck, W. G. Elliott. '62—A. D. Teachout, Dr. Hopkins. '63—Dr. Howe. '64—W. G. Smith. '65—L. A. Reeves. '66—Dr. Sutpen, H. N. Burr, Hartwell Tompkins. '67—S. A. Russel. '69—F. M. Passco.

1871—C. S. Lacey, Wm. G. Burnett. '72—S.



ANDREW FLINT SHELDON, M. D.
RALPH SHELDON, M. D. ALBERT F. SHELDON.

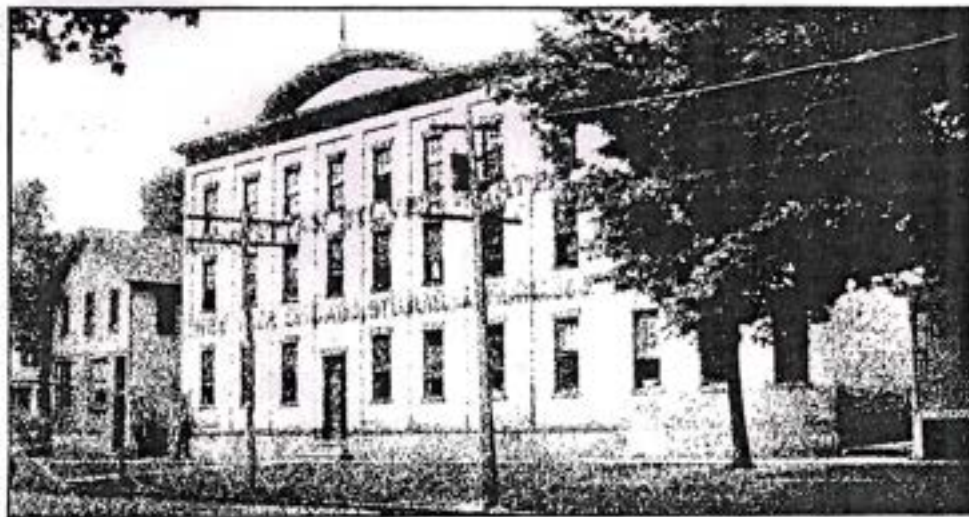
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Russell, Photo.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO., FACTORY B.

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April 27, 2007

Dear Mrs. Artn,

I am replying to your request for information about Dr. Ralph Sheldon who had a practice in Lyons for many years. As the present I can locate only two group photos that he is in. Unfortunately we have just begun to computerize our archives and my manual search turned up very little information. We have several clothing articles from his estate that were donated by his son but have no other written information.

We do have in our collection a large medical kit that was given to his father, Dr. Andrew Sheldon by Abelen Lincoln. Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Sheldon were present at Lincoln's inaugural ball as well as in the theater when he was shot. We also have the cape that Mrs. Sheldon wore on both occasions.

I am enclosing a copy our display information about Dr. Andrew Sheldon along with copies of the two pictures. In the smaller group Dr. Ralph Sheldon is in the back row - the first person. In the larger group he is seated in

Wayne County Historical Society
Museum of Wayne County History

21 Butternut Street Lyons, New York 14489
315-946-4043 (FAX) 315-946-0069
www.waynchistory.org info@waynchistory.org

the first row, the 11th person from the left, and his wife is seated next to him (12th person).

We are still in the planning stages of our military exhibit but it will certainly include the medical kit.

We would welcome a copy of any articles that you publish & keep in our archives.

If I come across any more information I will send it to you.

Sincerely
Kathi Marshall
Board Member, WCHS

RALPH SHELDON, M.D.

Ralph Sheldon was New York Department Commander 1899-1900 and was elected Commander-in-Chief at the 26th national encampment in Dayton, Ohio in 1907. He presided at the 1908 national encampment held at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

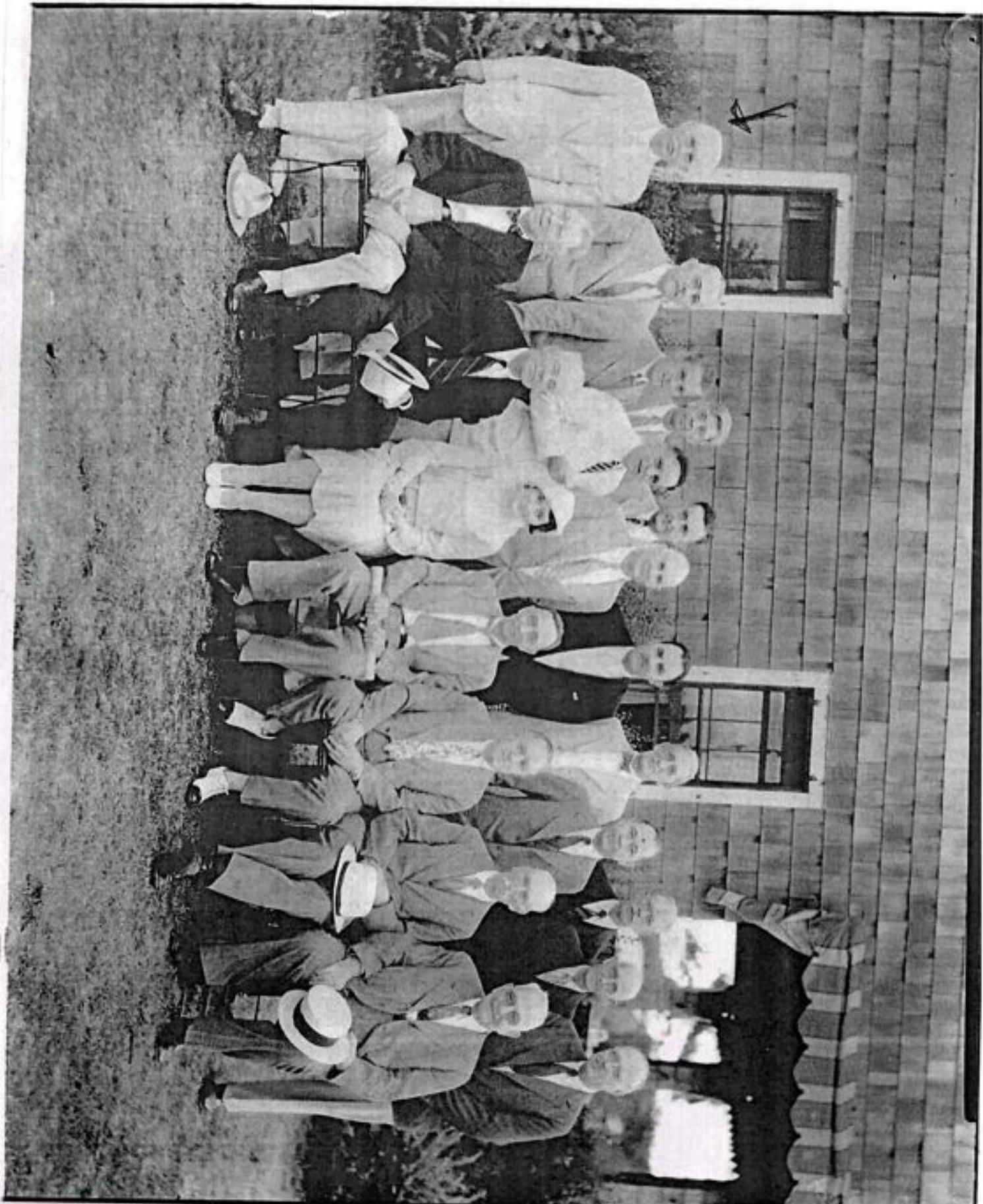
Ralph was the oldest son of Dr. Andrew F. Sheldon and Lucetta Salsbury. He was born at Pultneyville, N.Y. on August 12, 1870. He graduated from Lyons High School in 1888 and Albany Medical College in 1892.

He joined Jacob H. TenEyck Camp #154 in Albany, N.Y. where he maintained his membership all his life.

His wife was Margarette Klinck on Lyons, N.Y. on November 6, 1895. They had no children. He died 1950 and she died . They are buried in Lyons in a little cemetery on Rt. 14 on the right hand side of the road just North of the village.

His father was Dr. Andrew Flint Sheldon who was born Huron, N.Y. on October 27, 1830. He received his medical degree on the University of New York in the spring of 1852. They had 6 children, one of which was Ralph Sheldon. Commissioned as Assistant Surgeon by the Governor in August of 1861 he served with the 7th NY Cavalry for 6 months and 1 month with the 78th NY Infantry. He also served on General Wadsworth staff as Executive Officer in the Medical Director's office in Washington, D.C. for a year and 8 months when he was given charge of Campbell U.S. general Hospital at Washington, D.C. of which he had charge until the close of the war. He is credited of originating and putting into practical use the continuous tent hospital which became in general use during the war. Lincoln commissioned him Assistant Surgeon US Volunteers, Oct. 4, 1862 and Surgeon April 13, 1863. President Johnson commissioned him Frevet Lt. Col. August 15, 1865 for faithful and meritorious services.

Mr. Nelson S. Sibley,
June 1914.



Teacher of Ralph Sheldon, Command-in-Chief 1907-1908

ANDREW FLINT SHELDON

A native of Wayne County Doctor Sheldon was born in Huron October 27, 1830. He received his early education at the district school and Red Creek Academy. Andrew briefly studied medicine under Dr. E. W. Bethume of Huron before going on to the Medical Department of the University of New York where he received his M.D. in 1853. Returning to Wayne County Dr. Sheldon practiced medicine in Williamson until the outbreak of the Civil War. He was commissioned as assistant surgeon in August 1861 with the 7th New York (Black Horse) Cavalry remaining with them about six months then a month with the 78th New York Volunteers. He became executive officer in the medical director's office on General Wadsworth's staff, who was the Military Governor of Washington, D.C. a position he held for the next twenty months. When Sheldon left the army at the end of the war he was in charge of Campbell General Hospital.

Following the war he practiced medicine in Pultneyville, New York until 1880 when he was elected County Treasurer. Following nine years as Treasurer Dr. Sheldon set up practice in Lyons where he remained until his death in 1914.

Dr. Andrew Sheldon is credited with the development of the hospital tent while he was attached to the medical director's office. He was unable to obtain the necessary funding for the project so he paid for the first tents out of his own pocket. He ran into opposition due in part to the rise in popularity of the pavilion style hospital, a more permanent barracks like building. The French government sent a commission which recommended the adoption of Sheldon's hospital tent as a model for their use, "the only one to receive this high distinction." (Boston Transcript)

*Wayne County, N.Y. Hist. Society, 21 Buttermit St, Lyons, N.Y. 14859
www.waynehistory.org*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

To the Officers and Members of Euseka Grange, No. 46 of the

Patrons of Husbandry

I, Ralph Sheldon a resident of the Town
of Lyons County of Wayne
and State of New York being 14 years of age, and
by occupation a School Boy, respectfully petition to be initiated
and enrolled as a member of your Order.

In presenting this petition I am influenced by no motive other than a desire to unite with others in elevating and advancing the interests of Husbandry, and receiving in return such benefits and advantages as may accrue to all who belong to the Order.

Should my petition be granted, I promise a faithful compliance with the By-Laws of this Grange, and the Constitution and Laws of the State and National Granges.

I have not previously applied for membership in this or any other jurisdiction.

Lyons N.Y. March 24th 1885 Ralph Sheldon
RECOMMENDED BY

J. M. Bradley
Lusella E. Whitney

Deposit, \$ 1.00

The undersigned committee, appointed to report upon the foregoing petition, have discharged the trust confided to them, and hereby reports _____ favorably.

♦PATRONS♦OF♦HUSBANDRY♦

This is to Certify That *Dr. A. F. Sheldon* is a member
in good standing of Grange No. *38*. County of *Wayne*,
State of *New York*, and clear of the Books at the time of
granting this

♦DEMIT♦

We recommend *him* for membership in any Subordinate
Grange to which *he* may apply.

J. H. [Signature] Master
Wesley T. Jolley Secretary
Dated *Nov. 16* 18*83*