

Michigan's Messenger



The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume IV Number 4

May 1996

Department Officers 1995 - 1996

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Council

J. Douglas Park
Scott Twietmeyer
Dale F. Calder

Chief of Staff

Keith G. Harrison

Camp Organizer

Donald H. Workman

Patriotic Instructor

Steve Redinger

Chaplain

Rev. Henry Reinewald

Counselor

James B. Pahl

Historian

Ronald Bellenger

Guide

William C. Costello

Guard

Edgar Dowd

Color Bearer

Howard Streeter

Department Orders No. 4 Series 1995/1996

1. The Department of Michigan lost one of its longtime members in that of Brother Jack Patch, who passed away on February 5, 1996. I must once again ask that all Camp Charters and the Department Charter be draped in black for a period of thirty days. Brother Patch was born on January 8, 1927 and was a member of Austin Blair Camp No. 7 of Jackson, where he had been a Past Camp Commander. He was a retired banker, enjoyed photography, genealogy and the SUVCW. Jack was a veteran of WWII, having served in the U. S. Army. Our condolences go out to his wife, Martha; mother, Margaret Patch; and his children. Also to the Brothers of Austin Blair Camp No. 7.

2. Brother Jim Neely, PCC of Austin Blair Camp No. 7 is rebounding at home from a heart attack. Brother Neely has done a lot to promote the Order for the SUVCW over the years. We wish him well and a speedy recovery as he continues to improve. This office had a nice visit on the phone recently with Brother Neely at home. I hope to see Jim in June at the Department Encampment, where we've had a lot of good times together in the past.

3. On March 16th and 17th the Kalamazoo Antique Arms Show took place. General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 recruited there both days. It was nice to see many Brothers from other Camps who came over to the recruiting table to visit. The fairgrounds has always been a hot spot for the Camp for getting members into the SUVCW.

4. On Sunday, March 17th, I went over to Grand Haven and installed the new officers of Henry Plant Camp No. 3. The Camp is planning on marching in the U. S. Coast Guard Festival Parade in Grand Haven, on I believe Saturday, August 3rd, at 1:00 pm. This parade draws a crowd of a quarter million spectators each year. An invitation will be extended to each Camp on the details. The contact person is Camp Commander Richard Scott. You can reach him at (616)842-8511 or (616) 698-4333.

5. The 2nd Annual Civil War Film Festival/Trade Show was held at the National Guard Armory in Wyoming on March 23rd and 24th. The 3rd Michigan Infantry hosted the event once again that included music by the 7th Michigan Five and Drum Corps. Civil War dealers and Civil War Movies played throughout the day. General John A. Logan Camp No. 1 of Grand Rapids held a recruiting table there. I presented the Camp with one of the old green Logan Street signs that once marked Lansing. Camp Commander Scott Twietmeyer of Logan Camp received it, on behalf of the Camp which is named in honor of General Logan.

6. A new bill is being submitted to our Michigan Legislature called HB No. 5496 to increasing fines for the desecration and theft of grave markers (veteran flag holders). The old law goes back to 1915, but is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for no more than 90 days and only levied fines of \$5.00 to a maximum of \$50.00. Under the new bill it would raise the maximum penalty to \$500.00. Many dealers sell GAR/veteran flag holders at price ranges of \$20.00 to \$100.00. It's bad enough that veteran's graves are being desecrated by the theft of these markers, but to sell them for a profit is even worse. Brother Kent Armstrong of George W. Anderson Camp No. 68 is working with Alan L. Cropsey, State Representative of the 86th District and Representative Allen Lowe, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee. This bill has passed the House and now moves on to the Senate.

7. As the computer age marches on, Brother Bill Morris of Russell A. Alger Camp No. 462 informs me that Brother Glenn Knight of the Pennsylvania Department has developed a National SUVCW internet homepage resulting in a number of recruits for the Order. There is a section on the National page to allow Michigan Department information to be entered. This page is maintained through a local "freenet" at no cost to the Order. Brothers Morris and Michael McMillen are information providers. They have found this to be a very effective way of getting information about the Order to the public. The hope is that Michigan Camps will take advantage of their local freenets and add their information to the SUV "cyber message". (cont. on page 2)

Department Orders

8. A special project is under way by the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property. It's called "Save Outdoor Sculptures" (SOS!). The project is spearheaded by Lynn Clark, of the Smithsonian. She has been in close with Brothers Kent Armstrong and Dave Wallace of the SUVCW. This project will provide a fundraising kit to help raise money to restore the GAR Civil War Monuments across Michigan that are in need of some TLC. I'm sure that Brothers Armstrong and Wallace can share more information with us at the Department Encampment, as the kit has now arrived.

9. J. Douglas Park, PDC and chairman of the M-99 project to name that highway the General John A. Logan Memorial Highway, has been in contact with Brother (and State Representative) Michael Nye. Brother Nye has asked the Legislative Service to begin drafting the necessary language for the bill. M-99 is 88 miles long stretching from the Ohio border to Lansing. Chairman Park is waiting to hear Senator John Schwartz of the 24th District about co-sponsoring the bill with Representative Nye. The highway traverses part of the Senator's legislative jurisdiction. Brother Park should know more by the Department Encampment.

10. The Department of Michigan is pleased to announce the formation of a new Camp in Shiawassee County at Corunna. Brother Bill Washburn is organizing the Camp, along with Brothers Mike McMillen and Dave Hilliker. Brother Washburn has informed me that it has been decided to name this new Camp after the GAR Post that was in Corunna from 1883 to 1937. The name will be Captain Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160. The application for a Charter has been completed, so it is highly likely that by the time you read this, we will have 18 Camps in the Michigan Department.

11. A rededication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Corunna will be observed on Memorial Day, Monday May 27th. This will mark the 80th Anniversary of the original dedication. Originally, due to the lack of finances, the monument had been placed in Pine Tree Cemetery rather than the Court House lawn. The happy ending to this story is that members of Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 raised the funds necessary to have the monument moved to where the veterans originally wanted it placed, the Shiawassee County Court House lawn. If you would like to attend the parade and rededication, give Brother Bill Washburn a call at (517)743-3177 or write him at 212 West McArthur Street, Corunna, MI 48817.

12. Brother Gene Taylor, chairman for the Michigan Department Graves Registration Committee and myself are pleased to have Brother Kim Leese join the Graves Registration team alongside Brothers Sean Ralston and Bill Warren. Brother Leese has internet access and an e-mail address and therefore will provide the committee with quick response to research requests. This will allow speedup in the delivery of services for customers, both inside and outside the Organization. This will allow members of the committee to continue in the business of setting up the organization and improving communications between Camp Graves Registration officers and the Department of Michigan and National Graves Registration Committees.

13. The long awaited History of the SUVCW will be released on June 1st. Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC, in charge of the history book would like to thank our Michigan Brothers for their

patience while the book was compiled for publication.

14. I'd like to thank those who attended the Department Mid-Winter Conference that was held on February 17th. at the Mid Way Motor Lodge in Lansing. I'm sure many Brothers went home with a better understanding of how to perform their duties as an officer of their Camp. My thanks to those Department officers who provided the training for the various Camp officers.

15. The evening of the Mid-Winter Conference saw the annual Washington-Lincoln Dinner which was held at the Mid Way Motor Lodge in Lansing, along with the Society of the Sons of the Revolution. After a day in conference, it was nice to set back and enjoy the music of the 7th Michigan Fife and Drum Corps. It really was a wonderful evening of friends, fellowship and music.

16. Brother Scott Twietmeyer, Camp Commander of General John A. Logan Camp No. 1 of Grand Rapids has informed me that this year's 3rd Annual Remembrance Day will take place at the Grand Rapids Soldiers Home on Saturday, August 3. They will parade from the front of the Soldiers Home and end up at the Veteran's Cemetery. For more information please contact Brother Twietmeyer at (616) 245-5715 for more details.

17. If you are still in need of some of the SUVCW supplies, Brother Jim Williams, Department Treasurer will have them on hand to meet your wishes at the Department Encampment.

18. As we close in once again on Memorial Day, let us pause once more to remember Brothers in the Order we have lost over the past number of years. I shall list them here: Floyd C. Hindbaugh, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, December 24, 1988; Ted Barnea, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, September 16, 1990; John Campbell, Governor Crapo Camp No. 145, July 16, 1994; Phil Johnston, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, October 15, 1994; Dudley Pritchard, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, October 18, 1994; John LaRue, Robert Finch Camp No. 14, November 25, 1994; Matt Urban, Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, March 4, 1995; Fred Jones, Governor Crapo Camp No. 145, April, 1995; Bill Lentz, Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43, August 26, 1995; Max O'neil, Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, December 12, 1995; and Jack Patch, Governor Austin Blair Camp No. 7, February 5, 1996.

19. The 107th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW will take place at the Holiday Inn West in Lansing. The date will be Saturday, June 8th, with registration for delegates starting at 8:00 am, followed by the Encampment getting underway at 9:30 am. The address is 7501 West Saginaw Highway (M-43), 1 block east of I-96.

20. This will be my last Department Orders, for I shall not seek a third term. It's time for a change of different ways and ideas. I'd like to thank all of my Michigan Brothers for the support you have given me over these past two years. It has been quite an experience. So, with that, thank you gentlemen for your trust in me as Department Commander for 1995-1996.

By Order of,

William A. Brennan
Department Commander

Department Officer Reports

Senior Vice Commander

Topics of two of my earlier columns now can be updated. One concerns the Department Bylaws and the other pertains to promoting our Order.

First, as chairman of the Bylaws Committee, I invited suggestions for bylaw amendments. The response was small, due probably to the fact that major revisions were made just last year.

Four amendments are being recommended. New sections would authorize reimbursements of expenses by the Department's Senior and Junior Vice Commanders: up to \$50.00 per year for each, after Department Council approval. Another amendment would exempt Camps from Department Per Capita Tax assessments for Juniors. The other revision would lift the restriction of a maximum of five members on a standing committee. That would promote more widespread participation in Department affairs.

The proposed amendments have been sent to the Camps for review and instruction of their Camp Delegates.

On another subject, my first report advised the membership to boost the Order and its objectives through various means. A recent undertaking by the George W. Anderson Camp No. 58 is a good example of what can be done. The Camp not only presented a National Patriotic Instructor "Certificate of Appreciation" to each of two families for displaying our Nation's Flag throughout the year, but arranged for newspaper coverage of the event which took place at the City Hall. (See the Fall, 1995 issue of "The Banner" for details of the award.)

What are you and your Camp doing to further the purpose and objects of the Order? We would like to know.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Paul D. Hodges
Senior Vice Commander

Treasurer

Department of Michigan - Suvcw Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance At 31 March 1996

Assets	
Checking Account	\$1,218.70
Savings Account	3,628.96
Russell A. Alger Memorial Fund Savings Account	510.18
Total Assets	\$5,357.84
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Liabilities	
Due Camp at Large	\$127.25
Due S. V. R.	156.00
Total Liabilities	\$283.25
Fund Balance	
Restricted Funds	\$ 510.18
Unrestricted Funds	4,564.41
Total Fund Balance	\$5,074.59
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$5,357.84

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures For the Quarter Ending 31 March 1996

Revenue	\$2,195.25
Expenditures	(2,227.29)
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	(\$ 32.04)
Total Fund Balance Beginning of Period	\$5,106.63
Total Fund Balance End of Period	\$5,074.59

Yours in F., C. and L.,

James J. Williams
Department Treasurer

Ancestor List Update

The Department's *Member's Civil War Ancestors* publication, which was first published in February 1995, will be updated in the near future. Information for this publication is taken from membership applications. Information in the publication includes the Members' name and Camp; his ancestors' name, relationship to the Member, rank, unit, muster and discharge dates and reason for discharge.

If Members have more than one ancestor that they can claim Member status in the SUVCW under, they are encouraged to submit additional application forms for those ancestors with their Camp Secretary. The Camp Secretary will then forward the applications (or copies) to the Department Publications Committee.

Camp Secretaries will be mailed a list of the current records on file with the Publications Committee. This will enable them to review and update the list without having to resubmit previously submitted data. After updating of the list is completed and it is printed, two copies of the list will be delivered to each Camp Secretary. These may then be recopied as needed by each Camp.

To allow enough time for the updating process, the deadline for inclusion will be December 31st. The list will be ready for distribution in time for the 1997 Mid-Winter Conference.

In F., C. and L.,

Dick Williams
Publications Committee Chairman

Department Officer Reports

Junior Vice Commander

At the time of this writing, on Good Friday, I have some good news to report. Unfortunately, I also have some bad news to relate to my Brothers in the Michigan Department.

The good news is that a new Camp has been organized. Let me be one of the first to welcome the Captain Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160 of Corunna to the Michigan Department. Boasting ten members, the Wallace Camp was organized in March through the tireless efforts of Brother Bill Washburn. With the addition of the Captain Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160, the Department now contains eighteen Camps.

Not only are we establishing new Camps, we are receiving a steady list of prospective members from the National Junior Vice Commander. Brother Jim Williams, Commander of Gilluly-Kingsley Camp No. 120 of Howell, recently forwarded to me a list of several prospects he acquired at the Civil War Roundtable Conference he attended on March 2nd. By the time this issue reaches your mailbox, the pace of our recruiting efforts will be in full swing with the advent of this year's relic shows and reenactments.

Now for the bad news. To date, nothing has been heard from the George W. Howe Camp No. 9 of Port Huron regarding the membership applications forwarded to Camp Commander Lavis from the men of the 22nd Michigan Infantry reenactors. In mid March, I was informed by Randy Maxfield, head of the reenactor group, that two applications were sent to Camp No. 9 about January 24th. A third application was forwarded the week of February 4th. Mr. Maxfield indicated that he has other applications ready to be forwarded to the Howe Camp. I advised him to hold the completed applications until the Department had resolved the lack of response from the Port Huron organization.

After repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact Camp Commander Lavis by telephone, Department Commander William Brennan forwarded a registered letter to Brother Lavis on March 23rd requesting action on the submitted applications. As of this writing, no response has been received from the Howe Camp in Port Huron.

I am at a loss as to why no action has been taken by Camp No. 9 on the applications. Further delays can only result in projecting a poor image of our Order and the loss of interested applicants. Obviously, we cannot allow this situation to remain in limbo. It is my hope that this problem will be resolved in a timely manner.

This will be the last issue of Michigan's Messenger to be published prior to the Department Encampment scheduled for June 8th in Lansing. It is also the last time that I will be writing a report for the office of Department Junior Vice Commander. Having served as Camp Commander of Wa-bu-no Camp No. 53 for four years, and as Michigan Department Junior Vice Commander for two years, I now feel that it is time for me to pass the torch to another. Several Brothers have encouraged me to seek the office of Department Commander or Senior Vice Commander. I was honored by their faith in my abilities, but at this point in my life I just want to sit back and become one of the boys.

By June of 1997, God willing, I will be able to retire from my job as a public school teacher. I will then be able to devote my time to more selfish interests such as hunting, fishing, genealogical and historical research, and model making. Shamefully, I have military miniatures that were purchased over thirty years ago that remain unpainted and model airplanes in their original boxes that have languished unassembled for several decades. I hope to remedy that situation during my retirement years.

I will, of course, continue to be involved in the Order I love so dearly. Whatever appointed positions or jobs that the elected officers wish to bestow upon me will be welcomed. And, who knows, perhaps in a year or two, I will be back in the thick of things seeking another elected office.

For those of you who have never served as a Camp or Department officer, I would encourage you to do so. I believe there is a wealth of untapped talent in the Michigan Department that would, when unleashed, bestow enormous benefits upon our Order. Anyone who has served in a leadership role at the Camp or Department level will tell you that it is an exciting and rewarding experience.

In closing, I want to thank all of my Brothers in the Michigan Department who have offered their help and encouragement during my tenure as Department Junior Vice Commander. It is a job that I have thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our beloved Order.

Camp 9 Update (relayed by phone): Jack Lavis, longtime Commander of George W. Howe Camp has resigned his membership in the SUVCW. No explanation was given for the resignation. Current intentions are to reactivate Camp 9 in spite of this setback as there are five applications on hand for membership in the Camp. We have asked Jack to return the Camp Charter, Camp documents and other Camp gear to the Department. These items will be turned over to the new members once they have been initiated into our Order.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Don Workman
Department Junior Vice Commander

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Historian

Would all Camp Commanders or Camp Historians please forward pictures and/or newspaper articles of Camp activities to me for the Department files. Address them to:

Ronald Bellenger
Department Historian
1219 62nd Street
Fennville, MI 49408

In F., C. and L.,

Ronald Bellenger
Department Historian

Department Officer Reports

SVR Adjutant

It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of L. Dean Lamphere Jr. He is the new 1st Sergeant of Co. B, 30th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, SVR. Dean had been filling the same role in the world of reenacting and will be a great asset to the Michigan Military Department.

I also have several personnel reassignments to announce. The following reservists are now under Lt. Paul's command in Co. A, Michael Culp, Cameron Davis, Howard Streeter and James Williams. The following reservists are now in Lt. Graves command in Co. B, Ed Dowd, Michael McMillan and Tristan McMillan. These changes reflect the structure Capt. McKinch has established at this time.

We still have reservists that have not submitted their 1996 dues. Please send your payment to me as soon as possible. A check for \$5.00 should be made payable to the "Department of Michigan, SUVCW". My address is 7270 Morrcrest Lane, Flushing, MI 48433.

On a similar note, if you have not submitted your social security number to me, please do so. This is at the request of our Commanding General.

I would like to thank each and every member of the SVR for their participation at this year's "Winter Muster". Approximately 50% of the Michigan Military Department participated. All of us drilled hard during the day and enjoyed social time in the evening. Also, a special thanks goes out to Brother Redumski of Camp No. 145, David Harbin of the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry and Brother Cummings of Camp No. 67. These men worked with the SVR in planning this activity.

From the desk of Capt. McKinch, Commander of the Michigan Military Department, are these future 1996 events: May 11 and 12 — School of the Soldier, Chillicothe, Ohio. We are in need of trained soldiers, SVR or reenactors, to serve as drill instructors for this school. You may also attend as a student. The fee is \$3.00. Please contact Capt. Terrance McKinch, 7432 East Potter Road, Davidson, MI 48423 for details. Participation in an Infantry School, either, Michigan or Ohio, is mandatory for advancement in the SVR.

May 27th — Memorial Day, Corunna, MI. Rededication of the GAR Monument at the Court House.

May 27th — Memorial Day, Vassar, MI. Memorial services at Riverside Cemetery, time 2:00 pm.

August 3 — Ceremony of Remembrance, Michigan Veterans Facility, Grand Rapids, MI. Sponsored by General John Logan Camp No. 1. Time 1:00 pm.

November 16th — Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA. If you are planning to attend, Capt. McKinch has several rooms reserved. It's getting late, but the Ramada Inn may still have vacancies. This is the 40th Anniversary of Remembrance Day. We would like to do a special wreath laying at a Michigan Monument.

Never forget that each and every Brother serving in the ranks of the Sons of Veterans Reserve is continuing the great heritage left to us. In decades past, members of this reserve fought overseas for freedom. For almost forty years we have served this country as a National Guard. I am very proud of each and every one of you!

Respectfully submitted, in F., C. and L.,

Daniel V. Graves
Adjutant, 30th Michigan Infantry, SVR

Special Committee

The Department committee, chaired by Brother J. Douglas Park, to oversee the designating of Michigan Highway M-99 as the General John A. Logan Memorial Highway reports they have contacted State Representative (and fellow SUVCW Brother) Michael Nye for assistance and support in the cause. In his letter to Rep. Nye, Brother Park noted that M-99 is 88 miles in length from its start in Lansing to its termination at the Ohio border. There are about 130 highway identification signs along the length of the route. The highway has no other designations other than the section in Lansing from its beginning at Ottawa Street to the southern city limits where it is named Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard (its name previous to a change a few years ago was Logan Street, named after Gen. Logan); and, a nine block section in the city of Albion, also named after Martin Luther King Junior.

Brother Park also explained General Logan's connection to the GAR and his General Order No. 11 creating Decoration Day (May 30) to be observed by the GAR, pointing out that Decoration Day became a National Holiday observed by all

Americans honoring all American Veterans of all wars. He went on to state that General Logan should be remembered for his contributions to his country and his memory should not be merely discarded because history is out of fashion.

It was pointed out that Title 9 of the Highway and Motor Vehicles/State Trunkline Highways act allows for the naming of state highways within Michigan if so enacted by the State Legislature and for the posting of signs of the designation. It was also stated that this designation would not effect the designations in the cities of Albion and Lansing.

Brother Park ended his letter with this: "We look forward to working with you and other state legislators who are not willing to see our American Patriots tossed away like yesterday's newspaper. We firmly believe we are always only one generation away from forgetting our past and sincerely appreciate any considerations offered the SUVCW in this matter."

J. Douglas Park
Special Committee Chairman

Camp News

No. 3 — Henry E. Plant

Fruitport — This Winter the Camp has been working on planning for our Spring activities. Foremost is the 100th anniversary of our namesake's receiving of the Medal of Honor. (See related article on page 10.) These activities will include the setting up of a display of Civil War relics in the showcase at the City Hall in Grand Haven; the possibility of conducting an opening of the display with members in Civil War uniforms at a City Council meeting (therefore possibly getting on local cable TV as a part of the meeting); and getting articles about Henry E. Plant and the SUVCW in the major newspapers of our area.

We also elected and installed our 1996 officers at our January meeting. The newly elected officers are:

Commander	Richard Scott
Senior Vice Commander	John Braden
Junior Vice Commander	Paul MacDonald
Camp Council	John Baldus
Camp Council	Max Rieske
Camp Council	Jon Scott
Secretary/Treasurer	Daniel Grable

Commander Scott has appointed the following Brothers to these Camp positions:

Chaplain	John Baldus
Color Bearer	Milt Mockerman
Guard	Jon Scott
Guide	Don Ogden
Historian	Jon Scott
Patriotic Instructor	Paul MacDonald

After the installation ceremony, our new Commander, Richard Scott, informed us of many of his ideas for the future. They include having more contact with local genealogy groups and the Lakeshore Civil War Roundtable in Muskegon; and mailing a one page meeting agenda to the membership. The January meeting also saw the Camp giving out membership certificates to each member of the Camp.

At our March meeting we discussed having members dressed in Civil War uniforms posted outside our meeting place at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum before meetings. It is felt that it will give the Camp and the SUVCW further exposure to the public by instituting this practice.

In early April a group of re-enactors, including our Camp Commander, presented a school program to the Whitehall School District. The presentation included a cannon firing.

We will be celebrating Memorial Day this year by marching just behind the VFW Post members in the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days Memorial Day Parade. This will be followed on the traditional Memorial Day with our Camp ceremonies being held at Henry Plant's grave in the Nunica Cemetery at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join us.

Henry E. Plant Camp meets on the 2nd Sunday of January, March, May, September and November at 1:30 pm. We meet at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, 1 North Harbor Drive in Grand Haven. All SUVCW members are invited to come visit our Camp.

Daniel Grable

No. 7 — Gov. Austin Blair

Jackson — Along with most other residents of Michigan, the members of our Camp have eagerly been awaiting the arrival of Spring. After deciding it might not make it this year, we decided to launch our "Spring Offensive" anyway. In March we commenced registering the veterans graves in Maple Grove Cemetery in Concord. Approximately a thousand headstones were read, cleaned, re-read. It was necessary to rub some with a special paper made to highlight worn lettering and again re-read them. Sometimes winds were 25 mph plus, with temperatures below freezing ... but we prevailed!

The graves of nearly 50 definite veterans were located. Most were members of the local GAR Byron Stoddard Post No. 239. Almost double that number of possible/probable veterans graves were also registered and work is nearing completion on the research to determine if any were veterans. This "Spring Campaign" was started early anticipating a busy Summer.

The members of Austin Blair Camp plan to march in two Memorial Day Parades (Jackson and Spring Arbor), take part in a combined Memorial Service in Jackson's Mount Evergreen Cemetery and also conduct our traditional service at the grave of Captain Edward Pomeroy. Having survived 1st Bull Run, Captain Pomeroy re-enlisted after his 90 day enlistment expired, returned to the field with the 1st Michigan Infantry and was killed in action at 2nd Bull Run. The Jackson GAR Post (No. 48) was named in his honor.

July promises to be equally as busy as we participate in the 125th Anniversary of Concord, Michigan's founding. There we will take part in the Memorial Service in the cemetery and march in the 4th of July Parade. The following Saturday, July 6th, we have been invited to participate in a special Memorial program at Grass Lake, Michigan. This will be in conjunction with the re-enactors of Company G, 27th Virginia Volunteer Infantry, CSA.

When we complete these endeavors we will plan to continue to raise and align headstones in our largest cemetery in Jackson and prepare for the Jackson Muster, August 24 and 25.

Bill Lowe

No. 17 — Curtenius Guard

Sunfield — The Camp has honored a founder and its first Commander, Keith G. Harrison, and Past National Commander-in-Chief, in a very distinctive way. The Camp presented a large, framed portrait of Keith to him in a special ceremony during a Camp meeting. Keith's wife, Jean, and his son, Nathan, were in attendance for the occasion.

The event took place at the Camp's regular meeting place, the Samuel W. Grinnell Post No. 283, Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Sunfield. The portrait was hung at a place of eminence in the GAR Hall. A name plate on the frame chronicles Brother Harrison's offices of Camp Commander, Department Commander and Commander-in-Chief.

Paul Hodges

Camp News

No. 28 — Alexander French

Big Rapids — March 12, 1996. The general membership meeting was called to order. Brother Randy L. Maxwell of Rodney, Michigan was elected as the new Senior Vice Commander of the Camp. Brother Maxwell is a Charter Member of Camp No. 28 and has been active in the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry re-enactors and is presently with Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery re-enactors.

Brother Ted S. Johnson of Big Rapids has taken over duties as the new Camp Chaplain. The new Camp Treasurer, David Waldron, of Paris, Michigan has made great strides in reorganizing and putting the Camp's finances in order. Brother Waldron has also acted as Camp Secretary in absence of Secretary John Emmons who has been wintering in Florida.

The Camp's newest member is Jearld H. Waldron of Grand Rapids (brother of Camp Treasurer David Waldron). Jearld bases membership on his ancestor, Manley A. Waldron of Company I, 10th Michigan Cavalry. At this time, Alexander French Camp has five Members who had ancestors that served in the 10th Michigan Cavalry, with a possibility of a sixth Member coming in soon.

Bronze recognition buttons, 1996 Membership Cards, Membership Certificates, War Medals and a Past Commanders Badge were passed out to all members who were present at the March meeting.

Our next meeting date is May 7 at 7:30 pm in the Free Methodist Church Youth Building in Big Rapids.

1996 Camp officers for Camp No. 28 are:

Commander	John Walker
Senior Vice Commander	Randy Maxwell
Junior Vice Commander	Solon Yax
Secretary	John Emmons
Treasurer	David Waldron
Patriotic Instructor	Lyle troupe
Chaplain	Ted S. Johnson
Color Bearer	Gearld Lintemuth

John Walker

No. 101 — Ulysses S. Grant

Detroit — The following members of U. S. Grant Camp were elected and appointed to office on January 6, 1996:

Commander	Thomas Wightman
Senior Vice Commander	J. R. Schroeder
Junior Vice Commander	Chris Yagley
Secretary	Chancey Miller
Treasurer	Thomas Emerick
Chaplain	Reverend Henry Reinewald
Historian	Michael Davis

The Camp is scheduled to meet on the following Saturdays at 2:00 pm at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit: April 13, July 13 and October 5. Memorial Day Service will be conducted on May 27th at Elmwood Cemetery.

Thomas Wightman

No. 58 — George W. Anderson

DeWitt — The slate of 1996 Camp No. 58 officers are:

Commander	Kent Armstrong
Senior Vice Commander	Gordon McGarey
Junior Vice Commander	Warren Gidley
Secretary/Treasurer	Mark Pangburn
Camp Council	Don Boak
Camp Council	Richard Jackson
Camp Council	Robert Knowles
Historian	Ken Coin
Color Bearer	Warren Gidley
Guard	Eric Martens
Guide	Douglas Armstrong
Chaplain	Robert Knowles
Patriotic Instructor	Ken Coin

Camp membership currently consists of 20 Members and one Associate.

Commander Armstrong extends thanks to National Secretary Dave Wallace for personally delivering the new Camp Charter to Camp No. 58. Likewise, an added thanks is directed to Department Commander Bill Brennan for his speedy review and prompt approval of Camp 58's first set of Bylaws. Attention to detail made this procedure a quick one-time process.

Camp Historian Ken Coin tracked down the large 1881 Bible used by George W. Anderson Post No. 58, Grand Army of the Republic and arranged for it to be placed in the perpetual care of Camp 58. As Commander Armstrong stated in his thank you letter to the DeWitt Library Board, having George W. Anderson Post 58's original Bible will add a unique solemnity to our proceedings.

Plans are unfolding to participate in Memorial Day activities in DeWitt and St. Johns. Activities will include a parade and cemetery ceremony in both cities.

A special National Patriotic Instructor's Citizenship Award was delivered by Camp 58 to two DeWitt families for their efforts in displaying the Nation's Flag in a continuous and correct manner. Certificates were given to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aben and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schaar in the presence of DeWitt Mayor Michael Towns, Commander Kent Armstrong, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Pangburn and Guide Douglas Armstrong. These certificates were the first ever to be issued by the National Patriotic Instructor.

Some of Camp 58's on-going projects include:

- Providing initial ground work for setting up a reproduction of an original GAR Post 58 grave marker/flagholder design.
- Graves Registration - One-half of Clinton County cemeteries have been completed.
- Efforts are continuing on the creation of a new altar, altar cloth and station banners.
- Special cemetery project - DeWitt: Install grave stones on previously unmarked graves of soldiers that have now been identified through cemetery records. St. Johns: Clean, repair and paint grave markers/flagholders.
- Purchase of a Camp.
- Purchase of a National Flag.

Mark Pangburn

Michigan Legislature Activity

Grave Markers/Flag Holders

Please be advised that Michigan House Bill No. 5496 (reviewed at the Mid-Winter Conference) has been unanimously approved by the House of Representatives and at the time of this writing (18 March 1996) has been referred to the Senate's Committee on Veteran's Affairs, before a vote is taken in that chamber. For the benefit of those members who haven't heard about this legislation yet, H. B. 5496 is aimed at those who profit by the sale of Veteran's Grave Markers/Flag Holders that are taken from cemeteries and sold at collectors shows, etc. Since 1915, it's been illegal in Michigan to "Willfully take down, destroy, deface, or carry away a flag holder," punishable by a maximum fine of \$50.00 and/or up to 90 days in jail. This can be found in Section 3 of Public Act 63 of 1915 (MCL 35.831 to 35.833). H. B. 5496 will increase the fine to a \$500.00 maximum and make it illegal to even possess an original marker/flag holder without the authority of the cemetery.

My thanks to Brother Dick Williams (Legislative Committee) who accepted my invitation to attend the House V. A. Committee meeting on this (29 February 1996) and to all members who asked their Representative and Senator to support this.

It has come to my attention that many of our members are not aware of the more important aspect of this Act; to provide for the furnishing at **public expense** of the flags and flag holders for graves of honorably discharged veterans of the United States armed forces.

Section 1. (MCL 35.831) states, "The legislative body of a city, village or township of this state, upon the petition of 5 eligible voters of the city, village, or township, shall procure for and furnish to the petitioners, at the expense of the city, village, or township, a suitable flag holder and United States flag for each veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States and who is buried within the limits of a cemetery belonging to the city, village, or township. The flag holder and United States flag shall be placed on the grave of each veteran for the purpose of marking and designating the grave for memorial purposes."

Section 2. (MCL 35.832) states, "In a petition to the legislative body of a city, village, or township, the petitioners shall set forth the name of the airman, soldier, sailor, and marine whose grave has not been appropriately marked as contemplated in this act, together with the number of the graves at the time of petitioning, and the cemetery where the graves are located."

There are special provisions for privately owned cemeteries spelled out in Section 2a. I am sending all of this "fine print" to Commander Brennan, with the respectful request that a copy be sent to each Camp, after the Department review. We should not rest until the graves of all Civil War soldiers and sailors, buried in Michigan are properly marked.

As Public Acts of one state are often adopted by others, I offer to our National leadership that Michigan's example be a model to be pursued nationwide.

Kent Armstrong
George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

Veterans Laws Publication

PDC Gary L. Gibson brought the book "Michigan Laws Relating to Veterans" compiled by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees and printed in 1984 to our attention at the Mid-Winter Conference and asked if anyone knew of an update. I shared with Brother Gibson and would like to pass along that there has been no update since the 1984 printing. A "scaled down" version may be published late this year or early next, according to Mr. Charles Cook of the Trust Fund office.

As Brother Gibson indicated, there are many laws listed that were generated by or relate to the Grand Army of the Republic. Unfortunately, some of these Public Acts have been amended or their directives are no longer followed. I've requested the current status of some of these Acts from the Research Division of the Legislative Service Bureau. There are references to memorials in cities and townships and an 1889 Act that provides "for the maintenance of soldier's monumental buildings erected jointly by municipalities and the Grand Army of the Republic, and the care of the property of the Grand Army of the Republic deposited therein." The neglected state of the Detroit GAR building came to mind when I read this. Act 130 of 1889 provides "for the joint erection of veteran's memorial or monumental buildings or structures by counties, townships, incorporated villages and cities." How this relates now to the specific circumstances of the GAR Hall in Detroit should be pursued with all effort to save this important part of our heritage! The buildings cornerstone reads, "Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 to 1865. A.D. 1899."

The compilation is free and there is still a great supply on hand. To order, write to:
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
Third Floor - Ottawa Building
611 West Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48913
or telephone Mr. Cook at (517) 373-3130.

Kent Armstrong
George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

Popular National Parks

The National Park Service reports that of the 32 Civil War sites managed by the NPS last year, the five most visited were:

Gettysburg	1,400,000
Chickamauga/Chattanooga	1,000,000
Vicksburg	1,000,000
Kennesaw Mountain	929,800
Mannassas	614,900

By contrast, Appomatox had only 273,768 visitors during the same period.

Memorial Day Poetry

The Unknown Dead

by Henry Timrod

The rain is splashing on my sill,
but all the winds of Heaven are still;
and so it falls with that dull sound
which thrills us in the churchyard ground,
when the first spadeful drops like lead
upon the coffin of the dead.

Beyond my streaming window pane,
I cannot see the neighboring vane,
yet from its old familiar tower
the bell comes, muffled, through the shower.

What strange and unsuspected link
of feeling touched, has made me think -
while with a vacant soul and eye
I watch that gray and stony sky -
of nameless graves on battle-plains
washed by a single winter's rains,
where, some beneath Virginian hills,
and some by green Atlantic rills,
some by the waters of the west,
a myriad unknown heroes rest.

Ah! not the chiefs, who, dying, see
their flags in front of victory,
or, at their life-blood's noble cost
pay for a battle nobly lost,
claim for their monumental beds
the bitterest tears a nation sheds.

Beneath yon lonely mound - the spot
by all save some fond few forgot -
lie the true martyrs of the fight
which strikes for freedom and for right.

The lofty faith that with them died,
no grateful page shall farther tell
than that so many bravely fell;
and we can only dimly guess
what words of all this world distress,
what utter woe, despair, and dearth,
their fate has brought to many a hearth.

Just such a sky as this should weep
above them, always, where they sleep;
yet, haply, at this very hour,
their graves are like a lovers bower;
and nature's self, with eyes unwet,
oblivious of the crimson debt
to which she owes her April grace,
laughs gayly o'er their burial place.

Courtesy of:

James J. Lyons
Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17

Commander's Corner

I thought that I'd cross the grain again one last time with another song/poem from the old song book in the old family trunk. This is also handwritten, like the last by Minnie Gillespie, my grandmother and the daughter of Henry P. Gillespie of the 13th Michigan Infantry. It's dated April 26, 1892. Once again I'll present it as it appears in the book.

The Dying Boy of Chickamauga

1. Oh burry me not on Chickamauga these words came low and mournfully from the bloodstained lips of a youth who lay, on the bloody field of Chickamauga.
2. He had nobly charged against the foe till a minnie ball had laid him low and the stars in heaven shone bright on high. They had gathered around for to see him die.
3. Oh burry me not on Chickamauga for the rebels horse to tred o'er me where the poor slave toils, from day to day and the sun of freedom shines not a ray.
4. Let my death slumbers be in my northern home, for my dearest friends to come, and weep o'er my tomb, by the side of my father my grave should be, oh burry me not on Chickamauga.
5. For there is one who's head will bend, for him who sleeps in a southern land. For the sake of that dear one that will weep for me, oh burry me not on Chickamauga.
6. There is another his voice failed there, for they paid no heed to his dying prayer, but scoop him out a shallow grave and o'er him pilled the cold cold clay.
7. March o'er the field where ere you roam his grave is marked by an unknown stone, where the corbiant stream flows on its way, they burried him there on Chickamauga.

This story gives a good account of what they experienced. In that we can only imagine what they must have felt when it was obvious that they wouldn't veer be coming home.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty'

William A. Brennan
Department Commander

Abraham Lincoln: "Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges, let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions, sacrifice increasingly upon its altars."

Henry E. Plant

Medal of Honor Recipient

One hundred years ago this Spring a unique action resulting in the presentation of America's Medal of Honor was recognized. This action was unique, because it was the first time in history that the rescuing of one's own Regimental Flag was considered a gallant act.

It occurred during a battle in the closing days of the Civil War. In this action, Corporal Henry E. Plant of Company F, 14th Michigan Infantry rushed into the midst of the enemy and rescued the bullet riddled Regimental Flag from the mortally wounded Color Bearer, Ezra Davis, thus rallying the regiment.

The Medal of Honor recipient, Henry E. Plant, the eldest of 5 brothers and 1 sister, was born in Oswego County, New York on October 11, 1841. Henry migrated, via Chicago, to Crockery Township, Ottawa County, Michigan with his family in 1854.

On December 5, 1861, Henry enlisted in the 14th Michigan Infantry where he spent a full three year term of service. During his term of service he was mostly on garrison duty in Tennessee. However, in 1862 the 14th Michigan took part in the siege of Corinth, Mississippi. During the siege Plant was wounded and spent the next three months in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Henry's brother Charles served in the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, nearly completing his three year term of service. Charles died while on furlough at home.

In January of 1864, Henry re-enlisted in the 14th Michigan thus earning the status of Veteran Volunteer. During his 2nd term of service, the 14th was involved in General Sherman's March to the Sea. On March 19, 1865 Corporal Plant and the 14th were engaged in the Battle of Bentonville. They were a part of the Union forces engaging the Confederate forces under General Joseph E. Johnston.

It was during the Battle of Bentonville that Corporal Plant rescued the Regiment's Flag and thus earned his Medal of Honor. Following the battle, Henry was appointed Regimental Color Bearer and was later promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Incidentally, another 14th Michigan soldier, George Clute, also received a Medal of Honor for action during this battle. He was awarded his medal for capturing the Flag of the 40th North Carolina unit.

During the Civil War, most of the Color Bearers were of exceptionally fine physique and demonstrated courage. They also usually held the rank of sergeant. Henry Plant's height was below average, being only 5' 3". This gave the regiment the reputation of the unit with the shortest Color Bearer in the Federal Army.

Following Lee's surrender, Henry Plant carried the bullet riddled Flag in the Grand Review in Washington, D. C. When the 14th Michigan passed the reviewing stand, Secretary of War Edward Stanton's daughter ran out and presented a special wreath of flowers to the Flag after hearing about Plant's heroic actions during the battle, according to the Washington Chronicle newspaper.

The following July, the 14th Michigan was mustered out of service. Sergeant Plant went home where he became a farmer and married Jeannie S. Clark on October 25, 1865. From this union came seven children (five daughters and two sons).

Mr. Plant continued to live for 60 more years, during which time he was involved in the Bartholemue Post No. 136, Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic. He served in the positions of Quartermaster Sergeant, Adjutant, Post Commander, Officer of the Day, Sergeant Major, Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain. Mrs. Plant became a member of the Woman's Relief Corps No. 158.

Henry E. Plant passed away on April 16, 1925. At the time of his death, Mr. Plant was the last member of the Post. He was also involved in the Nunica (Michigan) Lodge No. 454, Order of the Odd Fellows, where he held the rank of Past Grand at the time of his death.

Politically Mr. Plant was a Republican and was involved in the Crockery Township government. He also held the position of local highway commissioner.

In 1896 Mr. Plant received his Medal of Honor through the efforts of his GAR Post and Martin Walsh, late Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the 14th Michigan Infantry. They both had to prove Plant's action was a gallant heroic action, which had never been proven so before. The Medal was conferred by the War Department on April 27, 1896.

The Medal was presented to Mr. Plant by the usual system of mailing it to the recipient by registered mail. Henry Plant wrote the following on the receipt, "I thank Congress for the Medal and will wear it with a certain degree of pride as it shows I did my duty as a brave soldier should."

On April 28, 1896 a fellow 14th Michigan Infantry member, 1st Sergeant Patrick Irwin, was presented with a Medal of Honor. After proving Irwin was credited with the capture of a Confederate General Officer and his command at Jonesboro, Georgia, by being the first Union soldier over the line of works of the enemy.

In 1993 the Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was formed named after this true war hero. The Camp is numbered in honor of the 3rd Michigan Infantry since most of the soldiers of the 3rd came from the same West Michigan area as this SUVCW Camp.

On Memorial Day (May 30) 1994 the Camp honored Henry Plant by dedicating a government bronze grave marker, obtained by the Camp, which mentions Mr. Plant's Medal of Honor. Mr. Plant's actual Medal of Honor which had been missing for a long time was relocated just two days prior to the event and was brought to the dedication for all to see.

This Spring Henry E. Plant Camp is publicly celebrating the 100th anniversary of the granting of his Medal of Honor by Congress. As of this writing, Henry Plant is the first and only person to serve from Ottawa County, Michigan and earn the distinguished Medal of Honor.

Daniel Grable
Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3

Ancestor Vignette

John Tait
Sergeant
24th Michigan Infantry
Company G

Great, Great, Grandfather
of
Kent L. Armstrong and Donald R. Boak

Great, Great, Great Grandfather
of
Douglas R. Armstrong and Donald R. Boak II
George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

John Tait was born September 25, 1826 in the County of Northumberland, England. John grew up in this northeast part of the country, just south of Scotland and served his apprenticeship to become a blacksmith there. He and Ann Thompson were married on May 30, 1847 at Alnwick, near the North Sea. Life was difficult in this area, contributing to the loss of their first son and daughter in infancy.

In 1854, John was granted a debenture from Queen Victoria, to practice his trade in America. He arrived in Detroit, Michigan that same year, hoping to find a better life for his wife, another baby daughter and his brother Thomas, who'd become his apprentice. After five years and three more children, they all moved to the town of Cherry Hill, located in western Wayne County's Canto Township. There, the last of John's children, Grace Tait (our great and great, great grandmother) was born on January 10, 1862.

In the summer of 1862, President Lincoln called for another 300,000 volunteer soldiers. Michigan's quota would create her 21st, 22nd, and 23rd infantry regiments and the City of Detroit received permission from Governor Austin Blair to raise a 24th regiment - above and beyond the call. It was at a large, open-air recruiting rally for this regiment in Bellville, that John Tait enlisted on August 8, 1862. He was mustered in as one of 8 Corporals in Company G on August 13th.

The 24th Michigan marched out of Detroit on August 29th and made their way to Virginia, where they joined the "Iron Brigade", (a. k. a. Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade") on October 9, 1862. The 24th's first action under fire came at the battle of Fredericksburg in December, where they earned the respect of the Indiana and Wisconsin regiments which comprised the balance of the brigade. Corporal Tait received a shoulder wound at this battle and was soon after promoted to Sergeant (Warrant dated January 1, 1863).

After Gen. Burnside's famous Mud March, the Army of the Potomac's next major action was the launching of Gen. Hooker's Chancellorsville Campaign. The Iron Brigade was a part of the force that Hooker sent south of Fredericksburg to oppose Gen. Stonewall Jackson's troops. At Fitzhugh Crossing, the 24th Michigan stormed across the Rappahannock River and drove the enemy out of their entrenchments. With minimal cover, they held off the enemy while a pontoon bridge was constructed under rebel fire from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The date was April 30, 1863. At approximately 6:00 pm, a solid shot fired from a Confederate cannon came ricocheting over the field, killing Sergeant Tait and wounding

(continued on page 12)

Martin F. Horan
Sergeant
4th Michigan Cavalry
Company H

Great, Great Grandfather
of
Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20

Martin Horan was born October 4, 1839 in Maysville, Kentucky, the son of Irish immigrants Patrick and Margaret (Flannegan) Horan. Martin's parents died about 1845, leaving five orphaned children. The children were adopted by a German family by the name of Snyder, who saw that the children attended school through the eighth grade and that they spoke both English and German. The Snyders moved to Michigan and settled in the Grand Rapids area. Here, Martin met Mary Sophia Monroe, who, after the war, would become his bride.

On July 25, 1862 Martin enlisted as a private in Company H of the 4th Michigan Cavalry for a three year term. He was 22 years old at the time. The 4th Michigan was attached to Stoneman's Brigade, Army of the Cumberland. They saw service in Tennessee and Georgia.

Grandpa kept a diary through the three years of his service. In 1863, he was promoted to corporal. In his diary, Martin talks about boarding the gunboats and traveling up and down the Mississippi River. One entry says "The boys have great sport firing at the alligators which line the riverbanks, but seldom hit them." I think grandpa's squad needed a little more target practice.

In 1864, Martin was promoted to sergeant, following the death of his best friend, Sergeant Michael Halpin, who was killed in skirmishing near Nickajack Cave, Georgia.

The 4th Cavalry, then commanded by Colonel Benjamin Pritchard, is best known for capturing Confederate President Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Georgia on May 10, 1865. Unfortunately, grandpa was not a witness to the capture as Companies H and K had been detailed to guard river crossings, so as to prevent Davis from escaping.

One story that grandpa liked to tell about the capture was, that after Davis was placed in an ambulance wagon, Companies H and K lined up on either side of the road and as the wagon went by, the soldiers sang "Oh, we've caught old Jeff Davis and we'll tie him to a sour apple tree."

Following the war, Martin married Mary Monroe and moved to Cheboygan, Michigan to homestead their farm. They had nine children. A year after the youngest was born, Mary died leaving Martin to raise the children by himself. The eldest child, my great, great grandmother, helped to raise her siblings.

Martin was a member of Ruddock post No. 224 of Cheboygan and was very active in the GAR. One year, while attending a Department Encampment, grandpa got married. The story goes that he was drunk at the time. "Aunt Rose" was quite a lady. She smoked a pipe, chewed tobacco and swore like a sailor.

(continued on page 12)

Ancestor Vignette

Levan D. Bingham
Private
11th Michigan Cavalry
Company G

Great Great Grandfather
of
James E. Neely
Austin Blair Camp No. 7

Levan D. Bingham was born in 1828 (location unknown). On January 9, 1851, he married Harriet A. Edwards, daughter of Calvin Edwards. They were wed in the Baptist Church in Tecumseh, Michigan. Four children were born of this union. The youngest, Jennie (my great grandmother), was born on September 3, 1863.

Levan enlisted in the 11th Michigan Cavalry and was mustered in on December 10, 1863 along with 920 other officers and men. The regiment proceeded to Lexington, Kentucky where it arrived on December 22nd. During the month of January the regiment was equipped and then assigned to duty in eastern Kentucky, with headquarters in Lexington. The 11th was armed with Spencer carbines, Remington revolvers and the 1860 cavalry saber. A tin type of Levan shows him in a shell jacket with piping on the sleeves and collar identical to the frock coat. This seems to be a non-standard shortened frock coat with yellow piping rather than the standard sky blue piping. Perhaps it was state issued.

While not engaged in any large or major battles, the 11th was constantly on patrol and chasing Morgan's Confederates back and forth in Kentucky and Virginia in 1864. In February of 1865, it was assigned to Stoneman's command in Knoxville and became a part of the 2nd Brigade. The brigade started an expedition that was to lead them through eastern Tennessee, North and South Carolina and finally Georgia.

From the beginning of his enlistment Levan was to suffer from disease and illness. Records show that he suffered from pneumonia, rheumatism and diarrhea at various times during his enlistment and was hospitalized more than once. In comparing hospitalization dates on his medical records with dates of engagements which the 11th was in, it can be seen that Levan still saw his share of patrols and fighting. Levan was mustered out of service on July 11, 1865 due to poor health.

Following his muster out, Levan returned to his home and family near Dundee, Michigan. He was very active in the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife, Harriet, was equally active in the Women's Relief Corps. The hardships of army life had taken their toll though. Levan was to suffer for the rest of his life with diseases of the lungs and throat, as well as chronic rheumatism and diarrhea. On October 14, 1901 Levan passed away as a result of pneumonia and diarrhea. In 1913, Harriet followed him to the grave. They are buried beside each other in the Petersburg, Michigan Cemetery. Although marked by a family headstone, Levan's grave is also marked with a government stone indicating his service as a member of the 11th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, of which he was so proud. Both graves are also marked with flag holders and flags.

James Neely

John Tait (continued)

an enlisted man of his company before it bounded into another company, where it coincidentally killed another Sergeant and wounded an enlisted man. An account in the Detroit Free Press said that after the cannonball took its human toll, it then "bounded down the height, and buried itself in the dark waters of the Rappahannock, hissing and seething as if it came from the hot bowels of the earth".

The graves of Sergeant Tait and his comrades killed near Fredericksburg were well marked and looked after by property owners - thanks to the efforts of the commanding officer of the 24th Michigan, Colonel Henry A. Morrow, a native Virginian. This respect and care was a great help in locating and identifying these Union dead, when our government began removing their remains into the National Military Cemeteries after the Civil War. John Tait's remains were re-interred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, grave number 2162. His stone has this number on its top and "Sgt. J. Tait" on the face.

Kent Armstrong

Martin Horan (continued)

After Rose died, grandpa sold the farm and went to live at the Michigan Soldier's Home in Grand Rapids. His younger brother, John, a veteran of the 8th Michigan Infantry, the 10th Michigan Cavalry and Veterans' reserve Corps, was a permanent resident of the home, due to the fact that he went blind. Uncle Johnny is buried at the Soldier's Home Cemetery.

Martin died September 4, 1912 while visiting his son in Traverse City. He was buried next to Mary in the Catholic Cemetery in Cheboygan. His last request was granted to him by the family - he was buried in his cavalry uniform, saber and all, with his GAR badge pinned on. He was always so proud of his service and his uniform. And so am I.

Gary Gibson

Missing Cannon

In response to Brother William Lowe's article titled, "Our Cannon is Missing", printed in the February 1996 issue: I thought it may interest our readers that there is indeed a book that meets Brother Lowe's description ("Reportedly, there is a registry of all cannon in the U. S. with locations and serial numbers.") It is titled, Field Artillery Weapons of the Civil War, by Hazlet, Olmstead and Park. It was printed by the University of Delaware Press in 1983.

I agree with Brother Lowe that all original Civil War cannon should be accounted for and would like to see this done in addition to a full listing of all GAR monuments and Memorials. I am looking forward to Dr. W. Petz's work on this.

Kent Armstrong
George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

Ancestor Vignette

James Monroe Wallace
Private
1st Michigan Infantry - 120th Ohio Infantry
Company H - Company I

Grandfather
of
Floyd E. Wallace
Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145

James was born October 9th, 1841 in Mansfield, Ohio. He enlisted in the 1st Michigan Infantry for 90 days in April of 1861 and fought in the first battle of Bull Run. After his enlistment ran out, James returned home and re-enlisted for three years at Shennandoah, Ohio (Richland County) in Company I of the 120th Ohio Infantry (part of the original 13th Corps commanded by Grant). He saw action at Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, the Siege of Vicksburg, Big Black River, Port Gibson, Jackson (Mississippi), the Red River Campaign, Spanish Fort, Mobile, and Houston. The 120th was part of the first battalion to cross the Mississippi when Grant swung below Vicksburg to begin his march and siege.

The 120th was ambushed on the transport *City Belle* during General Banks' abortive Red River Campaign in Louisiana in 1864. Out of 750 members of the regiment, only 150 made it to safety (600 were killed or captured, including all field officers. This also included James' brother Charles who was a guest of the Confederate Government at Camp Tyler, Texas, until May of 1865.) The remainder of the regiment was formed into two companies and became a part of the 114th Ohio Infantry. At the end of the war, the 114th was in turn closed into the 44th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Battalion and mustered out in Houston, Texas in October, 1865.

James returned to Michigan after the war and married in May of 1868. He and his wife and family of nine children resided in the towns of Mt. Pleasant, Jackson, Leeland and St. Louis, Michigan at various times. James died at the age of 84 in St. Louis on September 17, 1925. He is buried in Oakgrove Cemetery in St. Louis.

James was a member of the William D. Wilkins Post No. 91, Grand Army of the Republic in St. Louis. He served several times as a Post Officer, including the office of Junior Vice Commander. He represented the Post at several Department Encampments.

David F. Wallace

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Theodore Roosevelt: "Americanism ... There is one quality which we must bring to the solution of every problem. That is an intense and fervid Americanism. We shall never be successful over the dangers that confront us; we shall never achieve true greatness, nor reach the lofty ideal which the founders and preservers of our mighty Federal Republic have set before us, unless we are Americans in heart and soul, in spirit and purpose, keenly alive to the responsibility implied in the very name of America, and proud beyond measure of the glorious privilege of bearing it."

Hampton Gardner
Private
7th Ohio Infantry
Company A

First Cousin, twice removed
of
John Walker
Alexander French Camp No. 58

Hampton Gardner, was the son of Alonzo S. and Adaline (Doan) Gardner, of what is now East Cleveland, Ohio. The Doans were among the early settlers of East Cleveland, Alonzo coming to Ohio from Vermont in the early 1800's.

At the age of 20, Hampton enlisted as a private with Company A, 7th Ohio Infantry, on May 24, 1861. The company descriptive book states that Hampton was 5' 8" with dark complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and an occupation of clerk (probably in his father's store). Hampton was severely wounded on March 23, 1862 at the First Battle of Winchester, Virginia. He was discharged from the Union Army on June 15, 1862 because of wounds he had received.

Hampton died on March 24, 1863 at Cleveland, most likely because of his wounds. His burial place is unknown at this time.

Hampton Gardner was a first cousin to my grandfather, William H. Gardner, 1st Regiment of United States Sharpshooters and later the 10th Regiment of Michigan Cavalry.

Footnote: The First Battle of Winchester was the only battle during the Civil War in which a Union General (James Shields) bested Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. The battle resulted in 590 casualties for the North and 718 for the South.

Information for this vignette came from the National Military Archives, Washington, D. C.; the Western Reserve Library, Cleveland, Ohio; the Vermont Historical Archives and the Gardner, White, Walker family genealogy records.

John Walker

Regimental History Found

For those who may have had ancestors that served in the 10th Michigan Cavalry, a brief history of the regiment has been discovered at the Grandville (MI) Library. This 44 page history was written by L. S. Trowbridge in 1905. Mr. Trowbridge was the Colonel (later General) of the 10th Cavalry and hailed from Detroit. He was a former officer of the 5th Michigan Cavalry who fought at Rummel Farm (Battle of Gettysburg). The 10th Cavalry took part in nearly 50 engagements in Kentucky, Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

John Walker
Alexander French Camp No. 58

Coming Events

May 4 and 5

Mansfield, Ohio
Ohio Civil War Collectors Show. — 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Richland County Fairgrounds, U. S. 30 and Trimble Road Exit (then follow the signs), Mansfield, Ohio. The largest Civil War Relic and Memorabilia Show in the Mid-West, 550 tables. Buy, sell, trade and show. Many display only tables that are worth the trip in itself. Restricted to Military and related items (GAR, MOLLUS, SUVCW, etc.). Reproduction items allowed, if clearly marked.

May 27 and May 30

Memorial Day (Observed and Traditional) — All Camps should take part in a local Memorial Day activity honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

June 8

Lansing
107th Department of Michigan Annual Encampment. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Meeting lasts until 4:30pm. Holiday Inn West, 7501 West Saginaw, Lansing. Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Women's Relief Corps Department Encampments also held concurrently. Breakfast, luncheon and dinner available, please see reservation form on page 15.

June 14 through June 1997

Lansing
(Please note that the opening date of this event was postponed from the previously reported February date.)

Michigan's Civil War Flags — Forty selected Michigan Regimental Flags from the State of Michigan's collection will be on display on a rotating basis. The display will have four rotations consisting of 14 flags each. The first rotation will consist of the following flags: The 1st, 2nd, 4th (2 flags), 7th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th (2 flags) Infantry Regiments; the 1st, 6th, 7th Cavalry Regiments; and Battery B, 1st Light Artillery Regiment. It will commence on Flag Day and run through early September 1996. In conjunction with the flags display, there will be a period homefront scene, a cemetery setting, a battlefield diorama and some Civil War artwork; along with cannons used by the Loomis Battery of Coldwater, Civil War uniforms, military equipment and rare photographs. A video program will present the entire flag collection to museum visitors. The exhibit will cover 4,600 square feet. At the Michigan Library and Historical Museum, 717 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI; two blocks East of M-99, the previously named (Gen. John A.) Logan Street.

June 14

Flag Day — Fly "Old Glory" today!

June 29 and 30

Flint
Cross Roads Village Civil War Re-enactment — Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 will host a recruiting tent at this event.

July 4

220th Birthday of the United States of America!

July 20 and 21

Hastings
Charlton Park Civil War Re-enactment — Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 will host a recruiting tent at this event.

August 3

Grand Rapids
Remembrance Ceremony — Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 will be hosting a Ceremony of Remembrance at the Soldiers Home starting at 1:00 pm.

August 9, 10 and 11

Columbus, Ohio
SUVCW National Encampment — Radisson Hotel, 4900 Sinclair Road (exit 116 off I-75 South). Check the "Banner" for details.

August 24 and 25

Jackson
Cascades Park Civil War Re-enactment — Austin Blair Camp No. 7 will host a recruiting tent at this event.

Submissions for Coming Events are welcome. If your Camp is planning a special meeting or event and would like to have Brothers from other Camps attend, or if you know of a Civil War related event in your area, please send in the details, along with the name of the event, date, time and place of the event, so it may be included in the Coming Events calendar.

Michigan's Messenger

is the official newsletter of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and is published quarterly on the first of February, May, August and November. Michigan's Messenger is mailed to all Members and Associates of Camps within the Department as a service of their Department per capita taxes.

All Department Officers, Camps and Brothers are encourage to submit original articles of news or interest for inclusion in the newsletter.

July 15th

is the deadline for the next issue of the Messenger.

Copy must be received by the editor by this date to ensure its inclusion in the August issue. Earlier submissions are most welcome.

Send submissions to:
 John Mann, Editor
 Michigan's Messenger
 2495 South Washington Road
 Lansing, Michigan 48911-7216

**Michigan Department, SUVCW Annual Encampment
 Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic
 Holiday Inn West — Lansing, Michigan
 June 7 and 8, 1996**

Three Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic will hold their Michigan Department Encampments at the Holiday Inn West, 7501 West Saginaw Highway. Representatives of the Woman's relief Corps and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be in attendance. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be the host organization for 1996.

Delegates and attendees will begin arriving on Friday, June 7th with the Woman's Relief Corps and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War have registration and planned functions beginning that evening in the Waverly Room and the delta Room, respectively. Activities for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will commence with registration Saturday morning, June 8th at 8:00 am outside the Michigan Room. SUVCW business sessions will begin at 9:30 am.

Hotel double bed room rates are \$66.00 for each night's lodging. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling (517) 627-3211. The hotel will provide a complete breakfast buffet on Saturday morning from 7:30 to 9:00 am for \$5.50. a joint Saturday luncheon of soup, sandwich and dessert will be provided in the Regency Room at 12:00 noon for \$6.00.

The Annual Allied Orders of the GAR Banquet will be held at 6:00 pm Saturday in the Delta Room. A dinner selection of roast pork loin or stuffed chicken will be accompanied by tossed salad, baked potato, vegetable and a dessert for \$15.00 Dinner will be followed by presentations, awards and our dinner speaker, Brother James Brady II of General Pritchard Camp No. 20. His topic for the evening will be "The Forgotten Civil War".

**Breakfast, Lunch Dinner
 Reservation Form**

Please Mail by June 1, 1996

Make checks payable to: Michigan Department, SUVCW
 % James T. Williams, Department Treasurer
 8032 Orchard Knob Drive
 Fenton, MI 49078

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Plan for _____ persons attending the Saturday Breakfast Buffet @ \$5.50 each.

Plan for _____ persons attending the Joint Luncheon @ \$6.00 each.

Plan for _____ persons attending the Banquet @ \$15.50 each**.

** Please choose roast pork loin _____ or stuffed chicken _____ (number of persons selecting either entree).

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

June 8, 1996

The Michigan Department's
107th Annual Encampment

Will be held at the Holiday Inn West, 7501 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan.

Luncheon and Dinner available.

Registration begins at 8:00 am

All Camp Delegates Should Plan on Attending!

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
1917 TEEL AVENUE
LANSING MI 48910-3117

Non-Profit Org. US Postage Paid Permit No. 1171 Lansing, MI

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