



JULY 2009
THE PRITCHARD PRESS
NEWSLETTER OF THE
GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD
CAMP 20
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE
CIVIL WAR
"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE
OF GOD..."



2009 CAMP 20 OFFICERS

COMMANDER JOHN R. KEITH
SR. VICE COMMANDER JEFF E. BAKER
JR. VICE COMMANDER THOMAS BRUCE
CAMP SECRETARY DANIEL KNIGHT
CAMP TREASURER JOHN C. KEITH
GUARD: CLIFFORD BURHANS
GUIDE: JOHN BREWSTER
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: DENNIS LAPOINT
EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: DANIEL KNIGHT
MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: ART BONNELL

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER:
BILL COSTELLO
COLOR BEARER: GLENN HALL
HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON
CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN
SIGNAL OFFICER: JOHN C. KEITH
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:
BILL COSTELLO, STEVE REDINGER AND ART
BONNELL

REMINDER- our next camp meeting will be **Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 at 7pm** Camp 20 meets on the first Tuesday of the month, March through November, at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, located at 7265 West Main Street.

**THANKS TO ALL UNITED STATES
VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Reminder:

Please report any change in your contact information to Camp Commander Keith or Camp Secretary Knight so we can be up to date!

RALPH R. TOWNER “LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER” PLAQUE DEDICATION
MALLORY CEMETERY, TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP.

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

JULY 11th, 2009 2 PM

**(THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR YOU TO ATTEND A LAST SOLDIER DEDICATION
HOSTED BY CAMP 20)**

We at the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are honored to host this dedication to honor Ralph R. Towner; the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Allegan County, Michigan.

Mr. Towner served our country in Company F of the 186 New York Infantry. He was 98 years old at his death in April of 1946.

At the time of death he was one of a few left in the Nation who attended the dedication of Gettysburg as a national memorial when President Abraham Lincoln spoke! He was also Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of Michigan Grand Army of the Republic and was a past Department of Michigan Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, holding that office in 1945. His death left Michigan with only 3 remaining Civil War soldiers.

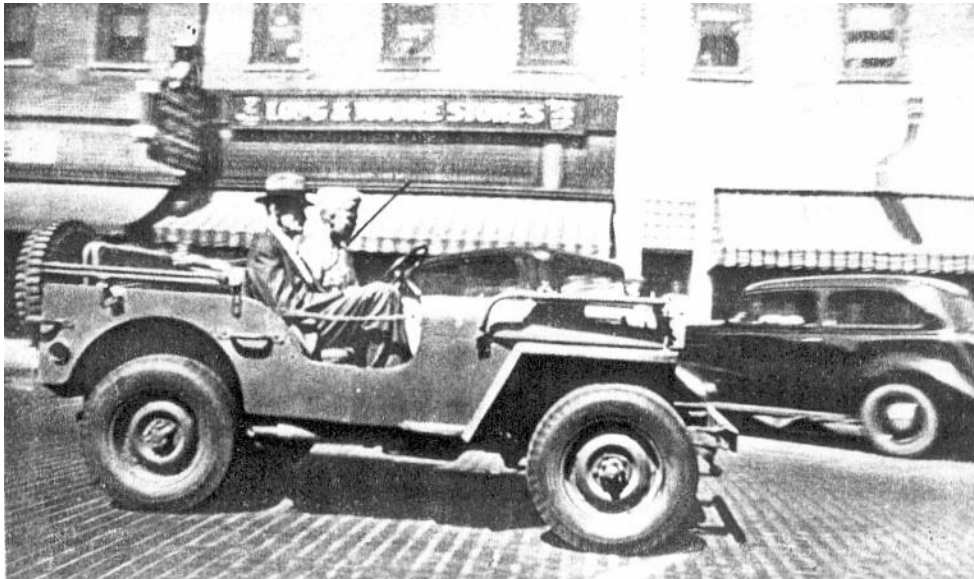
Mr. Towner for the last 69 years of his life was a resident on the same farm in Trowbridge Township.

Last year Camp 20 placed a “LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER PLAQUE” on his gravestone and we will dedicate the plaque on this day.

Mallory Cemetery is located just south of the City of Allegan, on M40.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Bro. Bill Brennan-Chairman



**PICTURE TAKEN DURING WWII
Ralph Towner riding in the ALLEGAN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

Please submit items to be added to this newsletter to-

Bro. John R. Keith
950 106th Avenue
Plainwell, MI 49080

Email address is Hardtackcw@aol.com

Or

Bro. John C. Keith
4347 117th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010

Email address is camp20suvcwmi@gmail.com

GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP 20
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SONS of UNION VETERANS of the CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:
<http://suvcwmi.org>

GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP 20

John R. KEITH, CAMP COMMANDER

950 106th Avenue

Plainwell, MI 49080