



Maj. General Wm. T. Sherman

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Dept. of Michigan March to the Sea Camp Number 135 October 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:

Our dedication for the display of Private Hiram Wescott's memorabilia at Nottawa Township Library on October 9 was sparsely attended, but well received by those who were there. If you have not visited the collection you should make it a point to do so. You will find it time well spent.

November means that elections will be the primary focus on that month's meeting agenda. We were unable to conduct nominations in October due to the lack of Brothers attending the meeting (3). Thus, we will have to recruit candidates as well as cast our ballots in November. We will also need to schedule our annual meeting and decide if we will be going to Fisher Lake again or if we shall try somewhere else.

The attendance issue leads to the question of just what can we do to make our meetings more inviting to you? Is it a problem with the date, time or location? Please let your officers know what we can do to make our meetings something

that we all look forward to attending every month. This will be a focus topic in November, so please plan on attending and bringing your ideas.

Brothers & their families in distress:

Brother John Dudd is recovering from two hernia surgeries over this last summer. He has not been able to get out and about for some time while he has been recovering. It sounds as if he will continue to be laid up for several more weeks, but is on the mend. Please keep Brother John in your thoughts and prayers.

A little about Private Hiram Wescott:

Hiram Wescott was born in Lockport Township on September 28, 1843 the son of William and Sarah Wescott. He was orphaned at the age of six and was raised by relatives. On August 24, 1861, just short of the age of eighteen he answered his country's call and enlisted into Company A of the Eleventh Michigan Infantry.

The regiment was organized and trained in White Pigeon and was mustered into service on September 24, 1861. The regiment departed White Pigeon on December 9 for Bardstown Kentucky where they were assigned to railroad guard to July of 1862. Following this assignment they began to see heavy action, fighting in 18 battles including Stone's River, Chickamauga, the assault on Kenesaw Mountain ending with service in the Siege of Atlanta when their three year term of service ran out in September 1864. The regiment was mustered out on September 30, 1864 in Sturgis. Many re-enlisted in the reorganized Michigan Eleventh; however 320 had had enough fighting and stayed home. Private Wescott was one of these returning to Centreville to learn the trade of harness making and opening his own business. He married Marion W. Hewings who preceded him in death on October 1, 1931.

In all, of the roughly 1,300 men who left White Pigeon, the Regiment lost 5 officers and 107 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, and 2 officers and 194 enlisted men to disease for a total of 308 casualties.

Private Wescott was active in the David Oakes Post of the Grand Army of the Republic until it was disbanded due to its ranks being depleted. He attended many GAR encampments; and many of his souvenirs are in this display here. He was also an active attendee of reunions of the 11th Michigan Infantry. At the age of 90 years, four months and 24 Private Wescott passed away on February 22, 1934. He was the last surviving member of the GAR in Centreville.

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on November 16, 2010 at the Nottawa Stone School