



GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

SEPTEMBER 2008  
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..."



**2008 CAMP 20 OFFICERS**

COMMANDER JOHN R. KEITH  
SR. VICE COMMANDER JOHN C. KEITH  
JR. VICE COMMANDER THOMAS BRUCE  
CAMP SECRETARY JEFF BAKER  
CAMP TREASURER JOHN C. KEITH  
GUARD: CLIFFORD BURHANS  
GUIDE: DANIEL KNIGHT  
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: GARY GIBSON  
BOY SCOUT COORDINATOR: MIKE STONE

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, October 7th, 2008 at 6PM. Please note the 1 hour early start on this date. See about the event following this Camp meeting later in this newsletter This is a special camp meeting as we will have an abbreviated meeting and then Tent 58 of the DUVCW will hold their meeting, before this special event.**

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!**

**2008 EVENTS**

CAMP 20 IS HOSTING A GRAVESTONE DEDICATION FOR SOLOMON OSTRANDER, OAKWOOD CEMETERY, ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN. HE WAS IN BATTERY C, 1<sup>ST</sup> MICHIGAN LIGHT ARTILLERY.

DATE October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

COMMITTEE

- 1. STEVE REDINGER
- 2. BILL BRENNAN
- 3. DAN KNIGHT

Historic Bowens Mills Civil War Days  
**October 11 & 12**

We plan on painting the cannon in Bronson Park in Kalamazoo on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Afterwards we plan on going to Mt. Home Cemetery and repairing the gravestone of Cornelia Stockbridge. Please come and join us.

Camp 20 purchased two, "LAST SOLIDER PLAQUES" and have attached one on the gravestone of Ralph Towner, (the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Allegan County), interred in Mallory Cemetery, Trowbridge Township, Allegan County and one on the gravestone of Nelson Wood, (the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Van Buren County), interred in Coloma Township Cemetery, Coloma Township, Berrien County.

There is a dedication planned for Nelson Wood on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 10am in the Coloma Township Cemetery, Coloma Township, Berrien County.

**REMINDER: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR CAMP 20 2009**  
**OFFICERS WILL BE AT THE NOVEMBER CAMP MEETING**

**At the September camp meeting it was voted on and passed to move the deadline for Camp 20 dues from March 31<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Department Commander Derr must approve the changes before they take effect.**

## **LAST SURVIVING VETERANS;**

### **Revolutionary War**

- Lemuel Cook (1759 –1866)
- John Gray (1764-1868)
- Daniel Bakeman (1759-1869)
- George Fruits (1779-1876)

According to data from the Daughters of the Revolution, George Fruits died in 1876 at age 114. However, Fruits was never on a pension roll. Fruits's birthdate was more likely 1779 than 1762, as indicated in recent studies. The last surviving veteran may have been Daniel F. Bakeman, who was placed on the pension rolls by an act of the U.S. Congress and is listed as the last survivor of the military conflict by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

### **War of 1812**

Hiram Cronk (1800-1905)

### **Mexican-American War**

Owen Thomas Edgar (1831-1929)

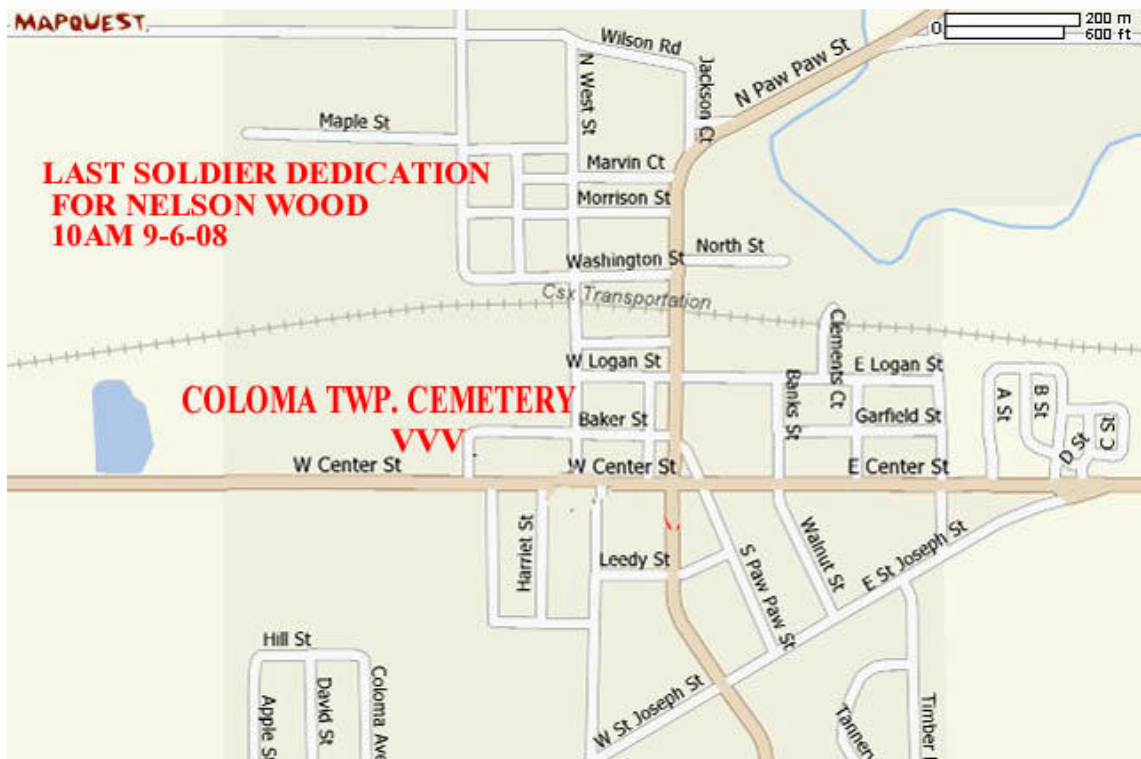
Michigan, Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War are hosting a presentation on the 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7 pm, at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library. The library is located at 7265 West Main Street.

Brother Michael Culp, Camp 20 member and History Instructor at KVCC will give an informative talk on this local Civil War Regiment. Brother Culp has studied several diaries and letters from many of this regiment's soldiers, giving a unique look at the life of the everyday soldier serving in the Civil War. Exactly 100 years ago in October of 1908, the 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry held their largest reunion ever in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Pictures and artifacts from the Civil War will be on display

This event is open to the public.

### MAP TO COLOMA TWP. CEMETERY



Please submit items to be added to this newsletter to-

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950 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Plainwell, MI 49080

Email address is [Hardtackcw@aol.com](mailto:Hardtackcw@aol.com)

Or

**Bro. John C. Keith**  
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**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***  
***950 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue***  
***Plainwell, MI 49080***