

Michigan's Messenger



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ~ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Volume VIII Number 1

Chartered June 24, 1884

July 1999

BURIAL HONORS FOR CIVIL WAR VET

Follow-up Report from the Dept. Commander

The Department of Michigan SUVCW and DUVCW were proud to render their respect to Daniel C. Calkins, and his descendents, on May 29, 1999. We had the very rare privilege of conducting burial rites for a Civil War soldier – a man from New York who was born in 1841 and passed away in 1900.

Mr. Calkins enlisted in Company F of the 181st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment on September 20, 1861. His enlistment form described him as being 21 years old, 5'-8" tall, light complexion, with brown hair and blue eyes. His occupation was a carpenter. On July 25, 1862 he transferred to Company D of the 50th New York Engineers and served with this unit until his term of service expired in 1864.

Daniel Calkins left Elmira, New York for Michigan and was granted a homestead in Oscoda County, Michigan in 1881. Upon his death in 1900, he was laid to rest in the "First Elmer Township Cemetery" in Oscoda County. Sometime in the 1920s, this cemetery was abandoned and all bodies interred there were to be exhumed for reburial in the township's new cemetery off Kittle Road (approx. 3.5 miles Northwest of Mio, Michigan). Somehow, all the graves were relocated **except** that of Daniel C. Calkins. For seventy-some years, his government issued veteran headstone stood alone – all but overgrown by vegetation, on land that had become part of a state forest reserve.

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In Memoriam

In Memory of Sgt. Benjamin B. Jackson, Company G, 14th Ohio Infantry
by his Great, Great, Great Grandson, Douglas R. Armstrong

Help build the Michigan Department's Memorial Fund and honor someone dear to you at the same time. For a contribution of \$10.00 or more, you may have a two line "In Memoriam" insertion for any one person printed in an issue of Michigan's Messenger.

Please make your check payable to the Department of Michigan, SUVCW and mail it to:
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Michigan's Messenger

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WAYNE BARRETT, "HE'S MY HERO!"

Brother Wayne Barrett, Commander of Wa-bu-no Camp 58, was honored on May 30th, 1999 with a Certificate of Recognition by the Department for his actions in the rescue of 11 children from a burning school bus; the heroic deed only recently coming to the attention of Department Commander Armstrong.

On March 6, 1996 Wayne was at home waiting for his son, Spencer, to be dropped off the bus from his kindergarten class. The bus, driven by substitute driver Richard Childs, pulled into the driveway and let off Spencer. He had 11 other children on the bus yet to take home. As the bus was backing out onto the road, the rear bumper rode up a guy wire that was buried in a snow bank and attached to a utility pole. The power line carried 46,000 volts. The weight of the bus on the guy wire shattered the old utility pole, dropping the power line on the roof of the bus, right over the emergency hatch in the roof.

The bus driver had not heard the shattering of the power pole, due to the noise of the children and the static on the bus radio and was unaware that the power line had fallen on the bus. Wayne ran to the front of the bus, waved his hands, got the drivers attention and yelled for him to stop. He told the driver the situation and added "*Don't get off the bus! I'll call 911.*"

Wayne ran into the house, dialed 911, gave his address and requested emergency crews and a crew from Consumers Power. Meanwhile, bus driver Childs contacted school officials over the bus radio and advised them of the situation. He also calmed the children, telling them, "*We've just got to stop for a moment. Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you.*"

Brother Barrett ran back out of his house to find sparks jumping from the bus roof and the rear tires smoking. From his experience as a volunteer fireman, he knew just how dangerous the situation was. He also knew that in rural areas such as this, that it could take several minutes for the local fire department to get to the scene. Minutes that could not be spared. The bus was beginning to fill with smoke.

Childs had an idea, he would try to drive the bus out from under the downed power line. He started the bus and drove it forward a few inches, only to hear a loud screech and feel the tension from the power line pulling on the bus. The roof escape hatch had snagged the power line.

By now, the bus's wiring and insulation were smoking, adding to the possibility of asphyxiation. Then the rear tires burst into flame. Something needed to be done to get the children to safety right away. They couldn't wait for the rescue squad to get there.

Childs told Barrett that he would throw the children off the bus one by one into a snowbank. Barrett would have to retrieve the children as fast as possible, getting them to their feet and directing them away from the bus, making ready for the next child as soon as possible. It was a risky idea, trying to toss each child from the narrow doorway of the bus, a distance of five feet to the snowbank. Complicating matters was the fact that Childs was 65 years old.

Childs had the children line up behind him in the aisleway of the bus. One by one, he tossed the children out to Barrett. After the last child in line was catapulted from the door, Childs searched the bus thoroughly through the black smoke, in the event one of the children had been overlooked. Satisfied that he had missed no one, he jumped from the doorway.

The rescue squad, fire trucks, ambulances and the police arrived on the scene about the time the last child was thrown from the bus. The power company cut power to the lines moments later and the fire was put out. Because of the fast, cool headed action of Childs and Barrett, no one was injured.

Three weeks after their heroic action, Consumers Power presented Childs and Barrett with an award for saving the children's lives. It was presented in front of the kindergarteners at Winn Elementary School.

An even greater award came to Brother Barrett a few months later. He was setting in a local restaurant when he heard one of the children he helped save call out, "*That's one of the men who saved me. He's my hero!*"

A more detailed account of the event, along with a picture of Brother Barrett and bus driver Childs, can be read in the Reader's Digest issue of October, 1998, beginning on page 87.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman

At the Department Encampment, each represented Camp received an information packet. Contained inside this packet is material specified for the region in which each Camp is responsible. Camp Commanders, please share this with your Camp and especially the Graves Registration Officer or Memorials Officer. Also included are copies of the Memorials Assessment Form for you to reproduce. Completed forms should be sent to me for inclusion in the Department database. I have received forms from Camps 7, 58 and 20. I look forward to seeing more throughout the summer.

Along with the physical inspection of monuments and memorials is the awareness and preservation of Civil War cannon. Through the month of May, I've been in contact with Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Delta Township, and Charlotte, all of which have cannons in their community. The two cannon on the old Eaton County Courthouse lawn, a 6.4" Army Parrott Rifle and an 8" Columbiad, are in good hands. The Courthouse property is now owned and cared for by the Courthouse Square Association. The Executive Director of this Association assures me that these memorials to fallen Civil War Soldiers and Sailors will be preserved for future generations.

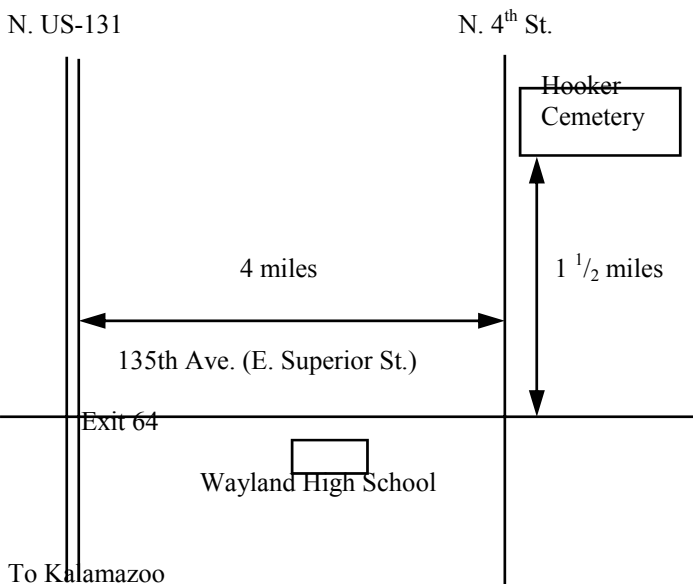


MEMORIAL DEDICATION

William Brennen, PDC

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 would like to extend to you an invitation to a Civil War Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, July 10, 1999 at 2:00pm at the Hooker Cemetery in Wayland, Michigan. The ceremony will honor 1st Lieutenant Charles L. Barrell, a Medal of Honor winner of the 102nd United States Colored Troops, Company C. Lt. Barrell's gravesite had no indication that he was a Medal of Honor recipient or even a veteran. After nearly two years of waiting, a Medal of Honor headstone has arrived, with its splendid gold lettering.

As members of the SUVCW, it is our duty to see that the men who fought to preserve the Union from 1861 to 1865 are not forgotten. This is why the Grand Army of the Republic chose us to carry on their memory and that of their departed comrades. We would be honored to have your attendance at this special ceremony.



DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 1

SERIES 1999-2000

1. To those who have not already heard, I regret to report the passing of Brother **Gordon F. McAllister** (great, great grandson of William Bassett Stark, who was wounded in combat three times while serving with the 34th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry). Brother McAllister was a veteran of the United States Airforce, a retired police officer, and was Commander of Gen. Phil Kearny Camp No. 67 at the time of his passing. Gordy planned and hosted many great tributes to Civil War soldiers and sailors and he will be missed dearly by all of us. All Camps were previously directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of May.

2. We reported the passing of Brother **Howard Nunemaker** of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 in our last newsletter but at that time, had not yet received further personal information on him and his "Civil War ancestor." I can now report that Bro. Nunemaker was a grandson of Private Daniel C. Nunemaker (Company I, 9th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry Regiment). Brother Nunemaker originally joined the Robert Finch Camp No. 14 in Grand Rapids (Camp 14 now meets in Traverse City) and then transferred to become a Charter Member of Camp No. 20, in Kalamazoo. He served in several positions of responsibility with Camp 20, including Senior Vice Commander. Brother Nunemaker served our country in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

3. I salute the 45 delegates who dedicated their time to take part in the 110th Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW. We were honored with the attendance of our Commander-In-Chief, Andrew M. Johnson. Two special guests from the Department of Indiana (PC-in-C Al Loomis and PDC Ed Krieser) also attended and shared special details related to the upcoming SUVCW 1999 National Encampment at Indianapolis. All in attendance were delighted that our senior Past Department Commander, Thyne C. LaBanta (1946-47) was able to attend the Annual Encampment this year.

4. A salute goes out to Brother Philip N. Parks, Commander of Albert & James Lyon Camp No. 266, for traveling the most miles (from Hancock, MI) to take part in the Encampment.

5. Congratulations to Brother Ty J. Streeter, Second-Term Commander of Colegrove-

Woodruff Camp No. 22, for being awarded one of the tuition scholarships from the Woman's Relief Corps, at the 1999 Annual Encampment Banquet (Ty, our youngest Camp Commander, graduated from High School this year).

6. I am honored to have been elected to serve another term as Commander of our Department and I hope to remain worthy of your confidence. My compliments go out to the entire team of newly elected & appointed officers (please see full listing, elsewhere in this issue) who will be serving our Department and the interests of our Camps. Again, I respectfully and fraternally call upon our entire membership to support the activities of their respective Camps and help move our cause forward in the year ahead.

7. Department Headquarters continue to be located at 213 East Madison Street, DeWitt, Michigan. Please address communications (sent by the U.S. Mail) to P.O. Box 618, DeWitt, MI 48820-0618. Fax transmissions can be sent to (517) 669-1865. Email messages may be sent to KENT24MICH@aol.com and the home-phone is (517) 669-5765. Please telephone me between 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM. Thank you. Camps are respectfully reminded that new Member & Associate information should be directed to Department Secretary Lee, 1111 Kern Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257. Please contact Sec. Lee with address change info, including telephone number, as well. Thank you.

8. Minutes of the Encampment are to be published and distributed (by Secretary Lee) to each Camp by the first day of August 1999.

9. If you haven't heard already, the Encampment voted in support of our Department hosting next year's SUVCW National Encampment on August 18-20, 2000 in Lansing (more on this, elsewhere).

10. It was my privilege to confer three *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Awards* at the Encampment. One went to **PDC James B. Pahl**, in recognition of his service at the Camp, Department, and National levels of the SUVCW, over the years. Another was awarded to **Camp Commander Gordon F. McAllister** (who was nominated well before his passing) for all the good work he had done to honor the memory of

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 3)

the GAR and "The Boys in Blue" in his part of Michigan. The third certificate was awarded to **Mr. Roger L. Rosentreter**, Editor of *Michigan History Magazine*. If you saw the special Civil War Collector's Issue "Thank God for Michigan!" of *MHM*, published by Mr. Rosentreter, nothing more needs to be said for his worthiness.

11. The Department's *Governor Austin Blair Membership Award* was earned by **Archibald Stewart Camp No. 259**, for initiating the most new Members & Associates during the twelve months preceding the Encampment.

12. The Department's *Orlando LeValley Member ship Award* was also earned by **Archibald Stewart Camp No. 259**, for demonstrating the largest percentage of membership growth during the twelve months preceding the Encampment.

13. The 1999 Department Encampment site change from Saginaw to Lansing helped increase the attendance from the year before, but the date (chosen to help the DUVCW) kept some delegates away, who had prior commitments to the Annual Civil War Collectors' Show at Mansfield, Ohio. For next year (2000), it will be the turn of the *Woman's Relief Corps* (WRC) to host the combined Encampment of the SUVCW and Conventions of the WRC & DUVCW. Preliminary feedback indicates that these ladies want to schedule the date in mid-June and to gather at Kalamazoo.

14. We can all take pride in the many functions that our membership either hosted or took part in, during the month of May this year (especially Memorial Day, May 30th). I look forward to seeing a full accounting of each ceremony, in the "Camp News" section of the *Messenger*.

15. A proud salute goes out to all Brothers who gave of their time to comprise the Department of Michigan's tribute to Daniel C. Calkins, a Civil War soldier from New York, whose remains were moved from the abandoned Elmer Township Cemetery and reburied (with full honors) near other family members near Mio, Michigan (see photo-story, elsewhere). Special recognition goes to SVR Commander Ken Martin for his many hours given to site inspection and planning for our part in the ceremony.

16. Please join me in wishing Department Council Secretary Richard Greene a speedy and full recovery from gall bladder surgery. Having taken my turn at this, early in 1998, I know **exactly** what he's gone through. I had not heard of a "gall bladder attack" before one hit me and it's something that I wouldn't wish on anyone.

17. Between the time span of the *deadline* for newsletter submissions, and when this actually reaches you, our Department will have officially gained another local chapter of the SUVCW. Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180 will have become a reality on June 27th, to serve our interests in Washtenaw County. Department Chaplain William B. McAfee is to be commended for his efforts at organizing this Camp. Charter members will include 6 transferees and at least 8 new members. When the full accounting is shared in their first "Camp News" article, I trust that you will join me in congratulating Bro. McAfee and welcome each new member of Camp No. 180!

18. ATTENTION — Cable TV Viewers — If you didn't catch it on June 28, you may wish to watch for repeats of the "Life Portrait" of **President Abraham Lincoln** presented by C-SPAN. As some of you already know, this is part of C-SPAN's special documentary on each of our 41 Presidents. You'll also want to watch (in the following weeks) for the programs dedicated to the Civil War veterans who became President. [They get to McKinley on August 23rd.]

19. As we observe another anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg this July, let us take special pride in the courage and *love of country* that so many men of Michigan displayed there. Were it not for their sacrifices, in so many aspects of the fighting over those terrible three days, the outcome may have been drastically different. Please be advised that "Michigan at Gettysburg" has been reprinted and is available again at a very reasonable price. I encourage you to add this book to your library and will post purchase information elsewhere in these pages.

20. While we enjoy the summer months ahead, I encourage our **entire membership** to become involved with the SUVCW's *Graves Registration* and *Civil War Memorial Assessment* projects. Please reference Item 8 of the Dept. Orders printed in the April '99 issue

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JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Merle (Pete) Carlson

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who supported me for the office of Department of Michigan Junior Vice Commander. It has been a very busy time for me, but I find it getting a little easier as time goes by.

I would like to relay a big thanks to Chaplain McAfee and Brother Mann for the great job they did in getting a new Camp started for the Department of Michigan. As we all know, this involves much foot work, lip service and it is no easy job. A huge kudos goes to Randy Maxfield and his Camp, they have joined many of us in LA-LA land and now joined many SUVCW in the Cyber-world. This is the most important thing we can do as far as communication goes. I find it as a nice tool to bring in new members. If you can get on the web and find people's ancestors who served in the Civil War quickly, you will find them ready to join.

I have responded to five requests from the SUVCW website (National). Two of them contained checks for application fees. Also, I received requests for information regarding the hat badges that the Department of Michigan sells, they came from the Department of Wisconsin.

Reservations for the Department recruiting tent can be made through e-mail, at PCARL@prodigy.net, or call me at (616) 779-3710. Two reservations have already been made.

Henry W. Quigley Camp 147, Cadillac has completed another step in their 5-year plan. When the Camp was started, we had as one of the plans that we would like to have a place where we could have a research center plus a library and display area. I belong to the Cadillac area Genealogy Society and we have joined them in opening a room of our own in the Wexford County Library in Cadillac. We have really have had much interest by the public. I man the room on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and since April 5th, I have signed up two new members. In addition I have signed up three women to start an Auxiliary to the SUVCW.

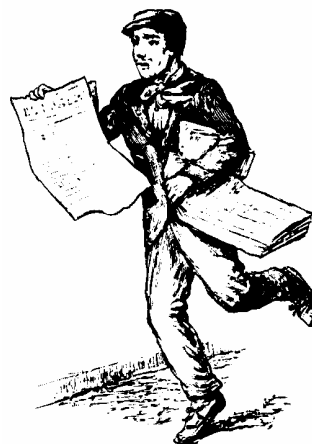
Since starting this Camp, we have not had much publicity from the local news media or the city. We finally broke the ice when we had the Traverse City News come down and they did a ²/₃ front page color photo and story. We showed them how we clean headstones and those were the photos they used. Channel 4 and 7 came to our memorial service on the 30th in Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Also, the Traverse City Newspaper came down

again. In addition, the Cadillac News and the City of Cadillac was there taking pictures, the City has four pictures of us on the City website. They also have our National and Department of Michigan website listed on their website. The Cadillac news also did a nice spread on their front page of four members of Camp 147 in a firing detail for a 100 year-old veteran. We have done four funerals this year so far, the funeral homes contact us to furnish firing details plus honor guards. One funeral director has joined our Camp as an Associate while we get his great, great grandfathers records.

The Cadillac News also called me to do an article on Flag etiquette. We participated in Flag Day Ceremonies in the City Park. Today, I received a letter from the county fair board asking us to join in a salute for Veterans at the fair in August. I was also Parade Committee Chairman for the Memorial Day Parade. I recited a poem at the cemetery on May 30th while Henry W. Quigley's great, great, great grand daughter placed flowers on the graves in the GAR section. At the Memorial Day services after the parade, I also recited a poem.

On May 30th, at the main gate of the cemetery, Camp Commander Shannon White and myself stood guard with our 35 star flag. Other members present were Charles LaBar & Glen Stock.

I would say this is an example of getting good publicity and how it helps us to grow.



BURIAL HONORS FOR CIVIL WAR VET

(continued from page 1)

Private Calkins' grave may have remained abandoned if it were not for a few members of the Luzerne, Michigan American Legion Post, who discovered the situation. Working through the state's Department of Natural Resources, the Post obtained permission to clear away the vegetation from the grave and mark it with a U.S. flag. A small white picket fence was also constructed around the plot and a "grave-blanket" provided. They also set about the task of making arrangements to move Private Calkins' remains, for reburial near his descendents at the township's new cemetery. These developments were highlighted in a newspaper story that came to the attention of former Mio resident Judy Brown-Kurnick, President of the DUVCW Tent at Corunna. She learned that the American Legion Post wanted the DUVCW & SUVCW to join in the burial rites and so, plans began to take shape after she contacted us last fall. Sister Brown-Kurnick is to be commended for all her efforts.

I asked my counterpart in the Department of New York if he would like to offer any special words to be said in honor of a fellow man from the "Empire State." New York Department Commander William J. M. Rave wrote back, stating that as the ceremony would take place on Memorial Day weekend, he thought that the following proclamation would be fitting. It was rendered on May 1, 1907 by John S. Maxwell, New York Department Commander of the G.A.R.

I was proud to share these words, imagining the many veterans who originally read or heard them (you'll note Comrade Maxwell's quote from our 16th President of the United States).

"Memorial Day should be sacredly observed. It is the Nation's Sabbath; a day of sweet memories and cherished associations; and an occasion which, as the years go by, stirs anew within us stronger feelings of Patriotism and brings to every lover of his Country a fuller appreciation of its true meaning and purpose.

It is fitting to recall the deeds which this day commemorates. The brave men who fought our battles on land and sea settled the question once and for all that this fair land of ours shall ever be a land of free men and free women, in fact, as well as in name; and they also demonstrated to the world that this Government is not only a union of states, but that it is also a great Nation and that 'Government by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'"

Brother Rave offered another appropriate quotation to the day, and the hour, from Mrs. C. E. McKay, a Civil War Nurse, who wrote the following thought in her book "Stories

of Hospital and Camp" (pub. 1876) –

"And ought we not carefully to teach the children of the present generation, - charging them not to let their children or their children's children forget what it cost their fathers to leave them a united country."

Commander Rave also funded a floral piece for the casket (placed after our country's flag was folded and presented to the family). Sister Brown-Kurnick employed her florist's skills to create a very nice arrangement that included ribbons and the words, "New York."

As the DUVCW Tent at Corunna works in mutual cooperation and support with the SUVCW Camp there, I wish to congratulate both of these local organizations for their very special part in these proceedings. The Brothers of **Maj. Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160** served as pallbearers, helped man the armed Honor Guard, and their Camp Chaplain (Gary Granger) officiated with the utmost reverence and respect.

After the ceremony, all participants were treated to a First-Rate luncheon at the Luzerne Legion Post, where it was my honor to present **Wally Bartly American Legion Post 162** with a Certificate of Appreciation – in recognition of their care for the abandoned grave of Daniel C. Calkins and their planning / fundraising (the Dept. of MI donated \$300) for the relocation of his remains.

OCTOBER MESSENGER DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 15th

Articles must be received by this date in order to be assured of inclusion in the October issue.

Mail to:

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or e-mail:

Jrm7suvcw@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

William B. McAfee

COUNTING BLESSINGS

(Gen. 12:3; Eze. 34:26b)

When we take the time to stop and look around us, we can see many of the ways in which we are blessed. We are blessed by knowing the older members of our camps who can pass on the historical ways of our order. They have passed down the stories they heard from "The Comrades". We always gain when we *listen* to such men as Thayne LaBanta when they tell about the encampments they attended, the sights they saw, the people they heard speak. It makes faded photos from history books and old family albums come to life.

We are blessed by the Brothers who spend hours pouring over musty old volumes in dank library basements and in hot, dusty attics. They are recording and preserving the records that weren't thrown out by some uncaring "neatnik" to whom the present meant more than the past. We owe them our gratitude for saving valuable historic documents that may mean even more to our future generations than they do to us. They're not waiting for some convenient time when it might be too late. They're doing it now!

We are blessed by the Brothers who put in time fulfilling the various duties and offices of our order. Then there are those who go the extra mile by doing things outside of their "job description". Without this unselfish volunteer time, the SUVCW would wither on the vine and die, much like it did in the late 1930s, at least in the Ann Arbor area. Without those who do things for others "just because I like to" (as I was told by one such today), ours would be an empty, thankless task instead of a pleasure. [What a much more pleasant world this would be if everyone applied those same principles to their occupations and their family life!] But, the real blessing comes from the fact that they and we are all doing it because we enjoy it! No one is forcing us and we're doing what we like to do.

We are blessed by knowing those who have served and passed on to their eternal reward. We're thinking now of the late Jack Patch of Camp 7 and Gordon McAllister, both of whom made major contributions to the organization. Their legacies - and we're sure you can name others on that same Roll of Honor - are certainly something their families can be proud of. Those legacies should stand as inspirations for others to strive and accomplish.

Thank you for what YOU have done. You are a blessing to someone else.

SECRETARY

Richard F. Lee

The Department Administration is pleased to report that only three Camps — General John A. Logan Camp 1, Robert Finch Camp 14 and General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, missed the 3rd Quarter reporting date.

The Nicolay-Hay Award was established this year. Its purpose is to give recognition to those Camp Secretaries and Secretary-Treasurers who returned accurate Quarterly Reports and other requested items, on time, during the previous calendar year.

The certificates (handsomely produced by David F. Wallace, PDC) were awarded to these Brothers at the Department Encampment:

Mark D. Heath	Camp 7
Donald J. Harvey	Camp 9
John Lohrstorfer	Camp 22
David Schneider	Camp 43
Mark L. Pangburn	Camp 58
Kenneth H. Martin	Camp 67
Kenneth F. Dixon	Camp 160
Jerry A. Thomason	Camp 427

Congratulations to all of you! It is hoped that many more Brothers will qualify this year.



DEPARTMENT COUNCIL

by Dick Williams, Chairman

The Michigan Department Encampment voted on hosting the National Encampment in Lansing for the year 2000. The Department Commander asked and I accepted, to coordinate the overall details of putting on the National Encampment. Those who will also be helping are encouraged to attend the 1999 National Encampment in Indianapolis in August.



DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 4)

and the "Getting Involved" article in the August '98 issue of *Michigan's Messenger*.

21. Camps are encouraged to take advantage of any function where a display may be made for the purpose of letting the public know about the SUVCW, thus attracting new members and associates to our organization. Recruiting supplies and accessories are being coordinated by our Senior and Junior Vice Department Commanders. Please contact Brothers Morris and Carlson for their help to your Camp.

22. Again, I look forward to greeting many of you at the Annual **Weekend of Remembrance**, held this year on August 7 & 8, at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (see further details, elsewhere).

23. I am very pleased that we have so many Department Delegates and Alternates planning to attend this year's National Encampment (August 19-22), which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Last Encampment of the GAR. If something should occur, preventing your attendance, please notify Dept. Secretary Lee so that he may adjust the roster and prepare *Credential Cards* accordingly. As with past National Encampments, please plan to meet with Secretary Lee (on site) to receive your *Credential Card* prior to registration. A meal-reservation form for the Saturday night banquet is supposed to be in the next issue of THE BANNER. An update on the Thursday activities is also to appear in the next national newsletter. [The State of Indiana's Civil War "Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument" and their "World War Memorial" are true inspirations to the *patriotic spirit* that makes our country great.]

24. The weekend following the National Encampment, the drawing for the "Men of Iron" Print, by artist Dale Gallon, will occur on August 29th at the Jackson, MI Civil War Muster. Fifty raffle tickets were distributed to each of our many Camps and I hope that your sales have met with success for this special fundraiser (proceeds of which can be returned to each Camp on request). Please contact Brother Richard Williams, Dept. Council Chair, if you'd like more tickets to sell at an upcoming function that your Camp may have a display at.

25. As the next *Michigan's Messenger* will be published in October, details for the 1999 *Central Region Conference* (occurring October 2nd) are printed

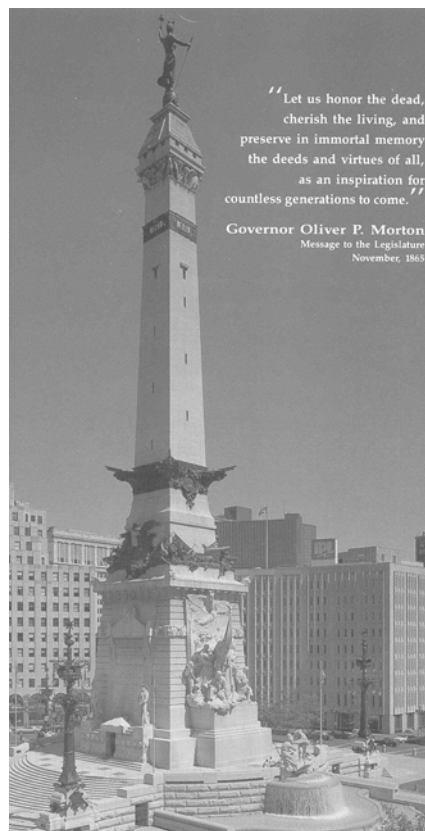
elsewhere in this issue. We still need to hear from volunteers, willing to provide cross-town transportation from the meeting site at the Midway Hotel, West of Lansing, to the State Historical Center, downtown. If you have a van and would be willing to help, please contact Department Chief-of-Staff Mark Pangburn via e-mail at pangburnm@state.mi.us or by telephone at (517) 321-8162. Thank you.

By Order of:

Kent Armstrong
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard Lee
Department Secretary



*The
and*

*Soldier's
Sailor's
Monument*

Indianapolis, Indiana

EAGLE SCOUT COMMENDATIONS

- Review from the Department Commander -

As many of you know, the SUVCW has a special Commendation Certificate for the Boy Scouts of America who earn the rank of Eagle Scout. To help better promote the effort, at the local level, I have just been asked by Brother Bob Petrovic (SUVCW National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator) to encourage all Camps to appoint their own Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator and to notify our Department level coordinator of the appointment.

I fully agree with Bro. Petrovic that "this is one of our best public relations programs" and I urge all Camps to make the effort to honor Eagle Scouts, within their geographic boundaries, at the *Court-of-Honor* ceremonies. Notices usually appear in local papers but if that is not the case in your locale, please contact the *District Executive* of the "Scout Council" in your part of Michigan. The *District Executive* can put you in touch with the Scout Troops in your locale. Below, is a listing of the Scout Councils in Michigan, and their office addresses.

Headquarters	Zip-Code	Address	Phone / Fax	Council Name
Ann Arbor	48104-4199	1979 Huron Parkway	734-971-7100 / 734-971-5043	Great Saule Trail
Auburn	48611-0129	5001 S. Eleven-Mile Rd. P.O. Box 129	517-695-5593 / 517-662-4465	Lake Huron Area
Detroit	48208-2215	1776 West Warren Ave.	313-897-1965 / 313-897-9870	Detroit Area
Flint	48503-1894	202 E. Boulevard Dr.	810-235-2531 / 810-235-5052	Tall Pine
Grand Rapids	49544-9755	3213 Walker Ave. NW	616-785-2662 / 616-785-0835	Gerald R. Ford
Kalamazoo	49008-1843	1035 West Maple St.	616-343-4687 / 616-343-3311	Southwest Michigan
Lansing	48917-2807	4000 W. Michigan	517-321-7278 / 517-321-7298	Chief Okemos
Marquette	49855-9134	2210 U.S. 41 South	906-249-1461 / 906-249-1463	Hiawathaland
Pontiac	48343-1173	P.O. Box 431173	248-338-0035 / 248-338-0039	Clinton Valley
Port Huron	48060-3706	901 Huron Avenue	810-982-9529 / 810-982-3931	Blue Water
Traverse City	49684-3756	2308 U.S. 31 North	616-938-2200 / 616-938-2212	Scenic Trails

For further guidance, please contact Bro. Gary Ralston (Dept. of MI BSA Coordinator) at 1775 Valley View Lane, Milford, MI 48381 (248) 684-1936. Each Camp Commander has been given a copy of the cover letter that I penned, to help convey the "Civil War Connection" to the Eagle Scout and those present at the Court-of-Honor. Please feel free to utilize this on your own Camp's stationery.

Commendation Certificates (Item No. 115) are available from the SUVCW National Quartermaster (\$0.10 each + "S&H") or for FREE from the National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator -

Robert M. Petrovic PDC
4729 Mehl Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63129-1626
(314) 892-2158 = voice
(314) 892-8779 = fax
e-mail = Rpetro7776@aol.com

HOMETOWN REMEMBERS GAR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

By Chris Czopek

In 1899 William Humphrey was buried in Adrian, Michigan, under a simple stone paid for by his family. One hundred years later hardly anyone in the town could recall anything about him. His grave had no marker to indicate he was a Civil War veteran. His distinguished service to country was forgotten... until the day someone from the Sons of Union Veterans came looking for him.

The search for William Humphrey began last Winter when an old book was discovered in State Archives that listed the Posts and officers of the Michigan GAR. To those of us who thought this organization was started in the middle 1880's, the year on the front page came as a surprise - 1869! According to this rare book, the Department Commander that year was "Comrade William Humphrey of Lansing". A special investigation was made by the newly formed SUV Research Committee to track down the identity of this early Commander of the Michigan GAR. The data-base of Brother Don Harvey showed he was General William Humphrey, a commander of the 2nd Michigan Infantry promoted to Brevet Brigadier General at the end of the war. Graves Registration chairman Brother John Obermeyer had him listed as

buried in Adrian - but no specific cemetery was mentioned. Brother Bill Lowe traveled to Adrian and located the grave at Oakwood cemetery. All the information and obituaries found at State Archives in Lansing were put together by Brother Chris Czopek into a booklet and mailed to members of the research committee. At this point the complete life story of General William Humphrey, one of the first Commanders of the Michigan GAR, was known.

But the work of the Sons was not yet finished...

The grave of this past Department Commander needed a GAR marker. Fortunately, the manager of the cemetery was overjoyed to learn that a Civil War general was buried there, and readily gave his approval. A fine old iron flag holder was located, cleaned, and painted by Brother Bill Lowe. It was installed last month in time for Memorial Day. This activity caught the attention of Adrian's historical society, leading them to rediscover their distinguished citizen. They are currently researching the life of General Humphrey and will feature his story in a future publication.



CAMP NEWS

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

by Paul Hodges, PDC

The Camp continued its tradition of observing Memorial Day through participation in a series of events. They began on Sunday, May 23, at the Sunfield area service presented by Helen Edwards Tent 30, DUVCW, in accordance with the custom, Camp Commander James Lyons, PDC, served as master of ceremonies.

The events on Saturday, May 29, were held in Lansing. They began with Camp members marching in the parade downtown, going past the Capitol. The Camp then conducted a Memorial Day service at the GAR monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Family members, city officials and other interested people attended the program which was complete with firing squad and bugler. Immediately after that, the Camp took part in the City's noontime ceremonies at the Little Arlington section of nearby Evergreen Cemetery.

The following day, Memorial Day, the Camp proceeded to Welch Cemetery, south of Sunfield. There it conducted a memorial service at the grave of Sgt. Samuel W. Grinnell, the Civil War veteran for whom the local GAR Post was named. Family members and area residents also were in attendance. Following the ceremony, the Camp convened at the GAR Hall in Sunfield and held a regular business meeting.



COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22

by Chris Czopek

During a search for the lost records of GREGG Post No. 155, the camp's "history detective" discovered a group of wartime letters sent home by the soldier the post was named after. The gem of this collection is a letter telling what happened to his regiment at the first Battle of Bull Run. (Brothers - This collection is incomplete - Does anyone know of any other letters written by John C. Gregg, 2nd Michigan Infantry? If so, please contact Chris Czopek (517) 482-5519).

COL. GEORGE W. LAPOINT ~ CAMP 76

by John Reaume

Members of Monroe's Col. George W. LaPoint Camp 76 and supporters recently erected ten new Civil War veteran's headstones in Monroe's Woodland Cemetery. Last year the Camp hosted a Memorial Day vigil honoring the ten soldiers, nine of whom died in action or of disease, and this year we ordered new markers for them.

Arriving in May, the Camp put in the stones on the various plots in the cemetery. Among the ten were five members of the 4th Michigan Infantry, two sets of brothers and a veteran who also fought in the Mexican War.

Woodland Cemetery dates back to 1824 and is the burial ground for over 100 identified Civil War veterans. Woodland has been routinely vandalized and the Camp wishes to continue replacing, repairing and resetting the many monuments there. American flags are placed on the graves for the Memorial Day week. S.U.V. grave registration forms have been filled out and are soon to be



Woodland Cemetery workers, left to right: Bill Munday, Jim Ryland, Jean Waybright, Bob Coch, Commander John Reaume, Dale Niesen and Dennis Poore

CAMP NEWS

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Kent Armstrong

Our local chapter of the SUVCW takes great pride in our support of Memorial Day services in several Clinton County communities, including combined tributes with members of Camp 160, at St. Johns and Ovid. We were especially proud though, of the ceremony in DeWitt this year. Nearly 90 Civil War veterans who rest in the public cemetery there, have been honored this spring by having their individual graves specially marked. Many of these men belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post at DeWitt, but all have been duly honored, whether they were members (Comrades) of the G.A.R. or not.

As many of you are aware, the G.A.R. initiated the practice of honoring all departed Civil War veterans with the implementation of a device that would not only mark the veteran's grave, but also hold a small United States Flag. Marking veterans' graves with the flag that they fought for was (and is) a sign of our respect for their service to our country. After all, these men *Saved the Union* from the conflict of 1861-1865 and many gave their lives for the very flag that represented the *Republic* that they helped preserve.

Several designs of the original grave markers/flag holders that these veterans employed survive, but the style chosen by the Civil War vets in DeWitt is very unique. It was patterned after the membership badge of the G.A.R. and at present, is the only example of this style known to have survived the years.

As the years have gone by, and our country has fought other wars, new designs of flag holders have been crafted to specially honor the veterans of other eras, thus making the Civil War markers even *more* unique.



Since 1915, the State of Michigan has had a law providing for the purchase and placement of these markers with a U.S. Flag, in all public cemeteries (at the expense of the local government where the cemetery is located). Rather than buy one of the generic Civil War designs that are offered

by current suppliers, the City of DeWitt decided favorably toward Brother Kent Armstrong's request that reproductions be made of the very special design chosen by the DeWitt G.A.R. Post. The new marker/flag holders were cast in aluminum, the

molds being made from a carving based on the design of the two surviving original cast-iron markers.

As with the originals, the new markers bear the initials G.W.A., which stand for George W. Anderson. He was a soldier in the 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment who was captured by the Confederates and starved-to-death at Andersonville Prison in Georgia. The DeWitt area Civil War vets named their G.A.R. Post after Anderson and "Post 58" also appears on the marker/flag holders.

The Anderson Post was organized on April 25, 1882 by several Civil War vets living in Southern Clinton County. The organization was very active in and around DeWitt for several years but the advancing years and declining health of the membership forced their disbandment in 1909. Clinton County's local chapter of the SUVCW is proud to give new life to the name and number of the G.A.R. Post that was here, before us.

Brother Armstrong also talked the City of DeWitt into the purchase and installation of a 30-foot flag pole, to replace one that had been missing from the G.A.R. plot for several years. With a generous contribution from Brother David Thompson, Camp 58 purchased and donated a 5 x 8 foot U.S. Flag and the new pole and the grave markers were dedicated at this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

Camp 58 will be contacting other Southern Clinton County communities where members of Post 58 are buried, respectfully asking that those local governments also provide this special honor. As in DeWitt, Camp 58 will offer volunteer labor to install the markers.



Honoring Civil War Vets, left to right: DeWitt Cemetery Sexton Louis Esch, and Camp 58 members Kent Armstrong, Eric Martens, Douglas Armstrong, Kim Altvader, Warren Gidley, Gordon McGarey and Mark Pangburn.

CAMP NEWS

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Max Miller

As we all know, summer is here and the busy season has started. On April 24, Brother Mark Heath with the assistance of Brothers Tallman and Miller set a new Civil War headstone for his ancestor at the cemetery in Hastings.

On May 17, Brothers Lowe and Tallman with the assistance of a Napoleon Lions Club member presented a program on the local G.A.R. post and Civil War veterans buried in Oakgrove cemetery. Brother Tallman is a Lion's Club member and did extensive research for the program.

On May 26, Brothers Holton, Lowe and Miller presented a Civil War program at Leslie Middle School for four classes of eighth graders.

Sunday, May 30, twelve Bothers and Auxiliary members attended a church service at the First Methodist Church in Jackson. This old tradition of the G.A.R. was reintroduced last year at the First Congregational Church by PCC Lowe.

Monday, May 31, the Camp and Auxiliary took part in the Jackson Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 am. PCC Lowe was the speaker at the ceremony on the south side of Mount Evergreen cemetery. While he was speaking, the Camp Auxiliary ladies and the Juniors placed flowers on approximately 75 veterans' graves in the immediate area. This part of the ceremony was put together by the Camp Auxiliary and was an unique and impressive ceremony in an old tradition. After the regular ceremony, the Camp had a short ceremony according to ritual at a Civil War site in the cemetery. This year, at the suggestion of Brother Maillard, the ceremony was held at the group of ten new stones the Camp had placed. This group of old stones had been discovered about three years ago when other work was being done. In the follow-up research it was found that all of these men had died at Camp Blair in Jackson during the war years. While ten stones were replaced, we feel there are more veterans there, but the cemetery records have been destroyed and there are no more stones to get info from. Auxiliary member Vicki Weiss had made several small wreaths to place at the graves, but due to a downpour, we finished the ceremony asap. Sorry, Vicki, that after all the work put into them we didn't get to use them.

Some members then left for the 1:00 pm Memorial Day Parade in Spring Arbor and proceeded to take part in that parade also. Brother Holton was the drummer for both parades and there were enough members in the Spring Arbor parade to fill a color guard along with some Juniors and Auxiliary members. While I speak for myself, I feel I also speak for several other Brothers when I say "I'm tired" after two parades a few hours apart.

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

NORMAN SHANK

PRIVATE
44TH INDIANA INFANTRY

FATHER
OF
ADIN SHANK
CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP 17

At the age of 15, Norman Shank of Angola, Indiana and his older brother, Sylvester enlisted with others from Indiana to form the 44th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment on November 12, 1861. They soon were transported to Henderson, Kentucky where the regiment was placed under the command of General Lew Wallace as a part of the Army of the Tennessee, commanded by Gen. U. S. Grant.

The 44th first came under fire in February, 1862 in the fight at Fort Donelson. From there, they went to Crump's Landing and then on to Pittsburgh Landing. While helping unload a steamboat, Norman badly strained his left hip. During a bombardment on April 6, he was injured at Shiloh by a cannon ball, receiving what the records called a "slight wound" to his leg. It became infected and never completely healed. In May he was sent to the hospital at New Albany, Indiana and then home to recover. There he regained enough strength to return in December to his regiment, which was then in stationed at Nashville, Tennessee as a part of the Army of the Cumberland.

The 44th was at Murfreesboro, Tennessee until June, 1862. During that time, Norman was assigned to be the Chaplain's cook. (In later years, he enjoyed telling his family about how he made pies and sold them to the other soldiers.) As the army campaigned onward, he became an orderly to a Colonel in November, 1863, during the Battle of Chattanooga, the 44th having been made Provost Guard in Chattanooga. The 44th left the city briefly, but was ordered back for most of the rest of the war.

Private Shank re-enlisted and continued to serve as the Colonel's orderly until August, 1864, when he was assigned to be a surgeon's cook. He served in that capacity and also as an adjutant's clerk until the regiment was mustered out of service in September of 1865.

The Michigan Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
and
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
State of Michigan

Present

WEEKEND OF REMEMBRANCE AUGUST 7 & 8, 1999

Come Visit
One of Michigan's Largest Civil War Cemeteries!

Take Part in a Ceremony to Remember
Our Civil War Soldiers!

PIG ROAST!!!
after Ceremony on Saturday

BREAKFAST!!!
On Sunday

**Reenactment Demonstration of the
Battle of Franklin, Tennessee
on Sunday!!**

Amenities include: Straw, Water, Lots of "Modern" Toilet Facilities
Military and Limited Authentic Civilian Camping
Sorry, No Modern Camping Facilities Available on Site

For Pre-Registration form, contact either:
John Obermeyer 616-452-2453 or Keith G. Harrison 517-694-9394

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE DINNER

Stuffed Pork Chop _____ at \$20.00 ea. \$ _____ Stuffed Chicken Breast _____ at \$20.00 ea. \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Selections include Chef's choice of vegetable and potato, rolls and butter, cup of soup du jour or dinner salad, coffee (regular or decaf) or iced tea.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Make check payable to: "Department of Michigan, SUVCW" and mail to:

Kent Armstrong
PO Box 618
DeWitt, MI 48820-0618

Dinner Reservations Must be Made by September 25th

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Use this form to pre-register for the Central Region Conference. Registration Fee is \$5.00. Your pre-printed name tag will be presented to you at the registration desk in the Front Lobby.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Camp Name & Number: _____

Auxiliary of Camp _____

Department _____

Include your \$5.00 registration fee check made payable to the "Department of Michigan - SUVCW" and mail to:

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary/Treasurer - Michigan SUVCW
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257

You Must PRE-REGISTER by September 25th

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, SUVCW

BEST WESTERN MIDWAY HOTEL, LANSING, MICHIGAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1999

Members, Associates and Auxiliaries of the Departments of the "Central Region," SUVCW (Colorado & Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin) are fraternally invited to attend this year's *Central Region Conference*, here in Michigan. Delegates have also been invited from the relatively new Departments of Kentucky and Tennessee too.

The day begins with on-site check-in (to receive nametag) in the hotel lobby from 8:30 to 9:15 AM. [A "Pre-Registration Form" is provided elsewhere in this issue. A fee of \$5 per person is being charged, to help cover conference facility expenses. Registration deadline is September 25, 1999.]

At 9:30 AM, we'll leave the hotel (via volunteer van transportation) to visit the State of Michigan's Civil War Flag Conservation Storage Facility. Mrs. Kerry Chartkoff, who directs the flag conservation program, will open the facility for us, allow viewing of some of the flags and answer any questions. She is routinely approached by government officials of other mid-western states for advice to initiate similar Civil War Flag protection programs in their states. Mrs. Chartkoff will also conduct a brief tour of the nearby Capitol building, which is something for us all to take new pride in, after its \$58.4 million renovation. At 12:15 PM, we'll head back to the hotel.

Participants can eat at the hotel's *North Pine Grille* or at one of the other nearby restaurants during the 1-1/2 hour lunch break.

Beginning at 2:00 PM, the afternoon will offer three conference sessions (in the EATON Room). These will provide interested attendees with information on techniques to gain (and retain) members and associates in the SUVCW and the Auxiliary. Another topic will include improved communications within and outside the organization. One session will also focus on an aspect of the actual war years (1861-1865).

The annual *Central Region* business meeting will take place between 4:30 and 5:30 PM. After a one-hour recess, participants may enjoy a dinner (6:30 PM) of Stuffed Chicken Breast or Stuffed Pork Chop as entrees. Civil War Historian, David Finney, will share a special talk after the meal. A "Dinner Selection/Reservation Form" is provided in this issue. The submission deadline for meals is September 25th.

For those who will be in need of an overnight guestroom, please be advised that a group (for 10-01-99 and/or 10-02-99) has been reserved in the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at the Best Western Midway Hotel, 7711 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. The rate is \$69.00 for standard single, double, triple, and quadruple occupancy. Reservations must be made **before September 1, 1999**. Individuals may use the Best Western national toll free number (1-800-528-1234) or call the hotel directly at (517) 627-8471. Either way, be sure to mention the SUVCW room rate.

Recent *Central Region Conferences* have taken place in Wisconsin and Ohio, and all who have attended report a "time-well-spent" with folks of the SUVCW & Auxiliary from other Departments.

H. W. LAWTON POST 452
SAMARIA, MICHIGAN

The Post was chartered 23 June, 1900 and was last mentioned in the Department Encampment Journals in 1924. The photo was taken in 1920. Note the Flag painted on the front of the building.

According to the Journal of the Michigan Department Encampment of 1920, Post 452 had 26 members that year. In the photo there are 27 men, but note that the person on the right seems to be standing apart from the rest of the group and is not attired like the others.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Trudy Urbani, Historical Society of Bedford, Michigan.



The Department of Michigan is on the Internet at: <http://suvvw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

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