



Maj. General Wm. T. Sherman

# Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## Dept. of Michigan March to the Sea Camp Number 135 July 2008 Newsletter

*"Preserved by the grace of God...."*

***Camp Officers:***

Commander, Bruce Gosling  
Sr. Vice Commander, Mike McLaughlin  
Jr. Vice Commander, David Gosling  
Council Members, John Dudd  
Carl Holsinger  
Christopher Herrmann

Secretary, Treasurer, Chuck Worley  
Chaplin, Richard Cripe  
Patriotic Instructor, John Dudd  
Signals Officer, Bruce Gosling

***Camp happenings:***

**Prairie River Monument Re-dedication:**

The organization for the ceremony on August 30 is coming along. Our political invitees have been disappointing with Rep. Upton and Lt. Gov. Cherry responding with definite "no's" and Sen. Levin with a definite "maybe". Thanks to Leslie Gosling and Dick Cripe it appears that we have our music covered! Bro. Carl has lined up a sound system from the American Legion that will require a card table or something similar to set it up on. Also, we will need lawn chairs or the like for guests and dignitaries to sit on. If anyone can bring these items, please let me know.

Personnel: We will need at least 10 members to properly pull this off. To help preserve the CC's sanity, please let me know if you plan to attend, if you have not already done so. We also need some help from non-members such as handing out programs, distributing literature on the Order and photographing the event for our archives. Are there any spouses or friends out there who can help as well?

All totaled, we are in pretty good shape on this so far. As this is our biggest event to date I really hope we can get some attention and interest generated for our little group.

### ***Local Civil War History:***

Frank Dwight Baldwin, Major General, U.S.A. was one of our county's most decorated and colorful members of its Roll of Honor. The following excerpts were taken from *St. Joseph in Homespun* written by Sue Silliman in 1931 for the county centennial.

As a boy of eighteen, Frank Baldwin ran away from his home in Constantine to enter the service, and was promptly brought home. He ran away again, and was again brought home. On his third attempt he threatened to kill anyone who attempted to take him back, and his parents relented. When Company D of the 19<sup>th</sup> Michigan was organized he mustered in as first lieutenant on September 5, 1862.

He steadily rose in rank, brevetted for gallantry and cited for conspicuous bravery beyond the call of duty. As Captain of Company D at Peach Tree Creek, under heavy fire and ahead of his own men he singly entered the enemy's line captured two fully armed officers and their stand of regimental colors. For this action he received his first Medal of Honor.

After the war, he went on in service with the regular U.S. army as a lieutenant in the Indian wars. It was in that service he received his second Medal of Honor for the gallant rescue of white girls by voluntary attack on Indians who far outnumbered him.

He continued his service through the Philippine insurrection rising in rank to Major General and retiring from service on June 26, 1906. He died April 1923 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Be sure to track down a copy of Sue Silliman's book for a full narrative of his exploits and a wealth of other local history.

### ***Random Thoughts:***

Many thanks to Dick Magee for joining us at our July meeting. He is a gifted story teller, and favored us with a taste of his upcoming talk about Lafayette at the White Pigeon Library (Tuesday July 22 at 7:00 PM). Remember, we will be changing the venue of our September meeting for his talk on Gettysburg on September 16. This will be in lieu of our regular meeting at the Stone School.

Remember, as an organization we benefit directly from the skills and knowledge of our membership. The recruiting of new members who can bring fresh energy, thoughts and skills to the group is very important. Be sure to promote the order when you can, and bring a friend to a meeting.

Our next meeting will be August 19 at the Nottawa Stone School at 7:00 PM.

In fraternity, charity and loyalty

*Bruce Gosling, Signals Officer*