## Henry Wilson Post #86, G.A.R.

The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 1866. The purpose of the organization was to maintain comradeship and fraternity among its members; to perpetuate the memory of their deeds; and to aid needy soldiers, their widows and orphans. The society grew by 1890 to 408,489; but gradually decreased in enrollment so that by 1920 it was under 100,000.

The Henry Wilson Post #86 was chartered three years later(May 26, 1869) in the village of Assabet. We have no record as to how the name was reached. Meetings were held twice a month in the basement rooms of the Riverside Hall Bulding.

The first Commander was D.G. Hemenway, 1869-70. George Bab-cock followed in 1871; H.W. Martin, 1873; Elias E. Haynes, 1877; A.D. Holt, 1878; George Flood, 1881; W. C. Pomeroy, 1882.

The enrollment figures are not available to us but by 1881

Memorial Day only ten members showed up for the parade and decorating of the graves of deceased members. (Concord Freeman) A report of the Journals, Department of Mass., G.A. R., December 31, 1881, shows 21 members in good standing. With such a small membership it was decided to relinquish the charter July 13, 1882, and to join individually the Isaac Davis Post #138 of Acton.

Isaac Davis Post organized the parade and decorated the graves of departed comrades until 1921 Memorial Day when the American Legion Frank J. Demars Post #235, took charge.

The last remaining Maynard Veteran of the Civil Was passed on

Prepared by Birger R. Koski - read at the meeting of the Maynard Historical Society All dates up through 1882 are from the Journals, Dept of Mass., G.A.R.

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