



JUNE 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, July 7th,**
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.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THE ADDITION OF A NEW CAMP 20 MEMBER

**Bro. Rob R. Roy lives in Portage, Michigan and has joined the SUVCW
in honor of his Great Grandfather, Michael Ryan who was a private in
Company G of the First Michigan Cavalry. Brother Roy is a veteran of
the United States Armed Forces.**

**Please join us in welcoming him to our Camp and great our
organization.**

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!

CURTIS BRIGHAM WAR OF 1812 GRAVESTONE DEDICATION

hosted by

**The Stephen Preston Chapter of the
National Society United States Daughters of 1812**

and

**The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Department of Michigan,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
at Hillside Cemetery, Gun Plain Township,
Allegan County, Michigan
(Just east of Plainwell)**

June 13th, 2009 3pm

(Reception at the First Baptist Church following)

**We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the Curtis Brigham War of
1812 Gravestone Dedication being held at the above location.**

**Mr. Brigham has just received a new military gravestone and on this day we will
honor this local hero and very important person in the history of Plainwell and
Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan.**

**Curtis Brigham served our United States as a private in the Massachusetts
Regiment of Minute Men, in Captain Tisdall's Company.**

**Deacon Curtis Brigham is also the founder of the First Baptist Church in
Plainwell, the very first church organized in Allegan County.**

RALPH R. TOWNER "LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER" PLAQUE DEDICATION

MALLORY CEMETERY, TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP.

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

JULY 11th, 2009 2 PM

**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 SOLIDER 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

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