



Michigan's

Messenger

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

Volume XXXII, Number 3

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Fall 2014

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

We have been very busy making Camp visits to the 23 Camps within the Department of Michigan. I am extremely pleased and very proud of the many activities our Camps have engaged in to keep green the memory of our Civil War ancestors as well as their participation in honoring all veterans who have served our country. You are all to be commended.

Our Graves Registration and Civil War Memorials Officers have continued to do excellent work in locating and recording grave sites. Grave sites and markers have been refurbished, and new markers installed where none previously existed. Our Memorials Officer has received new and important information about our Michigan monuments. Many existing memorials have been cleaned and refurbished.

The time for Installation of Camp Officers is upon us. Four Camps have not yet contacted the Commander or the Department Secretary to schedule an appointment for their installations.

Five Camps have already been installed. Five more will be installed in December. The balance, except the four who have not yet made an appointment, will be installed in January. January is a very busy month and very few days remain available in the January schedule for installations.

The Camps that are currently not scheduled are encouraged to schedule an appointment for the installation of their Camp Officers very soon.

The Department of Michigan will be hosting the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders Conference on October 2nd and 3rd, 2015. It will be held in Dundee, Michigan at the Holiday Inn Universal. Watch for more details to come.

The Department has also completed its proposal for hosting the 2017 National Encampment. The National Host Committee has received the proposal and was very complimentary concerning the completeness and professional look of the proposal consisting of more than 200 pages. The deadline for submitting all national hosting proposals is December 15, 2014. At this point we are not aware that any other Department has submitted a proposal.

Our 2015 Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Grand Rapids Christian College. Commander-In-Chief Tad Campbell has already accepted our invitation to perform our installation of Department officers.

As many of you are aware, we have had a very difficult time in finding a replacement for our Department webmaster. At this time I am pleased to report that two Brothers have come forward and volunteered to accept the responsibility for making corrections and posting new information on our current website.

Patrick Wallace from the Governor Crapo Camp and Dennis Fyke from Sergeant John Cosbey Camp have both volunteered to help out and will work as a team to maintain our Department website.

Send requests for corrections or adding new data to:

Patrick Wallace at: pdwallace@comcast.net or
Dennis Fyke at: defyke@comcast.net

I am also pleased to report that we have been approached by an individual who will be providing the Department with a proposal to take on the webmaster job on a full-time basis. Once he is initiated in early 2015, he will be able to take on the responsibility.

I wish all of the Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty




Department Orders #2 **Series 2014 – 2015**
Headquarters, Flint, MI
September 3, 2014

1. Whereas the Brothers of The Department of Michigan assembled at the 130th Department Encampment did duly approve a motion to transfer the G.A.R. and Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans historical records and artifacts to a more suitable facility, namely the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc., G.A.R. James B. Brainerd Post 111, located at 224 South Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827, and such transfer be a Temporary Property Loan Agreement, and the Brothers having voted in the affirmative, the Department Commander appointed a five member committee to address the transfer details and present a suitable Contract within 90 days.
2. The Committee chaired by Brother Don Shaw, PDC, completed their work and the Department extends thanks to them for their work and serving the good of the Order. Having now forwarded the Contractual Agreement to the Department Council for their review and approval, this committee is hereby discharged.
3. The Department Council has reviewed the Contractual Agreement and requested a few minor changes be made, to which all parties have agreed. The Department Council has voted to move forward and recommended acceptance of the Contractual Agreement.
4. As the Department Commander I approve and have signed the Contractual Agreement (The Temporary Loan Agreement). An orderly transition of the historical records and artifacts is now taking place. Cataloging and creating digital files both for archiving as well as for research purposes will be ongoing and will be performed by the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc.
5. To clarify an important point in the Temporary Loan Agreement, the ownership of these records and artifacts still remains with the Department of Michigan and upon a 30 day notice to the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc., these records and artifacts may be removed and returned to the Department of Michigan.
6. A complete copy of the Temporary Loan Agreement and an inventory of items, consisting of 40 pages, is available at the office of the Department Secretary if anyone is interesting in examining the document.

/s/
 Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR
 Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/
 George Boller
 Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Senior Vice Commander

Dale Aurand, PCC



As we close the year, let us reflect on the events of our individual camps. Whether it be to say good-bye to a brother or to install a new member. To re-dedicate a headstone, or cannon or to attend a community memorial event. Each of us in our own way has contributed to "Keeping Green the Memory".

We are looking forward to upcoming events in 2015. Hope to see you at the Department Encampment March 27th and 28th in Lansing. Events are planned around the 150th Commemoration of Lincoln's funeral and burial in Springfield, IL.

My wife, Lorraine, and I wish you all a pleasant holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Obituary

Keith Hodges 1954 - 2014

Keith has been a member of Nash-Hodges since March 9, 2008 serving as Chaplain and on the Camp Council most of that time. His father Harold Hodges was a charter member until his death, and his grandfather was Addison Hodges, from the 47th OH Infantry and a Medal of Honor recipient SUVCW Nash-Hodges Camp 43 was named after Addison.

Posted Nov. 1, 2014 @ 8:30 am ONSTED, MI

Keith Hodges, age 60, of Onsted passed away Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, at the University of Michigan Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on May 3, 1954, in Adrian, Keith was the son of Harold H. and Esther (Wiebeck) Hodges. On Dec. 9, 2006, he married Joy L. McFarland at Zion United Brethren Church, Blissfield.

After graduating from Blissfield High School in 1972, Keith then went to Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1976. He worked as a security guard for Signal 88 Security.

As a senior in high school, he won a national vocal talent contest in California. He traveled the United States and Europe with the Continental Singers and was also a member of the Gospel Lanterns, recording several albums. He also released two solo albums, which included original songs.

Keith was a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Nash Hodges Camp #43 and a member of Zion United Brethren Church, Blissfield, where he served on the praise and worship team, head of the church board and a Sunday school teacher. He loved to read and watch western movies, especially John Wayne movies.

In addition to his wife, Joy, Keith is survived by his son, Michael; siblings, Howard (AeRahn) of Anaheim, Calif., Denise (Kevin) DeCatur of Blissfield, Deanna (Brian) Cross of Blissfield; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services for Keith will be 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, with the Rev. Aden Porter officiating. Burial will follow at Ogden Township Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Zion United Brethren Church or Maple Avenue Bible Church. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

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#2**

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Much More!

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.

Central Region Association Marks 75th Year



FOR the first time in its 75-year history three Past National Commanders in Chief have been elected to serve as 2015 officers of the Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders Central Region Association (CRA). Gathered here are the newly elected 2015 CRA officers, from left: Ken Freshley of Ohio who is serving as CRA Junior Vice-Commander, Jim Pahl of Michigan who is serving as CRA Commander and Don Palmer of Missouri who is serving as Senior Vice-Commander. Far right is outgoing 2014 CRA Commander Martin Aubuchon of Missouri. The 2015 CRA Meeting will be held in October in Dundee, Michigan. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)



TOURING the Spirit of '76 Museum were approximately 20 attendees of the GAR Allied Orders Central Region Association Conference that met October 3-4 in Oberlin, Ohio. The museum is going through a renovation of all four floors of displays and exhibits that feature early Native American, Civil War Era, World War I and World War II memorabilia as well as other exhibits of interest. One section of the museum is dedicated to Archibald Willard who painted the famous "Spirit of '76" painting showing a drummer, fife player and drummer participating in a neighborhood Fourth of July parade. Many of Willard's painting and prints of his work were on display included a much smaller copy of the painting that is considered one of the most famous paintings by an American artist. The 2015 CRA Meeting will be held in October in Dundee, Michigan. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)



A print of the "Spirit of '76" painting hangs in the museum of the same name in Wellington, Ohio where the idea and the original painting was first conceived and where the artist Archibald Willard first began creating the painting before it was moved to Cleveland for completion and display. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)

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PAST CRA Commander Cindy Norton of Ohio (on left) presented a commemorative challenge coin to Keith Kauffman (center) who presented a program on "Promoting Your Organization." Far right is Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Vice-President Linda Kronberg of Michigan. Kronberg is currently serving as the 2014-2015 Michigan Allied Orders Encampment and Conventions Committee President. The 2015 CRA Meeting will be held in October in Dundee, Michigan. One aspect of the annual CRA is to provide training to up and coming officers of the Allied Orders. Later, after the evening meal, the CRA participants gathered to hear Randy Koch (pronounced "cook") give a presentation on his book "Eyes Towards the South" which focuses on the failed plot to free 2,500 prisoners from Johnson Island, Ohio. Confederate conspirators John Yates Beall, and others were highlighted in Kauffman's talk. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)



2015 CRA officers gathered here, from left: Junior Vice-Commander Ken Freshley of Ohio, Senior Vice-Commander Don Palmer of Missouri, 2015 Secretary/Treasurer Judy Rock of Michigan, 2014 CRA Commander Martin Aubuchon of Missouri, 2015 CRA Commander Jim Pahl of Michigan, Guide Dale Aurand of Michigan, Color Bearer Gary Granger of Michigan and Historian Alan Teller of Indiana. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)



CRA attendees gathered at the Spirit of '76 Museum in Wellington, Ohio to tour the four-floor facility. Standing -- far right -- wearing the same GAR uniform his grandfather Albert Jones wore, is Tim Simonson. He acted as a tour guide and spoke with the group about Archibald Willard, the artist who painted the famous "Spirit of '76" painting. Simonson also talked about the people who were used as models for the painting and other interesting facts about it. (ASUV PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)

Camp 14 SUVCW and Tent 9 ASUVCW Enjoys Their 3rd Annual Banquet



BANQUET -- Members and spouses and guests of the SUVCW Robert Finch Camp and the ASUVCW Frances Finch #9 gathered Oct. 10 at St. Francis Church Family Center in Traverse City for the third annual ASUVCW and SUVCW Banquet. The evening included a repeating slide program of the Camp and Auxiliary activities as well as a prize drawing. Coordinating the event were (not identified in order) were: ASUVCW National Vice-President Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh; SUVCW Department of Michigan officers Commander Paul Davis of Saginaw, Senior Vice-Commander Dale Aurand of Traverse City, Patriotic Instructor Gary Granger of Corunna; ASUVCW Department of Michigan officers Department Secretary and Newsletter Editor/Publicity Helen Granger of Corunna, Council #3 Jan Davis of Saginaw, Patriotic Instructor Lisa Smith of Holland/Traverse City. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen A. Granger)



BROTHERS/SISTERS-- Members of the SUVCW and ASUVCW who attended the Oct. 10, 2014 annual ASUVCW and SUVCW Banquet held in Traverse City are shown above. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen A. Granger)

**2014-2015
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Kevin Lindsey, PCC
Bob Griggs

Chaplain

Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn

Patriotic Instructor

Gary Granger, PCC

Color Bearer

Edgar Dowd

Counselor

James Pahl, PCC, PDC, PCinC

Guard

Robert Payne

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Jerry A. Olson, PCC

Signals Officer

Dennis Fyke
Patrick Wallace

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes, CC

Historian

Matt Adair

Guide

Dave Smith

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Bruce Butgereit, PCC, PDC

Chief of Staff

Keith Harrison, PCC, PDC,
PCinC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Dennis Zank

Aide de Camp

Brian Shumway, PCC

2014 Detroit Veteran's Day Parade

Submitted by Blaine Valentine, Secretary-Treasurer Camp 22



Representing the Department of Michigan

Encampment Ad Space Available

Help support our Michigan Department Encampment by purchasing ads in the Encampment booklet. Typical ads can extend greetings from your Camp or commemorate your Civil War ancestor. 1/4 page is \$10.00, 1/2 page is \$15.0 and full page is \$20.00. Send your ad and check to Judy Rock, LGAR, 36829 Main St., New Baltimore, MI 48047. Make checks payable to LGA.

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal 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

Winter - December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**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

Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

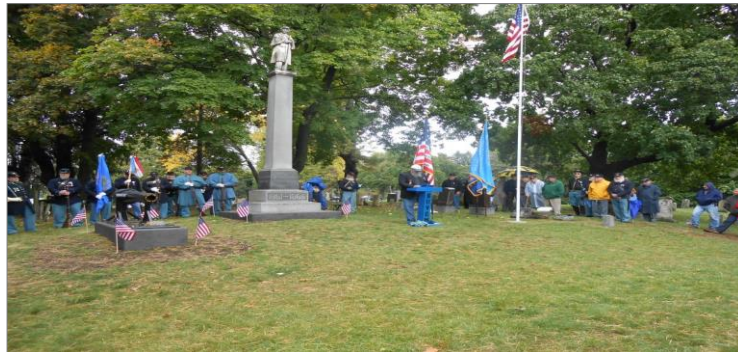
Submitted by John R. Keith CC



On a cold, windy and rainy Saturday in early October with over 100 guests in attendance, Camp 20 led, by Commander John R. Keith held a re-dedication for the refurbished 20# Parrot Rifle and G.A.R. monument in Mountain Home Cemetery in Otsego Township, Allegan County, Michigan. The event was supported by a large contingent of Camp 20 brothers, sisters from the Cornelia Stockbridge Shelton Tent 58, Otsego Boy Scouts and members of the community.

The dedication was supported by brothers from other Michigan camps and their support added significantly to the success of the event.

Our keynote speaker for the dedication was U. S. Representative from Michigan's 6th District Mr. Fred Upton. We were also honored to have Otsego Township Supervisor, Mr. Bryan Winn and General Manager of the regional office of U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Ms Mary Judnich. Camp 20 Brother Mike Culp PCC spoke on Col. Willard G. Eaton of the 13th Michigan Infantry, the man who the Otsego Grand Army of the Republic Post 34 was named after.



The ceremony concluded with a three volley salutes from the 20# Parrot Rifle of the Robinson's Battery commanded by Robinson's Battery president and also Camp 20 Brother John Hughes, Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve were also present, commanded by First Sergeant and SUVCW Brother Lloyd Lamphere Jr. Everyone attending gets a big thank you from us for making this event to be remembered.

Immediately following the G.A.R. monument re-dedication the Sons of Union Veterans and Congressman Upton paid their respects to the monument and grave of Col. Eaton of the 13th Michigan Infantry. He was killed in the Battle of Bentonville, March 19th, 1865.

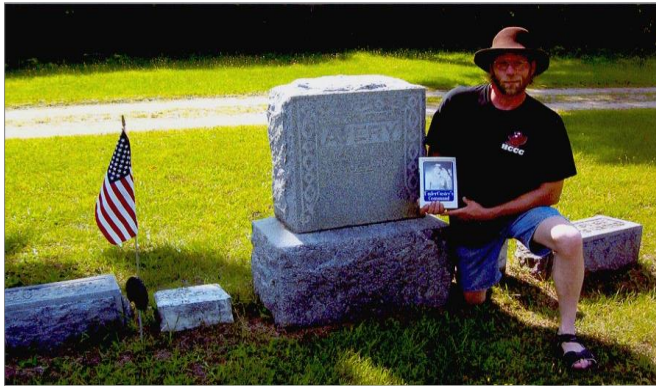
Following the re dedication ceremony a reception was held at the Otsego Area Historical Society Museum. Many artifacts were displayed and the reception was well attended.



On a sunny fall day some of us from Camp 20 were walking Elmwood Cemetery, Wayland Township, Allegan County. After going through about half of the old section, we were greeted by Mr. Micah Kuhtic, Supervisor of the cemeteries in Wayland Township. He was very interested in the old stones and history from the Civil War and earlier. After telling him about a few of the soldiers we were familiar with interred there, we wandered to the final resting place of James Henry Avery, who was one of Custer's Wolverines in the 5th Michigan Cavalry.

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Under the name of "Under Custer's Command", Serg.. Avery's memoirs are published. So to add more interest to Mr. Kuhtic's quest of local history, we bought him a copy of this book and a couple weeks later, he was presented it while standing by Mr. Avery's grave. James Henry Avery lived in Hopkins, Allegan County just west of Wayland so this was a local man's thoughts during the war. I talked to Mr. Kuhtic a few weeks later and he said he read the book in 2 days and gave it to his father and they had plans to keep passing it around to all those interested. We made a contact and friend that day just by sharing our interest with him!

On Veteran's Day we, like all SUVCW camps were divided in places to go, 6 Camp 20 members attended the ceremony in Plainwell, Allegan County, some went to Kalamazoo to attend ceremonies at Rose Park's Veterans Memorial, and



some went to Borgess Gardens, were Tent 58 of the DUVCW donated a flag pole, they hosted a ceremony of dedication for the new flag pole, Great job Ladies. Veteran's staying at the Borgess Gardens, assisted 2 members of the U.S. Navy in raising the flag given by State Senator Tonya Shuitmaker and State Representative Margaret O'Brien. Camp 20 Chaplain Bill Brennan PDC did the benediction at that event. This new flag pole is the only one at

this complex, kudos to Tent 58's President Sally Redinger, and Sister Patti Townsend for a great job.



On November 20th, Camp 20 member Bro. Bill Brennan PDC, participated in the the Otsego Area Historical Society, presentation of Patriotic Music by playing his Great Grandfather Henry Gillespie's fife that he played in Co. A of the 13th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. Mr. Brad Fisher, Board Member of the society put together a program that was enjoyed by all.

Coming Event

On May 10th, 2015, we are hosting an event to honor Martin citizen, Andrew Bee who was in Co. L of the 4th Michigan Cavalry. Several Allegan County men, under the command of Col. Benjamin Pritchard, captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis on this exact date (May 10th) 150 years ago. Private Andrew Bee was given credit for being the first soldier to spot Davis and the first the first soldier to, I quote" To lay hands on Jefferson Davis at capture." We had a plaque made and at 2pm on this date we will dedicate it. The only difference, this being the exact date 150 years later is the time, we didn't think we would have a very good turnout having it at 4:30AM.... More information later.

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From the War Papers of Julian G. Dickinson, Late Adjutant 4th Michigan Cavalry

I saw a man partially dressed, emerging from a "shelter-tent." I at once rode up to him and inquired what force was there in camp. He looked at me seemingly bewildered. Not hearing him reply to me, I repeated the question, and while lingering for a response, I was suddenly startled by a familiar voice calling.

I turned and saw Andrew Bee, our "headquarters cook," who was standing close to the front of one of the wall tents and pointing to three persons in female attire, who, arm in arm, were moving rapidly across the clearing towards the thicket. Andrew called to me, "Adjutant, there goes a man dressed in woman's clothes."

Camp 20 Officers for 2015

Camp Commander Bro. Gary Swain

SVC John R. Keith

JVC Bro. Gary Gibson

Camp Secretary Bro. Steve Rossio

Camp Treasurer Bro. Jeff Baker

Counsel Members

Bro. Bill Costello, Bro. Steve Redinger, Bro. Mike Culp

Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer



Your Department Graves Registration Committee met on December 13 at the State Archives. The date for the next meeting is March 14, 2015.

Our database now has over 65,680 Civil War burials and 3518 Other War records.

The only news from the VA about headstone ordering that will allow certain groups, (one of which is the SUVCW) to be an authorized party for requesting headstones is that the Feds are accepting comments for a change in the Code of Federal Register (CFR). I am copying a communication from our National Officer that explains that change and offers language for you to use if you want to comment. Those GROs who attended the December meeting will have it, and I will e-mail a copy to those who didn't attend.

I would like to continue to recognize the very few men who have submitted records regularly or recently during the last quarter – Chuck Harthy, Jim Petromoulx, Dick

Williams, Ed Houghtaling, Len Thomas, and Gerry Christiansen.

I hope that you read in the last Michigan's Messenger that "the Committee has taken on another task, that we hope to complete by April of 2015 (the anniversary of the end of the Civil War)" – the Last Soldier Project that Brother GRO Officer, Jim Petrimoulx is coordinating. It was he who had the idea of resurrecting this past program (and one which did not get completed) to further memorialize our heroes of 1861 – 1865. Jim is currently loading his information into a database which we hope will join our Graves Database on-line. You can help by surveying your county, and see if we have the name and regiment of 1) the last Civil War Soldier to die there; and 2) the last Civil War Soldier that was living (permanent residence) in the county.

I will close this quarter as I did in the last, by encouraging those Brothers in Camps 1, 2, 3, 43, 85, and 139 to make a plan and start surveying your cemeteries – one at a time, and perhaps someday (not in my lifetime) we can say that we have surveyed all counties in our state.

As long as you can read a headstone (lack of snow) you can survey a cemetery! Be safe.

Sidney Barber – “One of the saddest cases in the history of Michigan in the Civil War”

Submitted by Chris Czopek, Camp 17

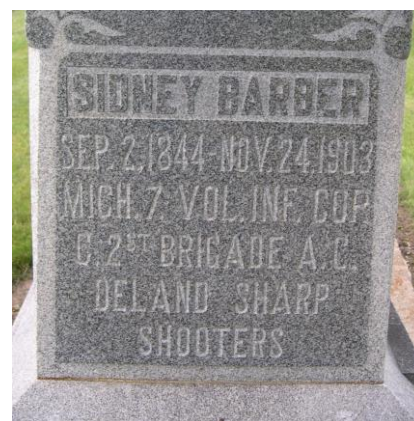
From: ALBION RECORDER March 7, 1891 Front Page

The Evening News says Sidney Barber, formerly of Pulaski, Jackson county, now of the Kalamazoo Asylum for the Insane, has just drawn more money than any other private soldier in Michigan, if not in the United States. He left his home when he was 16, as a member of Co. F, First Michigan Sharpshooters. Six months after, he was taken prisoner and sent to Salisbury, S.C., prison. He was exchanged from that place in less than five months, and went to his regiment; but the strain on his constitution had been too great, and his mental condition was such that he was at once sent home on a furlough. His body, which was reduced to a mere skeleton from starvation in the prison, soon regained natural flesh, but his mind did not long remain unclouded, and in a very few months after he had rejoined his regiment he was discharged at York, Pa., and sent to the hospital as insane.

The July following he came home to Pulaski, but was at once sent to Kalamazoo, where he has remained ever since, Pension Agent E.D. Knowles took the case to try to get a pension, but the case was rejected the first time. After about one year he tried again, and yesterday he received notice that the back pension had been allowed at \$16,000 with a regular monthly allowance of \$72.

The only relatives the poor man has are a brother and sister, who reside in Jonesville township. A letter from the staff at the Kalamazoo asylum declares Barber to be in a profoundly demented condition, and that means there is no hope for him of his recovery. All the good his huge fortune will ever be for him is to provide him with food and clothing until time rings the curtain down upon his life's tragedy. He is 49 years old, healthy, physically, and never says anything to anyone. His is one of the saddest cases in the history of Michigan in the war.

Sidney Barber died Nov. 24, 1903 and is buried in Buck Cemetery on Wooden road, near Hanover in Jackson Co. See [Find A Grave](#) memorial number 17932600



Note: Sidney Barber joined the army twice.

Barber, Sidney, Hillsdale County. Enlisted in company C, Seventh Infantry, Aug. 9, 1861, at Jonesville, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered Aug. 21, 1861. Discharged for disability at Ft. Monroe, Va., Feb. 28, 1863.

Barbar, Sidney, Hudson. Enlisted in company F, First Sharpshooters, May 19, 1863, at Hudson, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered May 22, 1863. Discharged at York, Pa., June 22, 1865.

Robert Smalls*Submitted by Charles Harthey*

Robert Smalls was an enslaved African American who, during and after the American Civil War, became a ship's pilot, sea captain, and politician. He freed himself, his crew and their families from slavery on May 13, 1862, by commandeering a Confederate transport ship, the CSS *Planter*, in Charleston harbor, and sailing it to freedom beyond the Federal blockade. His example and persuasion helped convince President Lincoln to accept African-American soldiers into the Union Army. After the American Civil War, he became a politician, elected to the South Carolina State legislature and the United States House of Representatives. As a politician, Smalls authored state legislation providing for South Carolina to have the first free and compulsory public school system in the United States, and founded the Republican Party of South Carolina. He is notable as the last Republican to represent South Carolina's 5th congressional district until 2010.

Robert was born April 5, 1839 into slavery in a cabin behind the house of his master Henry McKee on 511 Prince Street in Beaufort, South Carolina. He grew up in the city under the influence of the low-country Gullah culture of his mother. Smalls' mother, Lydia Polite, was a slave held by McKee. McKee sent Robert to Charleston at the age of 12 to be leased out, or hired out, with the money earned to be returned to his master. He held several jobs. He started out in a hotel, then became a lamplighter on the streets of Charleston. His love of the water led him to work on the docks and wharves of Charleston in his teen years. He became a stevedore (dockworker), a rigger, a sail maker, and eventually worked his way up to being a wheelman (essentially a pilot, though blacks were not called pilots). He became very knowledgeable of the Charleston harbor. Robert met a hotel maid, Hannah Jones, and married her on December 24, 1856. Hannah was five years older and already had a daughter at the time. Hannah and Robert had their first child, Elizabeth Lydia, in February 1858. In 1861 they had another child, Robert Jr., who died in 1863.

In the fall of 1861, Smalls was assigned to steer the CSS *Planter*, an armed Confederate military transport. On May 12, 1862, the *Planter's* three white officers decided to spend the night ashore. About 3:00 a.m. on the 13th, Smalls and seven of the eight enslaved crewmen decided to make a run for the Union vessels that formed the blockade, as they had earlier planned. Smalls dressed in the captain's uniform and had a straw hat similar to that of the white captain. He backed the *Planter* out of what was then known as Southern Wharf around 3 a.m. The *Planter* stopped at a nearby wharf to pick up Smalls' family and the relatives of other crewmen, who had been concealed there for some time. With his crew and the women and children, Smalls made the daring escape. The *Planter* had as cargo four valuable artillery pieces, besides its own two guns. Perhaps most valuable was the code book that would reveal the Confederate's secret signals, and the placement of mines and torpedoes in and around Charleston harbor. Smalls used proper signals so the Confederate soldiers would not know he was escaping in the ship. Smalls piloted the ship past the five Confederate forts that guarded the harbor, including Fort Sumter. The renegade ship passed by Sumter approximately 4:30 a.m. He headed straight for the Federal fleet, which was part of the Union blockade of Confederate ports, making sure to hoist a white sheet as a flag. The first ship he encountered was USS *Onward*, which was preparing to fire until a sailor noticed the white flag. When the *Onward's* captain boarded the *Planter*, Smalls requested to raise the United States flag immediately. Smalls turned the *Planter* over to the United States Navy, along with its cargo of artillery and explosives intended for a Confederate fort.

Because of his extensive knowledge of the shipyards and Confederate defenses, Smalls provided valuable assistance to the Union Navy. He gave detailed information about the harbor's defenses to Admiral Samuel Dupont, commander of the blockading fleet. Smalls quickly became famous in the North.

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Numerous newspapers ran articles describing his daring actions. Congress passed a bill, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, that rewarded Smalls and his crewmen with the prize money for the captured *Planter*. Smalls' own share was \$1,500 (about \$34,000 adjusted for inflation in 2012 dollars), a huge sum for the time. He met Abraham Lincoln in late May 1862 (two weeks later) and gave the President his personal account. His deeds became a major argument for allowing African Americans to serve in the Union Army. Smalls served under the Navy until March 1863, when he was transferred to the Army. He was never enrolled in either branch of service but served as a civilian. By his personal account, Smalls served in 17 different engagements during the Civil War. With the encouragement of Major-General David Hunter, the Union commander at Port Royal, Smalls went to Washington, DC., with Mansfield French in August 1862, to try to persuade President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to permit black men to fight for the Union. He was successful and received an order signed by Stanton permitting up to 5,000 African Americans to enlist in the Union forces at Port Royal. These men were organized as the 1st and 2nd South Carolina Volunteers. Smalls served as a pilot for the Union Navy. In the fall of 1862, *Planter* had been transferred to the Union Army for service near Fort Pulaski. The Union got Smalls as a naval pilot. Smalls was later reassigned to the USS *Planter*, now a Union transport. On April 7, 1863, he piloted ironclad USS *Keokuk* in a major Union attack on Fort Sumter. The attack failed, and *Keokuk* was badly damaged. Her crew was rescued shortly before the ship sank. In December 1863, Smalls became the first black captain of a vessel in the service of the United States. On December 1, 1863, the *Planter* had been caught in a crossfire between Union and Confederate forces. The ship's commander, Captain Nickerson, decided to surrender. Smalls refused, fearing that the black crewmen would not be treated as prisoners of war and might be summarily killed. Taking command, Smalls piloted the ship out of range of the Confederate guns. For his bravery, Smalls was named to replace Nickerson as the *Planter's* captain. Smalls returned with the *Planter* to Charleston harbor in April 1865 for the ceremonial raising of the American flag upon Ft. Sumter.

Immediately following the war, Smalls returned to his native Beaufort, where he purchased his former master's house at 512 Prince St. His mother Lydia lived with him for the remainder of her life. He allowed his former master's wife (Jane Bond McKee, who was elderly) to move back in the home prior to her death. In 1866 Smalls went into business in Beaufort with Richard Howell Gleaves, opening a store for freedmen. That same year in April, the "radical" Republicans who controlled Congress overrode President Andrew Johnson's vetoes and passed a Civil Rights Act. In 1868, they passed the 14th Amendment, extending citizenship to all Americans regardless of their race.

Smalls identified with the Republican Party, saying it was "The party of Lincoln which unshackled the necks of four million human beings." In his campaign speeches he said, "Every colored man who has a vote to cast, would cast that vote for the regular Republican Party and thus bury the Democratic Party so deep that there will not be seen even a bubble coming from the spot where the burial took place." Later in life he recalled, "I can never loose [*sic*] sight of the fact that had it not been for the Republican Party, I would have never been an office-holder of any kind—from 1862—to present."

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He was a delegate at several Republican National Conventions and participated in the South Carolina Republican State conventions. During the Reconstruction era, Smalls was elected a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1865 and 1870, and the South Carolina Senate between 1871 and 1874. He also served briefly as the commander of the South Carolina Militia with the rank of major general. In 1874, Smalls was elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served from 1875 to 1879. From 1882 to 1883 he represented South Carolina's 5th congressional district in the House. The state legislature gerrymandered to change the boundaries, including Beaufort and other heavily black, coastal areas in South Carolina's 7th congressional district, making the others with high white majorities. Smalls was elected from the 7th district and served from 1884 to 1887. He was a member of the 44th, 45th, and 47th through 49th U.S. Congresses. During consideration of a bill to reduce and restructure the United States Army, Smalls introduced an amendment that "Hereafter in the enlistment of men in the Army . . . no distinction whatsoever shall be made on account of race or color." The amendment was not considered by Congress. He is the last Republican to have been elected from the 5th district until 2010. He was the longest serving African-American member of Congress until Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. in the late 20th Century. After the Compromise of 1877, the federal government withdrew its remaining forces from South Carolina and other Southern states. White Democrats had used violence and election fraud to regain control in the state legislature. As part of wide-ranging Southern white efforts to reduce African-American political power, Smalls was charged and convicted of taking a bribe five years earlier in connection with the awarding of a printing contract. He was pardoned as part of an agreement in which charges were also dropped against Democrats who had been accused of election fraud. Smalls was active politically into the twentieth century. He was a delegate to the 1895 constitutional convention, and, together with five other black politicians, strongly opposed white Democrat efforts to disfranchise black citizens. They wrote an article for the New York World to publicize the issues, but the constitution was ratified. It and similar constitutions passed court challenges of the time. Smalls was appointed U.S. Collector of Customs in Beaufort, serving from 1889–1911 with only a short break in service. He lived as owner of the house in which he had been a slave. Smalls died February 23, 1915 at the age of 75. He was buried in his family's plot in downtown Beaufort.

- Fort Robert Smalls, was named in his honor; it was built by free blacks in 1863 on McGuire's Hill on the South Side of Pittsburgh during the American Civil War. It survived until the 1940s.
- The Robert Smalls House in Beaufort, SC, has been designated a National Historic Landmark.
- A monument and statue are dedicated to his memory where he is interred at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Beaufort.
- The desk that Smalls used as Collector of Customs is on display at the Beaufort Arsenal Museum in Beaufort.
- In 2004, the U.S. named a ship for Robert Smalls. It is LSV-8, a Logistics Support Vessel operated by the U.S. Army. It is the first Army ship named after an African American.
- There is an exhibit at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum dedicated to Robert Small's contribution to the US Army.
- Charleston held commemorative ceremonies on the 150th anniversary of Robert Smalls' escape with the *Planter*, with special programs on May 12 and 13 of 2012.

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- The Oregon Civil War Sesquicentennial presented a special 150th Anniversary program on May 16, 2012 at the Kenton Public Library branch in Portland, Oregon honoring Robert Smalls' epic voyage to freedom and his contributions to society.
- During World War II, Camp Robert Smalls was established as a sub-facility of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center to train black sailors.

We refuse to apologize for any "errers" in this publication because a few are left in on purpose to drive any literary perfectionists up the wall.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

For Jerry Jacobs, Secretary

Camp 427 announced the election of officers for the 2015 year, they are:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Junior Vice Commander – Dennis Fyke | Patriotic Instructor – George Boller |
| Treasurer – Rick Danes II | Historian – Allan Treppa |
| Councilor – Jack Underwood | |
| Commander and co-Eagle Scout Coordinator – Rick Danes, CC | |
| Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain – Jon Reed | |
| Secretary, Graves Registration, and Signals Officer – Jerry Jacobs | |
| Committee Chairman and co-Eagle Scout Coordinator – Jerry Olson | |
| Monuments and Memorials Officer – John Mc Gill | |
| Principal Musicians – Ian Kushnir and Rich Bower | |
| Camp Council Members – Keith Kushnir and Jerry Radloff | |
| Color Bearer and Guard – Aaron Schrader | |

Officer Installation is scheduled for January 13 at 7 PM and will be administrated by Department Commander Paul Davis.

Camp 427 continues to prosper, with a roster of 44, and the accomplishment of over 30 events in 2014. 2015 events include a field trip to Johnson's Island, Ohio, headstone dedications, marching in at least two Memorial Day Parades, searching for the "Last Soldier" in Wayne County, and continuing the research in Wayne County cemeteries.

Members of Camp 427 provided "color" for a recent lecture at the Henry Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn comemorating the issue of "Gone With the Wind". From the left, Jerry Olson, PCC, Rick Danes, CC, featured speaker Kathleen Marcaccio, Aaron Schrader, and for the "other side" Keith Kushnir, and kneeling Rich Bower.



17th Michigan Infantry

By James B. Pahl, PCinC

(This account is based upon and quotes frequently from "Michigan in the War" compiled by J. Robertson, Adjutant General.)

*"Then up with the banner, let Southern breezes fan her,
It shall float o'er Columbia for ever more,
In glory we'll sustain her, in battle defend her,
With heart and with hand like our fathers before."*

So begins the article on the 17th Michigan, the celebrated "Stonewall regiment" was rendezvoused at Detroit under orders dated May 29, 1862. Organized under the direction of the State Paymaster, Colonel James E. Pittman, whose excellent drill and discipline enabled the regiment to leave in a very creditable condition. The regiment of 982 men left Michigan for Washington on August 27, 1862 under the command of Colonel William H. Withington of Jackson. Company officers hailed from all over Michigan, including Adrian, Manchester, Coldwater, Kalamazoo, Ypsilanti, Quincy and Battle Creek.

The 17th was attached to the 1st brigade, 1st division, 9th corps and sent immediately into the Maryland campaign with McClellan. Within two weeks of leaving Michigan, it was fiercely engaged in the action of South Mountain on Sept 14, losing 27 killed and 114 wounded. Michigan has erected a state historical marker near this place and the adjoining field is known as the Michigan field to this day.

The poem below was written by Capt. Campbell of the 17th, covering the march of the regiment to the field and its fight at South Mountain. (The poem was delivered before the class of 1865 in the Department of Science, Literature and the Arts, University of Michigan.)

*"Quick rations are finished, the rammers are sprung,
And waist-belts are buckled, and knapsacks are slung;
As soon all are marshaled and fearlessly stand
Awaiting impatient the word of command.
'Tis given. As quick as the word they face
And advance by the flank – every man in his place.*

*The old starry flag waves proudly and high.
So fondly caressed by the soft autumn sky;
While the Eagle, extending his wings on the air,
Seemed to whisper of Victory hovering there.
The low, rumbling sounds that rise on the ear
Inspire to valor, yet waken to fear.*

*As louder and nearer with ponderous roll
The death knells of Orcus toll-toll-toll,
We reach the hill-top, and fearfully riven
South Mountain before us aspires to heaven.*

*The smoke of those cannon that quiver the world –
Those traitorous cannon! Their air-rending shells,
With echoing voice a monody swells
In dirges forlorn. With demon-like sound
They crash in the air or recoil to the ground*

*At length the voice of Withington
Makes every heart enlarge.
Up-springing at the welcome word,
We rally for the "Charge."
Sudden from right to left arose
A wild, unearthly yell,
As on the foremost rebel line,
Like maddened wolves we fell.*

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*Back driven from their firm stockades,
They rush with hideous groan,
And rally with redoubled strength,
Behind a wall of stone.
On comes the line of Michigan, --
With bristling bayonets all; --
Three volleys and a charge! Great God!
It clearly scales the wall.*

*They rally yet, -- and yet again --
Fiendish mid reeking blood!
Nor rebel steel, nor walls of stone
Can check the loyal flood;--
But just as o'er that mountain top,
Reflects the setting sun,
Our victor shouts sent heavenward
Proclaim the Battle won.*

*Back o'er the heaps of mangled men,
We move as shuts the day,
And there recline upon our arms,
To watch the night away;
And as to heaven's clam, peaceful vault,
We turn the weary eye,
We feel that we have struck a blow
For God and Liberty."*

Three days after South Mountain, battle was again joined at Antietam and the regiment suffered another 18 killed and 87 wounded. The next day saw the regiment skirmishing with the retreating enemy. The regiment then moved with the corps into Virginia.

The regiment continued with its corps, crossed the Rappahannock with the army at Fredericksburg, but did not participate in the battle.

Feb of 1863 was the regiment embark at Aquia creek for Newport News, then to Baltimore and by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and Ohio river to Louisville, KY, then by rail to Cairo, IL and then down the Mississippi River to the Yazoo river.

The 9th corps had been ordered to reinforce General Grant in Mississippi. They erected fortifications in Milldale and then participated in the advance on Jackson, losing only one man. Returning to Milldale, it left for Kentucky on August 3 and arrived at Crab Orchard on August 24, marching with the Army of the Ohio in September and October. Like the 2nd, 8th and 20th Infantry (all in the same corps), the 17th traveled over 2,100 miles during the year.

Now part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st division, 9th corps, the regiment remained at Lenoir Station, East Tennessee until November 14th, when they marched to the Tennessee river to oppose the advance of the rebels under Longstreet, then moving on Knoxville. They lay upon their arms during the night and then commenced falling back, the 17th serving as the rear guard of the army. While crossing Turkey Creek, near Campbell's Station, the enemy attacked in force and a severe engagement ensued. This action saw the loss of 7 killed, 19 wounded and 10 missing.

During the night of the 16th, the regiment moved with the army to Knoxville and actively assisted in the defense of that town while besieged by the enemy. On the night of the 20th, the regiment, now under Lt. Col. Comstock, was ordered to burn a house occupied by the enemy's sharpshooters. This was done successfully, but while returning to camp, an enemy shell instantly killed Lt. Josiah Billingsley.

On the 25th, a musket ball from the enemy's skirmish line struck Lt. Col Comstock, wounding him so severely that he died that evening. Capt. Swift then assumed command.

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On the 28th of November, the skirmish line of the regiment was driven in and 16 men were captured.

During the siege, the men suffered greatly from the want of proper and sufficient rations. Capt. Swift was promoted to Lt. Col., and the regiment moved from Knoxville in pursuit of the enemy, who abandoned the siege. The regiment continued to suffer from want of supplies.

On March 17, 1864, the 9th corps received orders to report to Annapolis, Maryland. The regiment proceeded to Knoxville and then commenced its march over the Cumberland mountains to Nicholasville, KY, covering 186 miles in ten days. They boarded railroad cars and proceeded to Annapolis, receiving there some 200 recruits. Moving with its corps, it joined the army of the Potomac near Warrenton Junction, VA and engaged in the campaign of 1864 – crossing the Rapidan at Germania Ford on May 5 and engaged the enemy in the Wilderness. It's loss on the 6th was 7 killed and 39 wounded. On the 8th, the regiment moved, via Chancellorsville, toward Spotsylvania Court House, where the enemy was in force. In the action of the 9th, the regiment was detached from its brigade to support a battery.

The regiment was actively engaged in the movements of the 10th and 11th, taking part in the charge on the rebel works on the 12th. In this charge, the regiment lost 23 killed, 73 wounded and 93 taken prisoners out of 225 engaged. The large loss in prisoners was owing to the regiment becoming surrounded in a greatly superior force in dense woods.

On May 16, the regiment was detailed as engineer troops, spending the remainder of the year as such. The regiment moved to Cold Harbor, across the Chickahominy and James rivers to the front of Petersburg. During this siege, the regiment only lost two killed and eight wounded.

During the winter, the regiment continued duty as division engineers and provost guard. During the rebel attack on Fort Steedman, March 25, 1865, the regiment advanced as skirmishers and succeeded in repelling the enemy, taking 65 prisoners. Thereafter, it was engaged in repairing and reconstructing works before Petersburg. The regiment was held in reserve during the final assault on April 2nd, moving on the 3rd into Petersburg, where they were engaged in guarding prisoners.

On the 25th, the regiment moved by transports to Alexandria and then through Washington, D.C. to Tannallytown. They participated in the great review of the Army of the Potomac on the 23rd and remained in the Tannallytown encampment until June 3. The regiment was mustered out of service there and then started by rail for Michigan on the 4th, arriving at Detroit on the 7th, where they were paid off and discharged.

The regiment had a total membership of 1,079, losing 3 officers and 89 men killed in action, 4 officers and 35 men died of wounds and 152 of disease.

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**