



# RAMBLINGS OF THE IRISH RIFLE

The Official Newsletter of the 14th Michigan Company A  
Sons of Veterans Reserve

December • 2017

## Another Year In The Books

It is hard to believe, but another year has passed for Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, SVR.

It is even harder to believe that we have not had a Newsletter this year until now. That is regrettable and completely the fault of your Editor who now begs your understanding and forgiveness.

## Lincoln Tomb Ceremony 2017



Due to the Easter weekend the SVR made an abbreviated trip to Springfield for the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony this year. Once again the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Co. A was well represented. Our continued support and dependability was recognized by event organizers and we have now been designated as the official Color Guard for the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony.

## Stephenson Monument



Our next duty station was the Stephenson Monument Ceremony.

## Commander's Corner Brothers and Comrades:



I would like to say thank you for your participation in the various events we supported throughout the year. It was well done and professional and all those who we supported appreciated our presence, as it was well received. I submitted back in

August our unit for the S.V.R. Unit Citation Award from the Commanding General S.V.R and we have received this award on Remembrance Day weekend while in Gettysburg. This will mean that those who have joined the unit since we received the Unit Citation last time will be awarded the Unit Citation pin for their uniforms. You should be proud of this award as we are there in both Springfield and Gettysburg in strength and we are noticed and recognized for that effort.

Those interested in attending the Gov. Crapo Camp Christmas Dinner please let Private David F. Wallace know at:  
[CampDinner@GovCrapoCamp145.org](mailto:CampDinner@GovCrapoCamp145.org).

We have had inquiries in supporting an effort by Camp No. 135 in a Civil War Weekend for 2018 and more information is forth coming if you are interested in supporting please reach out to Corporal Dick Denney at [CWSONVET@HOTMAIL.com](mailto:CWSONVET@HOTMAIL.com).

Our next big event is the Lincoln Tomb Service April 14, 2018. If you are interested in attending please let 2nd Lt. Payne, 1st Lt. Davis or myself know so we can work on a plan. I thought going down on Friday worked well. Maybe we can do that again.

We have been discussing the Friday tour for 2018 Remembrance Day weekend and thinking about Valley Forge as it has been almost a decade since we have been there and would be good to visit there again. The Super 8 in Chambersburg, PA was a great place to stay and not having to pay for breakfast and having it included was a plus. It ended up costing less than staying in town or at the cabin. Well done 1st Sgt. Pahl, 2nd Lt. Payne for making those arrangements for the men this year.

If I don't see you before Christmas please be safe and may you and yours have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully your servant,  
Capt. L. Dean Lamphere, Jr  
Commanding  
Co. A – 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry "Irish Rifle"  
3<sup>rd</sup> Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve

## DUES NOTICE

Please send your SVR 2017 Dues, \$5.00 to:  
Dean Lamphere  
1062 Four Seasons Blvd  
Aurora, Illinois 60504



Lt. Payne finally found his sign

### John Geaghan Marker Ceremony

The Summer months occupied a lot of time for us with Encampment activities and as a result our SVR related activities were not as numerous as usual.

The SVR supported an event for Camp 180 in Ann Arbor for the installation of a marker for John Geaghan.



### Gettysburg Remembrance 2017

Despite various threats of attacks and disruptions, Michigan was well represented during the Remembrance weekend activities this year.



### James Cloney Headstone Dedication



It was on to Allegan in support of General Pritchard Camp for a head stone dedication ceremony for James Cloney, Co. C, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. Family members from as far away as Colorado attended the service. The family participated in the ceremony which was also supported by the Color Guard from the FFA who also played taps.

### Next Stop: Mackinaw Island

A small but enthusiastic group attended a marker dedication service at the Veterans Plaza on Mackinaw Island in July.



### Patriotic Instruction Sarge Scars and Stripes



The Ole Sarge says you probably got all your gear thoroughly soaked during Remembrance this year. Remember to properly and thoroughly dry your gear before storing it for the Winter. Be sure all swords, bayonets and scabbards are dried inside and out. Ensure clothing is clean, free of mud and thoroughly dried (not in the dryer) before storing. Muskets must also be thoroughly dried including under the barrel bands and under the wood of the stock. Hang any flags to air dry. And last remember the brogans. Be sure they are properly dried and treated so they won't shrink.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan and volunteers from the the Department of Michigan placed National and State flags on the headstones of Michigan soldiers at the Gettysburg Cemetery. We continued the ceremony initiated from last year to read of the names of those men buried there. We will rotate the rows each year. Special thanks go out to Jan Davis who serves as the caretaker of the flags.



We placed the flags on Saturday morning and managed to get them all placed before the rain started.



## Woolson Monument Service

Next on the agenda was the Woolson Monument. While we managed to get all of the flags placed in dry weather, we were about to pay the price for the rest of the day including the parade. It was now time for ponchos and umbrellas everywhere.



We were well represented in the parade even though participation was noticeably smaller this year.

Soaked but not deterred the troops continued to form up for the parade. The parade route was altered due to security issues this year. As we walked down to the staging area, the water flowed with such vigor along the curbing that it could have been easily mistaken for a trout stream.

## Memorial Service At The 16<sup>th</sup> Michigan Monument



The rain continued at a steady pace during our usual custom of honoring the men at one of the Michigan monuments. This year it was the 16<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry located on the downward slope of Little Round Top. The names of those who gave their all were read in memoriam to their service and sacrifice.



The evening meal on Saturday was at the usual place, General Pickett's Buffet. For the first time in years, we did not have to wait and were seated right away. Clearly participation was down this year.

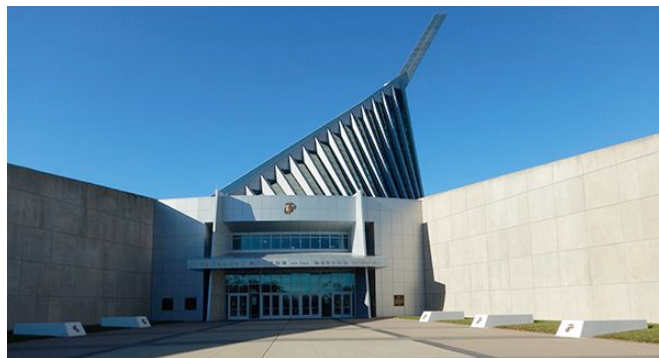


On Sunday afternoon, the Michigan contingent headed to the "Farm" for the traditional Thanksgiving dinner.



### Museum of the Marine Corps

This year the Museum of the Marine Corps was the SVR side trip.



Exterior of the Museum of the Marine Corps  
A few examples of the many displays of artifacts, equipment, air planes and vehicles.

On Sunday morning, several members of the group volunteered to serve as photo models in a recreation of the Gettysburg Address.



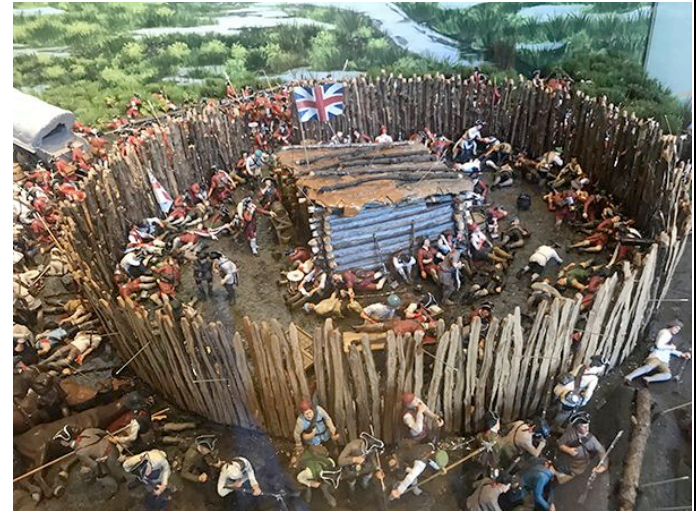
In this partial view you can see Jan on the left. Ron is slightly to the right and Irish is front and center and to the right. Ed, Dean, Rob and Lloyd were also in the picture in different locations.



Part of the group elected to have Wally as their guided tour docent. An excellent choice as proclaimed by all in the group.



On Monday, it was wheels up for the return trip to Michigan. On the way back we took a side trip to Fort Necessity. Quickly we discovered SNOW in Maryland.



British Fort Necessity attacked by the French



Irish manned the cannon in an effort to keep the French away.



Snow "cannon balls" were flying in all directions.



On Sunday, the flags placed on the graves were retrieved and turned over to Jan. Jan cleaned all of the flags, and the sticks and repaired a couple of the state flags readying them for next year's Remembrance ceremony.



A moment of silence for Michigan Soldiers, Gettysburg Remembrance 2017.