



Mi

Messenger

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



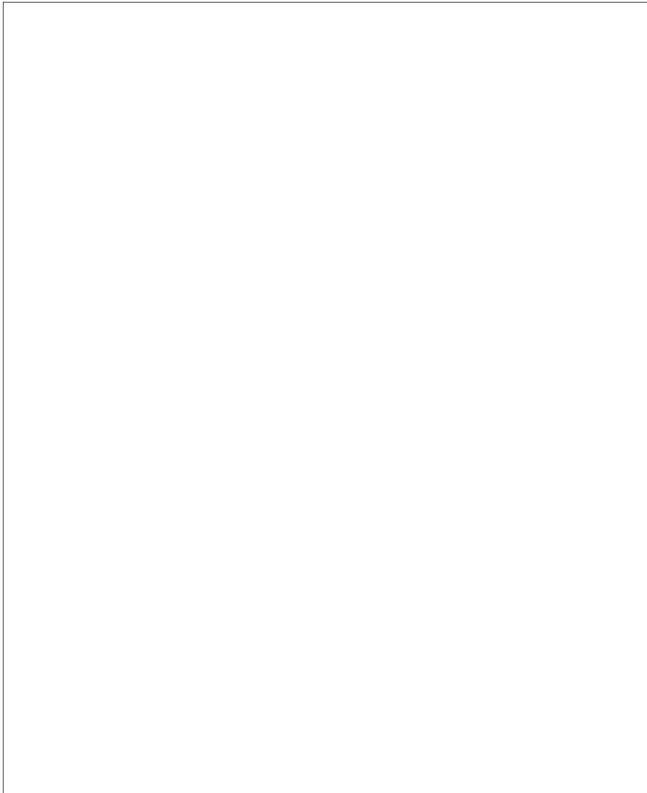
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A DIFFERENT GRAVE MARKER

by John Lohrstorfer



A while back I found an odd wrought iron marker in a small cemetery near Battle Creek. It is in the shape of a seven pointed star and has the words "Tribe Ben-Hur" centered in the star. Bro. Chris Czopek has also found one of these markers in a cemetery in Calhoun County.

Thinking this might be a Jewish veterans symbol, I asked a Jewish friend of mine. She said she had never known of a seven pointed star; also, since Ben Hur had converted to Christianity, she doubted it was a Jewish symbol.

Not long ago, while going through the "odds and ends" file at Willard Library, I found an article which explained the symbol. It was used by a fraternal organization made up of male Civil War veterans and non-veterans, who were devotees of General Lew Wallace, author of the book, Ben Hur. The article also explained that the seven pointed star represented the seventh Corps, which Gen. Wallace commanded.

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*Department Officers
2001/2002*

Commander

Gregory Hayes
P. O. Box 53
Linden, MI 48451-0053
(810) 735-9283
Dayhayes@aol.com

Senior Vice Commander

Bruce B. Butgereit
1691 Summerfield St. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508-6499
(616) 827-3369
civil-war@attbi.com

Junior Vice Commander

Philip N. Parks
1228 Minnesota St.
Hancock, MI 49930-2208
(906) 482-7070
jparks@ccisd.k12.mi.us

Secretary

Richard F. Lee
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257
(517) 223-9497

Treasurer

Del C. Farnsworth
479 132nd Ave.
Wayland, MI 49348-9598
(616) 792-1427

Council

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C
Howard Streeter
William Lowe

Chief of Staff

Richard Greene

Camp Organizer

Richard Lee

Patriotic Instructor

Neal F. Breaugh

Chaplain

William B. McAfee

Counselor

Michael W. McMillan

Historian

Paul Hodges, PDC

Guide

Ed Dowd

Color Bearer

Gayle Steele

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong

Communications & Technology

David F. Wallace, PDC

Camp-at-Large Coordinator

Bruce Butgereit

Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

Weekend of Remembrance

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

B.S.A. Coordinator

Gary F. Ralston

Commander's Group Rep.

Kent Armstrong

SECRETARY

Richard Lee

Per Capita Reports were received by the due date for the October thru December Quarter from the following Camps:

1*	General John A. Logan	Grand Rapids
3	Henry E. Plant	Grand Haven
7*	Austin Blair	Jackson
9	George W. Howe	Port Huron
14*	Robert Finch	Traverse City
17*	Curtenius Guard	Sunfield
20*	General Benjamin Pritchard	Kalamazoo
22*	Colegrove-Woodruff	Marshall
28	Alexander French	Big Rapids
43*	Nash-Hodges	Blissfield
58*	George W. Anderson	DeWitt
67*	General Phil Kearny	Bay City
76	Colonel George W. LaPoint	Monroe
85*	Frederick W. Hackeman	Bridgman
120*	Gilluly-Kingsley	Howell
139	Major Robert Anderson	Alpena
145*	Governor Henry Crapo	Flint
147*	Henry W. Quigley	Cadillac
160*	Henry F. Wallace	Corunna
180	Carpenter-Welch	Ypsilanti
250*	Wa-Bu-No	Shepherd
259*	Archibald Stewart	Litchfield
266*	Albert and James Lyon	Marquette
427*	Sgt. John S. Cosby	Dearborn
462*	Russell A. Alger	Camp-at-Large

The asterisk (*) indicates Camps that returned all four Quarterly Reports by their respective due dates for 2001. Three Camps each sent three of the four Quarterly Reports on time. The Department Administration is very appreciative of these Camp's Officers efforts.

As of March 2nd, ten Camps have not returned their two copies of Form 22, "Report of the Camp Installing Officer."

Michigan's Messenger

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*DEPARTMENT ORDERS**No. 4**SERIES 2001 ~ 2002**Department Headquarters, Linden Michigan*

1. Notice is hereby given that the duly elected Camp delegates and those holding standing credentials will assemble in Lansing, Michigan on April 20th, 2002, for the purpose of holding the Department Encampment. Registration forms and other information appear elsewhere in the January issue of the Messenger.

2. I hereby appoint Brother Eric Kirchberg as Department Signals Officer. All Camps are encouraged to submit meeting and event notices to him via email at: Kirchbee@hotmail.com.

3. I hereby create a Special Committee, to be known as the Andersonville Committee, for the purpose of gathering, planning and disseminating information to allow the Department of Michigan to participate in the rededication of the Michigan Monument in Andersonville in 2004. Appointed to the committee are Department SVC Bruce B. Butgereit and Brother Chris Czopek.

4. If all plans work out we will, on April 14th, be welcoming a new Camp into this Department. The General Israel B. Richardson Camp No. 2, of Oakland County, will have its first meeting in Troy. I wish to commend Department SVC Bruce B. Butgereit and Department Secretary Richard Lee for their hard work in making this possible.

5. As this will be the last Department Order, I wish to thank the Brothers of the Department of Michigan for the privilege of serving as Commander of this great Department. The fraternity shown to me by all of my Brothers has been wonderful, and the friendships I have made and enhanced will last my lifetime. It has truly been a great experience and I shall never forget this great honor.

6. I also wish to thank all of the Officers that served me during these two terms. Their continued efforts are the driving force behind this Department.

By the order of:

Gregory Hayes,
Commander,
Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee,
Secretary
Department of Michigan

*GRAVES REGISTRATION**by Rick Danes*

It could have been the food... it could have been the setting....it could have been the presentation (or the presenter)or it could have been just because everyone had to be there anyway for the Mid-Winter Conference! Regardless of the reason, the 2002 1st quarter Graves Registration Committee Meeting was another success. We had 17 committee members, and other guests present, representing 11 Camps who joined us for a lunch meeting prior to the Conference.

I reported that the National database now has 36,498 records, and the Department db has 31,048. This is an increase of 16,352 and 11,167 added records, respectfully, since last year at this time. We still have about 12,000 new records to input into both. I also advised the Committee that National Officer Leo Kennedy has asked me to reconcile the two databases. This work is in progress.

Other highlights of the meeting were: Brother Lyons reported that Brother Williams, acting GRO for Camp 17 has about 900 records from Eaton County that once verified will be submitted; Brother Cuyler from Camp 22 reported that he has contacted the leadership of Camp 85, and has received permission to survey and submit St. Joseph County; Brother Groves reports that he has a new computer and is ready to start submitting Clare, Isabella, and Midland Counties; Brother Neal Breaugh on behalf of Camp 14 GRO Jim Slis submitted records for Grand Traverse County; Brother Charles LaBar, GRO of Camp 147 reported that he has obtained the surveys from Brother Pete Carlson, and will begin sending in Benzie, Lake, Manistee, and Wexford Counties, and has moved into Missaukee. Brother Chris Czopek gave a thumbs up to the distributed Department db, citing the research of "Phleig Carter, 1st Michigan Light Artillery, Co F"; Bill Lowe, GRO of Camp 7 has organized the research of Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Roscommon into his activities...Roscommon is now submitted; Brothers Bruce Butgereit and Bill Johnston of Camp 1, Dick Hutchins of Camp 120, John Lohrstorfer of Camp 22, Bill Costello of Camp 20, and Max Newman and Gayle Steele of Camp 145 all reported out on their progress. I have been in contact with Michael D. Nick, the new Commander of Camp 101 in Detroit.

I have been directed by the committee to make contact and meet with Commander Ed Russell and Member Don Harvey of Camp 9 to review and discuss the Department Graves Program, and the interface with the Camp/Harvey website.

Our next Committee meeting will be held at the State Library on May 4. A separate communication will be sent to each Camp with details.

Once again I thank all of the committee members who are making this successful program possible, and I encourage all Camps who are not active to join us.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Neal Breough

This article is similar to the report I gave at our Department's Mid Winter Meeting on February 23rd in Lansing. It has been slightly updated since then. An updated version of the entire report will be forwarded to Department Secretary Richard Lee after Emily and I have returned in May from our four week, 25th wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii, and I have had a chance to read this April Edition of the Messenger.

On September 25, 2001, I mailed 24 letters to Camp Patriotic Instructors or Camp Commanders from a list provided to me by Department Secretary Richard Lee on August 30, 2001. I did not send letters to Major Robert Anderson Camp 139 or Russell A. Alger Camp 462 as they were not on the list provided.

As of this date (March 5th), I have received written reports from five Camps: Robert Finch Camp 14, Nash-Hodges Camp 43, U.S. Grant Camp 101, Gilluly-Kingsley Camp 120, and Henry F. Wallace Camp 160, and have spoken personally with the new Patriotic Instructor, Paul D. Hodges, of Curtenius Guard Camp 17. All of these reports were very complete, thorough and impressive and have been submitted to our Department Secretary.

In addition, I have completed a survey of Camp Reports that have been published in the Messenger during this 2001-2002 year (July 2001, October 2001, January 2002). All of these Camp Reports contained significant patriotic activities by our Department Camps this year. Five Camps have had Camp Reports in all three issues of the Messenger: General John A. Logan Camp 1, Austin Blair Camp 7, Robert Finch Camp 14, Curtenius Guard Camp 17, and Russell A. Alger Camp 462 (by Bruce Butgereit, Coordinator). Four Camps have had Camp Reports in two issues of the Messenger: Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22, George W. Anderson Camp 58, Col. George W. LaPoint Camp 76, and Carpenter-Welch Camp 180. Five Camps have had Camp Reports in one issue of the Messenger: General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Major Robert Anderson Camp 139 (by Bruce Butgereit, (DSVD), Governor Crapo Camp 145, Albert & James Lyon Camp 266 (in JVC Phil Parks' July Article), and Sgt. John S. Cosbey Camp 427. Therefore, 14 Camps have had at least one article in the Messenger dealing with patriotic activities and 4 other Camps have sent a written report to me as requested.

We have heard nothing so far from the following 8 Camps, however, as my original letter requested a report by the end of March with the intention of presenting a final report at the Department Encampment--which I will now be unable to attend. So I still yet may receive reports from these Camps: Henry Plant Camp 3, Fruitport, George W. Howe Camp 9, Port Huron; Alexander French Camp 28, Big Rapids; General Phil Kearny Camp 67, Bay City; Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85, Bridgman; Henry W. Quigley Camp 147, Cadillac; Henry F. Wallace Camp 160, Corunna/Owosso; Wa-Bu-No Camp 250,

Mt. Pleasant; and Archibald Stewart Camp 259, Litchfield. I feel very optimistic that the above 8 Camps are also doing a good job and involved with a variety of patriotic activities; however I would recommend that at least one of this year's Department Officers (Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander or the Patriotic Instructor) should try to attend one of these Camp's meetings to offer help if needed and to encourage them to submit some Camp Reports for the Messenger.

Finally, based on the Patriotic Reports received and submitted at the Mid Winter Meeting and the 28 Camp Reports that appeared in the first three issues of the Messenger, I believe I can report with confidence that the Michigan Department is very much involved in a variety of exciting and educational patriotic activities.

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

Most of the items donated to the Department archives are paper products. They include meeting announcements, printed programs, newspaper articles, officer reports, meeting minutes, obituaries, and photographs. Some are original documents, and others are copies, but all are welcome.

Steps are taken to protect those items from damage and deterioration and yet have them available for ready reference. The papers are placed in clear, archival-type sheet protectors for storage in 3-ring notebooks. Photographs are put in pocket-type album sheets which fit the notebooks.

The various items then are sorted into appropriate categories. Publicity articles, programs, and newspaper accounts of the same event, for example, are kept together. Similar papers such as Department Orders are grouped together in chronological order.

After sheets are secured in a notebook, an index for them is prepared and inserted. Next, a title page is added, and the notebook is labeled.

The last step is to store the materials in a safe, secure place. Fortunately, the Michigan Department has archival storage space available for just that purpose. It is in the G.A.R. Hall in Marshall, provided through an agreement with the local historical society.

Five notebooks were created last year. Five more most likely will be completed by the time of the 2002 Department Encampment.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Bruce B. Butgereit

Greetings fellow Department of Michigan Brothers:

It is amazing how fast time can truly fly. Nearly a year ago, when I was elected to this position, all I really knew about the job was that I was to fill in for the Commander in his absence, "get the word out" about our events, and communicate with each Camp's SVC. As I was writing this, I feel that while we as a Department have taken some steps to better communication, we have much work ahead of us in continuing to get who we are and what we do, not only to the public, but ourselves as well.

The existence of our Order is based primarily upon hereditary and/or patriotic membership. Our success though, in accomplishing our goals and purposes, hinges directly on our active participation. I believe we sometimes view our participation much like we would a hobby, taking part when time or interest suits us. But in reality, we should *look* at the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War more in terms of a business than a hobby. Mind you now, I'm not saying that we should treat our membership in the Order as a job, because we know what happens some mornings when it's time to go to work – we don't really care too. I simply encourage you to look at the responsibilities given to us by our ancestors as something necessary.

Let me explain. Most hobbies do not require a Federal Tax Identification number – the SUCVW does. Most hobbies do not involve the election of officers – the SUCVW does. Many hobbies are based upon the seasons or the weather – the SUCVW goes year-round. Many hobbies do not require group participation – we call each other Brother and joint cooperation works best. To this end, I firmly believe that we must *think* in terms of being a business.

Any business that wishes to grow must get the word out or advertise about who they are, what they do, and how others can become part of the team. Solid, up-to-date information must be provided in this advertising because stale advertising will only discourage potential members. Good advertising brings better results when contacts and inquiries are answered quickly and then followed up on.

I believe that in the business of the SUCVW, the role of the Department and Camp Senior Vice-Commander is the same as the advertising manager in any other business. I further believe that the role of the Department and Camp Junior Vice-Commander is the same as any personnel manager in any business. To this end, both officers should be working hand-in-hand to get the word out about who we are and to bring in new recruits.

This can be accomplished in several ways:

1. Take advantage of the "low cost" advertising through the Department website.
2. Have Department/Camp SVC be sure that up-to-date information is shared on the web.
3. Be sure that the Department/Camp officer who is listed as a contact actually follows through when an inquiry is made.
4. Take advantage of the "free" space available at local libraries and museums for displaying brochures/flyers on our Order – and then follow up periodically to add more.
5. Keep an open line of communication with local genealogical, historical societies and veterans groups – they are usually willing to assist in our projects and they are a possible source for members.
6. Take advantage of the "free" calendar of events services provided by most community newspapers.

In my first article as DSVC, I likened our work to growing a tree. The G.A.R. was known for planting memorial trees and in keeping with my analogy of comparing the S.U.V.C.W. to a tree that requires water, fertilizer and effort to grow, we must get in the business of cultivating new members. I believe this can be better accomplished when we look to the *business* of the Order and advertise, communicate, and follow-up our contacts. The rewards are possibly more members in the Order and more inter-Camp participation at events.

We must be diligent in *advertising* our meetings, events and who we are. Proof of this lies in several recent incidents:

1. In advertising for our next organizational meeting for the Oakland County Camp, we had placed some SUCVW flyers into literature racks at several libraries, and found them all taken in just a few weeks. Now I know that doesn't all translate to new members, but the door has now been opened.
2. While at the IRS office with a question about our tax-exempt status, I was trying to tell the man who we (the SUCVW) were and he interrupted me and said, "You're heirs to the G.A.R." I was so surprised that I asked him how he knew and lo and behold, he had an ancestor that had served also. I will be sending him some literature.
3. I was wearing my new (great looking) SUCVW sweatshirt (sold by Camp 20) at the grocery store when the cashier asked how we were coming in our fundraising for the Monument. I told her and she replied that she had worked for the city and thought if nothing else, they should fix the fountain and wished us good luck. As I was walking away, I could hear her telling the next customer about the Monument.

I thank you for the privilege of serving as Department Senior Vice-Commander and for your support and encouragement.

CHAPLAIN

William McAfee

We want to stray from our usual subject matters this month to consider a story that was published in 1863 by a grandnephew of Revolutionary War martyr Nathan Hale. The story gained immediate widespread acceptance. Many who read it then, as well as since, forgot that it was not a true account. It concerned a young U.S. Army officer who was caught up in Aaron Burr's alleged conspiracy of treasonous activity directed toward overthrowing the infant government of the United States of America. As the author states, "(He) was proved guilty enough, as I say; yet you and I would never have heard of him, reader, but that, when the president of the court asked him at the close whether he wished to say anything to show that he had always been faithful to the United States, he cried out, in a fit of frenzy,— 'Damn the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again!'"* Thus began the lifelong ordeal of Phillip Nolan who was never again to see or hear of the United States. His sentence, for those unfamiliar with the story, was to be taken on board a ship of the United States Navy and kept on such vessels for the rest of his natural life.

The story line is plausible and, coming out during the middle of the patriotic fervor of the Civil War, touched the hearts and minds of loyal Unionists. Told in the first person by a fictional naval officer who befriended him on different voyages, there is a strong feeling of empathy for this man who had too late realized the impact of his words on the Revolutionary War veterans who sat on his court. By the time he was able to appreciate the consequences of his actions, it was not only too late to recant what he had said, but there were no longer any official documents on record that even recognized his existence.

As one of the author's biographers noted, "There are few tales charged with stronger patriotism than breathes from this narrative of a man who 'loved his country as no other man has loved her; but no man deserved less at her hands.'" (Henry Seidel Canby on Hale).*

At the end of the story, it was reported by one of his "wardens" that Mr. Nolan had put together a patriotic shrine in his cabin, including a map of our changing country by drawing in the different states as they came into the Union. He determined this by piecing together scraps of conversations overheard and by deducing certain acts from what was suddenly omitted from conversation as the areas became part of the country about which he was not to hear. Yet he still had no clue of the names and locations of fourteen of the states that had been taken into the Union during his exile. He had also established a strong tie to his Creator, but those are the parts one should go back and read over to himself. One text he had well marked was, "They desire a country, even a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11:16)

Oh, yes. Let us not forget the author. As we mentioned above,

his great-uncle was Nathan "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country" Hale. His uncle was the Edward Everett, orator, statesman, and diplomat, who gave the main oration at the dedication of the national cemetery in Gettysburg before President Lincoln gave his "few words" of remembrance. "He was born in Boston on April 3, 1822, and after graduating from Harvard in 1839 became pastor of the Church of the Unity, Worcester, Massachusetts. From 1856 till 1899 he ministered to the South Congregational (Unitarian) Church in Boston; and in 1903 became chaplain of the United States Senate. He died at Roxbury, Massachusetts, June 10, 1909, after a career of extraordinary activity and immense influence."*

I don't know how long it has been since Edward Everett Hale's "The Man Without A Country" was either required or recommended reading in our schools, but I, for one, would like to see it re-established. Not only does it inculcate a strong patriotic ethic, but it also teaches and encourages further research into the history of our country. What better time is there than now to revitalize some of the literature that influenced generations when and after it was first published?

God Bless the USA!

**The information and quotations for this column were taken from Bartleby "Great Books Online" website <http://www.bartleby.com/310/6/>.*

EDITOR

John Mann

The January issue of Michigan's Messenger was delivered to the post office on Friday, January 4th for mailing. A total of 14 of our members (out of 554) reported the date they received their newsletter as requested in that issue, with the breakdown as follows:

Nine members from the Traverse City area reported they received their newsletter on Thursday, January 10th and one on the 12th. One member from the Battle Creek area reported his newsletter was received on Monday, January 14th. Two members from the Jackson area reported, with one receiving his Messenger on January 10th and the other on the 16th. One member from the Lansing area reported he had received his newsletter on January 10th.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas Armstrong, Chairman

I have recently discovered a newspaper article while researching the three Hartford Cannon that grace our State. As you may recall from an earlier article of mine, Michigan was the recipient of five IX-inch Dahlgrens of the twenty-six that served aboard Admiral Farragut's flagship, the "Hartford". The following is an article from a local history book of Otsego County that recounts the history of the Hartford Cannon, which rests on the lawn of the County Courthouse in Gaylord.

"In many small towns across America the city or county court house lawn is home to a cannon which commemorates an important war or battle from our past. There is usually a story or two behind these cannons and how they came to their place of honor in these small towns. The Hartford cannon in Gaylord is no exception...

In 1864, on August 5, Admiral David Glasgow Farragut achieved his greatest naval victory at Mobile Bay. The Hartford, a wooden ship, was used by Farragut as his command base, and from it he made one of his famous quick decisions. Ordering his ship to full speed ahead despite the narrow entrance to the bay, with Ft. Morgan on one side and a field of submerged torpedoes (mines) on the other, Farragut passed through with the rest of his fleet following. They engaged the Ironclad, "Tennessee" and forced it to surrender. In a few days Fort Morgan and nearby Fort Gaines, isolated by Farragut, were forced to surrender, completing a brilliant victory for the Admiral.

The following exchange taken from a early edition of the Otsego Herald describing events that led to the placing of a cannon from the Hartford onto the Court House lawn, where it has guarded Main Street and entertained children for 86 years.

The June 30 and July 7, 1905 editions of the local newspaper describes the festivities: "It is due to the happy thought of Hon. E. B. Bolton that Gaylord secured on of the historic cannons from the old battleship Hartford. Mr. Bolton, while reading his daily paper something over a year ago, came across a paragraph stating that the battleship Hartford was to be dismantled and her ordinance sent to the Mare Island navy Yard. He at once wrote Congressman Loud asking him if it were possible to secure a piece of this ordinance to be used in decorating the courthouse grounds. Much correspondence took place between the two gentlemen and as a result Mr. Bolton received the following letter containing welcome information that his request has been complied with."

*Au Sable, Michigan—July 8, 1904:
Mr. Earl Bolton Gaylord, Michigan*

My dear Mr. Bolton,

It gives me pleasure to advise you that I have received a favorable reply from the Bureau of Ordinance granting the request for one of the Hartford guns for your city.

*With kindest regards I am
Very truly yours,
George A. Loud*

Soon after, a copy of the following letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Congressman Loud was sent to Mr. Bolton.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 14th addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Ordinance of this department requesting the loan to

(Continued on page 8)

Photo 2
@ 80%
Final size 3 x 4 1/2
Crop as indicated

A 9 inch Dahlgren gun from Admiral Farragut's flagship, the frigate U.S.S. Hartford, on display at Otsego County Court House grounds at Gaylord. The plaque on the side of the gun carriage memorializes the soldiers and sailors who served their country in time of peril and reminds our youth of their sacrifices.

the City of Gaylord, Michigan, for decorative purposes, one of the guns from the old frigate Hartford now laying at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California together with mount for same, I have the honor to inform you that the Bureau of Ordinance has this day been authorized to loan the City of Gaylord, Michigan, for decorative purposes from the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California one 9" S.B. gun and mount from Hartford. Said loan to be made in accordance with the act of Congress approved May 22, 1896 and under the usual rules and conditions prescribed by the Bureau of Ordinance in such cases.

*Very respectfully,
Oliver H. Morton
Secretary*

Mr. Bolton thereupon set about the expense of building the foundation, mounting the gun and painting it was met by public subscriptions.

Said prior to its dedication: "What if our cannon be only a cold, unfeeling piece of iron, let us gather around it next Tuesday and give it honor with song, with speech, with music. Let our youths read this inscription upon its truck and ponder it well. This gun is one of the twenty-six 9-inch guns composing the battery of Admiral Farragut's historic Flagship "Hartford" during the War of the Rebellion: 1861-1865. At the battles of New Orleans, Vicksburg, Port Hudson and Mobile. Forevermore a silent reminder to the rising generations, of the glorious deeds of our Navy during the fierce conflict in which the Gods of Battles watched over our nation, and in which the gun effectively spoke for Liberty and a United Country. Mounted July 4, 1905.

As you read in the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, the cannon is a "...loan to the City of Gaylord for decorative purposes." This letter, written nearly 100 years ago, and the references made to the Act of Congress concerning the donation of ordinances to municipalities and civic organizations such as the G.A.R. for memorials and displays is most relevant today. With the threat of Civil War era cannon thefts and sales to collectors for profit we must be active in bringing to the attention of those in these communities as well as our elected representatives the historical significance of these cannon and the importance of their preservation as memorials.

With the help of my Representative in Lansing, Michigan, I have the proud honor of reporting legislative progress in this area. A bill is being introduced in Michigan that would compliment and enforce Federal Laws and Acts of Congress pertaining to the donation of military ordinances by the U.S. Government. I would ask that each Brother contact their elected representative and ask that they support this legislation. A number will be assigned to the bill in the near future and I will notify each Camp of it.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

10th Quarterly Reports Due
Camp Quarterly Reports are due in the office of the Department Secretary, Richard Lee.

20th Lansing
113th Department Encampment hosted by the Sons at the Holiday Inn West. Please refer to the pull out section in the January issue of Michigan's Messenger for details concerning the encampment, a pre-registration form, the banquet and reservation form for the banquet.

MAY

4th & 5th Mansfield, Ohio
Civil War Show at the Richland County Fairgrounds, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Three buildings of dealers occupying over 500 tables.

JUNE

10th Messenger Deadline
All articles and reports for the July issue of Michigan's Messenger should be in the hands of the editor by this date.

JULY

10th Quarterly Reports Due
Camp Quarterly Reports are due in the office of the Department Secretary, Richard Lee.

AUGUST

3rd Grand Rapids
Ceremony of Remembrance and Old Soldiers Picnic. 10 am to 5 pm at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Turn to page 19 for more information.

8th—10th Springfield, Illinois
121st Annual Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held in the Renaissance Hotel. See the Banner for details concerning the Encampment.

If your Camp is planning an activity and wishes to have other SUVCW members in attendance, why not report it for inclusion in Coming Events? Please keep in mind the mailing dates and plan ahead. The mailing dates are targeted for January 2, April 2, July 1 and October 1.

HISTORY OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

A MICHIGAN PERSPECTIVE

by Mike Maillard, Austin Blair Camp 7

The act of bestowing recognition to men on the battlefield through decorations was unknown until the Civil War. During the Revolutionary War, General Washington proposed to begin such recognition with the presentation of ribbons for heroic acts. But by 1782 all the battles were over with the resultant priority being diplomacy with England.

No decorations were presented during the War of 1812, nor during the War with Mexico. Some of the reasons for this are that communications were poor and the public knew little of defeats and victories and, in the case of the Mexican war, the battles were in far off obscure places.

In 1861 the public was greatly aroused with the threat to the existence of the union. The advent of the newspaper and telegraph kept the public informed. Many in the administration and armed services saw the difficult road ahead and felt there needed to be a rallying point for the public and encouragement to the soldier in the field. General Edward Townsend (Assistant Adjutant General) suggested the Medal, with Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, picking up on the idea. It was to define the ultimate in gallantry, to distinguish men on the battlefield. Surprisingly General Winfield Scott did not approve of the idea.

A bill was introduced by Bill Grimes of Iowa, where it was approved by Congress and signed into law December 21, 1861. The Navy, however, was the only service to adopt this recognition of their servicemen. With Winfield Scott removed as Commander, coupled with a series of setbacks on the battlefield, prompted legislation to be enacted on July 12, 1862 that was intended to improve moral of the soldier in the field. The law of 1862 provided for non commissioned officers and privates only for consideration. The definition of actions in the field for consideration of the Medal expanded for "just on the battlefield" to "gallantry in action and other soldier like qualities during the present insurrection."

It wasn't until March 3, 1863 that funds were appropriated for striking of the medals with officers being added and the requirement slightly changing to "distinguishing themselves in action.."

The Navy ordered 200 medals. The Army ordering 2,000 initially, with a maximum order of 10,000. The medals differed slightly between the two services. They both were a five pointed star with the Navy version topped by an anchor and the Army version topped by an eagle.

The first Medals of Honor were given out on March 25, 1863 to the six survivors that were involved with the theft of the Confederate locomotive the "General" in Georgia.

The revised law of March 3, 1863 that allowed officers to be considered was not circulated by the War Department nor had the Department devised any system for the Medal to be recommended. Consequently, only 20 were presented in 1863. Records from commanders down to field officers regarding the Medal do not appear until late 1864.

Capture of Confederate battle flags was the major reason for receiving the Medal of Honor from the Army. Two hundred eighty two (282) Medals were granted during the war for the years of 1863 to 1865 for capturing enemy flags. A total of 1268 Medals were granted during that same period. Of that 1268, however, 864 were mistakenly given to the entire 27th Maine Inf. for the June 1863 protection of Washington. These, along with 29 given to the troops that escorted Lincoln's funeral train were later withdrawn. Therefore, 75% of the medals given out during the war were for the capture of enemy battle flags.

Thirteen (13) Medals of Honor were granted to Michigan men during the progress of the war. Eight were in the cavalry and five in the infantry and all were all from the Army of the Potomac. They were all for the capture of enemy battle flags.

General Meade in late 1864 generated Special Order No. 346 (12/22/64) that focused away from flag captures to emphasize other forms of "Valor". It requested that other enlisted men from other Corps, along with commanders, be considered for the Medal of Honor for "Conspicuous gallantry". As the result of this order 69 Medals were recommended on Feb. 21, 1865. This came from General Parker of the 9th Corp. of the Army of the Potomac. As the War Dept. didn't receive the recommendations until August, 1865, they were not acted upon until some 30 years later. The issuance probably would not have been accomplished if it had not been for veterans and the public. Eleven Michigan infantrymen were on that list. Another list from General Parker totaling 105 was pursued but was finally returned in February, 1898 to the Adjutant General by the Secretary of War who decided not to have it followed up further. Ten Michigan men were on this list. Any attempt to investigate this list was hampered by the persistent applications in the 1890's that overwhelmed the system. Concerns by the veterans had been brewing for a number of years as they were aware that the Medal was not universally known after the war

(Continued on page 10)

among the soldiers. There was also a lack of any guidelines for interpreting how "Valor" entered the picture. The veterans became increasingly aware that the concentration of that award was with the Army of the Potomac, specifically with Sheridan's cavalry.

Officers were not considered for the Medal of Honor in 1862, as Army tradition was to grant "brevet" commissions. That was extended to the volunteer army where the wearing of an insignia was the only visible recognition. The 1863 revisions, that included officers as candidates for the Medal, was not widely publicized. Consequently, many brevet commissions continued to be granted where the system became unmanageable. Few officers were ever recommended for the medal with only four young Michigan officers receiving them. Some officers may not have known the Medal was available after the war. Army regulation finally mentions the Medal being awarded to officers in 1889.

Imitations of the Medal started flooding the country with the G.A.R. adopting a five pointed bronze star and the ribbon being the exact color arrangement. In 1896 the ribbon of the Medal of Honor was changed to a thin white band in the middle with broader blue and red bands on either side. From 1896 to 1897 the Pension Officer of the War Dept. was kept busy by offering replacement ribbons and a separate rosette.

On June 26, 1897 the War Dept. set definite regulations for awarding the Medal of Honor. Two categories were structured—applications before 1890 and those after that date. Applications before 1890 required that the action was to be of "conspicuous character and distinguished gallantry." "That it involved extreme jeopardy of life and extraordinary hazardous duty." The application under consideration had to be made by person or persons that would not be the recipient of the Medal. They had to be familiar with the facts. Depositions from eyewitnesses under oath was a requirement. Applications after 1890 required recommendations by a commanding officer or officer or soldier knowing of the facts. The applications were limited to one year after the passing of the subject act.

Some of the veterans that received those Medals had conveyed some dissatisfaction with the appearance of the Medal. A Michigan soldier, Charles Sanrainte, wrote in 1892 to the War Dept, inquiring what the metal makeup was of the Medal. William Withington, of Jackson, Michigan commented upon receiving his Medal in 1895 that he thought the Salvation Army had a better one for its drummer. He further went on how even the case was cheap looking. These types of criticisms prompted Congress in 1904 to change the design of the Medal. The star was made smaller with green enameled oak leaves being placed in the base. An enameled wreath and eagle were placed at the top of the ribbon. At first, previous holders of the Medal were asked to send in their old Medals for replacement. This was later changed to allowing those previous recipients to keep the older Medal. The metal surface was also changed from an unattractive gun metal to gold plated silver.

In 1916 the prestige was further enhanced by giving veterans 65 and older a \$10 per month special pension for life. The ones not receiving the new Medal nor the special pension were the 864 from the 27th Maine, the 29 from the Lincoln funeral train and scattered recipients who were civilian scouts.

During the Civil War, 69 Medals of Honor were given out to Michigan men and men from Michigan units. Some 14 were granted during that war. Nine had been recommended in 1865 but were not awarded until 1896. The remainder were awarded, some as late as 1917. Some 1,519 Medals of Honor were awarded concerning the Civil War. Of that 1,194 were presented to soldiers, 307 to sailors, 17 to marines and one to a woman. That woman was a Dr. Mary Walker, Assistant Surgeon of the U.S. Army. Up through the Vietnam War 3,412 Medals of Honor were awarded with just the one woman so honored.

Of some of the Michigan notables receiving the Medal of Honor during the Civil War were Thomas Custer, who received two such Medals from the War. Frank Baldwin also received two, but one was awarded for Civil War action and the other for later Indian War action. Only one Michigan man from the Navy was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil war and that was Cornelius Cronin. Three Michigan soldiers, Sidney Haight, Charles Thatcher and Antoine Scott of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters would have all been repeat Medal of Honor recipients, but were lost in the bureaucracy and the passing of these soldiers. Antoine Scott, alias LaCroix, being part Indian from Pentwater, Michigan was never originally recognized. He died in 1878 never knowing of his eligibility.

The
Deadline

for the next issue of
Michigan's Messenger

is
June 10th

Articles and photos must be received
by this date to assure their inclusion
in the July issue.

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP NO. 1

Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

The first order of business for our Camp was the 2nd Annual Grand Rapids Allied Orders Winter Banquet and installation of officers. The Banquet was again held at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home and installation officer and special guest was PC-in-C Keith Harrison accompanied by his wife Jean. The Woman's Relief Corps, Champlin Corps No. 41 and the Daughters, Eva Gray Tent No. 2 were well represented and to use the well-worn adage, "a good time was had by all."

Our February meeting had the Daughters hosting a "Lincoln birthday party" as part of our Allied Orders social time. I can't encourage each Camp enough to create a relationship with our Sisters in the Allied Orders in your area – they really can create better snack foods than we!

The Kent County Civil War Monument Restoration Project has been in a slump and the economy has not been helpful either. We still receive a few donations but have yet to tap the "deep-pocketed" citizens we need. We are establishing a new relationship with a grant writer as most foundations require precise and to the point presentations. Our area school children are still working diligently to do their part as well.

All in all, our Camp has never had as much fun as we are and while our tasks are great, we are up to the challenges.

Our officers for 2002 are:

Commander	Bruce B. Butgereit
Senior Vice	Roger McClary
Junior Vice	David Wrightsman
Secretary	Bruce B. Butgereit, II
Treasurer	Cleon Duryea
Chaplain	Comer Skinner
Graves Registration	Bill Johnston
	Ron Strauss
Patriotic Instructor	Lee Stroschine
Guide	Colin Butgereit (Junior)
Guard	James Kennedy (Junior)
Council	Ed Blakely
	Doug Colley
	Hugh Dittmore
Memorials Officer	Bruce B. Butgereit
Webmaster	Duane Stendel

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Mark D. Heath, CC

It looks as if the year 2002 is off to a great start. The Camp should grow by six new members during the next few months. One new Brother joined us in February. It is hoped that the other prospective Members will be ready for initiation at the March meeting. The additions will include the "upgrades" of

Juniors Darius Heath and Nathaniel Holton. We will also be adding another Junior with the addition of Chaplain Holton's youngest son, Thomas.

I have recently been in contact with Pastor Carl Benes, from the First Congregational Church in down town Jackson. We are attempting to set a day for the rededication of the Tuttle stone at Mt. Evergreen Cemetery, here in Jackson. It looks as if we may have a program following the traditional Memorial Sunday service at the Church. The program at the service would tell the story of Tuttle, his father and their connection with the church, with a short memorial at the gravesite. We have been guests at the Church in the past and they say that they are eagerly awaiting Camp 7's return.

Brother Lowe has provided some good information to base the future "Juniors program" for the Camp. I am currently looking into these sources and hope to have something started by year's end. I believe that we need to nurture the youth of "our" Camp and help kindle the "future" fire of the Order.

A Certificate of Appreciation was read to the Camp from the Sultana Memorial Committee for the Camp's help in this event. Commander Heath requested a special acknowledgment to Brother Doyle for all his work as the Camp's coordinator in this event, and the Camp gave Brother Doyle a round of applause.

On Wednesday, May 8th the Camp will be providing a Cemetery tour program for the Jackson Sage Society. This program will be on Jackson citizens as whole, not just Civil War veterans. Information on this program can be obtained through our Camp's Graves Registration Officer, Bill Lowe, via our web site: www.austinblair.com

ROBERT FINCH ~ CAMP 14

by Neal F. Breaugh

At our January Meeting Brother Member Jim Johnson, who was delegated by Commander Hayes to represent him, did an excellent job of installing the following Camp Officers. Commander Jan White, Senior Camp Commander Jim Slis, Junior Vice Commander Hal Chase, Secretary/Treasurer Neal Breaugh, Camp Council Members Clint Kennard, Dan Bennett, and Al Pifer, Camp Delegate Jan White.

Commander White then immediately appointed the following members as Camp Officers: Chaplain, Jim Ribby; Color Bearer, Bill Skillman; Counselor, Neal Breaugh; Guard, Ron Tousain; Guide, Richard Schurch; Historian, George Goodrich; Patriotic Instructor, Neal Breaugh; Graves Registration Officer, Jim Slis; War Memorials Officer, Fred Knoodle.

A complete list of Civil War Veterans (both Union & Confederate) was presented to the Camp by Brother Josh Kuckmuk, and this material was presented to Department

Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes at that Committee's February 23rd Meeting. New War Memorials Officer Fred Knoodle has also identified and taken pictures of several Civil War Memorial Cannons along with background material. We are confident that we will be submitting several Civil War Memorial Assessment Forms to Department Officer Doug Armstrong by the Fall of 2002. We have also been working with Leelanau County Commissioner Richard Schmuckal in preserving the tiny Round Top Cemetery in Kasson Township. We have identified one of the Civil War Veterans buried there. We have also been researching three possible Civil War Graves located on the Leelanau Schools property. This request came from a student by way of National Web Site, to the National GRO to our Department GRO, to Chris Czopek, the History Detective, to me. No luck so far, but we have not given up.

After our very successful fund raising raffle, our Camp officially voted to contribute \$500.00 for the repair of the "Old Soldiers Monument" located on the Court House Grounds in Traverse City. This contribution matches the \$500.00 that was contributed to this fund by our National Memorial Fund through the help of PDC Gary Gibson and PDC and current National Junior Vice Commander Kent Armstrong. We will be presenting this check at some kind of ceremony in the Spring.

We feel our Camp is off to a good start this year, and we are looking forward to warm weather and the activities of Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the 4th of July.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Douglas R. Armstrong

Newly elected Camp Officers were installed at our meeting in January. We had the privilege of having our Brother Kent Armstrong assigned as installing officer for the occasion. We also welcomed our Brothers from Wa-Bu-No Camp 250 in Mt. Pleasant. Their officers were installed as well at the joint meeting.

The new slate of officers for Camp 58 is as follows: Camp Commander, Gordon McGarey; Senior Vice Commander, Tom Dinger; Junior Vice Commander, Dave Thompson; Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Pangburn; Camp Delegate, Claude Vail; Camp Council, Bruce Fech, Robert Knowles, David Thompson; Patriotic Instructor, Claude Vail.

Other recent activities of the Camp include the presentation of two certificates to Boy Scouts on attaining the Rank of Eagle.

Camp 58 will be discussing and planning its upcoming events and programs of 2002 at the next meeting in March. They include the placement of three newly ordered headstones for unmarked graves and the conducting of an appropriate ceremony with the families present.

MAJ. ROBERT ANDERSON ~ CAMP 139

by William Kuzenski

There is electricity in the air at Maj. Robert Anderson Camp 139, Alpena MI. Our newly formed Camp has dug in and started a few projects and number one on the list is locating and registering Veterans' graves in the surrounding areas. Our Camp is also getting ready to take part in the Memorial Day festivities to honor our Veterans.

Third we have initiated a campaign to locate a Civil War cannon and place it as a memorial in a strategic location in Alpena. This project will be a long term affair, but we will see it to its end. Until next issue.... GOD BLESS, and stay the course.

ALBERT & JAMES LYON ~ CAMP 266

by Paul A. Nelson, Camp Secretary

Camp 266 meets bimonthly in the Dominic Jacobetti Home for Veterans, a Michigan facility located in Marquette. Our members are come from all parts of the Upper Peninsula.

At our February Second meeting, we were pleased to be joined by Jerry Aho, a disabled veteran in a wheel chair who happened to be wheeling himself down a corridor when he noticed our activity in a conference room. His presence was very appropriate because our program dealt with some activities which he experienced almost a century later.

I made a presentation on the Civil War West of the Mississippi based on the records of the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, in which my great grandfather, Oren Halsey, served, and on other sources including the books *Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865* by Jay Monaghan, University of Nebraska Press, 1955, and *Three Years with Quantrill: A True Story Told by His Scout John McCorkle*, by O. S. Barton, reprinted by University of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

Much of the activity of the 9th Cavalry involved chasing bands of bushwackers, as well as rounding up stragglers from Confederate Generals Price and Shelby.

The regiment suffered many hardships, not all of which were the fault of the enemy. Soon after the regiment was mustered into U.S. service, the men were made to sleep outside without tents in frigid weather in St. Louis because someone had failed to requisition tents or accommodations. Later, many of the cavalry's horses were tied to fences during a winter storm, and died, at a time where there were empty federal stables nearby...which someone had wanted to keep clean for an inspection.

In 1864, while stationed at DuVall's Bluff, Arkansas, there was no fodder for the horses, and they were fed branches and

swamp cane, once again causing many horses to die. Weeks in the swamps and bayous chasing Confederates Shelby and Quantrill led to much sickness. Attempts to have the regiment swim across rivers in winter led to further loss of horses and men. At times the horses were reported to be coated in ice. Because of the persistence of the Confederate bushwackers after the end of the war, the 9th Cavalry was not deactivated until well into 1866.

Earlier in the meeting, Brother Thomas Elegeert, who had been appointed Installing Officer by Department Commander Hayes, installed the following slate of officers:

Commander:	Philip Parks
Senior Vice Commander:	Gary White
Junior Vice Commander:	James Decremer
Secretary/Treasurer:	Paul Nelson
Camp Council:	James Billings John Gorto Pat Kennedy

Brother James Decremer reported that he had donated 30 Civil War books to a local high school library. In the discussion which ensued, it was reported that some school librarians and school administrators, at least before September 11, 2001, were hesitant to accept books pertaining to the military. Brother Nelson suggested that the books be donated through school board members or administrators who are not anti-military in their orientation. It is important that children have access to our nation's history, and that they understand the sacrifices made by the soldiers and sailors in the several wars and conflicts to preserve our precious freedoms.

Brother Gary White reported that he had succeeded in obtaining a copyright for the booklet he is developing, *Rebecca's Letter...a Civil War Letter from Home*. He is submitting an article in Marquette's *Mining Journal* describing the booklet, and mentioning Camp 266. Income from the booklet will be donated to Camp 266.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY ~ CAMP 427

by Rick Danes

Greetings Brothers and friends. We here at Camp 427 hope that all of you are well and are looking forward to an early Spring!

By the time you read this issue of the Messenger, you will know that in December we lost charter Commander Rick Carden, and in February Member Willard Grant passed away. As we strive to keep the memory of our Civil War ancestor green, their leadership and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

As a result of these losses, Junior Vice Commander Jeff Montminy will assume the duties of Committee Chairman, and I will serve as acting Chaplin.

As we plan the activities for the coming year, we will look forward to participating in several special projects which will include offering assistance to the Brownstown Township in cleaning and resetting stones at the Rumsey Cemetery in Trenton (including a rededication of the three Civil War soldiers buried there), and a memorial service at Ganong Cemetery in Westland.

RUSSELL A. ALGER ~ CAMP 462

Department of Michigan Camp-at-Large
Bruce B. Butgereit, Coordinator

The Russell A. Alger Camp 462 has served the Department well in providing a base from which to create other Camps. The Major Robert Anderson Camp 139 in Alpena is doing well and at the time of this writing, the first meeting of the new Oakland County General Israel B. Richardson Camp 2 is scheduled for April 13 at 1 pm at the Troy Library.

The Camp-at-Large has received two new members from the Internet and the joint efforts of JVC-in-Chief Kent Armstrong and Michigan DJVC Phil Parks.

I appreciate the trust given me by Commander Hayes to coordinate the responsibilities of this Camp this past term. Credit and thanks must also be given to Sister Marcia Bruin of the Woman's Relief Corps, Champlin Corps No. 41 for her excellent work in helping organize the files of this Camp.

WASHINGTON - LINCOLN DINNER HELD

by Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The sixteenth annual George Washington - Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner was held February 23 at the Midway Motor Hotel in Lansing. It was cosponsored by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan.

This event followed the Department's Midwinter Conference and the Michigan Society's Board of Managers meeting at the same location.

PC-in-C Keith Harrison, president of the Michigan Society, was the master of ceremonies. He introduced a special guest, RADM J. Robert Lunney, who is General President of the Sons of the Revolution. Admiral Lunney came from New York specifically to attend the board meeting and the dinner.

After an outstanding dinner, Michigan Department SVC Bruce Butgereit and Marcia Bruin of the Woman's Relief Corps presented a very informative and entertaining program. It was entitled "That Lady's Showing Her Underwear." They described ladies' fashions, rules of etiquette, and manner of politeness of the 1860s. A day dress, petticoats, a hoop skirt,

CHALMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY

NEW ORLEANS, LA

by Rick Danes

During a family vacation this past year I took the time to stop by Chalmette National Cemetery (sometimes mistakenly called New Orleans National). The cemetery is next to Chalmette Battlefield, the historic site where Andrew Jackson met and defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Only four graves at the cemetery contain remains of veterans of the War of 1812.

The cemetery consists of 17.5 acres, is long and narrow, with a double row of graves on each side of a central road. The far end of the cemetery is a cul-de-sac, surrounding a 25 foot high GAR monument dedicated to the interred veterans. Joseph A. Mower Post No. 1, G.A.R., erected the monument ten years after the cemetery was opened. A transcribed Latin inscription on the monument states, "While they are silent, they cry aloud". On the far side of the monument are a levee, and the Mississippi River.

Originally named Monument Cemetery, Chalmette is the oldest below-ground cemetery in the New Orleans area. The cemetery was opened as a burial place for Union Soldiers who died in Louisiana hospitals during the Civil War, and was given to the Federal Government in 1939. Other Union Soldiers who were buried elsewhere, including those buried in the field were later re-interred here.

Of the 15,000 burials here, 6,773 are unknown soldiers. There are 128 known Michigan Soldiers buried at Chalmette, some originally buried at places like Cypress Grove, Metairie Ridge, Camp Parapet, Ship Island, and others. The records of these Michigan men have been researched and are included in the Department and National Graves Registration databases.

Each Memorial Day the National Park and local civic organizations place flags on the graves and holds an appropriate service.

I consider the opportunity to visit the National Cemeteries at both Springfield and at Chalmette this year a highlight and a privilege. I would encourage all of you to take a few minutes and visit places like Chalmette, reflect, gather some historical information, and share it with us.

ATTENTION, RECRUITERS!

If you have recruited three or more new Brothers into the Order since the 2001 National Encampment, you are entitled to a special recognition from the Commander-in-Chief. C-in-C George Powell will authorize the National Quartermaster to issue you a ribbon of the National-Colors (to be pinned behind your membership badge and worn for the duration of his administration) and issue a General Order, designating you as a National Aide. Brothers who recruit five or more new Members, Associates and/or Juniors will also receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief Powell asks that the following procedure be utilized for National Aide recognition to those who've recruited three or more new Brothers. "The Camp Secretary should be the one to submit the names of the Brothers who have earned the award as well as the names of the recruits to the Department Secretary who should verify that the recruits are truly listed as members of the camp. The Dept. Secretary should then forward a copy of the submitted paperwork with his verification to either the National Secretary with a quarterly report or directly to me."

I hope to see several Michigan Brothers wearing those "yellow-ribbons."

Please be advised that this servant has updated the SUVCW Info-Sheet that is titled, "About Our Organization" and provided a supply to the Department for distribution to Michigan Camps. If your Camp was not represented at the recent Mid-Winter Conference, please contact Department Secretary Lee. Camps are encouraged to make several copies of this Info-Sheet as a recruiting aide.

Respectfully submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kent Armstrong, JVC-in-C

SEARCH FOR THE UNION CIVIL WAR COLONIES

by Roger L. Heiple
mistergar@prodigy.net

It must have been 20 years ago when I discovered the Union Civil War veteran colony in St. Cloud, Florida. This was just what I was looking for, something relatively undiscovered and still connected with the Civil War. As I investigated the community, I was amazed at how little the residents knew about the "Wonder City" of St. Cloud.

It didn't take too long before I found out about another veteran colony in Fitzgerald, Georgia. I visited Fitzgerald and found that the same lack of interest was present, except for one lady who ran the Blue & Grey Museum. She was a real treasure and gave me a fine insight into the history of the colony.

My research led to another earlier colony in the San Diego area, Grantville, California. Located east of the Jack Murphy Stadium and the Mission of San Diego, the community has few remnants of the veteran origin. I talked to many people in the area and no one had the slightest idea why the city park was named Grandville Park or the school district was called Grantville School District.

I was visiting St. Cloud that I found out about another colony that the National Tribune Company started in Lynn Haven, Florida. A visit there produced very little results. Other than a fine Civil War monument there was little that could be seen. Like its sister city of St. Cloud, the streets were named for states. The G.A.R. hall had been torn down and the city was not historically minded. Again, one lady running a variety shop in the center of town remembered the veterans and related a number of stories.

I thought I had found all the colony cities, until I found an ad for the city of Fruitland, Georgia. It was referred to as the successor to Fitzgerald. A description of the highway, train route, and river were my clue to the location as it was no longer on the map. Traveling along the train tracks to the river crossing I found three homes. I stopped to inquire and was told to talk to the old man in the next home. He had heard about Fruitland, but only after an hour of talk did he go to his bedroom and return with a

huge survey map of Fruitland. He confirmed that I indeed had found the city, but the town had never grown beyond a few homes off the main road.

The last colony city I found was again in Florida. A St. Cloud newspaper mentioned that a special train had been made up for the Department of Florida annual encampment. Originating in St. Petersburg, additional cars were added in Tampa and Zephyrhills. At a meeting of the Sons of Veterans in St. Cloud, one of the members mentioned he was from Zephyrhills. He said he would be happy to show me the town and the G.A.R. hall. During that visit, I was able to confirm that this was yet another veteran colony, developed and marketed to Union veterans.

At this writing I have found Union colonies of:

Grantville, California
Fitzgerald, Georgia
St. Cloud, Florida
Lynn Haven, Florida
Zephyrhills, Florida

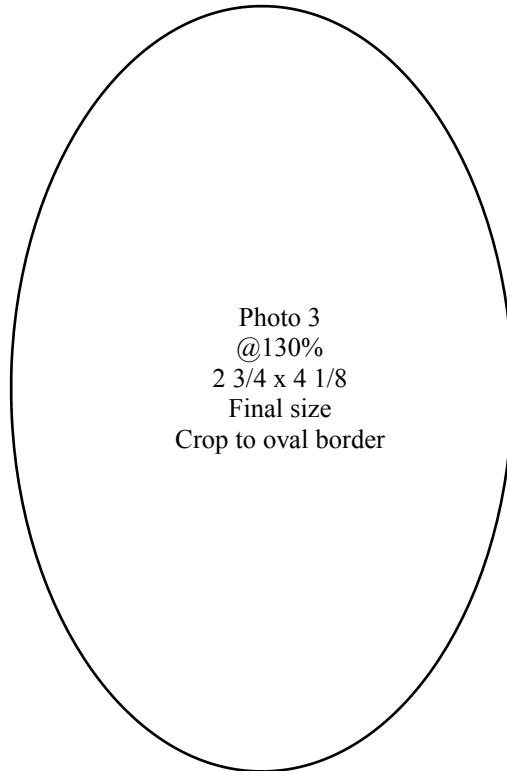
Fruitland cannot be considered, because it was never developed; also, the marketing was directed to a larger Northern population, rather than specifically to Union veterans.

I have spent considerable time in each city and over the years discovered individuals in each colony that are very interested in the community history. My collection includes many of the marketing booklets, early maps, newspapers, flyers, county histories, banners, letters, and G.A.R. badges from the colonies. While I believe I have discovered all the colony cities, there is still a rumor of a colony along the coast of Georgia. I guess the search goes on and is a never ending story.

JOSEPH W. GILLESPIE
CAPTAIN
100TH INDIANA INFANTRY, COMPANY B

4th Cousin
of
William A. Brennan, PDC
Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Photo 3
@130%
2 3/4 x 4 1/8
Final size
Crop to oval border



Joseph Worman Gillespie was born June 12, 1833 in Eastern Ohio. He was the son of Rev. James Gillespie (1801-1852) and Eve (Worman) Gillespie (1804-1895) who were married in Stark County, Ohio on June 12, 1823. His father was an Elder in the Methodist Church, in which capacity he served until his death. His mother outlived husband James by 43 years and died at the ripe old age of 91.

During the Civil War, James enrolled as a Captain on the 10th day of September, 1862, commanding Company B of the 100th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He spent most of his time in Memphis, Tennessee, Vicksburg, Mississippi and Bellfonte, Alabama. On the 22nd day of November, 1862, while in Tennessee, Captain Gillespie, being in command of his men in a Grand Review and marching backward for the purpose of keeping the men in line while wheeling the column by company, stepped into an old uncovered abandoned well, falling to the bottom some 20 feet, breaking his right arm and elbow. He recovered from his injury and continued in command of his company until he was discharged on 31 January 1864 at Bellfonte, Alabama.

After the war he was married to Rebecca J. Fast, October 12, 1865 in East Springfield, Ohio by Rev. F. D. Fast. I'm sure that with a name like Fast, it had to be a quick wedding!

Gillespie was a teacher for awhile and after that he was employed as a business manager of the Alliance Review newspaper in Alliance, Ohio. He continued in employment with the newspaper until he moved to Washington, D.C. in 1890, where he was employed in the government.

Captain Gillespie mustered out of this life on June 21, 1912 in Washington, D.C. at the age of 80. His remains were brought back to Ohio and buried in the Alliance Cemetery in the G.A.R. section. The local paper printed the following: "An impressive burial service was held under the direction of the John C. Fremont Post No. 79 of the G.A.R., along with a music selection sung by the Daughters of Union Veterans Quartette of Alliance."

In Jackson Twp., Angola, Indiana, in the town square north of the Courthouse, a monument was erected to the memory of the 100th Indiana Infantry. Located on the west side of the monument on what is called the mound, are the names of those who served in the 100th and there you can see the name of Captain Joseph W. Gillespie, along with two of his brothers, Corporal Rufus R. Gillespie and Private David S. Gillespie. The story of these two will have to wait for another time.

A Letter Home...

by
Private Dean D. LaBanta, U.S.M.C.

Somewhere in France

Nov. 16, 1917

Dear Mother:

I received your letter, but not as you had hoped, in the states.

Our trip over was an interesting, pleasant one, except of course the first few days, but that I can leave to your imagination as I have no excuses to make, therefore won't give myself away. I will say, however, that if I thought I felt as badly as some of the fellows expressed by their general inability to make any expeditious moves, except toward the rail, I think I got away with it mighty easily.

The most amusing part of our trip was the accomplishment of a pair of sea legs that were trustworthy. As it was it proved a matter of grave importance in keeping out equilibrium and to make as straight a course as possible in any one direction.

A number of times we were thankful that Uncle Sam had the forethought to make our mess gear out of tin, so that in its many journeys and rough and tumble career, its hard knocks would make no more than history.

I think rather to our satisfaction and much to the officers' discomfort, that chinaware proved too ungraceful on the floor and that eggs on toast were hard to put it to remain in one place at very long intervals.

We, who have heard the music of breaking dishes, the gentle rumble of the ballast in the hold, the unceasing tremble of turbines that never get tired and seem to have the soul of something greater than mere mechanism, also have wandered fore and aft, to starboard and port, of decks that have very unruly tempers sometimes, even so as to leave you in very unmanly postures. I will come home and tell you how to run most any kind of vessel, and might even say that submarines are not dangerous if you can give them the slip.

Aside from these minor troubles, you will see that altogether we had a fine trip over.

Speaking of our arrival in France, perhaps you would ask what my impressions are of the country. I am afraid that my impressions would be entirely from an artistic point of view. But all know, who have been in France, that its very soul is its consideration of the beautiful.

Throughout the length and breadth of the country, except that which has been devastated by a people who are the most scientific artificial race on the face of the globe. France has done nothing without first considering it from a purely artistic angle, and its political and diplomatic relations, all that is honorable.

(Continued on page 18)

As a nation of natural beauty, it surpasses all but Italy. No house, no tree, no garden plot, no road has been built, planted or laid out, without its conforming with the general ensemble of the landscape.

Can any country with as beautiful an instinct as we know France to possess, be brutal and course? No! and we soldiers know by their treatment of us, and for various other reasons, that we cannot explain, that with few exceptions it cannot, nor ever has been, except for an anti-eratic power, similar to what, allied, we are trying to demolish forever, in our present crisis.

In devastating France, Germany has tried to destroy the one grand ideal of the French people. Has she accomplished it, or will she accomplish it? No! not as long as there is one Yank, Tommie, Spaghetti eater or northern prohibitionist with the help of the pluckiest little nation on the face of the earth, left to make at least one last Fritz do a turkey trot at the end of cold steel.

Have the allied forces fought like men and gone through worse than perdition? We can leave that to the Almighty judge.

Are we going to do our part? Watch us. Give us half a chance, especially we marines, and we'll chase the Boches straight to Berlin, to the tune of "The Yanks Have Got Fritz by the Tail."

Every mother's son of us will do our part, till the job's finished, or Uncle Sam will have a lot less youngsters to keep behaved.

In closing this lingo, a U.S. Marine, a Yank, and one who has claim to French ancestry, will drink a toast to every Yank, Tom or Harry and even a Dutchman, who is on the job and ready to do his bit.

I bid you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year, from one who is over across.

*Yours as ever,
Dean D. LaBanta
Priv. H. D. 6th Regmt. U.S.M.C.
Emev. Exp. Force*

Note: The author of this letter was the son of Civil War veteran Dean LaBanta of the 76th Illinois Infantry.

When the United States entered World War I his father said, "No son of mine will ever be drafted, choose which branch of service you want to enlist in!" His Dad went with him to New York when he prepared to leave for France. Private LaBanta was a Charter Member of Austin Blair Camp 7, S.U.V.C.W., in Jackson, Michigan, and a Camp officer when he joined the Marines. Less that a year later young Dean was killed by a sniper's bullet just a few days before the Armistice was signed.

Bill Lowe, PCC

TAPS

RICHARD EDWARD CARDEN

February 1, 1954
December 15, 2001

Rick Carden, researcher, historian, lecturer, and patriot, died on Saturday, December 15, 2001 after a long struggle with cancer. He was the charter Commander of Sons of Union Veterans – Sgt. John S. Cosby, Camp 427, Dearborn Michigan.

Carden was the Great-Grandson of Private Edward O'Brien, Company A, 9th Michigan Cavalry. He was the founder of the annual Dearborn Rendezvous on the Rouge, and served as chairman and organizer of that event for 14 years. He was a featured speaker at the Kalamazoo Living History event, a lecturer at the Dearborn Museum and on Dearborn City television, on various period subjects, but specialized in the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville and the Commandant's HQ. He led the effort to save the historic Gardner House (the oldest house in Dearborn) from demolition at Greenfield Village and saw the removal of it to the Dearborn Museum grounds.

Rick, was a Steamfitter/Pipefitter Journeyman. He is survived by his wife, Bernice, and three daughters, Melissa, Caryn, and Katherine.

Warren Carden, Rick's father and SUVCW Camp 427 member, died in 1999.

Brother Carden is interred at St. Hedwick's Cemetery, Dearborn Heights.

WILLARD C. GRANT

1933
February 26, 2002

On Thursday, February 28, 2002 Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427 learned of the passing of another Brother from our ranks. Willard C. Grant, 67, second year member of the SUVCW died on Tuesday, February 26, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He left wife Adell and children Andrew, Heidi, and Jennifer. His funeral service was held on Friday, February 29 from the Wayne, Michigan Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint's Church.

Willard and Adell spent much of their time serving the Church, researching branches of their family trees, and documenting historical information. Willard was a recent President of the Dearborn Historical Society.

Willard's Civil War ancestor, Varden Reece Plummer, was featured in an Ancestor Vignette in the July 2000 Michigan's Messenger.

The Camp plans a memorial service in the Spring, with the permission of the family.

Ceremony of Remembrance and Old Soldiers Picnic

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans August 3, 2002

The Ceremony of Remembrance is a service to honor our Nation's soldiers, both the living and those gone before. Included in this ceremony is a solemn march out to the cemetery to pay our respects to the resting place of over 4,000 soldiers (2,412 Civil War) and a reading of all units in attendance.

Living history camps are set up to share a look at "how life may have been." Included are Civil War, the Spanish-American War, WW I, WW II, and Vietnam. Military demonstrations can include drill, weapons use, and tactics. A battle scenario could break out at any time.

The "Old Soldiers Picnic" will be a flashback to the late 1800s and early 1900s when a community turned out in great numbers to celebrate our Nations freedoms and to honor the men who helped defend our government in the Civil War while enjoying a picnic. It will be a time of fun, fellowship and maybe even some "old-fashioned" games. Each organization will be permitted to set up any displays they might have in regards to their history, efforts, or membership. There will also be an opportunity to share some brief thoughts from each group.

1902 ~ 2002
INDIANA SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT
CENTENNIAL

Indianapolis, IN

May 10, 11, and 12, 2002

The Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, have extended an open invitation to any Brother in the Department of Michigan to attend the 100th anniversary rededication ceremonies in Indianapolis.

The rededication festivities will begin at the State Capital and a parade to the Monument. All Orders are being asked to bring their flags and each State will march as a unit including any of our Sisters in the Allied Orders. Once at the Monument, there will be several speeches and Commander-in-Chief George Powell will speak at the ceremonies for the SUVCW. As they are asking for all true sons and daughters to attend if at all possible, I have contacted Brothers Ed Blakely and Harold Becker in Florida now, and they are interested in attending. It will be especially fitting for Harold as his father served in the 128th Indiana Infantry.

Should you wish to attend, please contact:

Bruce B. Butgereit

Ph: 616-827-3369 or

E-mail: civil-war@attbi.com

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

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