

5 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 04-20-2021

Name: Major Donald Lee Grant Sr

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Sons of Veterans Reserve

Position/Title: Chief of Staff for the 3rd Military District

Address: 215 W. Allen St

City: Lancaster State: Ohio Zip: 43130

Best Contact Telephone: 740-407-0002 Email: grantdonsr@yahoo.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 190

Specific Issue: War Relics

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position: To keep Civil War cannons from being bought or removed from public and private land.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Chairman Haraz Ghanbari, Senator Tim Schaffer, Representative Adam Miller and all members of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as all Veterans:

My name is Major Donald L Grant Sr., Chief of Staff, 3rd Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Several years ago, I approached Senator Schaffer regarding the need to protect our country's history, not only in writing, but also in retired artillery pieces that have been in the possession of many Ohioans. My concern was initially the Civil War era pieces, such as cannons, which includes the cannon on my hometown's Veteran's Park, located in Lancaster, that was secured by General William Sherman as a gift to the Grand Army of the Republic Ben Butterfield Post #77, and all our city's citizens. I had concern regarding the sale of items used in the Civil War, which is prohibited in the Deed of Conveyance of Property: GAR to SUVCW (attached).

While in recent years there has been a push to remove items from our country in an attempt to, in my opinion, rewrite history, we need to teach our history to everyone; not just today's younger generations, but also to those in the future. We need to learn from our historical events, mistakes and all, not erase them, as we would inevitably be bound to repeat them.

Today's children tend to be taught only as far back as World War II from what I have seen in recent textbooks in our schools. We need to include all of our country's history, from the birth of our nation through the present.

Our country has had many trials in our 245 years, and we need to learn from these, respect them, and continue to teach them. My children and grandchildren are being taught as much as I can teach them, and some, including my wife, may say I am obsessed with this task.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my support of this legislature. As a blood relative (6th Cousin) to General U.S. Grant, my family knows how important these memorials and artifacts are to our State, our people, and to retain our heritage.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Major Donald L Grant Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Major Donald L Grant, Sr.

Past Ohio Department Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

A DEED OF CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY: GAR TO SUVCW

THE INDENTURE made this 13th day of February, 1954 by and between the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, a Corporation organized by an act of the Congress of the United States approved June 3, 1924, by Albert Woolson, sole surviving member of said Grand Army of the Republic, and the COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, a Corporation organized and existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, because of the age and infirmity of the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and being desirous of carrying out the objects and purposes for which said Grand Army of the Republic was organized and believing that the Sons of Union Veterans is the natural heir of the Grand Army of the Republic;

THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Sections six and seven of said act incorporating the Grand Army of the Republic, I, ALBERT WOOLSON, as sole surviving member thereof do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey to said Commander[y]-in-Chief, sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War all property of any and every kind and nature owned by said Grand Army of the Republic, and wheresoever situate, and all the records and archives thereof; except such property and records as are specifically mentioned and described in a resolution adopted by the Grand Army of the Republic at its 83rd and final Encampment held at Indianapolis, Indiana August 28th to September 1st, 1949.

The meaning and intent of this conveyance is to convey to said Commandery-in-Chief, sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, all post and department records of the Grand Army of the Republic and it is my express wish and desire that said Grantee shall use its best endeavors to return said records to the Communities where grand Army posts were located, so far as possible, for the use and benefit of the Communities where such posts were located.

This conveyance shall become effective upon compliance with Section seven of the said act incorporating the Grand Army of the Republic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the said Albert Woolson, as sole surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal at the City of Duluth in the County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota the day and year first above written.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
By: /s/ Albert Woolson (seal)

WITNESS:
[Illegible]
J. W. Kobus
Dewey B. Meade

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS
 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

I, a Notary Public within and for the said County and State aforesaid do, hereby certify that Albert Woolson personally known to me to be the same person who is described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and personally known to me to be the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, do hereby certify that the said Albert Woolson acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily as the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic for the uses and purposes in said instrument set forth.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 13 day of February 1954.

/s/ Dewey B. Meade
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires: Dewey B. Meade
 Notary Public, Hennepin County, Minn.
 My Commission Expires April 9, 1957

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In re)
)
 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,) No. 3966-54
)
 Petitioner)

JUDGEMENT

Upon consideration of the motion filed herein by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a corporation created by Act of Congress, representing that it is the successor of Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the grantee in a certain deed from the Grand Army of the Republic dated February 13, 1954, and confirmed by this Court on December 22, 1954, and praying for confirmation of a certain confirmatory deed to it from the Grand Army of the Republic dated February 25, 1956, made for the purpose of correcting a clerical error in said deed of February 13, 1954, a copy of said confirmatory deed being filed in this Court and the original being submitted to the Court for insertion, and it appearing to the Court that the allegations of said motion are true and the purpose of said confirmatory deed is to carry

out the true intent and purpose of the original deed of February 13, 1954, it is this fifteenth day of June, A..1956, by the Court,

ORDERED, Adjudged and decreed that the title and ownership of the property covered by said deeds of February 13, 1954 and February 25, 1956, be and hereby is vested in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a corporation created by Act of Congress approved August 20, 1954.

/s/ Alexander Holtzoff
Judge

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

In re)
)
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,)
) No. 3966-54
Petitioner)
)

JUDGEMENT

Upon consideration of the motion filed herein by counsel for the petitioner for transfer of the remaining property of the Grand Army of the Republic to the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the petition filed herein, the copy of the conveyance of property of the Grand Army of the Republic to the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War also filed herein, and the duly authenticated original of such copy of the conveyance, it is this 22 day of December, 1954 by the Court,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED That the title and ownership of the property provided for in the indenture of the 13th day of February, 1954, by and between the Grand Army of the Republic and the Commandery-in-Chief, sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, pursuant to the Act of June 3, 1924, 43 Stat. 358, 76th Cong. 1st Sess., Sec. 7, be and hereby is vested in the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

/s/ Alexander Holtzoff
Judge

Note: Copies are attested by Harry M. Hull, Clerk