



Michigan's Messenger

Official 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, and 2011*

COMMANDER'S CORNER

SPECIAL MESSAGE NO. 1  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

Headquarters Marlette, MI

25 August 2022

2022 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

The Department of Michigan had the honor this year to host the 2022 National Encampment. This year's encampment ran from August 11th through August 14th and was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Department of Michigan is no stranger to hosting National Encampments, with the last National Encampment being held in 2017 in Lansing.

I want to commend and personally thank PC-in-C James Pahl and his host committee team for the outstanding work done with all of the planning and organization to put on this event. Throughout the several-day encampment, I had numerous attendees, including several National Officers and Department Commanders, express how much they enjoyed this well-put-together National Encampment. Thank you for your hard work, time, and dedication to making this event successful.

Congratulations are in order for our own PC-in-C Donald Shaw, who was elected National Quartermaster, and PDC Robert Payne, who was elected to a seat on the National Council of Administration. May you have a productive and successful first term representing such a great organization in your new position.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

/s/

Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

March to the Sea Camp 135

Submitted by Charles Worley, PDC

The Brothers of March to the Sea Camp have been involved in several activities over the course of this summer to report. When we resumed our regular business Camp Meetings in March, we established ourselves in the warm and more comfortable surroundings of the Colon Public Library in the village of Colon, Michigan. There's something about the fireplace and surrounded with books that makes for better discussions and planning.

The Camp participated in the Memorial Day parade in Centreville, Michigan. We changed things up this year by handing out American Flags to the kids along the parade route to wave as the Veterans stepped past. With the help of Brother Roland's family, there were 300 flags passed out.

Another emphasis these last two years has been supporting the Kalamazoo Lincoln Institute's effort to raise a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Bronson Park, where he spoke in 1857. Brother Cameron Brown's nonprofit group has successfully commissioned a sculptor, William Wolfe from Terre Haute, to make the likeness. More to come about this project next year.

Coming up for Veterans Day this November 11th is the premier of a documentary of the 11th Michigan Infantry. This 45 minute film was produced as a chapter of historical record of the Sturgis, Michigan area. The evening begins with a dinner for our Veterans, and continues to the Sturges Auditorium for the showing of the "Journey of the 11th." and a concert by the Sturgis Wind Symphony. The Brothers of March to the Sea Camp invite the Brothers of the Department of Michigan to join us for an entertaining evening celebrating our Veterans with film and music.

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
editor@sucwmi.org, 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!*

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L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

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Ceremonies and Rituals

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C chair

WET AND FORGET
SUBMITTED BY JOHN MANN

Members of Camp 58 have begun a campaign to clean Civil War Veteran's grave stones in their jurisdiction. The cleaning is done with a product called "Wet and Forget" which is not harmful to either the stone, grass, flowers or other foliage. It cleans moss, mold, mildew and algae stains from the stone.

The product comes as a concentrate in a gallon jug and is mixed with water to make six gallons of solution. All that is needed is to spray the solution on the stone and let it set. No need to rinse it off as Mother Nature will do that when it rains.

One gallon pump sprayers with a spray wand normally sold for spraying lawn weeds are ideal for this purpose.

If the stone is heavily covered with moss or mold, spray it and wait 10 to 15 minutes, then scrape the stone with a PLASTIC windshield ice scraper and reapply the solution. The plastic ice scraper will not harm the stone. A narrow plastic scraper or a tooth brush can also be used to clean around the lettering detail. A soft bristle brush is also helpful.

A very helpful aid to find the grave markers in many cemeteries is **findagrave.com** on the internet. Another is **MIGenWeb**. Many of the cemeteries have been surveyed and the grave markers photographed which is very helpful when in a large cemetery, especially if the person has a civilian grave marker. Some of the contributors have even added obits and additional info to the postings. Beware though not all cemeteries are listed and some have only been partially done. To access the web sites, type in the name of the cemetery, the county and state it is located in and hit enter. You can then type in the name of the person you are looking for and hopefully the posting will include a photo of the grave marker. You can also access a list of all the burials in case the person you are looking for is not listed in the event of a misspelling or nickname. To do this, click on "Search this cemetery" and you will find a list of all burials in the cemetery in alphabetical order. Case in point: Francis Blundy, St. Mary's Cemetery, Westphalia, Clinton Co., Michigan. His surname is spelled Blondy in the Department web site, but is spelled Blundy on his grave marker. Looking him up on the CW S&S web site you'll find both spellings for him.

Some of the Towns and Townships have cemetery plot maps online. Type in the name of the town or township and search for the cemetery by name. This is especially helpful if the cemetery is a large one with many burials.

Wet and Forget is available at Menards, Meijer, Ace Hardware and Lowes. It costs around \$30 per gallon for the concentrate, enough to clean approximately 75 to 100 grave stones. It is also available pre-mixed in a one gallon container with a short spray wand at a cost of around \$18.



Before and after using Wet and Forget

George W. Anderson Camp # 58

Submitted by Todd Cordill, Council & Patriotic Instructor



A community Memorial Day ceremony took place on May 30 in St. Johns, Michigan (the Clinton County seat).

The ceremony took place at Mount Rest Cemetery and was hosted by the St. Johns Veterans Honor Guard (American Legion and VFW).

Once again, George W. Anderson Camp #58 was represented and participated in a wreath setting at the monument to all fallen veterans.

The keynote speaker was a gold star father from Clinton County. Patriotic musical selections were performed by the St. Johns High School marching band. Also, the G.A.R. monument at the cemetery was decorated for the observance.

WHY MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED ONLINE

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

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

ALEXANDER FRENCH CAMP 28 & GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PDC – Camp 444 Commander

The Brothers of Alexander French Camp 28 and General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 have had a busy summer with preparation and execution of two ceremonies during the Summer of 2022. Both ceremonies saw Camp 28 in the lead as the events were in their geographical area of responsibility, with Camp 444 providing support.

The first ceremony of the summer was for two of Camp 28's own – Reverend Theodore Johnson, PCC and Brother John Emmons. The memorial ceremony was held on a hot 23rd July with family members in attendance, with the main ceremony centered at PCC Johnson and his wife's gravesite (Brother Emmons and his wife are buried nearby).

Brothers of Camp 28 and Camp 444 performed the ritual for both Brothers, and the Big Rapids American Legion & AMVETS Honor Guard served as the rifle detail and performed Taps.

The family placed red, white, and blue carnations upon the grave, and was highly pleased with the event and the honors rendered to these two absolute pillars of Alexander French Camp 28.



Above Left: Rev. Theodore Johnson, PCC's gravesite

Above Right: Camp 28 Chaplain Norvil L. Brown delivers prayers during the ceremony as Camp 28 Commander Brent Sible looks on, and seated left-to-right are Camp 444 Patriotic Instructor Walker, Camp 444 Secretary Aurand, PDC, Camp 444 Commander Smith, PDC, and Camp 28 PCC Lintemuth.

The second ceremony of the summer was held on Saturday, 06 August 2022, for David Rolston, Company K, 11th Michigan Cavalry, the Last Union Veteran Buried in Lake County Ceremony located at the Chase Cemetery in Chase.

Despite an air temperature of 91°F with high humidity, a great crowd of local citizens including a large turnout of Rolston descendants attended the event. The Lake County Honor Guard was in attendance, conducting the volleys of the rifle salute and Taps. Camp 28 worked closely with Cheryl Zill on the ceremony. The Brothers of Camp 28 and Camp 444 had the honor of having several Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, ASUVCW in attendance and participate during the ceremony.

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Above Top: The Last Union Veteran of Lake County Ceremony in progress

Above Left: The gravesite of David Rolston, Company K, 11th Michigan Cavalry, the Last Union Veteran Buried in Lake County

Above Right (L-R): Camp 444 PDC Aurand, Camp 28 Brother Brown, Camp 28 Commander Sible, Aux. 9 Sister Jones, Camp 28 PCC Lintemuth, Camp 444 Commander Smith, PDC, Aux. 9 Sister Aurand, Aux. 9 PAP Smith, and Camp 444 Brother Jones.



Above Left: Camp 28 Commander Sible leading the Last Union Veteran Buried in Lake County Ceremony

Above Right: Several Brothers of Camp 28 and Camp 444 with the Direct Descendants of Comrade David Rolston

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It must be emphasized that these two ceremonies would not have been a success without the significant work and planning of Commander Sible's wife Angel. Her efforts were invaluable from the planning stages to the execution on the days of the ceremonies.

The Brothers of Camp 28 and Camp 444 enjoyed the Fraternity of working on these ceremonies together, along with Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, the families, and the community.

The plan is to continue these types of efforts in the future.

Personal Pens

Submitted by Dennis Fyke, Secretary of Camp 427

Not many of us still use pens to write with, maybe that's a good thing, maybe not.

In my old age, my writing leaves a great deal to be desired but the act of writing by hand still gives a more personal touch to your message.

I've been blessed by having family members that want to show support for me and my Civil War interests for many years. About 10 years ago, my sister-in-law had an individual create a pen for me that I've used in all my Civil War activities. My camp brothers may have noticed this pen because it's the one I use when I take notes during our camp meetings. I appreciate the Lone Star design as she lived in Texas, and I remember her whenever I have it in my hand. She not only gave me a thoughtful birthday present, but she did so while she was in hospice. I can only hope to show this level of class when it's my turn to join history.



This last Father's Day, my daughter sent me this handcrafted pen made from the [Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree](#). This tree blew down by high winds in 2011 and some enterprising individuals managed to obtain wood from it. If you notice, in addition to the salvaged wood, the design shows a .58 caliber Minie ball at the top, and a .40 caliber revolver bullet at the tip. If you look closely, the clip is in the design of an 1861 Springfield Musket – the same type I used for years in the [N-SSA](#) organization.

In keeping with the tradition for using these pens for CW activities, the Stonewall Jackson Pen's first use was to write a note in two sympathy cards I unfortunately had to compose this past week. Both individuals participated in Civil War events and ceremonies and helped to "keep the memory alive".

I think these pens are an example of how we can remember the events of those years and honor the sacrifices that were made, while still enjoying our normal, daily life.

Company A, 14th Michigan SVR

Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC

Busy Summer

Co. A, 14th Michigan, "Irish Rifle," Sons of Veterans Reserve is composed of members from several SUVCW Camps within the Department of Michigan. The Company performs several memorial and services of Remembrance throughout the year to keep green the memory of those Civil War soldiers who are local family members as well as for family members who live out of the state of Michigan but have ancestors who served in Michigan Regiments and are buried in Michigan gravesites.

William Barton Service

William Barton served in the 26th Michigan Infantry, Company D when he was 20 years old. He was captured and died as a POW in Salisbury, North Carolina. William is buried in an unmarked and unidentified grave site. The Barton family has a memorial monument in North Star Cemetery in North Star, Gratiot County. Family members from as far away as Arizona convened at the North Star Cemetery to participate in a service of remembrance for William whose name is inscribed on the family monument.

SVR Members from US Grant 67, Crapo Camp 45, Blair Camp 7, Curtenius Guard Camp 17, and Anderson Camp 58 all participated in the Ceremony of Remembrance. A musket salute and the playing of Taps concluded the service.



SVR Combined Members Firing Musket Salute



William Barton



Barton Family Memorial



Barton Family Members participating in the ceremony

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Charles Ellett Service

During the 2022 National Encampment, the 14th Michigan SVR was once again busy in performing a Grave Site Service of Remembrance for Charles Ellett, Co. B 3rd Michigan Infantry at the Greenwood Cemetery in Grand Rapids. Participants included members from U.S. Grant Camp 67, and Crapo Camp 45. Jan Davis and Patti Townsend, Daughters Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War 1861 to 1865 were also in attendance.



Aaron Porter Headstone Dedication Service

Aaron Porter was a member of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. His descendant Daniel Purreau is from Texas and was in attendance at the 2022 Department of Michigan Encampment. He and members of his home Camp in Houston, Texas and Louisiana traveled to Ridgelawn Cemetery in Breckenridge, Michigan to perform a joint Headstone Dedication Service for his Ancestor Aaron Porter. A service of Remembrance was performed along with a musket salute, followed by Taps.

It is interesting to note that Jan Davis, President of the Michigan Daughters Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War 1861 to 1865 was also in attendance and after comparing ancestry notes with Daniel discovered they are related as cousins. The SVR musket detail consisted of Dean Lamphere, "Sailor" Bob Boquette, Len "Irish" McInerney, Dan Purreau and Joe Frost.



Combined effort Departments of Michigan and Texas SUVCW.

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Cousins: Jan Davis, President, Michigan Daughters Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War 1861-1865 and Dan Purreau. Dan delivered a memorial reading. Commander Nathan Smith, and Brothers of the Department Michigan SUVCW, we had a great National Encampment this past August. The new National Commander-in-Chief, Bruce D. Frail, was elected and all were happy to see him take office.

I will make this plea again; I urge your camp to support the Abraham Lincoln project. This project is a great endeavor and I hope we in the Department can make a difference commemorating the memorable event when Abraham Lincoln came to Michigan on August 27, 1856 and spoke to the State of Michigan. Here is the website for the project <https://www.suvcwmi.org/memorials/Kzoo-Lincoln/Kzoo-Lincoln-Project.php>

A Message

from Terry McKinch, Patriotic Instructor

I am asking the Department Signals officer to assist me with setting up meeting via Zoom. I think this will help in our solemn duty to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, those Honorably Discharged Union Soldiers who fought to preserve the union and fight for those oppressed. My GG Grandfather detested the rebellion and fought for over four years leaving his wife and family at home.

I urge you all to make your meetings are meaningful and bring something that will make the meeting worthwhile for them. As it is currently constituted, the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations Course covers the basic ins and outs of the Order. If you are wondering what color the Patriotic Instructors Station Banner is (Red in case you were wondering) or the ins and outs of the Department Encampment, well this course covers that. This course does contain an open book, untimed test that you can take the as many times as you need to pass and is an amazing tool to learn all these items. With the current course, you will need a copy of the Charter, Constitutions, and Regulations (CnR) and the Rituals and Ceremonies book to complete. Electronic copies of both are available on the website: [Governance – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War \(suvcw.org\)](https://www.suvcw.org). Upon passing either the CCnR course or the Juniors Course, the Brother will receive from the National Patriotic Instructor a Memorial University Graduation Certificate and a Lapel Pin. Most of my instructions I end with some type of challenge to you all, well this challenge should be obvious, if you haven't already, go enroll in Memorial University! I look forward to seeing more people take a swing at Memorial University as I can say from experience is a great method to learn more about the order and the Civil War.

Brothers in closing I wish you all well and hope we keep all of our Brothers safe and healthy.