



For as long as citizens have gone to war, there have been veterans' organizations of some sort. In 1879, local Civil War veterans formed the Fairport chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, E.A. Slocum Post #211. Named after Edmund Slocum, who was killed at Gettysburg, the post worked for veterans' benefits, assisted indigent veterans and their families, and cared for veterans' graves.

Two hundred sixty-five Perinton residents fought in the Civil War; forty died on battlefields, in hospitals, and in prisons. *The Complete Record, as Required by Chapter 690 of the Law of 1865, Relating to Officers, Soldiers, and Seamen* detailed the war experience of approximately 150 Perinton veterans. Notes include such entries as "discharge on account of poor health," "health permanently impaired, wounded twice," "wounded 3 times," "eight months in Andersonville Prison," "prison 11 months at Libby Prison," "wounded and discharged," "gunshot wound in shoulder," "wounded in knee," "discharged on account of deafness."

The Grand Army of the Republic's national commander, General John Logan, had officially proclaimed Memorial Day on May 5, 1868, as a day to honor the war dead. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873, and Fairport's chapter of the GAR oversaw the establishment of Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day) ceremonies in Perinton. The E.A. Slocum Post closed in 1937 when Horace Waddell, its last surviving member, died. Aside from this one photo taken in 1914, little else is known about the activities of the Post.