ALBERT J. LOGAN—A MEMORIAL

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BY THE DEATH of General Albert J. Logan on December 27, 1934, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania lost one of its most valued members and officers. We can pay a tribute of respect to his memory in no better manner than by reciting some of his outstanding characteristics and reviewing some of the many enterprises with which he was closely connected during his long and useful life.

General Logan was born in Pittsburgh on July 7, 1857, the son of James and Elvira M. (Gill) Logan. He was a direct descendant of John Gill, a native of Ireland, who came to America about 1770 and served his adopted country during the Revolutionary War. His education, apart from that which was acquired in the school of experience, was obtained in the public schools of Pittsburgh and in the Pennsylvania Military College at Chester, which he attended for two years. About 1878 he entered the employ of one of Pittsburgh’s leading upholstery houses, first as a shipping clerk and later as a traveling salesman. Capitalizing his experience there, in 1882 he went into business for himself as a manufacturer of mattresses and bedding under the name of A. J. Logan Company. Success smiled upon his undertaking; although started in a

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modest way the business prospered and grew rapidly. In 1908 it was incorporated under the name A. J. Logan & Company and a number of trusted employees became stockholders and officers. The business continued to expand until it became one of the most complete establishments in the industry. General Logan was president of the company from its organization until December 31, 1928, when he withdrew from active management after having completed a successful business career covering a period of nearly fifty years. He had become one of the best known manufacturers in his line of business in the United States: he was a leader in the movement for legislation setting up standards governing the manufacture of bedding, and he was one of the originators and the first president of the Better Bedding Alliance of America.

General Logan possessed a genius for organizing and coördinating his business affairs in a way that left him free to give much of his time, energy, and talents to civic, philanthropic, and military affairs. He identified himself with activities that did much for the development of his community, his city, and his state, and for the betterment of his fellow men. An enumeration of some of his many activities will indicate the general qualities of this remarkable man. For more than forty years he was a member of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, of which he was vice president for several years and president in 1902 and 1903; he also served as a director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and of the Oakland Board of Trade. As chairman of the Greater Pittsburgh Committee he took an active part in the movement that resulted in the annexation of Allegheny, and in 1908 he helped to revise the ward divisions of the enlarged city of Pittsburgh. From 1908 to 1928 he was an enthusiastic member of the City Planning Commission of Pittsburgh and served as chairman of the Better Traffic Committee. He was also a member of the Pittsburgh Flood Commission and of the Lake Erie and Ohio River Ship Canal Commission. As a representative of the Americus Club, which had contributed provisions and bedding for the sufferers, General Logan was named to the Johnstown flood committee that the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce created when the news of the disaster reached the city, and he took an active part in the organization of relief and the distribution of supplies in the stricken city.
Later he became a member of the Johnstown Flood Correspondents' Association. When an earthquake and tidal wave devastated the islands of Martinique and St. Vincent in 1902 he helped to direct the local relief committee. He also served as secretary of the Citizens Committee that was organized for the relief of the unemployed in 1893. General Logan's interest in charitable and philanthropic organizations is further evinced by his membership on the board of directors of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, in the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania, in the Allegheny Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and by his interest in the Parting of the Ways Home and in the Boys Club of Pittsburgh. He did not, however, permit his preoccupation with local activities to curtail an active interest in state and national affairs. He was one of the founders of the Americus Club of Pittsburgh, a Republican organization that brought him into contact with nationally known men in politics and government. In 1914 he was a candidate for Congressman-at-large from Pennsylvania; previously he had declined to be a candidate for city recorder or for mayor of Pittsburgh.

General Logan's name appears on the roster of the Eighteenth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania (Duquesne Greys), in which he enlisted as a private as early as 1875. Until his death his interest in military affairs never waned, and, with a distinguished service of almost sixty years to his credit, he was generally recognized as one of Pennsylvania's outstanding military men. He became a lieutenant in 1880, a captain in 1881, a major and quartermaster on the staff of Brigadier General John A. Wiley, commander of the Second Brigade, in 1891, a colonel and quartermaster of the state on the staff of Governor Daniel Hastings in 1895, a colonel of the Seventeenth Provisional Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, during the period of the Spanish American War, a colonel on the staff of Governor William A. Stone, and commissary general on the staff of Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker. In 1909 he was elected a colonel of the Eighteenth Regiment, the organization in which he had enlisted as a private more than thirty years before. In 1912 he was promoted to the command of the Second Brigade with the rank of brigadier general. At the outbreak of the Mexican trouble in 1916 he entered the federal service at El Paso, Texas, with
his command, and at the outbreak of the World War he was commissioned brigadier general in the federal service. He commanded the Fifty-sixth Infantry Brigade, Twenty-eighth Division, until January 29, 1918, when he was relieved from his command and honorably discharged by reason of physical disability. His separation from the service of his country at a time when he had hoped to lead his command in overseas service was to him a keen disappointment, but, good soldier that he always was, he returned to Pittsburgh with a determination still to be of service to his country whenever and however possible. He at once became a member of the local branch of the Council of National Defense and of the Pittsburgh War Service Committee. In these and other like enterprises he rendered noteworthy service.

During many years of his life General Logan gave much of his time to matters having to do with the development of an efficient organization of the National Guard. He was president of the National Guard Association of Pennsylvania; and he aided in procuring legislation that permitted the state to erect armories for the National Guard and created an armory board, of which he was a member until the end of his life. He was a member of the executive committee of the National Guard Association of the United States and served with that committee in planning legislation in January, 1916, for federalizing the National Guard. He was also an active member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, of which he was president for two years; the Major William H. Davis Camp, Department of Pennsylvania, Spanish War Veterans; the 111th Infantry Association; the American Legion; and other military societies.

As an active and efficient National Guardsman General Logan was called out many times to aid in quelling industrial disturbances. In 1877 his regiment helped to restore order during the railroad riots in Pittsburgh and in the coal fields of Luzerne County. His fidelity to duty during the latter assignment so impressed a Pittsburgh minister that he made the young soldier the subject of a Sunday sermon. Again, in 1892, General Logan and his company were called upon to keep order in Homestead during the steel mill riots. As executive director of the local committee on arrangements for the twenty-eighth national encampment of
the Grand Army of the Republic General Logan made all preparations for the convention, which was held in Pittsburgh in 1894. During the presidential campaign of 1896 he was grand marshal of the Republican party's demonstration and parade held on October 31 of that year. Among other occasions on which he appeared in the capacity of marshal were the Pittsburgh centennial celebration parade in 1916 and the Armistice Day parade in 1920.

For many years General Logan was a member of and actively supported the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; he became one of its directors on May 11, 1909, and served it as vice president from April 27, 1926, until his death. His papers and correspondence, deposited with the society, form an important part of its manuscript collection. He was also a member of the Civic Club of Allegheny County, the Duquesne Club, and the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

General Logan's religious affiliations were with the United Presbyterian denomination; in early life he had become a member of the Sixth United Presbyterian Church, of which his father, James Logan, was for some years a ruling elder. On November 16, 1882, he was united in marriage with Susan E. Murphy, daughter of Colonel John Murphy of Pittsburgh, who survives him. They had no children.

General Logan possessed the love and esteem of those who came in contact with him, and particularly of those many boys and men who served under him and with him during his long military career, and this affection in itself constitutes a tribute to his personality and genius for leadership. Of this business man, philanthropist, soldier, it may well be said that his memory should be revered and his example emulated by this and succeeding generations.