

# THE PRITCHARD PRESS

The Newsletter of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

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HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON

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SIGNAL OFFICER: JOHN C. KEITH

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

BILL COSTELLO, STEVE REDINGER AND

ART BRUNNELL

PRITCHARD PRESS EDITOR: GARY SWAIN

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### Our Purpose

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), we are the legal heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Our goal and purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the GAR; what they did in the Civil War and to preserve the Union, and to continue the work they started following the War. Teaching others about our flag, patriotism and citizenship were important to them and should be important to us all. Learning about the other cultures and histories that live among us today is important, but the basic history of the United States cannot take second place to that of others.

We are a National organization divided into Departments (States) and then Camps (local chapters). While perpetuating the memory of the GAR, we also work actively to locate and record the final resting place of all Civil War soldiers as well as work to restore and or preserve Civil War memorials. We also seek to honor the veterans of all wars. We participate in Memorial Day services as well as those on Veterans' Day.

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## Camp Calendar

### ❖ July 2011

**5<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ August 2011

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

**11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:** National 2011

Encampment, Reston, VA

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Civil War Collectors Show-Centerville, MI

**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>,** Jackson, MI Cascades Civil War Muster

### ❖ September 2011

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ October 2011

**4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

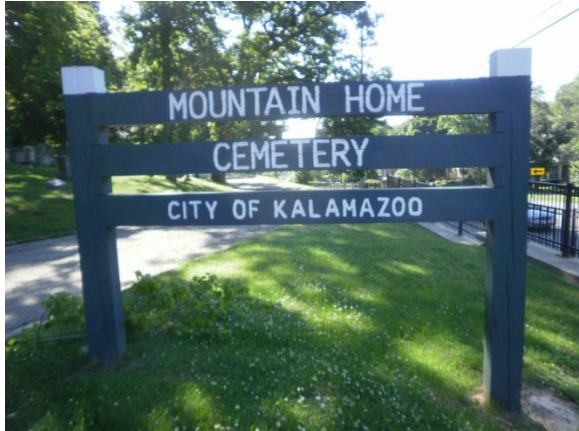
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## Camp Happenings

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Civil War Memorial at Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo.



Brothers Gary Gibson, Tom Bruce, Mike Culp, Gary Swain and Marianne Lancaster, a member of the Daughter's Tent No. 58, installed flags on all veterans graves in Kalamazoo's Mountain Home Cemetery on the Saturday preceding Memorial Day.



## Quote of the Month

"War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueler it is, the sooner it will be over."

*General William Tecumseh Sherman*



## Our Heritage

**A 4<sup>th</sup> of July to  
Remember...not to  
Surrender**

## **The Battle of Tebbs' Bend- Green River Bridge, July 4, 1863**

When Confederate Brig. General John Hunt Morgan began his celebrated "Great Raid" through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio on June 11, 1863 the country was focused upon the Grant's seige of Vicksburg and, as July approached, Lee's invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania which resulted in the

three day battle at Gettysburg, PA.



Confederate Brig. General John Hunt Morgan

Morgan, a Kentuckian, expected a partisan reception in his home state and was confident that his superior forces would quickly subdue any scattered resistance before bringing the war to Northern soil in Indiana and Ohio. What he hadn't counted on was Union Col. Orlando Moore and the Dutchmen in the five companies of the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry.

Colonel Moore was from Schoolcraft, Michigan and was already a Lieutenant in the regular army, stationed in California, when the War of the Rebellion broke out in 1861. He was credited with helping to stop the plot to bring the Pacific states into the Confederacy.



Union Colonel Orlando Hurley Moore

The 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Michigan Infantry was mustered into service on September 22, 1862 in Kalamazoo, Michigan and within a week were attached to the Dept. of the Ohio and sent to Louisville, KY. The 10 companies of the 25<sup>th</sup> were all from western Michigan communities including a large number from the greater Kalamazoo area and Dutch Americans from Holland, Zeeland and Grand Rapids.

Col. Moore's second in command was Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Orcutt who went on to become the sheriff of Kalamazoo County after the war and who gave his name to GAR post in Kalamazoo after his untimely death at the hand of an unknown jail escapee.

One of Col. Moore and the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan's earliest assignments was as provost marshal in Louisville. Moore, an abolitionist at heart, was quickly pitted against the local citizens of Louisville who demanded his protection of their slave property. Slavery was still legal in Kentucky as the Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves in the Confederate states and Kentucky had remained in the Union. Col. Moore was ultimately driven from the provost marshal position by the vociferous

local newspapers and citizens. This left very hard feelings on both sides.



Recruiting Poster-The 25th Michigan continued to recruit throughout the war.

After being relieved of the provost marshal post Col. Moore was ordered to Lebanon, KY on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a little over 200 men from Cos. D, E, F, I and K and then on to the strategic Green River Bridge at Tebbs Bend to protect the Lebanon-Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike which was an important Union supply route and the main wagon route from Lebanon to Louisville. Morgan had burned this bridge in a December 1862 raid. The bridge was of such importance to the Union forces and the state of Kentucky that it was quickly rebuilt and now Morgan intended to use it to advance on Louisville.



The bridge over the Green River at Tebbs Bend, KY. The iron bridge was rebuilt on the original stone pilings in 1907 to replace the wooden covered bridge built in 1863.

Col. Moore learned on July 2<sup>nd</sup> that units of Morgan’s Confederate Cavalry with 2500 troopers were crossing the Cumberland River and aiming for the Green River Bridge. Col. Moore, with a good eye for tactics, decided to defend the bridge from a horse shoe bend in the river. Both flanks were protected by the high bluffs of the river and the road ran through the center of the position which would force Morgan to fight in his front. Moore quickly felled trees to build abatis and dug rifle pits about 100 yards to the front.

Morgan’s vastly superior force arrived at sunrise on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and immediately began to bombard the Union troops with a battery of artillery. Morgan then sent in a delegation, under a flag of truce, with the following letter:

Headquarters Morgan’s Division

In Field in Front Green River Stockade,

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

To the officer commanding the Federal Forces at Stockade near Green River Bridge, Ky.

Sir- In the name of the Confederate States Government, I demand an immediate and unconditional surrender of the entire force under your command, together with the stockade.

I am, very respectfully sir,

John H. Morgan

Commanding Division Cav, C. S. A

In an August 11, 1894 article *The Holland City (Michigan) News* reported the following exchange occurred:

*As to the nature of the reply made by Col. Moore, there is no dispute. But when it comes to the exact phraseology made use of by him, there is a discrepancy between the recorded page and the recollections of those that stood within hearing of the peremptory refusal. Just be that as it may, upon this disputed point we prefer to follow the record.*

*"Colonel Moore rode forward between the lines, where he met the delegation of rebel officers, who appealed to him with marked curtesy and diplomacy, urging the surrender of his command, and promising kind treatment, as their only interest was to move forward in their course. Colonel Moore replied, 'Present my compliments to General Morgan, and*

*say to him, that this being the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I cannot entertain the proposition to surrender.'*

*"Col. Allison, of Morgan's staff said, 'I hope you will not consider me as dictatorial on this occasion. I will be frank. You see the breach we have made upon your works with our battery. You cannot expect to repulse General Morgan's whole division with your little command. You have resisted us gallantly and deserve credit for it, and now I hope you will save useless bloodshed by reconsidering the message to General Morgan.'*

*"To this the Colonel replied, 'Sir, when you assume to know my strength you assume too much. I have a duty to my country, and therefore cannot reconsider my reply to General Morgan.'*

*"The rebel officer seemed to be moved by these remarks, extended his hand, and with a moist eye, said, 'Good-bye, Col. Moore. God only knows which of us shall fall first.' All turned their horses in the opposite directions, and at once renewed the conflict.*

Morgan then ordered his artillery to recommence firing. As soon as the first shot was fired Moore ordered his rifle pits to open fire with their new long distance Enfield Rifles. Their fire was so accurate and deadly that they forced Morgan's artillery to withdraw.

Morgan then charged the Union lines 8 times and was repulsed each time with significant loss.

Moore had instructed his men of the 25<sup>th</sup> to remain quiet during the battle to conceal their numbers from the enemy. Col. Moore who was also a musician sounded the bugle to deceive Morgan into thinking reinforcements had arrived. Further he had men on horses charge back in forth across the bridge adding to the impression of further reinforcements arriving.

The battle lasted over 3 ½ hours resulting in heavy loss for the Confederates. They lost 36 dead, 45 wounded and 30 captured. The Union lost 6 killed and 14 wounded. Finally, Morgan sent in a flag of truce asking Moore for permission to tend to his wounded. This was granted and Morgan withdrew and crossed the river at a nearby ford.

John Wetherred of the 9<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry said after the battle *“General Morgan stopped the fight and we went below the bridge a mile and crossed the river and left Moore in charge of his almost impregnable position. It was foolish to attack, most of us thought.”*

Historian James Ramage said “The Battle of Tebbs bend was “one of the most outstanding small victories of the Civil War. It was unusual for a small union force to resist Morgan, and to fight so fiercely and effectively.

The battle, which Morgan did not expect to fight delayed his raid by over 30 hours. This gave Louisville time to prepare and reinforce. Consequently Morgan avoided Louisville entirely.

For the memorable fight and splendid victory, Col. Moore and his command

received the thanks of the Kentucky Legislature. The *Louisville Journal* which only a few weeks previous had seen fit to abuse Col. Moore most terribly, among others, had this to say:

*“Col. Moore’s repulse of a force unequal to twenty or twenty-five times his own was one of the most chivalrous affairs on record. Though it is unquestionably history, it reads like the wildest romance. We do not think that Col. Moore made a very good provost marshal when he was here; but he fights like the devil. We rashly invited him to make a charge with his fraction of a regiment upon the Journal office, but now we hope he won’t do it. We apologize. We retract. We back out. We knock under.”*



The city of Louisville gave this tea service to Col. Moore five years after he defeated Gen. John Morgan at Tebbs Bend. The inscription reads: "Presented to Col O.H. Moore September 23rd 1868. Tebbs Bend July 4 1863."

Col. Moore was made brevet major in the U. S. Army for gallant and meritorious service at Tebbs Bend and brevet lieutenant colonel in the U. S. Army in 1865. After the war he returned to service in the regular army.

An interesting footnote occurred during the Battle of Tebbs' Bend when one of the gallant Union soldiers defending the bridge was wounded while repulsing one of Morgan's charges. The soldier was taken to the medical station and one of the surgeons discovered that the soldier was actually a woman, Lizzie Compton, who had enlisted as a man to fight for her country.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan went on to fight and gain further glory in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and then the Battles of Franklin and Nashville. Many historians consider the 25<sup>th</sup> to be one of the best regiments from the State of Michigan.



This Michigan Highway Marker was placed on the battlefield by the Holland-Zeeland Civil War Roundtable in 1988 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the battle.

An interesting footnote to the Battle of Tebbs' Bend occurred when one of the gallant Union soldiers that helped to defeat Morgan was wounded and taken to the medical station. Here the surgeon

discovered that the soldier was actually a woman, Lizzie Compton, who had enlisted as a man to fight for her country.

If you would like to learn more about Col. Orlando Moore from Schoolcraft, the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan or Morgan's Raid and the Battle of Tebbs Bend please visit the following web sites:

<http://www.kycivilwarsites.org/the-battle-of-tebbs-bend/>

[http://bentley.umich.edu/research/guides/civilwar/civilwar\\_search.php?id=256](http://bentley.umich.edu/research/guides/civilwar/civilwar_search.php?id=256)

<http://www.migenweb.net/ottawa/military/civilwar/BattleTebbsBend.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan's\\_Raid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan's_Raid)



## 150 Years Ago in July 1861

**July 4, 1861** - Lincoln, in a speech to Congress, states the war is..."a People's contest...a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men..." The Congress authorizes a call for 500,000 men.

### First Bull Run

**July 21, 1861** - The Union Army under Gen. Irvin McDowell suffers a defeat at Bull Run 25 miles southwest of Washington. Confederate Gen. Thomas J. Jackson earns the nickname "Stonewall," as his brigade resists Union attacks. Union troops fall back to Washington. President Lincoln realizes the war will be long. "It's damned bad," he comments.





This is a photo of the ruins of the Stone Bridge over which Northern forces retreated until it was blown up by a Rebel shell adding to the panic of the retreat, with the Federals returning to Washington as "a rain-soaked mob."



**July 27, 1861** - President Lincoln appoints George B. McClellan as Commander of the Department of the Potomac, replacing McDowell.

McClellan tells his wife, "I find myself in a new and strange position here: President, cabinet, Gen. Scott, and all deferring to me. By some strange operation of magic I seem to have become the power of the land."



## Civil War Casualties

### Civil War Casualties **June 1861**

	Month	War to Date
North	1577	1677
South	1057	1080

\*Casualties include disease, capture, disfigurement and death. June witnessed the Battles of Philippi and Jefferson City

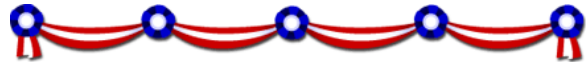


## Civil War Trivia Question

What captain at Ft. Sumter, who was sometimes been credited with firing the first shot of the war there, has been

erroneously credited with inventing a popular sport?

Answer: See bottom of column



## Calendar of Civil War Commemorative Events in July 2011

**June-August** -- Evening events about the First Battle of Manassas, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Va.

**June-September** -- Programs on Southern Confederate spies, Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C.

**July** -- Walking tours of Richmond's hospitals as the medical center of the Confederacy, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, Va.

**July 9** -- Commemoration of cannon fire between Confederates and the USS Massachusetts, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf Breeze, Fl.

**July 9-10** -- 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy, Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, Md.

**July 13** -- Reenactment of the occupation of the antebellum town, Natchez National Historic Park, Natchez, Miss.

**July 16-24** -- 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Va.

**July 30** -- Artillery demonstrations, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.



## Civil War Trivia Question Answer

Abner Doubleday, once regarded as the father of baseball.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2007/05/23/16478/a-must-read-for-memorial-day-52307.html>



## Photo of the Month



[Crippled Locomotive, Richmond & Petersburg Railroad Depot - Richmond, VA, 1865](#)

