



Michigan's

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard E. Danes, Editor

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best
Department Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, 2011*

Commander's Comments

By Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR

Brothers of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:

Our 2013 National Encampment was held in Brookfield, Wisconsin on August 9th and 10th. The Department of Michigan was well represented with the following Brothers in attendance: Don Shaw, Gary Granger, Bruce Butgereit, Tom Jenkins, Dave Smith, Bruce Gosling, Dean Lamphere, Jim Pahl, Keith Harrison, Dale Aurand and Paul Davis.

I would like to thank each of these Brothers for their attendance and support for the Department.

The business of the Encampment was for the most part unremarkable, there being no seriously controversial issues. The slate of National Officers was unopposed. Those elected for the 2013-2014 term include: Ken Freshley, Commander-In- Chief; Tad Campbell, Senior Vice Commander; Eugene Mortoff, Junior Vice Commander; and Alan Russ, Secretary. Walt Busch and Ed Norris were elected to the Council of Administration.

The Department of Michigan has submitted a letter of intent to the National Site Selection Committee indicating the Department's interest in hosting a National Encampment in 2017. During the National Encampment, the Department Committee had a brief meeting with the National Site Committee Brothers Bob Petrovic and James Houston to get the process started.

Also of note, Brother Chris Czopek, Curtenius Guard Camp 17, received a Distinguished Service Award for his work on Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters. Congratulations to Chris on his recognition.

As a result of Brother Richard Greene's untimely passing, a vacancy was created on the Council. The Council per the Department Bylaws has met and selected a Brother to fill that vacancy. Please welcome Brother Chuck Worley, PDC, to the Council and we extend our gratitude to Chuck for his service on the Council.

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The Department continues with its busy schedule attending numerous events to keep green the memory of our Civil War ancestors.

We attended the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg and participated in the rededication services of the Eternal Peace Light. The Michigan contingent also honored a number of our ancestors at their respective monuments including the 3rd Michigan Infantry, 5th Michigan Infantry, 24th Michigan Infantry and 5th Michigan Cavalry who all fought at Gettysburg.

At the Jackson Civil War Muster, the Department along with members of the Blair Camp and the Auxiliary of The Sons of Union Veterans were on hand for both Saturday and Sunday to meet with the public and conduct recruiting efforts for the Allied Orders.

At Jackson, we also had the exceptional opportunity to initiate three new Brothers into the Austin Blair Camp. The badges for the new Brothers were presented to them by real son, Harold Becker.

In the last quarter of the year, many of our Camps will be conducting election of officers for 2014 with installation to follow thereafter. Please advise at your earliest convenience as to the date and time of your proposed installation so that the Commander and/or staff can schedule and be available to perform the installation of your Camp officers at the time you prefer.

Senior Vice Commander

By Dale Aurand, PCC

I had the pleasure to attend a number of events involving both Camp 14 and the Department. In the month of June I was pleased to be involved with the grave rededication of my great-great-grandfather, Wm. Hill of Co. C 151st NY INF. The event was hosted by the Daughters of Union Veterans at Smith-Hill Cemetery in Otisville and assisted by members the Crapo and Grant Camps, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

In July I attended the 75th anniversary of the Peace Memorial rededication at Gettysburg with members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve. An overwhelming number of people attended the events that the National Park Service offered for the 150th anniversary of the battle.

The National Encampment was held in Brookfield, WI. It is always a pleasure to renew friendships from other Departments. Marietta, GA will be the site of the 2014 National Encampment.

Brothers of the Department attended the annual Jackson Muster in August. It was an opportunity to interact with potential new members.

I look forward to attending my first Central Regional Conference at Bardstown, KY in October.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

THE Labor Day Bridge to Bridge Fitness Walk

between Owosso and Corunna started off with a bang ... a BIG bang thanks to (from left) David Hilliker, Gary Granger and Max Newman who are all members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Henry F. Wallace Camp 160 based in Corunna. The cannon, a Civil War era replica is owned by Hilliker who constructed the carriage. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen Granger)



Patriotically Speaking

by Gary A. Granger, Department Officer

Patriotic Service One Veteran at a Time

Patriots love their country and true patriots also love, respect and remember the real patriots – the men and women who fought, died, and/or were wounded while serving their country.

Some of you may not know I am a disabled veteran. I served nearly two years in Vietnam in the late 1960s in a combat position escorting convoys and guarding the perimeter of a firebase. I served on an armored vehicle that had Twin-40 caliber machine guns mounted on a tracked vehicle. Because of the enormous amount of smoke made while firing the vehicles were referred to as "dusters." Although originally designed to repel aircraft, we never fired at any aircraft.

On one of the missions, the duster I was riding in drove over an explosive device. That experience and others while in combat and the generous spraying of "Agent Orange" to defoliate the perimeter of the fire base contributed to the reasons for my many visits to three Veterans Administration hospitals here in Michigan: Saginaw, Anne Arbor and Detroit.

But this article isn't about me ... I'm one of the lucky ones that is receiving excellent health care through the Veterans Administration. However, it is about the fact that I go the VA hospitals and see other veterans who are coping with devastating injuries and have had to stay at the hospitals. There are veterans who will never leave the hospitals. They are in permanent residence there.

What this is all leading up to is this question. When was the last time you or your camp did something for a veteran or veterans at a VA hospital?

Some of our camps make regular visits. Others send packets of cards, stationery, personal care products like shampoo, conditioner and deodorant on a regular basis. Other camps collect magazines, visit the veterans at VA hospitals or team up with their Auxiliaries to take lap robes and other needed items to veterans there. Other camps have also adopted a veteran at a VA hospital. But most of all donations of money are needed to purchase items like I've mentioned above that are not covered through their medical care.

I have learned that some camps take a collection at every meeting asking for members' pocket change. Then --once a quarter or twice each year -- a check is sent to the VA hospital nearest to them.

Yes, we are a patriotic organization and it is our duty whether we have served or not to remember those men and women – those real patriots -- who fought but no longer have the means to fight their way back to health and wholeness.

Did you know that the *Ironclad, Fort Sumter, Headquarters USA, and the Blue Goose* were Washington, D.C bordellos during the Civil War?

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Guide

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Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

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Keith Harrison, PCC, PDC,
PCinC

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Dean Lamphere

Aide de Camp

Brian Shumway, PCC

Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer

Your Department Graves Registration Committee will meet on September 14 at the State Archives. Our database now has 62,306 Civil War burials and 3,473 Other War records. We will discuss the current VA direction on ordering headstones.

We continue to discuss the ideas of 1) Creating a low-cost design (maybe home-made) for a "temporary marker" so that if we cannot find a descendent, we can manufacture and perhaps get a plastic attachment that states the man's name and regiment; and 2) at the suggestion of George Wilkinson, a 4th Michigan Infantry historian, we will partner with Alan Teelander, who has offered his Faded Footsteps site to list known burials of soldiers who do not have grave markers, and ask the public for a descendent to step forward aiding our task in marking the grave (we will also try and list these men on Find a Grave for the same purpose). If anyone has an idea about a "temporary grave marker" or resources for the same, let me know. A recent article by Katheryn Jorgensen in the May 2013 Civil War News states that "Steve L. Munro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs (VA) told the House Veterans Affairs on April 10 that current Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 38.632) – Headstone and Marker Application Process – appeared to be too restrictive. He said his agency is willing to do some rewrites and make it 'more user friendly'." These comments were prompted by New Jersey Congressman Jon Runyan and were prompted by the Department of Ohio SUVCW. More to come.

Check out the "Letter to the Editor" article in this issue – we are not the only ones frustrated in the process!

I would like to congratulate all Brothers who participated in either our headstone survey program, or in a dedication this summer. The number of dedications, even though we are stymied right now, is encouraging. If you know of a ceremony that will happen in the future, let me know, and I will include it in a Messenger.

Good luck, and stay safe!

Without a Scratch

William McKinley of Niles, Ohio, entered the Civil War as a private in the Twenty-Third Ohio Infantry. During four years of constant action, he became a brevet major.

McKinley saw action at Antietam, Cedar Creek, and many other battles, yet he considered his greatest danger to have come when he carried orders to the front under fire at Winchester, Virginia. Back in Ohio and relating his experiences, he usually smiled and said he spent four years in uniform without a day in a hospital bed from illness or wound.

After he became President of the United States, he went to Buffalo to speak at the Pan American Exposition. While in a receiving line in the Temple of Music he was approached by Leon F. Czolgosz, an unemployed mill worker. The 28 year old man fired two shots from a .32 revolver and ended the life of the veteran president who went through the Civil War without a scratch.

From "Civil War Curiosities" Webb Garrison, 1994.

Austin Blair Camp 7

Submitted by Bob Griggs, PCC



Photo: Members of the Camp & Auxiliary who attended the June 8th events with PCinC Keith Harrison.

As summer "officially" draws to a close, the men and women of Camp No. 7 can look back with pride in the work we did in **Keeping Green the Memory** of the men who fought to save the Union. On the 8th of June we assisted in two separate events to honor the memory of two of those men. We started in Dexter where members assisted the Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180 and members of the 4th Michigan in **re-enacting the burial of Colonel Harrison Jeffords** of the 4th Michigan Infantry who died from wounds suffered in The Wheatfield at Gettysburg. Taking our leave from that event, we headed to Lansing where we assisted the Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 in a **headstone dedication for Sergeant George Randall** of the 102nd Color Troops.

On the following weekend Camp members attended and took part in **The Battle of Turkeyville** held at, you guessed it, Turkeyville. Keeping our weekends full, on the 22nd and 23rd we set up camp at the Waterloo Farm Museum for their **Blacksmith, Soldiers & Log Cabin** weekend. At this event a plaque was presented to the Museum from our Camp, honoring Jacob Realy of the 20th Michigan who was wounded at the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend and carried the bullet for the rest of his life as it could not be safely removed.

Photo: Brothers presenting the plaque to Museum Board member John Ocwieja.

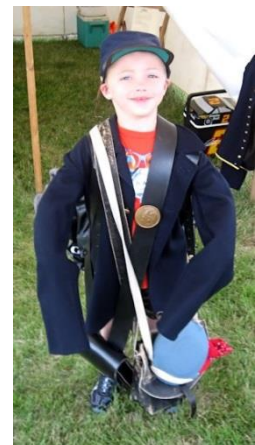


Moving into July we did not slow down a bit as on the 6th, Camp & Auxiliary members with the assistance of PDC Dave Arnold, (Camp No. 17) presented the Colors at the **Under the Oaks** event, held in Jackson to celebrate the 159th anniversary of the creation of the Republican Party.

Photo: Brothers with PDC Arnold at the Under the Oaks event.

At our regular meeting on the 8th, we had a guest speaker, **Jim Jackson**-Commander of Camp No. 22, who talked about the Irish Brigade. On the 11th & 12th we were once again set up at the **Learning Fair**, an event for school age children. During this event we talked to many visitors about the life of a Civil War Soldier, and had a sackcoat, kepi, and leathers for them to try on. Copies of the Gettysburg Address and Civil War enlistment papers were passed out as well.

Photo: One of our enlistees at the Learning Fair event



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The 20th found our members doing 2 different things 80 miles apart. In Scotts members assisted Camp No. 20, Friends of the Union Veterans, and the 13th Michigan Memorial Association in dedicating a plaque marking the location of the **Walter Orr Post No.312** of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the same time this event was going on, Chris Cox, and Mike Maillard of our Camp were in Stockbridge **cleaning and resetting the headstones** of two of Chris' ancestors-Edson M. Norton Co. E 14th Michigan Infantry, and Augustus C. Norton Co. B 6th Michigan Cavalry. A rededication of these stones is planned for next spring



Right: Brothers Cox and Maillard at one of the headstones they had cleaned.



Photos: Left; Brother Griggs assisted Camp No. 20 in their dedication

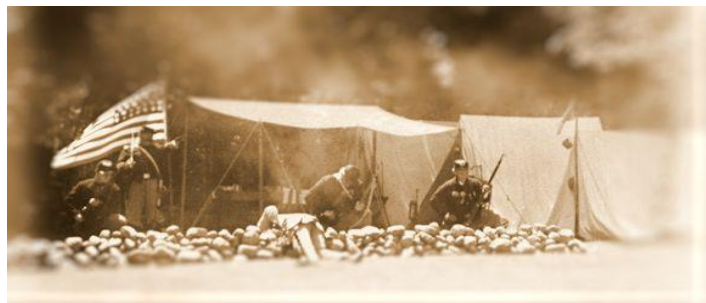


Brother Maillard and the headstones that were cleaned.

Not done yet in our work, on the 27th of the month, members of the Camp & Auxiliary set up camp at the **Paddock Hubbard house in Concord** for their annual Civil War Day event where we presented the Colors for the event. After that was done, a flag was presented to the house by members of Camp No. 7 displaying the names of all of our previous battles that we had held there. Then, assisted by members of the 7th and 18th Michigan, we treated visitors to a re-enactment of Pickett's Charge. Throughout the day we performed drills and spoke with many visitors about the life and times of Civil War soldiers



A new recruit, .



Defending the Stone Wall at Gettysburg,

On the following Monday, the 29th, members of the Camp went to **Mount Evergreen Cemetery** in Jackson and cleaned the headstones of 46 Civil War soldiers and many others from the Spanish American, WWI and WWII veterans. Wasting no time to start doing events in August, on the 3rd, members of the Austin Blair Camp took part in the **Ella Sharp Museum's "Speaking with Spirits Cemetery Walk – Jackson in the Civil War"** presenting themselves as people from

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Jackson during the Civil War as well as talking about the Soldiers Cemetery located within Mount Evergreen Cemetery.

Photo: Members at the Cemetery walk in Mt. Evergreen



For the third year, members of our Camp and Auxiliary once again worked with staff at Ella Sharp Museum in putting on their summer **Civil War Camp**. During this week the children learned about the life of a soldier through the music they played and sang, the importance of their flags, cooking over an open fire, as well as trying some "salt pork" and hardtack. They also learned about setting up a camp, marching, drills, loading and firing of a muzzle loading musket, and forming a battle line. After which we held a battle, there were wounded to care for and our soldiers had to learn how that would have been done in 1864. During our week with the children, they were allowed to vote for president. At this election President Lincoln was reelected with about 80% of the vote.

Photo: Camp members with our soldiers of the Civil War Camp at Ella Sharp Museum.



When cleaning the headstones at Mount Evergreen Cemetery, it was found that two of them were completely broken off. On the 19th of the month, members of Camp No. 7 returned to the cemetery to **repair those headstones**.

After cleaning the area around the stones, as well as the stones themselves, the epoxy was applied and the stone reset.

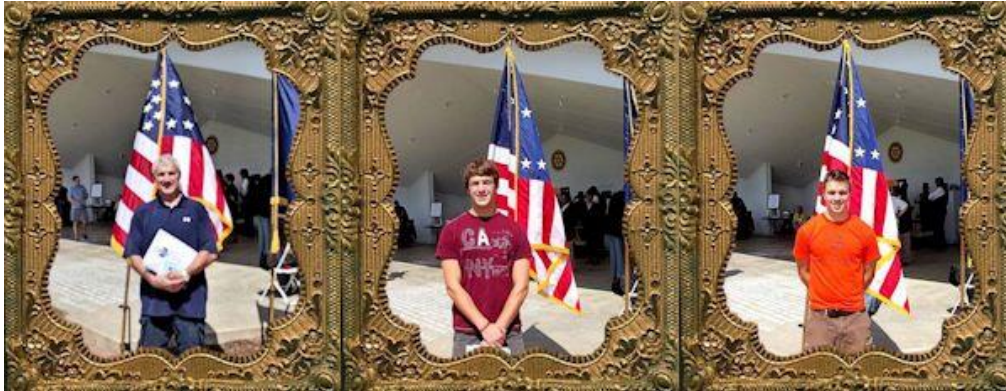


Photo: Repairing stones at Mt. Evergreen.

The last weekend in August this year, as in past years, found us at the **Jackson Civil War Muster**. This is one of the highlights of our year and many members of our Camp turned out to talk to the visitors and assist them in attempting to locate their ancestors gravesite or to help them find if they had ancestors who might have fought for the Union.

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New members Robert, Nicholas, and Michael Funkhouser

This year we were fortunate enough to **install three new members** into our Camp during the muster. The ceremony, conducted by Department Commander was attended by many members of our Camp, other Camps in attendance, as well as many visitors to the muster. We hope all of you will give a hardy HAZZAH and welcome to Robert, Nicholas, and Michael Funkhouser, whose ancestor was Private Nicholas Jacob Krebs (Crapps) of the 78th Ohio Infantry. This makes 4 members of the Funkhouser family members of our Camp.

Another Editor's Note:

In order that we maintain the high level of excellence that we have set for this publication, it is important for each of you to become owners of this effort.

To that end, some helpful hints are: make sure that your articles are submitted on time – that is before the 1st of the month that Michigan's Messenger is due for publication; in order that each Camp has equal opportunity to have their information published, please limit your submissions to two pages including photos; do not use exotic photo programs, .pdf or .jpg works just fine, and do not use "editor" programs, a simple word program is good.

We have been very fortunate to have such dedicated brothers that keep this effort fresh, and that effort is evident by the recognition that we have received by the National Organization. In advance, thank you for your continued help in making this a multiple-award winning publication,

Rick

Robert Finch Camp 14

July to September 2013

Submitted by W. E. Skillman ~ Signals ~

As of September 1, 2013; Camp 14's roster shows 41 Brothers present; 35 are Members and 6 are Associates. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 14th at the Elks Lodge at 525 Bay Street in Traverse City. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Wendell Hoover, noted bard and historian from Grayling Michigan. Mr. Hoover's presentation is entitled: "Johnny Reb"

Twenty Camp 14 Brothers served as honor guard during the remembrance ceremony of Treasurer Bill Watson, who passed away on June 1st. It was inspiring to meet so many people who Brother Bill helped during his time with us. He will be missed.

Camp 14, with assistance of the Farrier Surveying Inc, brought new technology to the Order's mission of locating Union veterans buried in Cadillac's Maple Hill cemetery. Using ground penetrating radar, Don Stocking discovered over 50 ground anomalies (indicating the ground had been disturbed for some depth) instead of the 16 to 20 veteran graves supposed to be in the GAR plot. Brian Elenbaas (cemetery foreman) was surprised, but the findings confirmed that remains from Cadillac's earlier cemeteries had been exhumed and reburied in the GAR plot in 1896. Accompanying Don were GRO Tom Jenkins, DSVC Dale Aurand and Brother Jerry Grieve (who coordinated the venture between Farrier Surveying and Cadillac officials).

Camp 14 received a fascinating email from Brother Larry Johnson "holding down the fort in Custer, South Dakota":
Hi Tom, Just a quick note to say Thank you for sharing the camp news with us outlanders! It is always enjoyable to stay up to date, and I appreciate your efforts.

While I miss my connection with the camp in person, I was able to stay connected to Civil War history in March when I volunteered to assist a battlefield archeological survey in Missouri. My research into family history showed my great-grandfather had fought in the Battle of Moore's Mill, Missouri in 1862 as a Union Cavalry private. I attended the 150th anniversary there last year when two interpretive panels were dedicated at the site. Being one of the only "blue-bellies" in attendance I found the Sons of Confederate Veterans were most friendly to me nonetheless (the Union won that fight, one of the first at the stage of the war in Missouri)!



Left to Right: Brother Jerry Grieve; Maple Hill cemetery foreman, Brian Elenbaas; Don Stocking, and DSVC Aurand.

I was invited back this March to help with the survey, so I took my metal detector and some vacation time, and headed south. It was fantastic to literally walk in my ancestor's footsteps, and an even bigger thrill when my metal detector pinged and the archeologist and I pulled a deformed .58 cal. mini ball from the Union line where my ancestor stood and fought over 150 yrs ago. It really drove home the sacrifice made by our Boys in Blue ancestors in a most tangible way. It was something I will always remember. Dr. Doug Scott (who was project manager for the archeological digs at Little Big Horn) headed up the 'detective work' with us. I never imagined that family history research into my Civil War ancestor could have led to this experience. Here's a link to a news article:

http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/moore-s-mill-work-reveals-war-relics/article_1d5b2d9c-943b-11e2-ae4f-10604b9f6eda.html

DSVC Aurand joined Brothers of Dept of MI and SVR to participate in the 150th ceremonies at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. On June 30th they attended the rededication of the Peace Monument. On July 3rd, former Camp 14 Brother and NPS volunteer, Tyler Putnam welcomed Bill Skillman (*honoring ancestors who fought there in the 5th MI Cavalry, 7^{6th} Ohio and 8th Virginia Infantry*) to the Copse of Trees during the close of the Pickett-Pettigrew-Tremble commemorative march. The NPS estimated over 12,000 visitors retraced the steps of Confederate soldiers marching from Seminary Ridge to be greeted by 5,000 visitors on Cemetery Hill.

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*Tyler Putnam, Craig Geppert, B. Skillman and
Garnett Brigade ensign, Dan Wambaugh*



D. Aurand at Peace Monument rededication

Camp 14's bard, Brother Ribby, performed at Camp Lookout for the Benzie Area Historical Society. Jim performance was enthusiastically received. GRO Jenkins has been writing articles for the Cadillac newspaper, Traverse City's Record Eagle and Grand Traverse Insider about the Sons and Camp 14's many projects. He was interviewed by TV 9-10 about the Maple Hill cemetery-ground radar project. Brothers Jim Jr. and Jeff Morse took their father Jim Morse Sr. to Washington, D.C. so he could visit the Korean War memorial and ceremonies there, and enjoyed touring Civil War battlefields on the return trip.

SVC Skip Bryant, Chaplain John Lantzer and Ted Mattis participated in the Port Oneida Fair (part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore summer programs). Skip wrote a special commemorative speech to accompany the ceremonies honoring the veterans buried at the Kelderhouse cemetery as well as reflecting on the sacrifices of Union soldiers during the battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Skip reports the NPS staff was very pleased with the presentation and visitors rated the Civil War-SUVCW program as one of the best they attended at the Fair.



Back row: SVC Bryant, Ben and Dean Farrier; Frt. row-center: Deb Downey

On the other side of Lake Michigan, DSVC Aurand, GRO Jenkins and Brother Dave Smith were attending the National Convention in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Among the new initiatives coming from the National is recognizing those Brothers who recruit new members: *A Brother who recruits at least three new Members or Associates during the 2013-2014 administrative year will be declared a National Aide in General Orders and be issued a ribbon with the National Organization's colors to be pinned behind his membership badge. A Brother who recruits five or more new Brothers or Associates in that time will, in addition, receive a Certificate of Merit.*

This summer Camp 14 Brothers have been spreading the word about our Order to communities from Pellston to Cadillac and we are confident, like the original veteran-farmers who settled the region, that our efforts will 'bear fruit' in the future.

Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Submitted by Gary Gibson, PDC

The Brothers of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 have been very busy these past several months. December 3, 2013 will mark the 30th Anniversary of Camp 20.

In early May, Brothers Robert Townsend, Gary Gibson and Bill Costello installed decorative concrete edging around the landscaping of the 15 ft x 15 ft base of the GAR Memorial in Riverside Cemetery. The materials were purchased by the sisters of the Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent No. 58, DUVCW, of Kalamazoo.

Brothers of the Camp attended three separate Memorial Day programs on the observed Monday holiday, and held traditional Memorial Day services at Riverside Cemetery on May 30.



New Orcutt Post Tree,
Bronson Park, Kalamazoo



10" Columbiad Monument,
Bronson Park, Kalamazoo

A new GAR Tree has been planted in Bronson Park, the original "village green" of Kalamazoo. In April of 1909, the Department of Michigan, GAR held its encampment in Kalamazoo. To commemorate the event, the members of Orcutt Post No. 79, GAR, planted a tree in the park. By 2012, the GAR Tree had succumbed to damage, disease and old age. The city removed the tree and the granite marker that sat in front of it for safe keeping. Early this summer, a new tree, a 8 ft tall Red Maple, was purchased by Camp 20 and the city arborist transported and planted the tree in the park. The granite marker is back in its place in front of the tree, and Camp 20 is planning a dedication later this summer. Also in Bronson Park, the 10" Columbiad Cannon, a monument erected by Orcutt Post No. 79, GAR, received a new paint job in May.

On July 20, 2013, Brothers of Camp 20, along with Brothers from Camps 7 of Jackson and Camp 22 of Marshall, assisted in the dedication of a new monument to the members of the Walter Orr Post No. 312 of Scotts, Michigan, in Kalamazoo County. The small village of 225 residents never had a monument for the local boys who fought to preserve the Union, and so an ad-hoc committee of five residents, assisted by members of the Camp, planned and executed the placement of a large boulder and had a bronze plaque placed in it. The monument sits on the site of "Union Hall", originally built in 1870, but later used as the meeting hall of Post 312. The building was torn down in 1972. A re-furbished flag pole with a US flag are a part of this new memorial.

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Brothers of the SUVCW with local committee members at monument

Several Brothers took part in the dedication, including Camp 20 Chaplain Bill Brennan, PDC, who gave the invocation, Gary L. Gibson, PDC, who spoke about the history of the GAR, Mike Culp, PCC, spoke about the namesake of the Post, Bob Griggs, CC of Camp 7 who acted as Honor Guard, Blaine Valentine from Camp 22 played "taps", and Louie Cuyler, PCC, Chaplain of Camp 22 gave the benediction. Brother Mike Culp, PCC of Camp 20, who is also the Executive Director of the 13th Michigan Memorial Association, worked with the committee to accomplish this project, with a large donation from the association. Walter Orr was a member of the 13th Michigan Infantry. Approximately 80 people attended the dedication.

In October of 2013, Camp 20 will host a public program at the Portage District Library. Mr. Matt VanAcker, who is in charge of the Michigan Civil War Battle Flag collection will present a program on the flags. This program will be the first of many, designed to educate the public and generate interest in the SUVCW.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

For Jerry Jacobs, Secretary

Camp 427 remained active and healthy during the summer month, starting the quarter with a fundraising garage sale, and attendance at the Dearborn Flag Day Ceremony.

July was an off-month for us, but in August, we sponsored our 18th Annual History Hill at the Dearborn Homecoming, organizing a military time line a frontier kitchen, and working craftsmen.

We also hosted our annual picnic, where attendance topped 35.

Thanks to the efforts of SVC Jon Reed, we complete nine years of monthly talks, and have a full complement of speakers lined up for our Camp meetings- October, Rebels in Vermont The St. Albans Raid – November, U. S. Grant's Detroit Home – December, our Christmas Program including a talk by one of our own about their CW ancestor – January, Installation of Officers - February, Making the Film Gettysburg – March, Corporal James B. Essig 104th OVI – and April, Pauline Cushman Civil War Spy.

We also have several service related opportunities lined up for the Dearborn Historical Museum and for Potter Cemetery.

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

U.S. Grant Camp 67

Submitted by Charles Buckhahn, CC

The Brothers of U.S. Grant Camp have had a very busy summer. We have performed a number of services in keeping green the memory of our ancestors.



Len McInerney and son Jonathan honor their ancestor at the 24th Michigan's monument.



Garnet's Division meets the Federals at the stone wall during the Pickett's Charge veteran's re-enactment.



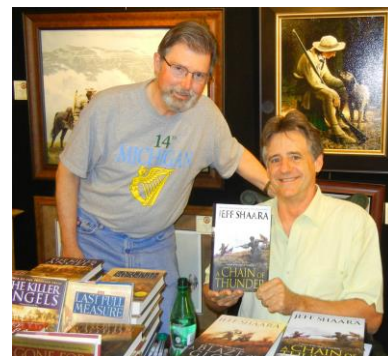
In July, members of U.S. Grant Camp 67 traveled to Gettysburg for the 150th where they participated in the rededication ceremony of the Eternal Peace Light.



Members of U.S. Grant Camp 67 and Crapo Camp 145 at the Holly Memorial Service.

The Brothers also visited the Gettysburg locations where their ancestors fought and performed service honoring the 3rd Michigan Infantry, 5th Michigan Infantry, 24th Michigan Infantry and the 5th Michigan Cavalry.

In August, Grant Camp was represented at the National Encampment in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Brother Jack Frost makes a purchase from Jeff Shaara

THE STORY OF CHARLES E. SHUMWAY - U.S.M.C.

Submitted by Chris Czopek, Camp 17

This Civil War era Marine was a charter member of the Marshall, Michigan G.A.R. Post 166. He was also a perpetual officer, sometimes serving as Post Commander. Anyone reading through the old records can't help but notice his name. He stands out as a dynamic man, a "mover and shaker" who got things done. Oddly though, what he did in the war was a complete mystery. "Pvt. U.S.M.C." is the only thing the GAR records said about his wartime service. He lies buried in Marshall's Oakridge Cemetery, and was quietly forgotten until... the local camp of the Sons Of Union Veterans began their Graves Registration Project.

Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22 rediscovered the grave of this past Post Commander, but found itself unable to answer basic questions on the registration form: Date of enlistment, place of enlistment, date of discharge, etc. There is only one place in the whole country to find out the service record of a Civil War Marine - The National Archives in Washington D.C. The Gettysburg 135th anniversary reenactment in 1998 brought Camp 22's best historian within 65 miles of National Archives. After the battle he drove there, trusting his hunch that a day spent researching Charles Shumway would be time well spent. He was not disappointed.

The story of Charles E. Shumway in the Civil War is an interesting tale. When the war began, he lived in on a farm in the state of New York. All around him, men were joining the Army. Large enlistment bounties were being offered. But Charles Shumway wasn't going to war for money. He wanted Adventure! So he traveled from Steuben County to the Marine Barracks in Brooklyn, NY, and enlisted in the Marine Corps on December 19, 1861. At the time he stood 6ft 1 and a quarter inches tall, an unusually big man for the Civil War era. Yet he had to bring his father along to sign his enlistment papers, because he was under age ! After basic training at the Brooklyn Barracks, he was transferred to the Navy Gunboat U.S.S. Clifton on Feb. 15, 1862. The Clifton sailed for the Gulf of Mexico and joined a fleet of ships gathered for the Invasion of Texas!

The ill-fated invasion depended on an amphibious landing. Then, as now, the Marines were chosen be the FIRST to hit the beaches and secure them while the army troops were rowed from ship to shore. There was a certain fort that should have been destroyed by naval bombardment, but wasn't. The fort fought back gallantly against tremendous odds. History calls it the battle of Sabine Pass. During the fight, the Clifton tried to sneak past the fort to land the Marines and secure a beach head. It was a bad idea. The gunners in the fort sunk the Clifton and several other boats. The invasion of Texas was over before it began.

Pvt. Shumway swam to shore and became a prisoner of the Confederates on Sept 8 or Sept 11, 1863 (different papers give different dates). They sent him to a Confederate POW Camp Ford at Tyler, Texas. Few readers of this story have heard of Camp Ford, the largest Confederate POW camp west of the Mississippi. That is because it was one of the better run prison camps in the war. There was lots of clean drinking water, sanitary facilities were adequate, and being near cattle country, there was a lot of beef available for rations. Consequently, the death rate was unusually low. All in all, Camp Ford was not a bad place to be a prisoner.

At this time, Union prisoners were still being paroled on a regular basis. If Charles Shumway had sat quietly and waited, he would have been released in a couple months. But Marines like Pvt. Shumway don't wait for someone to hand them a parole - they make their own parole. In other words, he escaped! The Confederate authorities sent word to the people around Tyler, Texas, to be on the lookout for a six foot tall Yankee with a New York accent. It wasn't long before he was returned to the stockade at Camp Ford. The commandant of the prison was amused that he would even try such a foolish stunt. Next time Shumway escaped, the Marine from New York was a lot harder to catch. And the commandant was not amused. This Marine from New York was causing more trouble and embarrassment than all the other prisoners in the camp put together. In a face to face session, he warned Shumway "One more time, and I will kill you". That threat might have worked on someone from another branch of the service. But Marines during the Civil War faced death threats from enemy soldiers with the same, steady gaze as they do today in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fearlessly, he tried one more time to "make his own parole". And he was caught again.

The commandant of Camp Ford was not a bad man. But when he made a threat, he meant it. Asked to prepare a list of soldiers ready to be exchanged, he deliberately left Charles E. Shumway off the list! That was his way of punishing the man.

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So for the next 21 months, the defiant Marine remained in prison, no doubt causing as much trouble as he could. When Lee surrendered at Appomattox and the war was over, Shumway was still alive, but just barely. The problem at Camp Ford was that prisoners had to sleep on the bare, hard ground with just the clothes they were captured in. No blankets. No tents. And when their clothes wore out, the rags were tied together with string or anything else they could find. In summertime this is bearable. Come winter, the lack of shelter and blankets became a deadly problem. The writer of this story was once in the army. He has personally done guard duty in Texas in wintertime and can tell you exactly how cold it is at night. This Marine must have been one, tough man to survive two winters. But pneumonia and bronchitis ruined his lungs. He went home a disabled veteran. The former prisoner of war was an invalid the rest of his life.

The big war had ended, but for Charles Shumway another war had just begun. The government didn't understand the illnesses that prisoners of war suffered and refused to recognize his disability. So began a long fight for a pension. He joined with other veterans in forming the GAR. They lobbied Congress to understand the needs of disabled veterans and pressed the government to stand by its promise to take care of the soldiers who defended the country. In the end, Charles Shumway did receive his pension. Afterwards, as Post Commander of the Marshall, Michigan, GAR, he did all he could to help other injured veterans receive their pensions. His death was not marked by long speeches about what he did in the war. At his funeral, men spoke instead of all the veterans he had helped out in their hour of need.

One final note. The grave of Charles E. Shumway can be found at Oakridge Cemetery, Marshall, Michigan. It is marked with a family gravestone, but there is no indication that he is a Civil War veteran. Perhaps now, during the Sesquicentennial, a GAR flag holder can be purchased for this former Post Commander. Better yet, there is a special GAR marker for Marine Corps veterans. It costs a few dollars more, but there may be enough members of the Sons of Union Veterans willing to share the cost. The writer of this story will pitch in five dollars. Pvt. Shumway, U.S.M.C., deserves to be recognized and remembered.

Did You Know that judged by population, the largest cities in the Union and Confederacy at the time of the Civil War were – in the north New York City, Philadelphia, and Brooklyn. For the south New Orleans, Charleston, and Richmond.

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submission Dates and Publication Dates**

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication
Summer – June 1 for a June 15 Publication
Fall – September 1 for a September 15 Publication
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Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

**Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Guard Camp #17
Sunfield, Michigan
1983 - 2013**

Thirty Year Commemorative History

By PCinC Keith G. Harrison and the late PDC James T. Lyons

Early in 1983, Keith Harrison and four others met in the basement of his then Okemos home to form a Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). From this humble beginning, Curtenius Guard Camp #17 has developed into one of the most influential Camps, at both the Department and National levels, in the recent history of the Order. A Provisional Charter was granted in May of 1983. Listed on that Charter were Robert E. Evans, Thomas I. Hansen, Keith G. Harrison, Michael Mitchell, and the Rev. William C. Newmarch.

The Camp was named after the Curtenius Guard Militia Company of Mason, Michigan, mustered as Company B of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry at the beginning of the Civil War. The Camp number was originally designated as Camp 7 but was subsequently and very arbitrarily changed to 17 after it was found that another Camp in Michigan already had that number.

Shortly after the Camp's formation, hearing of the existence of a Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall in Sunfield, Michigan, Keith Harrison visited the Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Post #283. Upon entering the Hall with all the memorabilia present, he noticed that one of the Allied Orders of the GAR charters on the wall was that of the Samuel W. Grinnell Camp #17, Sons of Veterans. The Camp existed and met at this Hall from 1918 to 1935. It was at that point, Brother Harrison knew that Camp #17, SUVCW had found its home. Within two months after that visit, a new Camp #17 (Curtenius Guard Camp #17) was again holding its meetings in the Hall. The Hall, in continuous use by the GAR and its Allied Orders since completion in 1899, became a focal point for Camp efforts. Extensive renovation and preservation work



has been done to the structure over the 30 years. A state Historical Marker was dedicated on Memorial Day (May 30th) in 1987. The Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1992.

Recruiting efforts brought in enough members to secure a "full" Charter by April of 1985. Those appearing on the August 15, 1985 Charter were Albert E. Baerren, John J. Collins, Gary J. Durken, Richard J. Estep, Robert E. Evans, Don W. Everett, Thomas I. Hansen, Kenneth W. Harris, Keith G. Harrison, Arthur T. Kelsey, John W. Knecht III, James Leighty, James T. Lyons, Bob McBrien, Michael D. Mitchell, Richard L. Moore, Mike Neuman, Father William C. Newmarch, Russel Nye, and J. Douglas Park.

The strength of the Department at that time was 55 members and with the addition of Camp #17, the membership total increased correspondingly and there were now six Camps. Unfortunately, three of the Camps were inactive and had not met for some time. The Curtenius Guard Camp #17 had an immediate impact on the situation and through vigorous recruiting activity, the Camp grew rapidly. It quickly became a Department "holding" Camp and as enough members from a certain area were added, efforts to organize a new Camp in that area started. A Department "flying" squad, in various combinations, comprised of Keith Harrison, Jim Lyons, Doug Park, Richard Williams, and Gary Gibson (of Camp #20) conducted organizing meetings far and wide. The result was seven new Camps and the reactivation of one of the dormant Camps with a base of members being transferred to the new units. The organization of two other new Camps and one other reactivation resulted when people in those communities expressed interest in the Order. The Department Membership-at-large Camp also was instituted.

After having served as Senior Vice Department Commander for two years, Keith Harrison was elected Department Commander in 1985 and served in that capacity for three years. James T. Lyons succeeded him in this position in 1988 and 1989. Other Camp members who served in this key office included James B. Pahl, 1992, J. Douglas Park 1993, and

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Paul D. Hodges in 1997, and Paul David Arnold in 2012.. Brother Hodges' grandfather, Herrick Hodges was the first Commander of the Department of Michigan. The office of Department Secretary (and Treasurer for a good part of the time) has been held by a member of this Camp since Brother J. Douglas Park was elected to that position in 1985. He served until Richard Williams was elected in 1991. Richard Lee, who held a dual membership (in Camp #17, and Camp #120), was elected to the office in 1995. Brother Williams returned to the post of Treasurer in 2002. Bryan Shumway served in the post from 2005 – 2009.

During the Michigan Sesquicentennial (1986-87), Brothers Harrison and Lyons represented the Order on the Military Affairs Sub-Committee of the Historic Observances Committee. It was during this service that Brother Lyons reactivated the Graves Registration Program in the Department. This program was adopted as an Official Michigan Sesquicentennial Project.

During this time period, the Department of Michigan has hosted three National Encampments. Brother Lyons served as General Chairman of the Host Committee for 1988 and 1994. Doug Park stepped in for the final two months prior to the 1994 Encampment and handled the day-to-day operations. Brother Richard Williams served as General Chairman for the 2000 National Encampment. All three Encampments were held in Lansing.

Recognition has come to a number of members over the years. The Department of Michigan Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to Michael Mitchell (1987), Keith Harrison and James T. Lyons (1989), Paul D. Hodges (1992), J. Douglas Park and Richard Williams (1995) and James B. Pahl (1999). Former members of the Camp so recognized include Smead Edwards and William Peebles (1987) and Jerry D. Roe (1992).

Service to the National Organization involved many of the same individuals. Brother Lyons was elected and served as National Secretary from 1989-1994. He also served as Chairman of the National Encampment Site Selection Committee for five years. During that time, so many Brothers from Michigan were called to serve that Past Commander-in-Chief (PCinC) Richard Schlenker dubbed the group "the Michigan Mafia". Keith Harrison was elected Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief in 1992 and served as Commander-in-Chief for the term 1994/1995. He was only the fourth Michiganian in the then 113-year history of the Order and the first in 46 years to serve in the Order's highest office. He had served in a variety of positions including National Patriotic Instructor, History Book Coordinator, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, National Signals Officer, and Webmaster for the National Organization and Liaison to the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. While National Webmaster, he greatly expanded the offering on the National web site, adding many innovative features and updates. After stepping down as National Webmaster, he continued to serve as Backup Webmaster for the SUVCW and National Webmaster for the SUVCW's Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) from 1997 - 2013.

Within the SVR, Brother James Pahl currently serves on the national staff as a Lt Colonel in his role as Judge Advocate General. Brother Harrison served as a Brevet Brigadier General in his role as the National Commanding Officer of the SVR from 1996 -1997 and then retired to the rank of Major in the Cadre.

J. Douglas Park served as an elected Member of the National Council of Administration, 1995 - 1998. He had formerly served as National Membership-at-Large Coordinator and computerized those records. He has served a variety of committee assignments including the National Program and Policy Committee. Brother Richard Williams was asked to serve as National Membership List Coordinator in 1992 and served in that position until 2001. He almost single-handedly "computerized" the operation of the National Organization. He helped establish many programs to handle a variety of functions. He became the primary resource and training person in this area of activity. Brother James T. Lyons was appointed the first Executive Director of the National Organization at the 2000 National Encampment. Brother James B. Pahl was elected National Treasurer in 1997 and served until 2001. He has served as the National Counselor, as Chairman of the National Legal Staff and Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Regulations for several years. He was subsequently elected as Junior Vice Commandery-in-Chief (2004/05), Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief (2005/06) and Commander-in-Chief (2006/07). He was the second member of the Camp and sixth person from Michigan to attain the rank of Commander-in-Chief. In his role as National Counselor and later assistant National Counselor, he annotated the National Constitution and Regulations.

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Recognition has followed these activities. At the National Encampment of 1994, Brother Park was the first recipient of the Cornelius Whitehouse Award as the Outstanding Brother of the Year. Brother Richard Williams was recognized with the same Award in 2000. Keith Harrison and James B. Pahl were recognized jointly in 2001. The National Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star was presented to James T. Lyons at the 1997 National Encampment. Brothers Williams and Harrison were also later recipients of this award. Brother Chris Czopek was awarded the National Meritorious Service Award in 2013.

The Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Department of Michigan, was recognized as the Outstanding Camp of the Year at the 2000 National Encampment.

The Camp has been involved in so many projects it is hard to list them all. A couple of note however, was the restoration of GAR Soldiers' Monument Lot at the Lansing, Michigan Mount Hope Cemetery in 2007 and the institution of free Civil War Seminars to help educate the public regarding the Civil War and to also commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial which began in 2011. In terms of the GAR Soldiers' Lot, veterans tombstones were cleaned and realigned (involving taking the head stone completely out of the ground and then resetting them), a 20-foot monument cleaned, a 100-foot plus flagpole painted (with the assistance of the Lansing Board of Water and Light) and the grass re-seeded. A major ceremony was held on October 14, 2007 rededicating the lot with over 100 people and Lansing and state dignitaries attending. The Camp was presented with a Lansing Mayoral proclamation and a Michigan Legislative tribute at the October 14th Mount Hope Cemetery ceremony. The project was spearheaded by Brother Paul David Arnold, Brother Keith Harrison, and Lansing Historian Jesse Lasorda. Brothers Harrison and Arnold and Mr. Lasorda published a 38-page booklet describing the project and listing all the veterans buried and a brief history of their service and life following the war. The booklet was entitled *Rededication Program: Grand Army of the Republic Soldiers' Monument Lot, Mount Hope Cemetery, Lansing, Michigan*. Brother Arnold subsequently published an article on the project and ceremony, which was in the July/August 2008 issue of *Michigan History Magazine* and entitled *Lansing Remembers the Boys in Blue*.

The other program, Civil War History Seminars, was inaugurated in 2008. The seminars were the brainchild Brother Paul David Arnold. It is through his efforts that the Camp has been able to hold to date 20 such seminars:

2008

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln - Rick Brown

Civil War Battle Flags - Matt VanAcker

Michigan Engineers & Mechanics - Mark Hoffman

2009

Come on, you Wolverines: Michigan in the Civil War - Dr. Roger L. Rosentreter

Story of Company K: Michigan's Native American Sharpshooters in the Civil War - Chris Czopek

Elijah E. Myers: America's Greatest Capitol Architect - Valerie Marvin

Orlando Bolivar Willcox: A Michigan Warrior - Dr. Roger L. Rosentreter

2010

Michigan Soldiers at Andersonville Prison - Chris Czopek

Stonewall Jackson's Final Days - Mr. David Finney

2011

Austin Blair, Michigan's Civil War Governor - Kerry Chartkoff

Michigan Engineers & Mechanics - Mark Hoffman

Oh Hast Thou Forgotten - Richard L. Hamilton

The Underground Railroad: A Precipitant of the Civil War - Larry Griffin

2012

In the Words of the Soldiers: The Story of Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse - Bruce, Bernadette, and Marcia Butgereit

Citizens and Soldiers - Mark Hoffman

The Civil War Monuments of Washington D.C - Thomas Nanzig

Women in the Civil War - Dr. William Anderson

2013

Little Known Facts about the Lincolns and the Civil War - Rick Brown

Beyond Hardtack and Coffee: Foodways of the Union Army - Eric Perkins

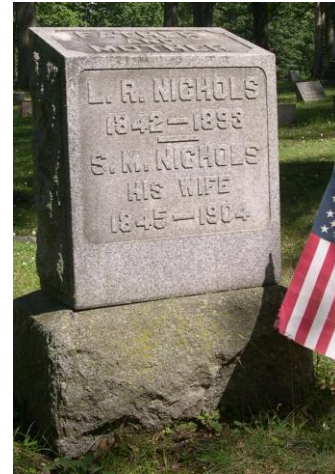
Come On, You Wolverines: Michigan at Gettysburg - Dr. Roger L. Rosentreter

Destination: Owosso

Submitted by Chris Czopek – SUV Camp 17

On the 4th of July I made a long journey. Along the way, a university radio station played Patriotic music, breaking format on the hour for news reports on the aftermath of Gettysburg. This was the week of the largest Civil War reenactment of all time. On the 4th the event was over, and reporters were busy recording the voices of re-enactors packing to go home. They spoke about why they put on a uniform and marched the hallowed ground of Gettysburg on the 150th anniversary of the battle. One man said, "I came here to honor those men". When he finished talking and the radio returned to Patriotic music, I thought about the reason for my trip. It was the same as that Gettysburg re-enactor, to honor the men who fought and died in the Civil War. He does it with a uniform and musket. I use a bucket and a scrub brush.

My destination was a town called Owosso. There was a Civil War sharpshooter buried in the vicinity, and I intended to find him. When the original battle of Gettysburg was going on, this man was a sergeant in a training camp, watching a group of new recruits – Native Americans from the tribes of Michigan – learning how to march in order. Later in the war, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to command those same men in battle. What happened to him after the war is a mystery I was trying to solve. My big breakthrough came when I found a report in State Archives saying he was buried by his Civil War comrades in 1893 in Owosso's Oak Hill cemetery. Just one problem, the report did not say where in the cemetery they laid him to rest.



During my 15 years of registering graves for the SUV, I've learned how to find a grave in a cemetery. And I can do it in three easy steps: Step One, find a nice parking place. Step Two, light up a good cigar. Step Three: Start walking up and down the rows of gravestones. Don't skip a single row, and be sure to look at every single one. Do this, and if there is a gravestone to be found, you will find it.

That was what I did on the 4th of July in Owosso's Oak Hill cemetery. I parked beside a Pavilion near the ornamental pond, lit up an Excalibur, and before my cigar was half finished, I found the soldier I was looking for: Lemmuel Robert Nichols, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K. As is my custom, I put down my clipboard, pencil and cigar, stood squarely before his grave, came to attention, and gave a military salute. This is my way of acknowledging the man beneath the stone. Then I went to work cleaning the stone. A bucket of water, a stiff scrub brush, and a portable cassette recorder playing John Philip Sousa marches was all it took to make the gravestone clean enough to "pass inspection". That's my way of honoring men who fought in the Civil War. Afterwards some pictures were taken and the location was noted on paper. While doing this, the sun had started to shine. The day was getting warm. I retreated to the Pavilion to finish up.

When I was in the army, I had a sergeant who was fond of saying "the mission isn't over till the paper work is done". He was so right. Pulled a lawn chair out of my car and sat in the shade of the pavilion, filling out a form for Department of Michigan Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes. Before me was the sight of a perfect summer day: Blue sky, tall trees with branches waving in a breeze, ducks swimming on a pond, perfect mown grass. When the form was filled out, I lit my cigar, leaned back in my chair, and enjoyed the feeling of "Mission Accomplished".

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimesrd@aol.com.

Another Country Heard From

Submitted by Rick Danes, CC

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the article "Fed \$ Can't Be Used For CS Headstone Markers [September 2012].

The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries, Inc. is based in Melbourne, Australia.

We are interested in this matter as we applied to the Veterans' Affairs for bronze markers for veterans of the U. S. Civil War, including an African-American, one of just approximately five buried in Australia.

Our applications came to a grinding halt when we were told we require approval from a *lineal* descendent. We fully understand the reason and have no objections to this request.

Little did we expect Veterans' Affairs would reject the application after providing them with evidence that none of the veterans had any lineal descendent. One veteran outlived his wife and only child; another outlived his wife and had two (unnamed) daughters in Germany; while the African-American was a bachelor who never married and had no family in Australia.

None of this made the slightest difference to Veterans' Affairs. The response was: "the purpose of defining in regulation who may apply for a headstone or marker was to ensure that family members were not left out of the decision-making process. In the past there have been instances of well-meaning individuals and organizations taking action to mark graves or replace headstones without the knowledge of family members.

"The death, burial, headstone, inscription, and gravesite of a loved one is a very personal matter, and although we recognize that many family members do not want external involvement with decisions regarding VA benefits".

If proof can be provided that there are no living lineal descendent, it would be fair to argue that the issues raised above are not applicable.

Terry Foenander, a very dedicated and brilliant researcher, has been uncovering well over 100 veterans of the Civil War in Australia and New Zealand, all documented and confirmed yet groups like ours cannot assist Mr. Foenander by commemorating the veterans who have long been forgotten.

As you know, The Veterans' Affairs will only supply markers where there is no mention of the said veteran on the grave.

In publishing this letter, we in Australia are keenly interested in having this decision modified to allow applications whereby proof is provided that there are no living lineal descendent. I know of many others who feel strongly about this issue and we will only continue to see a groundswell of support.

Travis M. Sellers
president@focrc.org

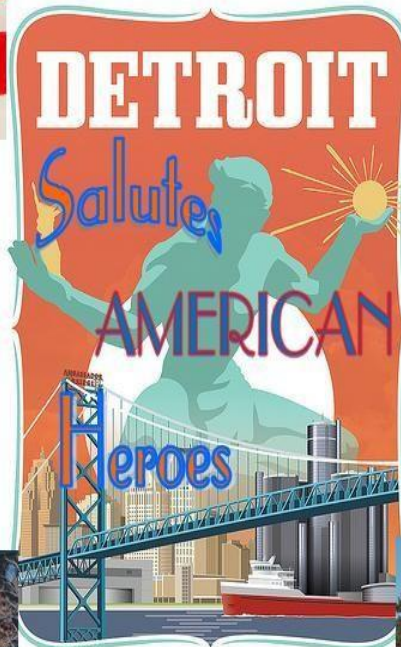
From Civil War News, Feb/Mar 2013, p. 3.



8th Annual Veterans Day Parade



Saturday Nov. 9, 2013
Program: 9:00 AM
Parade: 10:00 AM



2951 Woodward Ave
Detroit
Michigan



Camp 427 has offered to coordinate efforts for those who wish to participate in the Detroit Veteran's Day Parade as described in the announcement above.

We will not arrange for accommodations, but we can recommend those if you wish.

If you wish to attend the Program, it starts at 9:00 AM, If you wish to march only, please be ready to assemble at 9:30AM. Parking is on-site at 2951 Woodward (at the VFW Parking Lot). Please join us to honor our veterans on Saturday, November 9.

For more information, or to confirm yours and your Camp's attendance, call Rick Danes, CC at 313-363-3560 or e-mail at mimessrd@aol.com.