

# 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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## IN THIS ISSUE

Announcements.....	2
Camp Calendar.....	3
Graves and Memorials.....	3
Quote of the Month: <b>Sam Houston</b> .....	3
Our Heritage: <b>General Benjamin Pritchard</b> .....	4
History: <b>Thank God for Michigan</b> .....	6
150 Years Ago in the Civil War.....	7
Civil War Casualties.....	8
Sesquicentennial Events for 2011.....	8
Photo of the Month.....	11



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HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON

CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN

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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## Announcements

### 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.



- ❖ The first new Civil War film in years...Robert Redford brings you "The Conspirator" April 15, 2011. A film about the Lincoln assassination. To visit their site just click on or copy and paste the address below into your browser.

[http://www.conspiratorthemovie.com/?source=gaw&gclid=CKrCgtjZtacCFcnc4AodoBzJ\\_g](http://www.conspiratorthemovie.com/?source=gaw&gclid=CKrCgtjZtacCFcnc4AodoBzJ_g)

- ❖ On **Tuesday, April 26, 7:00pm**, Camp 20 Historian Gary Gibson will present a program at the Kalamazoo Public Library about the GAR lot and share some of the stories of the veterans buried there. Below is the link to the Library's web page about it.



## Camp Calendar

### ❖ April 2011

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

**16<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>** Annual National SUVC Lincoln's Tomb Ceremony (146 anniversary of Lincoln's death), Springfield, IL

**26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm:** Gary Gibson's-GAR lot presentation at Kalamazoo Public Library

### ❖ May 2011

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

**Date and Time TBD:** Civil War Monument clean up-Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, MI

**21<sup>st</sup>:** Department of Michigan Encampment, Lansing Michigan

**30<sup>th</sup>, Time TBD:** Memorial Ceremony-Civil War Monument, Riverside Cemetery

**30<sup>th</sup>:** Memorial Day (Original and Observed)

### ❖ June 2011

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

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Flag Day: Fly your flag



## Graves and Memorials

### TAPS

*Fading light dims the sight,  
And a star gems the sky,  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.*

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, From the hills,  
From the sky.  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.*

*Then good night, Peaceful night,  
Till the light of the dawn  
Shineth bright,  
God is near, do not fear,  
Friend, good night.*



## Quote of the Month

“You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, as a bare possibility, win southern independence...but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of States Rights, the North is determined to preserve the union. They are not a fiery impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction....they will move with a steady

momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche.” *Sam Houston to Texas legislature, January 1861. He refused to sign the oath of allegiance to the Confederate government and was deposed as governor.*

“We are two people. We are a people of freedom and a people of slavery. Between the two, conflict is inevitable.” *New York Tribune, April 11, 1854*



## Our Heritage

### The Biography of General Benjamin Pritchard

Source Wikipedia, Edited by Gary Swain

#### Early life and career



Benjamin Pritchard was born to Lambert and Zulpha (Adams) Pritchard in rural Nelson, Ohio. Pritchard worked in the carpentry and cabinet-making trade until he had earned and saved enough money to enroll at Hiram College, where his instructor was James A.

Garfield (who would later serve as United States President). He studied penmanship under the Spencer Brothers, whose father had invented the Spencerian Script.

Following his work at Hiram College, in 1856, Pritchard went to Allegan, Michigan, where he studied law under the tutelage of Judge W. B. Williams and

taught for Allegan Public Schools at a salary of \$240 per year. In 1858, he continued his studies at the University of Michigan, graduating and achieving admittance to the bar in 1860. Upon his return to Allegan, he partnered with Judge Williams to establish a law practice.

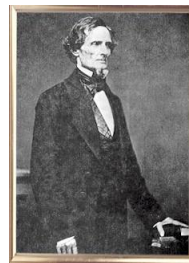
## Civil War



In 1862, Pritchard and Judge Williams both enlisted in the Union Army. Pritchard entered the 4th Michigan Cavalry, Company L, as a captain. Following the Battle of Chickamauga (September 30 – October 3, 1863), he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

On September 1, 1864, while on a short leave, Pritchard traveled to Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where he was married to Mary Bently Kent. They honeymooned in Allegan at Judge Williams's home before Pritchard returned to his regiment. Meanwhile, his new bride was in a train wreck and subsequently had to use a wheelchair, after which she took up the art of painting. Upon Pritchard's discharge, they set up residence at 330 Davis Street in what is now part of Allegan's historic district.

#### Rise to military fame



At Abbeyville, Georgia, 70 miles south of Macon, it was learned that Davis's fleeing party had crossed the ferry over the Ocmulgee River and was moving southward toward Irwinville, 30 miles below Abbeyville and 100 miles south of Macon. Lieutenant Colonel Pritchard, in command of the 4th Michigan Cavalry, marched the regiment rapidly down the river road, and, after a 30-mile ride, reached Irwinville late in the night. There, he learned that he was now in advance of the Davis party.

One of Pritchard's officers, Corp. George Munger (of Allegan, Michigan), soon discovered the Confederate president's encampment. He noticed two women moving rapidly away from the camp as the 4th Michigan approached and thought they looked

suspicious, so he stopped them and asked that they remove their cloaks. Upon so doing, it was revealed that the two "women" were Jefferson Davis and his wife, both wearing women's cloaks and shawls trying to escape capture. (The cloak and shawl worn by the Confederate president are now the property of the National Archives.)

Davis later wrote of the event: "I had gone perhaps fifteen yards when a trooper galloped up and ordered me to halt and surrender to which I gave a defiant answer. He leveled his carbine at me but I expected if he fired he would miss. My intention was to put my hand under his foot, tumble him off on the other side, spring into his saddle and escape."<sup>[1]</sup> A number of cartoons and mockery songs appeared in the public during the weeks and months that followed, chiding Davis for the attire he was captured in. P. T. Barnum even made a giant-sized replica of "Davis in drag."<sup>[2]</sup>

Pritchard insisted on giving thorough credit to all who played a role in the capture. He worked on the report for 48 straight hours, closing it with a recommendation that the following men receive brevet promotions:

"Captain Hathaway, commanding that part of the regiment picketing the river; Captain Charles Hudson, in command of Advance Guard of fourteen picked men who led the column into the Camp; Lieutenant Silas A. Stauber and Henry S. Boutell who were commanding fifty men in each detachment, the latter of whom was severely wounded while gallantly leading his men; Lieutenant A. B. Purinton who had charge of the Dismounted men and making the circuit of the enemies' camp; Lieutenants Dickinson and Davis for General Duties as aids and Bennett commanding the rear guard. Also, Corporals Munger of "C" Company, Crittendon of "E" Company, together with Private James Bullard "C" Company, Andrew Bee and Daniel Edward of "L" Company, who were present at the halting of Davis."<sup>[3]</sup>

As his reward for making the capture, Colonel Pritchard was brevetted out of service as a brigadier general (and the larger pension that came with that rank) and a \$3000 share of the bounty which President Johnson offered for Davis's apprehension (1868 Draft #2186 drawn on Warrant #3749).

## After the war

Following the war, the now-famous national hero returned to Allegan, where he resumed his law partnership with Judge Williams, continuing the practice until 1868. He and Mary had a daughter—Bertha Edna—on September 24, 1869, and a son—Harry—on August 5, 1873. Pritchard supported several churches, but he and his family made Allegan First Congregational Church their place of worship.

Pritchard turned down the nomination for Governor of Michigan in 1884, deferring to and supporting the incumbent, David Jerome of Saginaw. He was strongly encouraged to run for Congress, but declined in favor of continuing his term on the Allegan School Board, which position he held for many years as the only elected local post he was willing to serve from. He did, however, serve two terms of office as the State Treasurer of Michigan from 1880 to 1884.

As School Board Director, Pritchard had three new elementary schools built and annexed to North Ward school, which had stood as an autonomous district, and organized Allegan's first high school, which graduated its first class in 1876 (dubbed the *Centennial Class* due to its coincidence with the Nation's 100th birthday). The school had a staff of two, both of whom taught, and one of whom simultaneously served as the schools superintendent and principal.

In 1870, Pritchard organized the First National Bank of Allegan and served as its president until 1905. He then relinquished his shares in that bank and founded the First State Bank, which was the first bank in the county to be anointed as a state depository. It was also the first *savings bank*, offering 4% interest to depositors, and the first bank to install safety deposit boxes.

## Death and burial

His family reports that he began experiencing consistent chest pains around November 12, 1907. On Sunday, November 24, his family physician examined him, finding nothing wrong with Pritchard. He went to work the following day, as usual, but was stricken with acute angina pectoris at home that evening. His physician was called in and morphine was administered, but it took two hours for the pain to subside. He didn't report to work Tuesday, November 26,—the first day he had taken off in forty years. At about 5:30 p.m., he told his daughter that he was feeling fine and suggested she go rest. Before she could leave the room, he gasped, and his life was over. Since none outside his immediate family had been given an indication of his illness, the news of his apparently sudden death sent a shockwave across the state as the loss of its greatest heroes was mourned.

Pritchard was interred in Oakwood Cemetery (Allegan) on November 29, 1907, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Rev. William Lucas of the local Episcopal Church, and the Rev. A. V. Brashear of the local Presbyterian Church officiating. Over 600 attended the service.





# History

## “Thank God for Michigan”

By Gary Swain

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861: Just two months after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter the First Michigan Infantry Regiment marched into Washington, DC becoming the first western regiment to reach Washington. Newly sworn in and beleaguered President Abraham Lincoln is said to have uttered “Thank God for Michigan.” The First Michigan thus became the first of over 90,000 Michigan soldiers and sailors or 23% of the male population of the state to serve the Union in the Civil War.



Michigan was a strong anti slavery state prior to the war and played an important role in the underground railroad. Michigan men enlisted with enthusiasm and in fact they enlisted at a rate faster then the state could muster regiments so many went to other states to enlist. Unlike other states very few Michigan men had to be drafted as

most ranks were filled by eager volunteers. The state eventually mustered in 31 infantry regiments, 11 of cavalry, one each of sharpshooters and engineers and 14 batteries of artillery. Nearly 600 sailors came from Michigan. When Governor Austin Blair was asked to supply 4 regiments, at the beginning of the war, he sent seven. Ultimately, 14,753 Michigan soldiers died in the service of their country or approximately one in every six who entered the service.

Many Michigan Regiments left a legacy that is a source of pride and awe to their state and country even after 150 years. Among the most celebrated units were the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry which earned eternal fame and suffered extraordinary casualties as part of the Iron Brigade on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg with their stubborn defense of McPherson's Ridge. In the same battle George Armstrong Custer's Michigan Wolverine Cavalry stopped Jeb Stewart's Cavalry from attacking the rear of the line during Pickets Charge. The 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry sustained the heaviest loss in battle of any Michigan regiment. They lost 254 men in battle and 454 men in total.

Michigan soldiers fought in virtually every major battle of the Civil War. Michigan soldiers earned 62 Medal of Honors during the Civil War including Second Lieutenant Thomas Custer of Company B, Michigan 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, brother of the more famous Gen. George Armstrong Custer, who was the only soldier to earn two Medals of Honor during the Civil War. Captain Frank Baldwin of Company D, 19<sup>th</sup>

Michigan Infantry earned a Medal of Honor in the Civil War and a second Medal of Honor in the Indian Wars.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1866, at the Presentation of Civil War Flags to the state of Michigan, General O. B. Wilcox summed it up best when he said "Ah! yes, many a hand that vigorously grasped these Flagstuffs and led the van, now lies crumbling in the grave; and not color-bearers alone, but nearly 15,000 others who fought beside them—the flower of Michigan—return not to receive your thanks and the plaudits of their grateful countrymen."



## 150 Years Ago in 1861



**February 9, 1861** - The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Army officer, as president.

**March 4, 1861** - Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America.

### Fort Sumter Attacked



**April 12, 1861** - At 4:30 a.m. Confederates under Gen. **Pierre Beauregard** open fire with 50 cannons upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War begins.

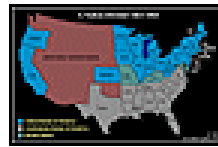
Fort Sumter after its capture, showing damage from the Rebel bombardment of over 3000 shells and now flying the Rebel "Stars and Bars" - April 14, 1861.



**April 15, 1861** - President Lincoln issues a Proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen, and summoning a special session of Congress for July 4.

Robert E. Lee, son of a Revolutionary War hero, and a 25 year distinguished veteran of the United States Army and former Superintendent of West Point, is offered command of the Union Army. Lee declines.

**April 17, 1861** - Virginia secedes from the Union, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union will soon have 21 states and a population of over 20 million.



This map summarizes the Allegiances of the States - 1861.

**April 19, 1861** - Proclamation of Blockade against Southern ports. For the duration of the war the blockade limits the ability the rural South to stay well supplied in its war against the industrialized North.

**April 20, 1861** - Robert E. Lee resigns his commission in the United States Army. "I cannot raise my hand against my birthplace, my home, my children." Lee then goes to Richmond, Virginia, is offered command of the military and naval forces of Virginia, and accepts.

**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."

**September 11, 1861** - President Lincoln revokes Gen. John C. Fremont's unauthorized military proclamation of emancipation in Missouri. Later, the president relieves Gen. Fremont of his command and replaces him with Gen. David Hunter.

**November 1, 1861** - President Lincoln appoints McClellan as general-in-chief of all Union forces after the resignation of the aged **Winfield Scott**. Lincoln



## Civil War Casualties

### Civil War Casualties **March 1861**

	Month	War to Date
North	0	0
South	0	0

\*Casualties include disease, capture, disfigurement and death



## Calendar of National Civil War Commemorative Events in 2011

tells McClellan, "...the supreme command of the Army will entail a vast labor upon you." McClellan responds, "I can do it all."

**November 8, 1861** - The beginning of an international diplomatic crisis for President Lincoln (the Trent Affair) as two Confederate officials sailing toward England are seized by the U.S. Navy. England, the leading world power, demands their release, threatening war. Lincoln eventually gives in and orders their release in December. "One war at a time," Lincoln remarks.

From The Library of Congress "Selected Civil War Photographs"

This time line was compiled by Joanne Freeman and owes a special debt to the *Encyclopedia of American History* by Richard B. Morris. Please go to the following site for more information:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/tl1861.html>

**March 27** -- Landscape restoration hike, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**April** -- Symposium on civil liberties, Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore, Md.

**April** -- Lecture series on the 8 weeks leading to war, Richmond National Battlefield, VA

**April 2-3** -- Programs on rail and telegraph: the Victorian Internet, Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick Md.

**April 8-12** -- 150th anniversary programs, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Va.

**April 8-12** -- Lecture series, "Why They Fought," Fort Sumter National Monument, Charleston, S.C.

**April 8-17** -- Ceremony for Civil War's first shot, Fort Sumter National Monument, Charleston, S.C.

**April 10** -- Landscape restoration hike, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Mid-April** -- Civil War Education Day, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Va.

**April 15-17** -- Program, "The Fate of Civil Liberty in 1861," Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, Md.

**April 16-17** -- Event about burning of the federal arsenal, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, W. VA



**April 16-17** -- Living history weekend, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Va.

**April 16-24** -- Tours, lectures on Robert E. Lee, Arlington House National Monument, Arlington, Va.

**April 17** -- Speaker series on secession, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**April 24** -- All day hike, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**April 30** -- Tour of Joseph Poffenberger farm, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**April 29-May 1** -- Events about the capture of Fort Jackson, St. Louis, Mo.

**April 30-May 1** -- Mock legislative debate over secession, Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, Md.

**May** -- Events commemorating Virginia's decision to go to war, Fredericksburg, Va.

**May** -- Lectures on Richmond as capital of the Confederacy, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, Va.

**May 7** -- Beacon of Peace walk, Dunker Church, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**May 28-29** -- Yorktown Civil War weekend, Yorktown, Va.

**May 28-30** -- Memorial Day programs, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**June** -- Military music concerts, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, Va.

**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.

**June 11-12** -- Tours, lectures on the Union occupation of Arlington, Arlington House National Memorial, Arlington, Va.

**June 11-12** -- Historical artillery demonstrations, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**June 19** -- Juneteenth ceremony marking the end of slavery, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**June 25-26** -- Infantry demonstrations, Antietam

National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**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.

**Aug. 5-7** -- Night walk into the past, U.S. Grant National Historic Site, St. Louis, Mo.

**Aug. 12-14** -- Battle reenactments at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Republic, Mo.

**Aug. 13-14** -- Talks on weapons and uniforms, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Aug. 13-14** -- Artillery, infantry, and signal corps demonstrations, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Aug. 27** -- Artillery displays, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**September** -- Civil War symposium, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Republic, Mo.

**September-November** -- events for 148th anniversary of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

**Sept. 10** -- battlefield tours at Boonsboro, Md. and Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Sept. 15** -- Lectures, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Sept. 16** -- Ceremony, photography exhibit, Dunker Church, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Sept. 17** -- Hikes, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Sept. 24-25** -- Events about protecting the Capital,

Fort Marcy and Fort Ethan Allen, Washington, D.C.

**Sept. 25** -- Ceremony with volunteers holding candles to signify the forts arrayed around the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.

**October** -- Film festival, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, Va.

**October** -- Walking tour of Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, Va.

**Oct. 8-9** -- Living history weekend, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Va.

**Oct. 9** -- Reenactment of the Battle of Santa Rosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf Breeze, Fl.

**Oct. 15** -- Evening program on Union's use of Robert E. Lee's home, Arlington House National Memorial, Arlington, Va.

**Oct. 15-16** -- 150th anniversary of the Battle of Bolivar Heights, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

**Oct. 29** -- Artillery programs, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

**November** -- Talks on Richmond's role in Virginia battlefields, Richmond, Va.

**Nov. 11** -- Veteran's Day ceremonies, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md. and Fort Washington Park, Washington, D.C.

**Nov. 20** -- Candlelight tour of Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf Breeze, Fla.

**December** -- Christmas in the Civil War, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, Va.

**Dec. 3** -- Commemoration of America's bloodiest day, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md

From AOL News. For more information on national events click on the link below:

[Click here: Calendar of Major Civil War Commemoration Events in 2011](#)

**Below is the official website of the Michigan Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission "Michigan & the Civil War" which provides a summary of events planned for the current year and other useful links. For Sesquicentennial events planned for Michigan click on the link below:**

<http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>



## Photo of the Month

Union Private in the 157th Michigan Infantry

