



# Michigan's Messenger



Department of Michigan - SON'S OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Volume 14, Issue 1

Summer 2005

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

*Robert C Grove, Sr.*

May was a busy month for many of the camps in the Dept. of Michigan, with the dedicating of headstones for Civil War veterans, and Civil War monuments. These events and activities keep Green the memory of the "Boys in Blue". I have received one newsletter from Camp 427, and other information from the following Camps 7, 14, 20, 22, & 250. Camp Senior Vice Commanders would you please send to me information on the events, and activities of your Camp.

The following article is found in several of the Journals of the Annual Encampment, Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic:

### "WHY THEY WERE ALWAYS CALLED "BOYS" or "WHY THEY CALL US "BOYS"

The enlisted men of the Civil War consisted of the following:

10 years of age and under .....	25	16 years	231,051
11 years of age .....	38	17 years	844,891
12 years .....	228	18 years	1,151,438
13 years .....	300	21 years	2,159,789
14 years .....	1,523	22 years and over	618,511
15 years .....	104,987		

(My note: These totals are for the age at enlistment, and are larger than the total strength of the Union forces because they are increased by multiple enlistments, and re-enlistments.)

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**The Passing of Brothers**

**WALLACE, Floyd E.** - Brother Floyd E. Wallace, Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 of Flint, age 90, died Thursday, May 5, 2005. Funeral service was held on Monday, May 9, 2005 at United In Christ Lutheran Church, Flint. He was born in Marquette, Michigan, on December 28, 1914. Floyd received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Northern Michigan University in 1937. He retired as a Senior Designer-Master Mechanic for Fisher Body in 1976. He was an active in church and area Boy Scouts of America as well as being a life member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Surviving are loving wife of 63 years, Ethel (2955 Clement Street, Flint, Michigan 48504); son, (PDC) David and wife Susan of Flushing; daughter, Barbara and husband Col. Mortimer Shea (USA, Ret.); 2 grandchildren, Patrick Wallace and Meghan Shea; brother, H. John; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by 2 brothers and a sister.

**The Deadline for the**

**Fall 2005 Issue of Michigan's Messenger is**

**September 1st**

All articles and photos must be in the hands of the editor by this date to inclusion. Text files may be submitted by e-mail (attached file preferred.) Please use the subject line, Messenger Article. Photos MUST be mailed (*actual photographs only*). Include a SASE if photos are to be returned. No electronic photos files accepted.

Mail to:

Att: Michigan's Messenger

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E-mail: [drehkopf2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drehkopf2000@yahoo.com)**The Deadlines for the  
Michigan's Messenger**

Fall Issue - September 1st

Winter Issue - December 1st

Spring Issue—March 1st

Summer Issue—June 1st

## Department Orders #1

Series 2005-2006

1. Having been duly elected and installed, command is hereby assumed
2. Headquarters for the Department of Michigan, SUVCW is 9245 Willits Road, Mayville, Michigan, 48744. (989) 843-5967. [Rgreene@tds.net](mailto:Rgreene@tds.net)
3. I extend my thanks to Brother Gary Gibson, P.D.C., and his staff for the outstanding service that they rendered on behalf of the Department of Michigan. Gentlemen, well done!!
4. The elected and appointed staff is in place and may be found elsewhere in "Michigan's Messenger".
5. Congratulations to Sister Joanne Bailey-Boorsma of the DUV, Sister Angela Aridi of the WRC and Sister Dorothy Lowe of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW on their elections to the Presidency of their respective Orders. I look forward to working with each of you as we work together to keep green the memory.
6. Standing Committees have been appointed and are set forth elsewhere in "Michigan's Messenger".
7. Special Committee on Investment Optimization is appointed to identify and secure sources of more favorable return of investment of cash reserve, currently in a bank savings account.
8. Special Committee on Goals and Planning is appointed to develop a vision and long range plan for the direction of the Department.
9. Special Committee of Battalions is appointed to investigate feasibility of a system of "battalions" to interface with Camps and Department leadership. This committee will test and develop a model of the concept for evaluation and possible recommendation to the Department Encampment.
10. Congratulations to Brother John Mann who was named "Editor Emeritus" of "Michigan's Messenger" by the 116<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment.
11. I regret to report the loss of a Brother and friend. Brother Floyd E. Wallace of Gov. Crapo Camp #145 went to his final review on May 5, 2005. He was the father of Brother David F. Wallace, P.D.C. and grandfather of Brother Patrick Wallace. All charters will be draped for 30 days in his memory.
12. All Camps are encouraged to appoint a Camp Signals Officer. As "Michigan's Messenger" will be delivered only by electronic mail after January 1, 2006, Camps will be responsible for receiving and distributing the Department newsletter to its members that are not able to receive it electronically. This duty should be charged to the Camp Signals Officer.
13. While the Department web site will continue to offer a web page to all Camps who desire it, Camps are encouraged to develop their own web sites to better promote their own projects and mission. The Department web site will be glad to offer a link to any Camp's own web site upon request to the Department Signals Officer.
14. Congratulations to Camps #7, #14, #20, #22, #139, #145, and #266 for their recent rededication's of memorials and grave markers. These ceremonies exemplify what we stand for and serve to carry out one of the charges of the Grand Army.
15. Brothers are encouraged to plan to attend the National Encampment in Nashua, New Hampshire. To be held August 4-7, 2005, the National Encampment will offer a helpful insight into the "inner workings" of our Order. Hotel arrangements should be made right away. Details are available in the "Banner" or on the National Web Site.
16. Brothers are encouraged to plan to participate in the Remembrance Day parade and services in Gettysburg, Pa. on November 19, 2005. Lodging should be arranged right away. Assistance with finding car pool partners is available at Department Headquarters (info above).
17. All Brothers are encouraged to seek out and photograph Michigan monuments on Civil War battlefields. Copies of photos should be forwarded to Brother Jim Pahl, P.D.C. (see article about this project else where in this issue of "Michigan's Messenger").
18. In ceremonies where the presence of any Department Officer is desired, please allow at least on month notice prior to the date of the event.

By order of:

Attest:

**Rick Green**

Commander  
Department of Michigan

**Dennis C. Derr II**

Secretary  
Department of Michigan

*Graves Registration Committee News*

Rick Dancs, Department Officer

Greetings Brothers.

It is May 26, and I am reflecting on how I will spend the next couple of days celebrating the start of another warm season. As we all do, we look forward to traveling, to a little golf, a little fishing, a few cold ones.....and I wonder what the veterans and families of veterans were thinking of on this date in the period just after the Civil War. Surely they were wondering what clothes they would wear, what flowers they would spread, what graves they would visit as their own loved ones rested somewhere in the south. If they were lucky enough to live in an area that had a GAR Post, the members of that great organization would be planning for a ceremony followed by a meal, where they would assess the widows and families of their brothers to insure their well-being for another year. Let us not forget during this season, continuing into the year, that this is what we are about....this is where we came from...take a minute while you are surveying a cemetery this year to reflect....

At the May Graves Registration Committee Meeting, 10 Camps were represented: Camps 1, 2, 7, 14, 17, 20, 22, 120, 145, 250, and 427. We were glad to see our newest committee member Bill Miller from Camp 17. I have not received any notice from any Camp except the attending Camps concerning newly appointed or reappointed Graves Registration Officers (GRO). It is important that I have a current contact for each Camp so that I can funnel queries to you. Although our Bylaws require an appointed GRO in each Camp, if you do not have one, please provide me with an alternate email contact for your Camp.

I announced that our Department Database now contains over 50,500 records. Most of those new records come from National Cemetery lists and other non-member sources while the Brothers are renewing their efforts in the field. It is important that we stay focused on the task of completing the Department work during this time of transition into a database at the national level. The next meetings of the GRO Committee will be on September 17 and December 10 in Lansing. Thanks to Brother Bill Lowe for seeing to our accommodations for those days, and good hunting this summer!

**BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS**

While visiting the Chickamauga battlefield in Georgia a few weeks ago, I located a few monuments to Michigan troops and took some quick photographs. I have also photographed almost every Michigan monument at Gettysburg.

This started the rusty wheels turning and an idea was born. Acting for the Department, I would like to gather together a photograph of every Michigan monument on every Civil War battlefield. Once they are all in, we can publish a book or a CD or a combination thereof or something to benefit our Department. This will help honor our veterans from Michigan and also take an informal survey of what is out there and what condition it is in.

If you visit any one of our civil war battlefields in the next year or so, please take a minute to locate and then photograph any monument erected to a Michigan unit or Michigan men. Send me a copy of the photograph - either as a digital attachment to an email, or a hard copy.

I probably will not return hard copies, so don't send me your only print. Don't worry about duplicates, I would rather have a couple of choices for each monument. I will publish a list of what I have from time to time in the Messenger.

It should only take a year or two to complete the first stage of this project in gathering together photographs of every monument. I will then bring the issue of possible publication to a Department Encampment and we can decide how to proceed. If nothing more than adding these photographs to our Department web site to allow all to enjoy free of charge - it will be well worth the time we are investing now.

Jim Pahl  
Past Michigan Department Commander  
Junior Vice Commander in Chief  
jbpahl@aol.com  
445 West Maple Street  
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## John A. Logan

### Camp # 1 ~ Grand Rapids

*Submitted by Tim Kolean, Commander*

The following Officers were elected to serve for the 2005 term:

Camp Commander	Tim Kolean
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Woodard
Junior Vice Commander	William Truss
Council	Harold Becker
Council	Harry Robinson
Council	John Sullivan
Secretary	Bruce Butgereit
Treasurer	Cleon Duryea
Patriotic Instructor	Bruce Butgereit II
Chaplain	Comer Skinner
Graves Registration Officer	Bill Johnston

## Curtenius Guard

### Camp # 17 ~ Lansing / Sunfield

2005 Elected Officers and appointed members

Commander	Brian Shumway
Sr Vice Commander	David Rehkopf
Jr Vice Commander	David Neese
Patriotic Instructor	Brian McVean
Guide	Bill Miller
Secretary	Mike Neese
Guard	Kyle Emerick
Counselor	James Neal
Treasurer	John Warren
Chaplain	George Roux
Color Bearer	Ron Shull
Historian	James Lyons
Camp Council	Vern Aves
Camp Council	Dana Traub
Camp Council	Dave Coon

## **Robert Finch Camp # 14 ~ Traverse City**

April to June 2005 Report  
Submitted by *Wm. E. Skillman*, Camp Commander

### **Robert Finch Camp #14**

April to June 2005 Report  
Submitted by *Wm. E. Skillman*, Camp Commander

The membership roll for Robert Finch Camp #14 shows 44 Members, 10 are Associates. Visiting Brothers are invited to our Summer Picnic on July 30<sup>th</sup> at PCC Al and Frances Finch Auxiliary President, Marge Pifer's home.

During the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting SVC Jeff Morse had the unique opportunity to initiate his father Jim Morse Sr. into the Camp. Also joining our ranks was Brother Joe Conger.

A whirlwind of activity consumed the Restoration and Rededication staff and volunteers preparing for the return of the Civil War statue to Traverse City. On the morning of May 27<sup>th</sup> it arrived on the back of the Karkadoulis Bronze Art truck. Marcene, her daughters Kathy and Anista, and granddaughters Marcene and Jaime were there to superintend the reassembly. Mr. Bob Robertson of Elmer's Crane also returned. He had helped removed the statue, set the granite foundation, and now claimed that he was here to return the Soldier to "his rightful home". Marcene and her talented family had once again created a work of beauty. For those of us present who recalled the dark, dingy and damaged statue found the gleaming blue-white Soldier an awe-inspiring sight. The monument was shrouded in black plastic to await it's unveiling to the citizens of Traverse City.

Memorial Day dawned warm and sunny. PCC Breagh coordinated the many Camp 14 volunteers to their duties. Brother Conger delivered uniforms to Northwinds Brass band; Marge Pifer, Emily Breagh and ladies of the Auxiliary set out cookies and coffee for the reception. Color Bearer Dale Aurand held Camp 14's colors high among the assembled veterans organizations. Brothers J. Morse, B. Clark, J. Slis, D. Herringa, B Winnie, T. Mattias, H. Byrne, B. Watson, F. Knoodle, C. Heffer set up chairs/bleachers, handed out programs and ribbons, and escorted distinguished guests. Brothers J. White, B. Watson and J. Johnson arrived from an earlier ceremony at Veterans Park. Brothers Jerry Olson and Gus Sherwin and two others of Camp 427, and Keith Kuhlman of Camp 250 joined Camp 14 to form a 'solid blue rank' of support and encouragement.

Shortly after noon, the Northwinds band sounded the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' as the U.S. Coast Guard raised the National Colors and their helicopter passed overhead. A moving solo of 'The Star Spangled Banner' was sung by Lindsey Lugiewicz, followed by a heartfelt Pledge of Allegiance by the nearly 600 citizens present. The TC Christian/First Christian Church choirs sang a medley of patriotic airs during the festivities.

Master of Ceremony Jack O'Malley took the stage to conduct the Memorial Day observance. The keynote speaker was Michigan's Senior U.S. Senator, Carl Levin. He eloquently described the sacrifices borne by Lt. Garrett Gravert and his father, Henry (Co. K. 1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Sharpshooters), who died during the Civil War. His speech expressed heartfelt gratitude of Michigan's citizens to her servicemen and their families. Senator Levin closed with: "we are rededicating ourselves here today to the memory of all who made the ultimate sacrifice".

'When Johnny Comes Marching Home' announced that the Rededication ceremony had begun. CC Skill

man announced that it was exactly 115 years to the day and hour that Traverse City presented the statue to 151 Civil War veterans on behalf of a grateful community. Skillman then read Mayor Perry Hannah's original dedication speech in its entirety. The words and sentiments were as poignant today as they were then.

CC Skillman recognized Sylvester Perry (first contributor to the restoration effort), National Department JVCC Jim Pahl, and Michigan Department SVC Robert Grove and Department Council Kris Kuhlman for establishing the financial groundwork for the project. Brendan Fewins, (representing Senator Stabenow), Wayne Schmidt (Grand Traverse County Commission Chairman), and Ms. Linda Smyka (Mayor of Traverse City) expressed congratulations for the successful completion of the project and the many volunteers who made it possible.

Marcene Karkadoulous presented copies of the President Lincoln panel to Restoration members Chuck Lerchen, Neal Breugh and Bill Skillman in recognition for all their work.

At the close of his comments Restoration Chair Breugh announced: "It is time for the Soldier to come home!" Northwinds Brass band struck up 'Marching Trough Georgia' as 4 Eagle Scouts pulled the plastic shroud away to reveal a brilliant blue-white statue. The crowd broke into a thunderous applause as spectators in the bleachers arose to get a better view.

The Honor Guard, attired in Civil War uniforms, comprised of Dan Wambaugh, Chad Fuller, Brian White, Gary Boling and Brothers Tyler Putnam, Jim Ribby and Don Gray. At the command 'Ready' they raised their rifle-muskets and delivered 3 crisp volleys. As the white smoke drifted away, trumpeters Don and Ben Sadtler played 'Taps' to the reflective audience. (See photo)

On behalf of PCC Neal Breugh and CC Bill Skillman, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to all the Brothers of the SUVCW who contributed their time, talent, money, and prayers to make the GT Soldier Restoration Project a resounding success!



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

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