



Maj. General Wm. T. Sherman

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Dept. of Michigan March to the Sea Camp Number 135 July 2010 Newsletter

"Preserved by the grace of God..."

Commander, Bruce Gosling
Sr. Vice Commander, Phillip Cripe
Jr. Vice Commander, David Gosling
Council Members, Carl Holsinger
Christopher Herrmann
David Herrmann
Secretary, Treasurer, Dick Denney

Chaplin, Richard Cripe
Patriotic Instructor, Kimber Ruedger
Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Dudd
Civil War Memorials Officer, Dick Denney
Graves Registration Officer, Charles Worley
Historian, Charles Worley
Signals Officer, Bruce Gosling

Camp happenings:

Things are winding down a bit for at the Camp with the coming of the dog days of summer. The July 20 meeting was sparsely attended, with seven brothers braving the heat. Thanks to our Patriotic Instructor Kimber for leading a spirited discussion regarding the United States Constitution and our rights that are protected by it.

Department Commander Don Shaw has expressed a desire to attend one of our upcoming meetings; I will keep you advised on developments with hopes that we can have a big turn out should his visit come to pass.

Nominations for next year's officers will be coming up in October, followed by elections in November. So, it is not too early to be thinking about whether or not you would be willing to take on a new position in the Camp. I will be completing my third term as Camp Commander, and have no difficulty in stepping aside if someone is eager to take on the post. Discussion regarding

nominations will be on the agenda for the September meeting, so please give this some thought.

It has been reported that Brother Mike McLauchlin has moved to Virginia to be nearer to his fiancé. Best wishes to Mike in his search for employment. No reports yet on whether he will be changing sides and joining a "Reb" battery.

Brothers & their families in distress: Happily there are no reported conditions of distress to pass along.

Projects:

I received a card from Martha Starmann of the St. Joseph County Historical Society proposing that we join forces in taking on the task of giving the Old Centreville Cemetery a face-lift. Given the neglect over the years, this is potentially a very big job. We discussed this at length at the July meeting, and the question was raised whether or not there are any Civil War Veterans buried there. I have consulted the cemetery survey that was compiled by the St. Joseph County Genealogical Society in 1990 and found that there are indeed at least four veterans buried there. They are:

Samuel Mansfield, Battery D, 1st MI Light Artillery

W. Johnson, Sgt. Co. A, 11th MI Infantry

Fritz Oppliger, 11th MI Infantry

J H Donahue, he is listed as Battery D of the 10th MI Light Artillery, however there was no such regiment. Consulting the NPS Soldiers and Sailors site, I am guessing this was a typo and he is John H. Donahue of the 1st MI Light Artillery, although he could be James H. Donahue of the 10th MI Cavalry but my bet is on John.

There is one GAR marker noted in the survey, however this gentleman died in 1840 and is very unlikely to have served with much distinction in the war.

Perhaps we could adjourn our meeting in August early to take a road trip out to see if this is something we would like to take on as a long-term project.

Upcoming events:

CC Bruce will be checking with the Nottawa Township Library regarding scheduling a dedication for the Hiram Wescott display that Brother Dick and Phillip assembled. We will discuss this further at the August meeting.

In the News:

From the Kalamazoo Gazette, May 23, 2010:

Thanks to the efforts of his descendents and other supporters, Lt. Alonzo Cushing of Battery A, 4th US Artillery has recently been awarded the Medal of Honor for his valliant service at Gettysburg.

Lt. Cushing died July 3, 1863, the last day of the epic battle at the age of 22. He commanded about 110 men and six cannons. His unit stood its ground under a massive artillery bombardment from the Confederates preceding Picket's Charge. The bombardment lasted two hours and Lt. Cushing was wounded in the shoulder and groin. At this point the unit could have fallen back and been replaced by reserve forces, but Lt. Cushing shouted that he would take his guns to the front lines. Within minutes a Confederate bullet to the head killed him.

The campaign by his supporters began in 1987 when Sen. William Proxmier entered comments in the Congressional Record. Current Sen. Russ Feingold took up the cause and helped petition the Army to evaluate the application. After lengthy review, the Army agreed just this year to recommend awarding the medal.

Evidently, in the initial years of awarding the Medal of Honor no posthumous awards were made. So, Lt. Cushing's valor could not be formally recognized at the time.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Nottawa Stone School