

# THE PRITCHARD PRESS

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

*Vol. XXXIII, No. 6*

*August, 2016*



GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

## *2016 Camp 20 Officers*

COMMANDER: JOHN R. KEITH

SR. VICE COMMANDER: GARY L. SWAIN

JR. VICE COMMANDER: JAY MILLER

CAMP SECRETARY: STEVE ROSSIO

CAMP TREASURER: GLENN LEEPER

GUARD: CLIFFORD BURHANS

GUIDE: DAVID CONKLIN

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: GARY L. SWAIN

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: DANIEL KNIGHT

MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: DAVID CONKLIN

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER: TOM BRUCE

COLOR BEARER: GLENN HALL

## IN THIS ISSUE

Camp Calendar.....	2
Camp Happenings.....	3
Trivia Question.....	6
Our Heritage.....	6
Quote of the Month.....	7
Trivia Question Answer.....	7
Photo of the Month.....	8



---

HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON

CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN

ASSISTANT CHAPLIN: JEFFERY E. BAKER

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

BILL COSTELLO, MIKE CULP AND  
ROBERT TOWNSEND

PRITCHARD PRESS EDITOR: GARY L.  
SWAIN

### **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.

## **Camp Calendar**

### ❖ August 2016

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

**11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>:** National Encampment-Springfield, IL

**27<sup>th</sup>, 10 am:** Abraham Lincoln event at Kalamazoo Public Library

### ❖ September 2016

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

### ❖ October 2016

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

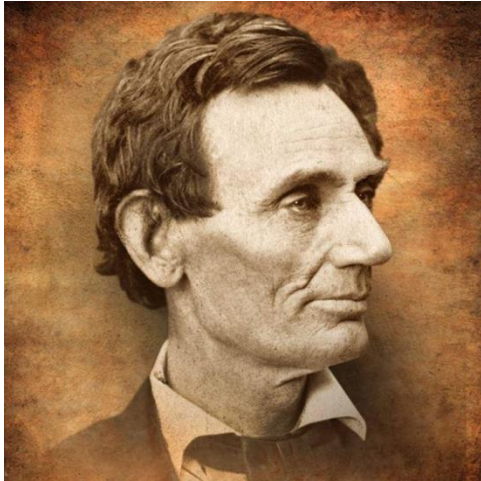
### ❖ November 2016

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

### ❖ December 2016

No Camp Meeting

## Celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Kalamazoo Visit



<https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooLincolnProject/>

The public is invited to a free program at the Kalamazoo Public Library, (Van Deusen Room) on Saturday, August 27, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The program features an update on the Bronson Park Lincoln Statue, newly discovered research artifacts, and a post event historical walking tour of Bronson Park conducted by Dr. Tom George.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln will be there, so be sure to get your picture taken with our 13<sup>th</sup> president. In

You are also encouraged to bring your children and grandchildren. There will be crafts and games for the kids and awards for the best Lincoln costume.



### Camp Happenings

We visited Brother Robert Townsend this week, and the camp will be happy to learn that he is on the mend from his motorcycle accident. Brother Robert still has some mending to do, but is faithfully doing his physical therapy. He sends his greetings to the camp and thanks everyone for their cards and prayers.



---

In early July, Commander Keith and Chaplin Brennan were conducting a cemetery inspection in Allegan County and found a headstone that had been improperly reset after a tree removal at the Lindsley Cemetery in Cheshire Township. The gravestone marked the grave of Corp. Franklin Sprague of the Michigan 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry.

Shortly after, Brothers Swain and Culp reset the stone. The photographs below show the stone before and after resetting.

Please note the concrete collar on the stone. This is not a recommended practice as the concrete will eventually damage the gravestone.



Corp. Franklin Sprague-13th Michigan Infantry



Brother Culp with reset stone

During our June camp meeting Brother Mike Culp announced that he is generously donating two granite benches to the camp for the GAR monument in Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo. One of the benches will be engraved with a memorial to the Orcutt Post 79 which was the original Kalamazoo GAR post that erected the monument a century ago. The second bench will commemorate the 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry which was raised in Kalamazoo.

During the week of July 25, 2016 the concrete bases were pored and the benches are expected to be installed by late August.





Concrete bases viewed from the road in front of the monument



Some evidence of the movement of the monument can be seen in the pad that surrounds the base. Movement is the greatest on the north side where the base has move by as much as five inches from the west base (see below photograph).



Concrete bases looking south

A recent inspection of the GAR Monument in Riverside Cemetery suggests that the monument is leaning 2 to 3 degrees to the north. If this is accurate, it is probably not enough to damage the monument as yet. Usually a tilt of 5 degrees or more is considered the level where the stress caused by the tilt could begin to damage the stone.



3" crack in monument base NE side and 5" on NW side

The camp may wish to have an engineer assess the condition of the monument for future action.



## Trivia Question

**Question:** Can you name one of the few occasions in the military when a living member of the military will receive a salute from a higher ranking member?

**Answer:** See page 7



## Our Heritage

### Greenfield Village and the Ford Museum

Greenfield Village and the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan contain numerous interesting artifacts of immense interest to anyone interested in American history. As an example, the following photograph is of the actual

chair that President Abraham Lincoln sat in at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated.



Lincoln's chair from Ford's Theatre

General U. S. Grant used the travel cot below when he was in the field commanding the Union Armies. It folded up into the trunk at the right for transport.



U. S. Grant's travel cot



Below is the Logan County, Illinois courthouse that President Lincoln practiced law in when he rode the circuit prior to being elected our 16<sup>th</sup> president. He visited here once or twice a year. This courthouse was built in 1840 in Potsville, now Lincoln, Illinois. (Abe richly deserves his reputation as an honest person. In fact, he once walked out on a client who lied to him.)

The courthouse, Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory, and many other important historical buildings were disassembled and moved to Greenfield Village.



Logan County Illinois Courthouse (circa 1840)

---

## Quote of the Month

*"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves".*

**Abraham Lincoln**

---

## Trivia Question Answer:

Military members are encouraged (but not required by regulation) to salute any living Medal of Honor recipient regardless of rank, status or whether or not they are in uniform.



## Photo of the Month



*Union prisoners receive rations at Fort Sumter in 1864*