Patriotism on Parade: The Story of Veterans and Hereditary Organizations in America, 1783-1900



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PATRIOTISM ON PARADE: THE STORY OF VETERANS AND HEREDITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN AMERICA, 1783-1900



Literary Licensing, LLC. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 402 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x 0.9in.Since 1783, patriotic societies have become an integral part of American history. The great number of Sons, Daughters, and Dames, and the alphabetical jungle of G. A. R., D. A. R., V. F. W., U. C. V., U. D. C., W. R. D., etc. are well known—and are often subjects of controversy. Wallace Evan Davies here recounts, in fascinating detail, the activities and attitudes of both veterans and hereditary patriotic societies in America up to 1900. In a lively manner, he explores their significance as social organizations, their concept of patriotism, and their influence upon public opinion and legislation. At the close of the American Revolution a group of officers formed the first patriotic veterans society, The Society of the Cincinnati—open to all officers who had served for three years or were in the army at the end of the Revolution. Thus it began. Then, after the Civil War, came the numerous organizations of veterans of both sides and of their relatives. And as some Americans became more nationalistic, others, becoming absorbed in family trees, started the many hereditary societies. After discussing the founding of mens, womens, and childrens patriotic societies, the author describes their organizational aspects: their size, qualifications for membership, officers, dues, ritual, badges, costumes, and the like. In hereditary groups, membership was deliberately limited, for exclusiveness was often their strongest appeal. The veterans groups, however, were usually anxious to be as large as possible so as to enhance their influence upon legislators. The appearance, beginning in the 1860s, of nearly seventy patriotic newspapers and magazines testifies to the rising popularity of these groups: prominent publications of the patriotic press included...



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