

# MICHIGAN

VOL 1 NO 2

Lansing

Official organ of the



# MESSENGER

Michigan

January 1993

Michigan Department SUVCW

I hope the first issue of the MESSENGER was well received. It took some time to get the first issue off the ground, as well as this issue, but I hope that it is now started, it will continue to serve the Department for years to come. A copy of the front page of the August, 1901 MESSENGER has been obtained. I hope to include it in a future issue here, so you can see what it once looked like.

As with any project of this size, money is the major limiting factor. The first newsletter cost us \$48.00 to print and \$52.20 in postage. We have enough money in the Department treasury for a few more issues. We need to begin to think about ways to raise funds for the Department to pay for this newsletter, the recruiting brochures and the other projects we have in mind, if we want to continue these projects.

For any of you with articles or other items of interest for inclusion in the MESSENGER, please forward them to Department Headquarters: 445 West Maple Street, Mason, Michigan 48854.

There are a few corrections from the last newsletter. John Mann, new Commander of the Austin Blair Camp #7, is the editor of their excellent newsletter. I have received telephone calls and letters as to this. Please accept my apology John, and again my hat is off to you on a job well done.

Secondly, the G.A.R. records are not in the Burton Historical Library at the University of Michigan, but with the Burton Historical Collection that is part of the Detroit Public Library system. Having lived in Ypsilanti for several years and traveling several times to Ann Arbor to the Burton Historical Collection there, I made an assumption that was incorrect.

Finally, PDC Gary Gibson has pointed out to me that the GAR Grave Markers available is a Department project, not Camp 17.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEPARTMENT RECORDS: I have not had the opportunity to check out the Burton Historical Collection as of yet. This will probably be a winter project. It will have to wait, however, until the sale of my previous home in Sunfield. This seems to take up most of my Saturdays.

UNIFORM: Matter still open pending receipt of your views and suggestions. Both the Marshall and Jackson Camps are working on this idea. I am in hopes that we can adopt something Department wide. I will keep the options open to allow these Camps and any others that would like to contribute, time to submit recommendations.

I have received word from PDC Gary Gibson that the Corp badge was not used by the various Departments of the G.A.R., but adopted by the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., for their Divisions, which are the present day Departments. He also believes the corp badge was red in color, not white. (Late addition - new word has been received as to the uniform of the Sons of Veterans. Look for the next issue of the MESSENGER for details).

HOWE CAMP: Due to the non-payment of per capita tax for over one year, the Howe Camp had been suspended. However, I recently received a letter from Commander Lavis and the Camp has been reinstated. While Commander Lavis is the only active member, I am hopeful that new recruits can be located and this become an active Camp again.

DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING: I had wanted to have a Department Mid-Winter membership meeting on February 20, 1993. I have made preliminary arrangements with a Lansing restaurant for a luncheon meeting, ordering from a menu. I recently called back to confirm and their offer was withdrawn. Therefore, much to my regret, this meeting is cancelled. I hope each of you can still attend the President's Day banquet the evening of February 20.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN/GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Once again, our Department is co-hosting with the Michigan Department, Sons of the Revolution, the annual February President's Birthday Banquet, honoring George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. This shall occur on February 20, 1993, with dinner at 6:30pm and program to follow. See the reservation form at the end of the Messenger.

RECRUITMENT BROCHURES: John Mann has made a Department recruiting brochure and Dick Williams and Don Everett met with John in late October to discuss the format, printing and distribution of the brochure. A draft should be ready for review soon.

GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT: The news from the Blair Camp (below) prompts me to point out that I created a new Department office and appointed James Lyons as the Department Graves Registration Officer. Jim has run a very successful program for the Curtenius Guard Camp in the Lansing/Tri-County area. He can answer questions such as what is available at the State Library, provide forms and instruction in searching cemeteries, completion of those forms and how to compile the data collected.

FRUITPORT: Preliminary meetings are occurring with the view of a new Camp in the Fruitport area.

## CAMP NEWS

**AUSTIN BLAIR CAMP #7, Jackson:** They have taken in six new members since the last issue of the Messenger. They are: John Esterline, Ken Strickler, James B. Coleman, Todd D. Holton, Gary R. Winzeler and Ronald S. Shinn. The Camp is also running an active graves registration project. Eight members of the Camp and two other interested people assembled at the Horton Cemetery on October 13 to check for burial sites of Civil War veterans. Ten veterans were confirmed, 14 more probable along with 77 possibilities that require further checking.

**BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP #20, Kalamazoo:** I saw several Camp members as part of the color guard at the November 11 Veterans Day program at the Fort Custer National Cemetery, all but one disappeared before I got a chance to talk with them. They have also taken in a new member at their October meeting, John D. Horvath.

I also understand that the Women's Relief Corp in Kalamazoo recently hosted a Christmas barn dance, assisted by members of Camp 20.

**COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF CAMP #22, Marshall:** This Camp continues to grow according to their October/November 1992 newsletter recently received. David E. Conklin, Louis E. Cuyer and Cameron P. Davis are the newest members in the Camp. The G.A.R. hall museum was open to the public during the Marshall Historic Home Tour. The guest book recorded 175 visitors with the Camp acting as hosts. The names of several prospective members were gathered. Assisting was the Michigan 3rd Battery with drills and cannon firing. Also appearing was the 5th Michigan Band, adding special color to the parade.

The Camp would like to thank Jim Lyons and Doug Park of Camp 17, along with Bill Brennan and Gary Gibson of Camp 20, who also assisted as hosts.

Don Pace, the Camps 98 year old brother and an original son from Marshall, has loaned his grandfather's McClellan saddle used while a member of the Michigan 10th Cavalry. He was also surprised at the August meeting of the Camp with a special birthday celebration.

**CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP #17, Lansing/Sunfield:** Movement is underway to have the Camp Guard be the lead color guard unit for the 1993 Lansing Memorial Day parade. Other Camps are invited to attend and march with the Curtenius Guard Camp. Also, the G.A.R. hall in Sunfield has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by the Helen M. Edwins Tent #30 of the Daughters, it is the meeting place of Camp #17.

Newest Camp members are, Vaughn Rawson, H. Dwayne Roe, James Bayes, John Nash, David Rehkoph and John Cochran.

**GEORGE W. HOWE CAMP #9, Port Huron:** Suspension for non payment of per capita tax has been lifted and the Camp is in good standing again under Commander Jack Lavis, Box 302, Marysville, MI 48040.

ROBERT FINCH CAMP #14, Traverse City: No Report

WA-BA-NO CAMP #53, Mt. Pleasant: Next meeting will be April 1 in the Shepherd Museum in Shepherd. Five new members were initiated since the last Messenger, Bernard Webster, Wayne J. Barrett, Thomas W. Mehl, William D. Terburgh and James S. Nedela. The Camp will shortly be starting a newsletter, THE GUIDON.

ULYSSES S. GRANT CAMP #101, Detroit: Congratulations to J.R. Schroder, who was installed as the new Camp Commander in January. Also, the Camp will be requesting assistance from the Women's Relief Corp in the formation of a local Corp in the Detroit area for the wives of the Camp members and other interested ladies.

GOV. CRAPO CAMP #145, Flint: A new Camp was formed in Flint on Wednesday, October 14, 1992. The Camp adopted the name and number of the former G.A.R. post in Flint. The Camp installation ceremony was December 16th, 1992. The new Camp Commander is David F. Wallace at 7017 Granada Ln., Flint, Michigan 48532-3023. Camp membership is comprised of Paul Bachmann, Dennis C. Derr II, Daniel V. Graves, Richard Greene, Darrell O. Hardenburger, Jim Jessop, Carl E. Lamphere, Harry L. Lamphere, Lawrence D. Lamphere, Mark D. Lamphere, Lloyd D. Lamphere Jr., Lloyd D. Lamphere Sr., Michael J. McCreedy, Terrance L. McKinch, Donald Moline, David M. Post, Kurt Schulze, Donald J. Smith, William Strutts, Thomas Y. Thiebaut, Jay K. Thiebaut Jr., David F. Wallace, Floyd E. Wallace, and Paul D. Williams.

Special thanks come from Commander Wallace (and endorsed by the Department Commander) to Jim Lyons, Dick Williams and Doug Park for their efforts and time spent in Flint assisting in the formation of this, our newest Camp.

Also, the Camp attended a special ceremony at the Genesee County Courthouse, to dedicate a historical marker in the memory of Sarah Emmons Edwards, aka Franklin Thompson. She was the only female member of the G.A.R., having served with the 2nd Michigan. National Secretary James Lyons addressed the crowd on that rainy afternoon. The Camp was supported by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, Department Commander Jim Pahl and PDC Gary Gibson. The Sons provided the Color Guard with the Department flags.

#### MEMORIAL DAY, 1993

Don't forget, as announced in the first newsletter, the Department is planning a special celebration on the grounds of the Michigan State Capital Building for Memorial Day, 1993. This is in honor of the 125th Anniversary of the issuing of General Order #11 by G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief, Gen. John Logan. It is my hope that every Camp of the Department will lay aside their regular Memorial Day ceremonies (or arrange other times) and come together as a Department at our State Capitol for this special ceremony.

Also, as stated in the Camp News section, Curtenius Guard #17 is hoping that the Camp's Color Guard can be the first color unit in Lansing's 1993 Memorial Day parade. If this can be

arranged, I will be requesting each of the Camps in our Department to furnish their own Camp Color Guards to come together under the Department Chief of Staff for this parade.

#### DEPARTMENT ORDERS

1. The Department Commander hereby recognizes Eric Brace of Sunfield Boy Scout Troop #157, upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout on October 24, 1992. There was a special Court of Honor wherein he was presented with National's Certificate of Commendation by the Department Commander.

2. I wish to welcome our newest Camp, the Gov. Crapo Camp #145 and it's new members, to our Department and Order. Commander Wallace is hereby recognized and commended by the Department Commander upon his election as the first Commander of this newest Camp.

3. It is sadly noted that Women's Relief Corp Past National President Susie Cool from Michigan recently passed away. It is hereby ordered that all Camps in the Department of Michigan shall drape their Charters during the month of February in memory of sister Cool.

4. Curtenius Guard #17 member Russell Gregory is hereby recognized and commended upon his recent appointment as Editor of the Banner.

5. Congratulations to all Camps within the Department as to our growing membership. Almost all Camps are reporting gains. With the addition of the Gov. Crapo Camp and their new members, the Department now has over 200 members.

6. Special commendation of the Department Commander is given to Department Secretary/Treasurer Dick Williams. Dick has preformed his duties well above and beyond the call of duty. He has meet with almost all of the Camps within the Department. His tireless efforts on behalf of our Order are deserving of highest praise. I for one, greatly appreciate these efforts.

By order of:

James B. Pahl  
Department Commander

## NATIONAL NEWS:

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** In his report to the 111th National Encampment, out-going Commander-in-Chief Lowell Hammer offered the following problem areas that he has identified. I believe Jim Lyons was going to make a full copy available to each Camp Commander should you desire to see the full report. C-in-C Hammer offers:

- We must have the commitment of everyone in the Order, not just a nucleus of a few loyal members.
- We must have officers who seek the position not simply for prestige, but who are willing to make serious contributions in time and effort to further the Order.
- We must engage in programs, projects and activities that respond directly to our purposes and objects.
- We must be willing to make changes in our traditional way of doing things if the situation, circumstances and times require it.
- We must not let petty differences or perceived slights within the Camp and Departments detract us from the accomplish-ment of our mission.
- We must make our Organization well known and attractive so that others who are eligible will wish to join it.
- We must improve our communication within the Order so that the membership will know what is going on at the National level and what other Departments and Camps are doing.

As I re-read these paragraphs, I can't help but feel proud of the accomplishments of the various Camps within the Department of Michigan. I do not see anything in the above areas that we are not working on. But, we must keep these areas in the fore-front of our mind and keep checking ourselves to ensure that we continue to promote the purposes of our Order, **LEST WE FORGET.**

**SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE:** Keith Harrison is on the recruiting warpath again. The Sons of Veterans Reserve is the military arm of the S.U.V.C.W. It has a long and honored history. The S.V.R. was activated for the Spanish-American War, with the S.V.R. battalions serving with distinction in our armies. A S.V.R. regiment also served our County during World War I and at other times.

Keith has been commissioned a Major in the S.V.R. and is forming the **MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT SUVCW COLOR GUARD, S.V.R.** This unit will assemble and serve the Department for parades and other appropriate ceremonial occasions. It will not become a reenactment unit, nor will it ever compete with any independent reenactment unit. Gary Gibson has been commissioned a First Lieutenant and will serve as the adjutant.

S.V.R. uniform is per U.S. Army 1861 regulations, with the enlisted ranks wearing the S.U.V. hat wreath upon the kepi. Any civil war reenactor desiring to enlist in the ranks may wear the enlisted rank they are entitled to in their reenactment unit. It is hoped this will help keep the costs down. Any non-reenactor enlisting in the ranks should contact Major Harrison for the rank they desire to wear.

Those desiring commissions must make application to the National organization, S.V.R., through and endorsed by Major Harrison and then have that rank approved by National. The National Commander, S.V.R., is a Brigadier General.

S.V.R. dues are \$3.00 per year, which is above your Camp dues. Membership in the S.V.R. is open to any member of the S.U.V.C.W.

THE BANNER: James Lee of Iowa has been replaced as the Editor of the Banner. Once again, Michigan has been recognized and Russell C. Gregory of the Curtenius Guard Camp #17 has been named the Banner Editor. Russ is the Editor of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard, a daily newspaper serving Ionia County. Russ has the ability and facilities to get the BANNER published and out to the membership on a quarterly basis. Congratulations Russ on your appointment. With the plans that have been made, I am sure each member of our Order will receive their BANNER on a regular basis.

THE END: Well, I believe this wraps up the second issue of the MESSENGER. What do you think? Remember, this is your news-letter and will only be as good as what YOU submit.

---

### **Abraham Lincoln/George Washington Dinner Celebration**

**Speaker:** Paul Milliken, the curator of George Washington's boyhood home.  
He will speak about that home.

**Place:** Midway Hotel, 7711 West Saginaw Highway.

**Social hour:** 5:30-6:30 P.M.    **Dinner at** 6:30 P.M.    **Program at** 7:30 P.M.

---

### **Abraham Lincoln/George Washington Dinner Celebration Reservation:**

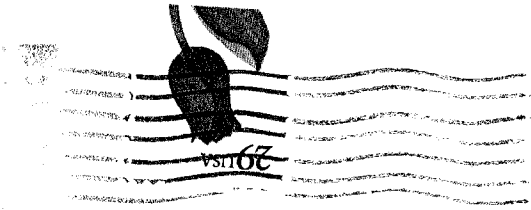
**Make check payable to:** *Sons of the Revolution*

Mail to:            Keith Harrison                            Dinners are \$15 each  
                         4209 Santa Clara Dr  
                         Holt, MI 48842-1868

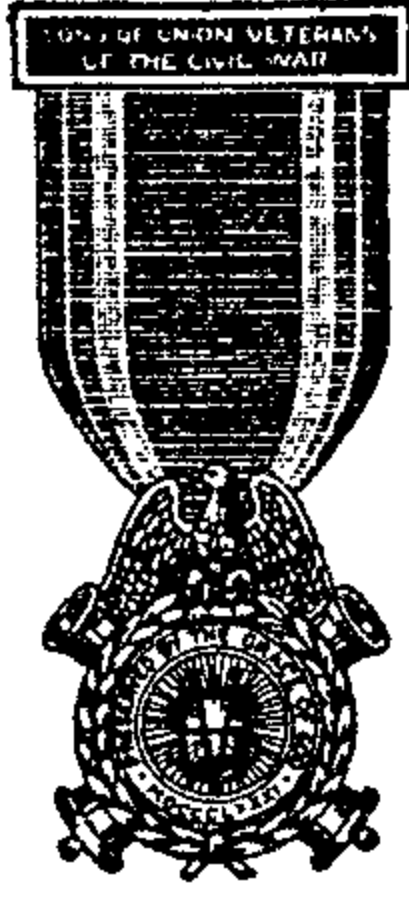
Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners at \$15 each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation is for \_\_\_\_\_

James T Lyons  
411 Bartlett St  
Lansing, MI 48915 1805







NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

KEITH G. HARRISON  
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
4209 Santa Clara Drive  
Holt, Michigan 48842  
517-694-9394

MEMORANDUM

4 February 1993

TO: CAMP COMMANDERS

FROM: KEITH G. HARRISON, PDC, MAJOR  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT SUVCW COLOR GUARD, SVR  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: LANSING MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY/PARADE

This is to inform you that an error was made in the recent Michigan Department "Messenger". Under Camp News, it was indicated that the Curtenius Guard Camp #17 would lead the Lansing Memorial Day Parade. This is not true. The Parade and Ceremony will be a Department and not a Camp function. As a consequence, the Michigan Department SUVCW Color Guard will lead the parade. The Department's Color Guard currently has membership representation from the Curtenius Guard, Benjamin Pritchard, U.S. Grant, Gov. Crapo and Colegrove-Woodruff Camps. The individual Camp Guards which wish to participate will follow directly behind the Department's Color Guard. The individual reenactment units which wish to participate will follow the SUVCW Camp Color Guards. Sorry for the confusion.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would so inform your membership at your next Camp meeting or via your Camp's newsletter. Thank you.

cc: James B. Pahl, Department Commander  
Dick Williams, Department Sec.-Trea.

*Members: Mich. Dept SUVCW Color Guard*