



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 C. Danes, Editor

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



Merry Christmas 2015 from your Department Officers

Commander's Comments

By Dale Aurand, PCC, DC

During the final quarter, the camps of the Department are busy with the election and installation of their Camp officers. There are a few camps that have yet to set dates for installation. Please set dates and confirm with me. A reminder for Camp Secretaries to prepare three (3) copies of Form 22 with all required signatures and have them available for the installing officer to sign. Two (2) copies of Form 22 are to be submitted to the Department Secretary along with two (2) copies of your current roster. The third (3) copy of Form 22 is for your Camp file.

Visiting various Camps I find much good work being done, there is always need for more inclusiveness and sharing of information, which we should all encourage.

I want to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders for their attendance at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg.

To all I wish a safe holiday season, with many returns.



Patriotically Speaking

Gary Granger, Department Patriotic Instructor

Dear Brothers:

I know that I have said this in a number of ways and it bears repeating:

It is EASY to file your Camp Patriotic Instructor Report with me. It takes only a few minutes of your time and benefits all of us.

There are SEVEN yes or no questions and it is your choice whether or not to include the listing of all of the activities of your Camp.

The next deadline for your Camp's PI Report is January 15, 2016.

There is a fill-in enabled form on the Department website.

The form can be e-mailed to me at: hagranger@hotmail.com. My wife and I share this e-mail and it is viewed daily.

You may also fax the report. Please call before faxing because it is connected to my home telephone and we have restrictions on it so I don't get a lot of junk mail and I will need to press a button to accept the fax. The number is (989) 494-4993.

If I or my wife, Helen, answer you can also place your report over the phone with either my wife or me and if I am not there please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

You may also want to mail your report to me at: Gary Granger SUVCW MI PI, PO Box 41, Corunna, MI 48817.

It is our duty to report our Patriotic Activities. Our various Camp activities help our organization keep our non-profit status.

Thank you Brothers in advance for your time.

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News**

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Day Parade**

**History of the 18th
Michigan**

GAR Hall Appeal

And

Much More!

The American Christmas tree had been first erected in Cleveland in 1851, an import from Victorian Europe. For most "normal families" the Christmas tree was not the monster that it is now, but a small table top version decorated with hand made trinkets such as balls and strings of popcorn, dried fruits and nuts, paper, ribbon, spun glass ornaments, and other crafted ornaments shaped like animals, angels, dolls, and of course, the Christ Child. The tree would have been lit just one time, the candles burning hotly, a bucket of water sitting by in case of fire.

Junior Vice Commander

David S. Smith, LM



Greetings Brothers,

As mentioned in the September issue of the Michigan Messenger, a lessons learned document has been generated for the purposes of new member recruitment and current member retention. A questionnaire was sent out to all 23 Camp Junior Vice Commanders (or Secretaries as needed) for completion. 12 Camps submitted answers for a participation rate of just over 52%.

The questionnaire was comprised of six topic areas to discover what has been working and what isn't for recruiting new members, as well as what retains current members. From the submitted answers, a report was created that lists what methods and activities have been successful versus those that are ineffective. Additionally, I also had the opportunity to communicate with David Rish, the Recruiting Officer for the Department of

Ohio. For the past four years Brother Rish has won the B.F. Stephenson Award for recruiting the most new members in the entire SUVCW. He graciously provided me the process that he uses to recruit. I have included it within the report.

The report should be placed on the Department of Michigan website in the near future. It will be located at the Camp Training Aids page: <http://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/ctaids.php> Going forward, the report should be updated periodically by the Department Junior Vice Commander after receiving updates and additional feedback in the future. A big thank you goes out to all that participated and helped support this effort! On behalf of my wife Sister Lisa and me, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and productive New Year!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

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

*Except for last edition, when we reported Brother Dave Smith as the SVC. The report should have said JVC.

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 mimesrld@aol.com.

**2015-2016
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Eagle Scout Coordinator

Dewey Jones, CC

Signals Officer

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Michigan's Messenger Editor

Rick Danes, CC

Historian

Chris Cox

Guide

Rob Payne

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Dennis Fyke

Chief of Staff

Donald Shaw, PDC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Dennis Zank

Aide de Camp

Keith Harrison, PCinC

A Review of Encampment Attendee Delegate Formula

By Jerry Jacobs, Department Secretary

There have been several queries about the formula by which we select Encampment delegates. Here is the "official word".

With a little help, here is an overview of the Department Encampment delegate formula:

Article II

Membership

Section 1(a). The membership of the Department Encampment shall be constituted as follows: all Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Department Commanders and Past Camp Commanders, in good standing, who have served a full term or having been elected to fill a vacancy have served to the end of that term, the sitting Department Commander and the sitting Camp Commanders.

One delegate from each Camp, whatever its membership and one additional delegate for every ten Brothers, or major fraction thereof, based upon the report for the annual report next preceding the Encampment; and its own elective officers (except Aides). Any Brother serving as Camp Secretary or Camp Treasurer continuously in office for a period of ten years may have conferred upon him the rank of Past Camp Commander with its voting privileges at Department Encampments.

This is the summary/major overview from Section 1 [a] of the Constitution & Regulations [Blue-Book], 2015 on the SUVCW National website, Chapter 2, Article II.

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Spring - June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Fall - 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!

Be Advised – New Forms are Available for 2016 Reporting*Forwarded By Jerry Jacobs, Department Secretary*

Brothers,

The Programs & Policies Committee has revised the following forms, and the Council of Administration has approved them for use within the Order. These forms are now available on the National Website on the [Governance](#) page.

- Membership Application (Form 3) – added requirement for \$5 surcharge for brothers with international mailing addresses.
- ROTC Award Application Form (Form 7) – Removed cost for award and removed requirement for name of cadet. (previously announced)
- Camp Annual Report (Form 27) – Major reorganization of first two pages to simplify the process.
- Camp Annual Report (Form 27) – Alternate MS Excel version for pages 1 and 2 [Note 1]
- Camp Status Report (Form 30) – Added requirement for \$5 surcharge for brothers with international mailing addresses. (previously announced)
- Internet Membership Application (Form 60) - added requirement for \$5 surcharge for brothers with international mailing addresses. (previously announced)
- GAR Monuments/Civil War Memorials Assessment Form (Form 61)
- SUVCW Memorial Fund Request (Form 62)
- The Department Annual Report (Form 35) is in process and should be available before the first of the year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Alan L. Russ, PDC, *National Secretary, SUVCW*

**Lincoln's Last Christmas Gift –**

Christmas Day, 1864 – Washington D. C. On Christmas Day, 1864, Laura Jones made a desperate call on the President of the United States. She absolutely had to get in to see Abraham Lincoln. A holiday peacefulness has set over the White House, even though America was still caught up in the throes of Civil War.

Lincoln had just finished signing a stack of papers. He layed down his pen and sighed. "What is there left to sign, Mr. Secretary?" Lincoln asked Gideon Welles. "Are we finally through for the day?"

"Mr. President, there is one special request from a 23 year-old woman who has been trapped in Washington since the war began," Welles responded. "She desires to have a pass to travel to Richmond in order to have a Christmas wedding to her sweetheart, Jamie Joe Ballinger – a Confederate soldier."

There was a long pause. Then, according to Lincoln's butler, Billy Slade, the President had him go and tell the woman to come in.

Lincoln spoke briefly with the forlorn Laura Jones and her sincerity seemed to make a deep impression on the President. After silently listening to Laura's story, Lincoln gently nodded his head, and with a few strokes of his pen, proceeded to write some words on a card.

He handed the travel pass to Miss Jones and wished her a Merry Christmas.

Laura Jones could not speak. Her eyes brimmed with tears of happiness. She was so grateful that she fell to her knees before the President. "Get up," said Lincoln in a soft fatherly tone of voice. "Do not kneel to me, but thank God and go."

"Goodby, Mr. Lincoln," she said, "I shall not probably never again see you until we meet in Heaven." President Lincoln was deeply moved. "I am afraid with all my troubles I shall never get to the resting place you speak of, but if I do, I am sure I shall find you. That you wish me to get there is, I believe, the best wish to get there is, the best wish you could possibly make for me. Goodby, Miss Jones.

Helping Laura Jones, a young woman in love with an enemy soldier, was one of the nicest Christmas presents Lincoln ever gave. And it was his last.

by Hideaki Taylor



Civil War Monuments and Memorials

by Dennis Fyke, Department Officer

A couple months ago Commander Aurand asked me if I would be interested in becoming the new Memorials Officer for the Department of Michigan. After a moment of hesitation while realizing how much work could be involved as witnessed by the praiseworthy efforts of Bruce Butgereit, I agreed.

Long before I was even involved with the SUVCW, I had a personal project of photographing memorials throughout Michigan and had the satisfaction of relocating a forgotten marker in Lexington.

The idea of having a small part in preserving the heritage of our Civil War memorials statewide appealed to me as I hope it appeals to you.

If you have any pictures you'd like to share of any memorials, please send them to me and I'll do my best to get them on our website so that we all can enjoy them.

Election season is here and it's important that I know the proper contact person for each camp. I'm going to be asking for a lot of help so please let me know who I can call.

Also, until we get the full website going, I have all the information/images we currently have available on an online service. If you have any questions about any monuments or would like to know what your camp already has documented with the department, please email me and I can send you a link to your camp's folder.

With so many changes coming up, this should be an exciting year!

Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer

Greetings, Brothers, as we prepare to hibernate this winter, we, in your Graves Registration Committee are looking forward to getting indoors to put The final touches on research about the new soldiers found during the summer.

I want to thank all of the Camps that responded to my request for information About their GRO and area status during the survey requested in September, I am sure that a short comment from Camps 3, 28, and 139 will complete this review and allow me to get on with the business of the Order.

The Committee continues to meet quarterly, in fact on the 12th of December, and we now have over 67,970 Civil War and 3575 Other War burials registered in our database.

Some more good news is that Brother Adair and the Technology Committee will see that the new GRO file will be uploaded to the Department Website after the December GRO meeting. If you want to attend December 12 meeting, send me a note for details.

Stay safe, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours from Irma and I.



General John A. Logan Camp 1

By Thomas Jenkins, Signals Officer

Camp 1 Brother Keynoter at GAR Campground Event. The Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society recently revisited and rededicated the old GAR Camp Houk in rural Oceana County. The "Camp" was used by the area GAR posts from 1882 to 1917 as a summer meeting place to remember their days in the war. The site had also been used as a Boy Scout camp but had fallen into disrepair and overgrowth. The OCH&G Society took up a project to restore the site as a remembrance of the GAR history in the county.

In developing the program, Society members called on a local native son and SUVCW Brother Thomas Jenkins, Secretary and Signals Officer of the John Logan Camp to provide the key note address remembering the history of the GAR and the subsequent transformation to the SUVCW.

The program included special music by the Hart HS band, a history of the camp, the Gettysburg Address by an Abe Lincoln reenactor and a memorial salute by the Robinson's Battery C, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. The event was attended by nearly 200 Oceana County residents



Local historian Paul Erikson; Brother Jenkins; President Abraham Lincoln

Junior ROTC Cadets honored. John A. Logan Camp 1 officers recently recognized four Grand Rapids area Junior ROTC Cadets with a presentation of the SUVCW ROTC Award and medallion. The high school student honored displayed a high degree of patriotism to the nation and demonstrated strong academic performance and leadership.



Camp Brothers Commander William Truss and Patriotic Instructor John Uplinger presented the awards to Grand Rapids high school students Fidele Nsababera, Agustin Cruz, and Kyle Meyle.

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John Logan Camp 1 Brother assists with Cemetery Repairs. Logan Camp 1 GRO Gerry Christiansen recently assisted the Friends of Forest Home Cemetery in Greenville with the restoration of a number of Civil War veteran grave stones and the GAR plot. Work included cleaning and painting of the GAR memorial as well as the restoration of over 14 headstones. The Friends also donated a new flag pole which Brother Christensen installed.

U.S. Grant Camp # 67 On The March Submitted by Paul Davis, PCC, PDC

U.S. Grant Camp 67 had some notable experiences since the last publication of the *Messenger*. Members of the Grant Camp performed a number of dedication and memorial services.



Memorial service for John Loyer and John Haug, both members of the 4th Michigan Infantry
Members of U.S. Grant Camp performed a memorial service for John Loyer, Company A, 5th Michigan Infantry and John Haug, Company K, 5th Michigan Infantry. Both soldiers are buried just a few rows apart in Forestlawn Cemetery in Saginaw, Michigan. Loyer and Haug are the ancestors of Jan Davis and Paul Davis respectively.

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Grant Camp Honor Guard fires a salute in recognition of Colonel Roger Donlon, Medal of Honor recipient) The members of U.S. Grant Camp had the privilege of being allowed to serve as the honor guard for a special ceremony recognizing Colonel Roger Donlon, a Vietnam era recipient of the Medal of Honor. Donlon's Medal of Honor citation cites his heroism during a July, 1964 battle in Vietnam. The then Captain Donlon, a green beret, was commanding a special forces detachment based in Nam Dong, when his base was attacked. After a patriotic presentation by Colonel Donlon, the members of Grant Camp had the honor to personally meet with the Colonel.



Members of U.S. Grant Camp meeting with Colonel Roger Donlon)



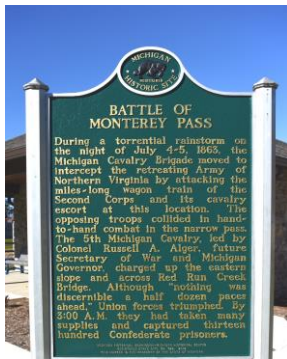
USS Edson DD 946

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Grant Camp Charles Buckhahn and Camp Commander Ken Martin performed the service for Phenix Ballard. St. Anne's Cemetery in Linwood, Michigan was the site of the Memorial Service for Phenix Ballard, the last Civil War Veteran from Bay county. The event was well attended and included several family members who participated in the service.



An Honor Guard from the U.S. Grant Camp fired a salute and taps was played to concluded the ceremony



Ward Room



Flag from USS Selfridge

Grant Camp has the unusual distinction of being the only Camp in the Department of Michigan to meet in a saloon. Now with the meeting held on the *Edson*, Grant Camp can lay claim to the Camp with the most firewater and the most fire power.

The U. S. Grant Camp held its October business meeting in the ward room aboard the *USS Edson*, a Vietnam era destroyer located in Bay City, Michigan. The pledge of allegiance was made using the flag in the ward room which was flown from the *USS Selfridge* DD 357 on December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

2015 Detroit Veterans Day Parade

By Jerry Jacobs, Department Secretary

The annual Detroit Veteran's Day Parade was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015. The Department of Michigan was represented by seven brothers from three Michigan SUVCW camps: Colgrove-Woodruff Camp 22, Marshall; Carpenter-Welch Camp 180, Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti; Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427, Dearborn

Because of current major construction on Woodward Ave., the parade route was revised this year to start at Jefferson & Larned and proceed west on Jefferson to Hart Plaza. The route was purported to be about 1 mile. After many comments during the parade about how long the mile was, it was measured after and found to be closer to 2 miles. Fortunately, the weather was good with sunny skies and mild temperatures.

The turnout of groups participating in this year's parade was the biggest ever. Our SUVCW group was #131 and there were more behind us.

During staging for the parade, we noticed that members of the 102nd US Colored Troops Co B Black History Group were staging nearby. With agreement & permission, we arranged to have our SUVCW group and the 102nd group proceed in the parade one behind the other.



After the parade at Hart Plaza: 102nd US Colored Troop and SUVCW parade participants

SUVCW participants: Camp 22: Blaine Valentine; Camp 180: David Speer, David Wilkening and Michael Van Wasshnova, Camp 427: Jerry Jacobs, Ken Roberts; Rich Bower [not in picture].



Robert Finch Camp No. 14

Submitted by: David Smith, LM, CSVC, DJVC

The September meeting was bittersweet for Camp 14. The Brothers of Camp 14 initiated four new members, Harry Olson, Michael Kolbusz, Patrick Lints, and Noah Lints. In addition to welcoming the new Brothers, we said goodbye to two mainstays of the Camp. A Memorial Service was held for two departed members that passed this year, Brother Jim Johnson and Brother Al Pifer, PCC. In attendance was Brother Jim's wife Jane, as well as Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9.

Brothers attended Veterans Day events across the area including the ceremonies held at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial representing area Civil War Union Veterans, and attended the awards ceremony and celebration following held at the Elks Lodge in Traverse City.

The November meeting had the initiation of Calvin Murphy into the Camp. A few days earlier, Brother Murphy received the 2015 Veteran of the Year honors from the Grand Traverse Area Veteran Coalition for his longtime and many efforts in supporting Veterans and their family members.

November also saw the election of Officers with the following slate being elected for 2016:

Commander	David Smith, LM, DJVC
Senior Vice Commander	John Lantzer
Junior Vice Commander	Ted Mattis
Secretary	Dale Aurand, LM, DC
Treasurer	Patrick Lints
Council	George Goodrich
Council	William Skillman
Council	Jan White

In solemn news, the Brothers of Camp 14 learned that we lost Brother Daniel "Dutch" Herringa on Friday, 27 November 2015.

The next meeting will be on 09 January 2016 at the Elks Lodge #323 in Traverse City. Installation of Officers will be conducted by Paul Davis, PDC.



September 2015 Initiation From L-to-R: Patrick Lints, Michael Kolbusz, Harry Olson, Noah Lints, Chaplain Lantzer CJVC, and acting Guide Skillman, PCC



November 2015 Initiation From L-to-R Commander Bryant, Calvin Murphy, Chaplain Lantzer, CJVC, and acting Guide Goodrich, PCC

Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160 - Gettysburg

Submitted by: Gary Granger



LINDA Kronberg, ASUVCW National President from Michigan (left) and SUVCW National Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff of Pennsylvania are shown on the morning of Nov. 20 just moments after placing flags on the graves of Maryland and Delaware Civil War soldiers at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. (ASUVCW Photo)

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS -- WRC, LGAR, DUVCW and ASUVCW National Presidents rode together in the same carriage during the Nov. 21 Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. Among the ladies was ASUVCW National President Linda Kronberg of Michigan (facing camera in gray with sash). Also in the carriage was DUVCW National President Sally Redinger of Michigan. (ASUVCW Photo)



JIM PAHL, past SUVCW National Commander-in-Chief (front row, left) is shown at the Nov. 21 Gettysburg with approximately 20 participants from Michigan who are members of the SVR 14th Michigan. The State of Michigan flag was prominently displayed along with the Department of Michigan, 3rd Military District and camp flags. (ASUVCW Photo)

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FLAGS of the United States of America and corresponding State flags and luminaries were placed on the graves of Civil War soldiers Nov. 20 and Nov. 21 at the Gettysburg National Cemetery as part of the observance of the 2015 Gettysburg Remembrance Day. This photo shows (from left): Ron Perisho (a volunteer and potential SUCVW member); SUCVW National Commander in Chief Eugene Mortorff of Pennsylvania; SUCVW Past National Commander in Chief Brad Schall of California; ASUCVW National President Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh, Michigan; SUCVW Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor Gary Granger of Corunna who served as President Kronberg's chauffeur/guard; and, Vicki Weiss, ASUCVW Michigan Treasurer. Granger is a member of SUCVW Michigan Henry F. Wallace Camp 160, Corunna. Missing from the photo is ASUCVW Michigan Secretary and Newsletter Editor who took the photograph. (ASUCVW Photo)



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**

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

By Rick Danes, CC



Camp Members Rich Bower, Keith Kushnir, Bob Zimmerman, and Danes assumed personas for a Ghost Walk at Glendale Cemetery for the Wayne Historical Society on an October afternoon

Danes and Aaron Schrader served as Guards during a flag retirement at the Dearborn Historical Museum.



Camp Members Ken Roberts, Jerry Jacobs, Jerry Radloff, and Howard Fite joined members of the 102nd USCT Reenactors for a photo op. at the Elmwood Cemetery on Veterans Day.

Camp Members Jerry Jacobs, Jerry Radloff, and Ken Robers joined members of Camp 180 and Camp 22, along with the 102nd USCT Reenactors representing the Department at the Detroit Veterans Day Parade..



MOLLUS Elects New Commander for Michigan Commandery

Paul Davis, Commander, left and Past Commander Keith Harrison, Right

The Military Order Of The Loyal Legion Of The United States, Commandery of Michigan has a new Commander. Past Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Michigan Commander Paul Davis has been elected to lead the MOLLUS Commandery of Michigan as its new Commander.



Members of MOLLUS, the Allied Orders and distinguished guests at the GAR hall open house in October



The election took place during the GAR Hall Open House in Detroit, Michigan. Following the open house tour, entertainment and a light luncheon, the Commandery met for the election of officers. It was hoped that the Commandery could meet in the actual meeting room it had used historically but that room was unfortunately not completely renovated at the time.

James Vernor, MOLLUS Companion and inventor of Vernor's Ginger Ale

The newly elected officers, MOLLUS Companions and MOLLUS Dames in attendance held a toast proposed by past Commander Bruce Butgereit. The toast was made using Vernor's Ginger Ale in memory of James Vernor, one of the original Michigan MOLLUS Companions.



Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders Central Region Association (CRA) Meets

OFFICERS of the Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders Central Region Association (CRA) were elected Oct. 3, 2015 in Dundee, Michigan. They are (from left): Chaplain Walter Busch; Junior Vice-Commander Cindy Norton of Ohio; Senior Vice-Commander Ken Freshley of Ohio; Commander Don Palmer of Missouri; Secretary/Treasurer Judy Rock of Michigan; Historian Alan Teller of Indiana; Patriotic Instructor Linda Kronberg of Michigan; and, Color Bearer John Palmer of Missouri. Not pictured is Sarah Palmer Guide. (ASUVCW PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)



ALAN TELLER (right) received a plaque Oct. 3, 2015 commemorating the work he and wife Barbara (who passed away several months ago) did for the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association. The GAR CRA was held Oct. 2-3, 2015 in Dundee, Michigan. Presenting the plaque was 2014-2015 GAR CRA Commander James Pahl of Michigan. Also at the meeting Don Palmer of Ohio was named the 2015-2016 Commander. One aspect of the annual CRA is to provide training and networking opportunities for up and coming officers of the GAR Allied Orders. (ASUVCW PHOTO/Helen A. Granger)

18th Michigan Infantry

By James B. Pahl, PCinC

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

"Then sound the march! We pledge devotion in our blood on land and ocean."

The reverses of McClellan on the Peninsula caused a general alarm for the cause of the Union. President Lincoln may a call on July 2, 1862 for 300,000 men, 11,686 being the quota of Michigan. As a result, an order was issued from the Adjutant General's office for the raising of six regiments in addition to the 17th already in process of organization and this number was subsequently added the 24th regiment.

These regiments were apportioned to congressional districts under orders of July 15, 1862 and recruitment of each was confined exclusively to its own district. The 18th was assigned to the first district, being Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe counties. The other county of the district, Wayne, undertook to raise the 24th regiment.

The rendezvous was set for the 18th of July at Hillsdale and organization was placed in charge of the Hon. Henry Waldron. Appointed Colonel was Charles E. Doolittle of Hillsdale. The regiment was mustered into service of the United States on July 26th, leaving Hillsdale with 1,002 officers and men on the rolls, with orders to report to Cincinnati. The regiment left Hillsdale and while waiting at Toledo, an elegant flag of the finest material and workmanship arrived by express, which had been ordered by the Hon. Henry Waldron. Mr. Waldron presented the colors, which was accepted by Major Horner on behalf of the regiment, who assured the donor it should never to dishonored while in their hands.

The regiment was stationed in Lexington, KY on November first and remained there until the following February, when it was moved to Dansville. Two days after arrival at Dansville, there was a general retreat ordered from Danville to the Kentucky river, with skirmishing with the rebels during the retreat.

The regiment was then ordered to Nashville and arrived April 14, where they remained for some time. On November 1 to June 11, 1864, the regiment was employed as provost guard. June 12 again saw movement as the regiment was sent to Decatur, Alabama, where they formed part of the garrison. As part of 1st brigade, 4th division, 20th corps, the regiment engaged in scouting. On June 28, they were part of a force which surprised the camp of Patterson's brigade of rebel cavalry at Pond Spring, AL, capturing all their camp equipment, wagons, ambulances and commissary stores. On September 1, the regiment was sent to Athens AL to reinforce that garrison, which was threatened by attack from General Wheeler, then engaged in a raid through Tennessee. They arrived just in time to prevent rebel forces from pillaging the town. They joined in the pursuit of Wheeler's forces, where they overtook and skirmished with the rear guard in Florence, AL. The pursuit being abandoned, they returned to Decatur on September 11.

A detachment of 231 left Decatur on September 24 to reinforce the garrison at Athens. This detachment was within two miles of Athens when attacked by a force of some 4,000 rebels under General Forrest. After five hours of desperate fighting and with their ammunition expended, they succeeded in getting within sight of the fort at Athens, but found it in possession of the enemy. They surrendered and with the exception of a very few who escaped, the entire command was killed, wounded or captured.

October 26 thru the 29th saw the regiment engaged in a successful defense against the rebel army under Hood, who was advancing on the army of Thomas at Nashville. The regiment remained in Decatur on garrison duty until November 25, when the evacuation was commenced. They left Decatur marching along the railroad to Stevenson, some eighty miles. Arriving December 2, they were employed building fortifications until the 19th, when ordered back to Decatur.

They remained in Decatur until January 11, 1865 when it proceeded by rail to Huntsville and there engaged on Post duty. On June 20, the regiment was ordered to Nashville for muster out, accomplished on the 26th. They left for Michigan the next day and arrived in Jackson, Michigan on July 2. On July 4, the regiment was paid off and discharged.



MICHIGAN'S GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT,
JAMES B. BRAINERD POST #111 MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM, INC.**

224 South Main Street
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Email: GARmichigan@gmail.com

Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>

Facebook: [GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum)

Support Michigan's GAR Museum in 2016

Beginning in October 2015, we started our third year of existence. During this past year, Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall and Museum** has obtained many new acquisitions including several additional GAR and WRC Corps badges and ribbons; an identified Michigan GAR member's uniform, several photographs, and needed equipment including a printer, scanner, power point projector, and large monitor. In addition, we have hosted five history seminars during the year.

In addition to our normal operation, during this upcoming year, we need to raise \$8,000 to replace our current furnace system and add an air conditioning and dehumidification system, both of which are needed in order to conserve our artifacts and our extensive paper records. It is only through your assistance that we can keep the museum open, growing, and free to all the adults and children who visit it throughout the year. We hope that you will renew your interest in our museum family by becoming a 2016 Sponsor of Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall and Museum, the state's only museum dedicated to ensuring the memory and deeds of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Eight different levels of sponsorship are available to select from depending on your circumstances. Also, since Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall & Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) tax exempt, Michigan nonprofit corporation, *all levels of sponsorship are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.* A Sponsorship Application is available for your use.

Thank you for interest and support in helping to ensure that the contributions of the Grand Army of the Republic to our country are kept in the public eye and not forgotten.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Keith G. Harrison

Board of Directors President

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(GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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**** Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is a separate non-profit corporation and not an organization of the Michigan Department of the Sons Union Veterans of the Civil War, Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States or the GAR Central Region Association; however, it is the officially designated repository and serves as such for the records and artifacts of these organizations.****



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224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

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James B. Brainerd Post #111 Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc.

Email: GARmichigan@gmail.com Web: www.GARmuseum.com Telephone: 517-694-9394

Face Book: [GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum)

This collection of post-Civil War history is displayed on the two floors of the original James Brainerd Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post #111 in downtown Eaton Rapids. The 1886-built GAR Hall is just a short walk from GAR Island Park where annual GAR encampments were held in August in 1886, 1893, 1901, and then each year from 1908 until 1929. Your support is needed to help to help us chronicle and preserve the significant contribution of the GAR to our state's and country's history..

2016

ANNUAL SPONSOR LEVELS

\$ 200	President Abraham Lincoln GAR Post	_____
\$ 175	Governor Austin Blair GAR Post	_____
\$ 150	Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant GAR Post	_____
\$ 125	Major Gen. William T. Sherman GAR Post	_____
\$ 100	Major Gen. Philip Sheridan GAR Post	_____
\$ 75	Bvt. Major Gen. Alpheus S. Williams GAR Post	_____
\$ 50	Bvt. Major Gen. Russell A. Alger GAR Post	_____
\$ 25	Lt. James B. Brainerd GAR Post	_____

OTHER SPONSOR LEVEL

\$1,000	Life-time Patron	_____
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Name _____

Address _____

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Email: _____

If paying by check, make your check payable to *GAR Museum*. If you wish, you also may pay by credit card by filling out the bottom of this form. Mail completed form and payment to address above.

Credit Card Number _____ Security Code _____
(3 digit code-back of card)

Expiration Date _____ Credit Card Billing Zip Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays each month, patriotic holidays, **and by appointment**.
Museum Admission is Free.

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