

Army posts of the city, on the afternoon of Decoration Day, Wednesday, May 30, 1894. The presentation of the burial plat by the citizens of Troy to the members of the four posts attracted to Oakwood Cemetery on that afternoon a large number of the inhabitants of the city and its vicinity. The programme of the occasion comprised the following exercises :

Overture by the band; presentation of the new burial plat to the Troy posts of the Grand Army of the Republic by H. H. Darling, chairman of the Citizens' Committee; the posts' acceptance of it by the Hon. Lewis E. Griffith, commander of Post Willard; presentation of the staff and flag, by a letter from Major William M. Swartwout, read by W. H. Boughton of Post Tibbits; breaking out the flag by Major Isaac F. Handy of Post Tibbits; "The Star Spangled Banner," sung by public-school children; acceptance of the staff and flag by the Rev. L. M. S. Haynes, D.D., chaplain of Post Griswold; music by the band; ritual-service of the Grand Army of the Republic; reading of the orders of the day by A. D. McConihe, commander of Post McConihe; duty of the day, by J. M. Snyder, commander of Post Tibbits; "America," sung by public-school children; festival of the dead, by Colonel W. H. Munn, commander of Post Griswold; decorating graves, by G. S. Aldrich, commander of Post Bolton, Lansingburgh; music by the band; address by the Rev. George E. Stockwell; "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," sung by public-school children; benediction.

In the spring of 1895, Major Swartwout had the first staff removed and another substituted, to which was added a part of the first one as an upper mast, thereby obtaining a height of one hundred feet for the display of the flag floating from it. For this striking token of his patriotism he received from the Joint Memorial Committee of the four Grand Army posts in the city an attractively-lettered resolution adopted by the committee, on May 17, 1895:

"Whereas, Captain William M. Swartwout has erected a fine flag-staff in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Plat in Oakwood Cemetery, from which is kept waving at all times, at his expense, the National Emblem over the graves of comrades who sleep in safety beneath its protecting folds:

"Therefore be it

"Resolved, That, representing the Grand Army posts of this city, we desire to express to Captain Swartwout the sincere thanks of his 'Comrades-in-Arms' for this practical evidence of his generous patriotism, with the assurance that his liberal gift will ever be cherished with grateful remembrance in the hearts of all true and loyal citizens, and especially by those who, with him, did battle for their country."<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately a violent whirling wind, in the summer of 1898, broke off the

<sup>1</sup> *Vide*: The fac-simile prints of the resolution in the Appendix.