

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. 5

July, 2016



GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

2016 Camp 20 Officers

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CAMP TREASURER: GLENN LEEPER

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EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: DANIEL KNIGHT

MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: DAVID CONKLIN

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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

- ❖ **July 2016**
5TH, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **August 2016**
2ND, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
11th, 14th: National Encampment-Springfield, IL
- ❖ **September 2016**
6TH, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **October 2016**
4TH, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **November 2016**
1ST, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **December 2016**
No Camp Meeting

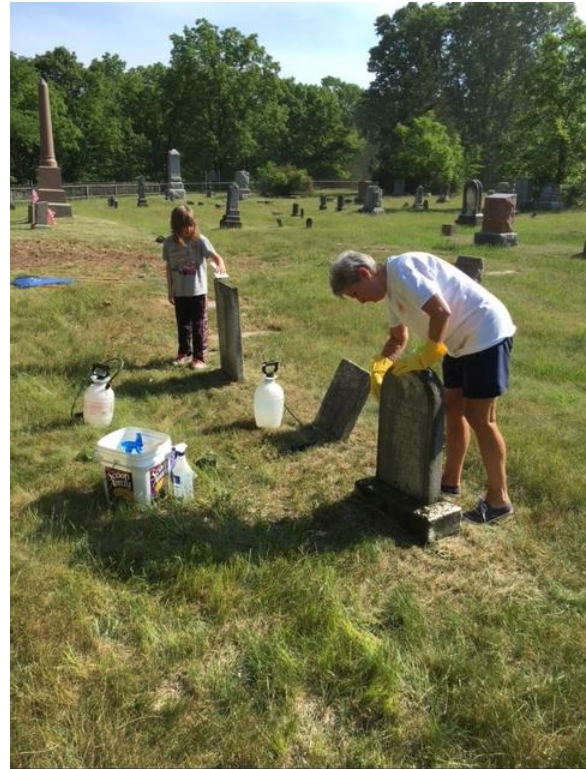


Camp Happenings

On a steamy Saturday morning, 15 camp members and committed volunteers assembled at the pioneer Lawler Cemetery (aka Territorial Cemetery) in Ft. Custer to

repair, reset and clean gravestones. This cemetery is the final resting place for eight Civil War veterans, one War of 1812 veteran and one Revolutionary War veteran.

The Lawler Cemetery is located in a section of the Ft. Custer military base that was annexed from the township after WWII. As a result, it is very difficult to gain access to cemetery and has consequently suffered from lack of care and attention for many years. The SUVCW Camp 20 is working with Charleston Township to jointly provide the care that these Michigan pioneers and veterans deserve.



Volunteers Rita Swain and Amanda Keith cleaned dozens of gravestones.

The gravestone in the following photo is a mortise-tenon type of stone and serves as a good example of the damage that can occur when a stone is repaired or reset improperly. In this instance, the stone was reset into the mortise section utilizing modern Portland cement or mortar. However, this material is too hard for the type of stone and caused the stone to brake at the base. It then fell and broke into another two pieces. Now this veteran gravestone will be extremely difficult to repair.



Bro John Keith, Charleston Township Supervisor Jerry VanderRoest, volunteer Dan Spiece, and Bros Mike Culp and Dave Conklin

Volunteer Dan Spiece representing the Brighton VFW, American Legion and AMVETS generously donated flag holders for each of the veterans buried in Lawler Cemetery.



Volunteer Dan Spiece and Bros John Keith and Mike Culp reset a fallen gravestone.

Commander Keith, Brothers Conklin, Swain and volunteer Tom Pashos returned to Lawler Cemetery in late June and repaired the broken tablet gravestone (pictured below) and cleaned all of the remaining veteran stones.



Repaired gravestone with bracing

Grant, MI Dedication

Several members of Camp 20 joined Austin Blair Camp 7 at the Ashland Cemetery in Grant, MI for its dedication of the headstone of Pvt. John P. Barnum of 18th MI Inf. Pvt. Barnum survived imprisonment at Andersonville, but in a tragic irony, he perished in the Sultana disaster.



Camp 20 Bro. Bill Brennan playing the fife at the dedication.



stack has been replaced by two smaller stacks flanking the cannon.



Below is one of the two cannon ball stacks. The cannon balls were welded into a stack, and then a stainless retaining brace was added on all four sides as an extra measure of safety. This rebuilt monument should last another century.



Gravestone Pvt. John P. Barnum, Co. E, 18th Michigan Infantry



East Cooper Cemetery

Bangor GAR Monument

The work is complete on the Bangor GAR monument. The base of the cannon has been repaired and the single cannon ball

Volunteer Mstr. Sgt. Ret. Tom Pashos cleans a veteran gravestone in the East Cooper Cemetery.



Quote of the Month

Differing Perspectives of General U.S. Grant:

“Grant is a butcher and not fit to be at the head of an army. He loses two men to the enemies one. He has no management, no regard for life. I could fight an army as well myself.” **Mary Todd Lincoln** after Cold Harbor.

“Grant doesn’t care a snap if men fall like the leaves fall. He fights to win, that chap does. He has the disagreeable habit of not retreating before irresistible veterans.” **Mary Chestnut, Confederate diarist**

“General Grant, I begin to see it. You will succeed.” **Abraham Lincoln**

Trivia Question

Question: How many times did Winchester, VA change hands during the Civil War?

- A. 11 Times
- B. 26 Times
- C. 72 Times

Answer: See page 8

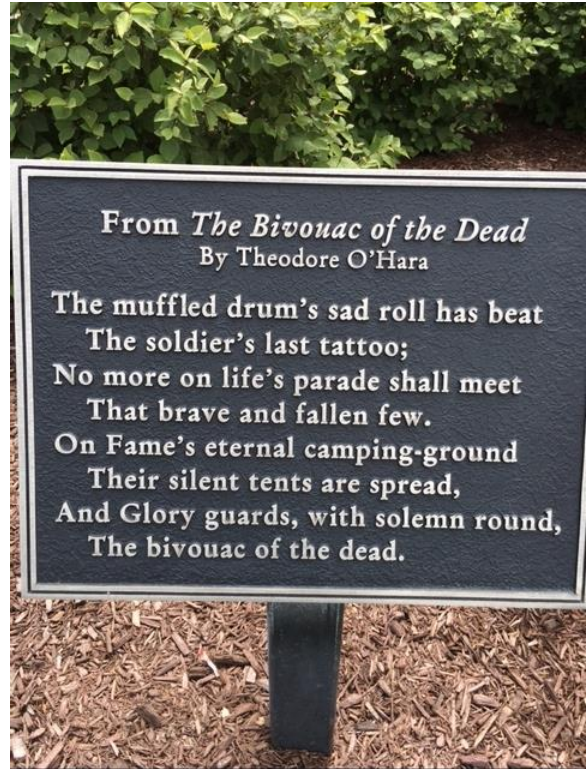
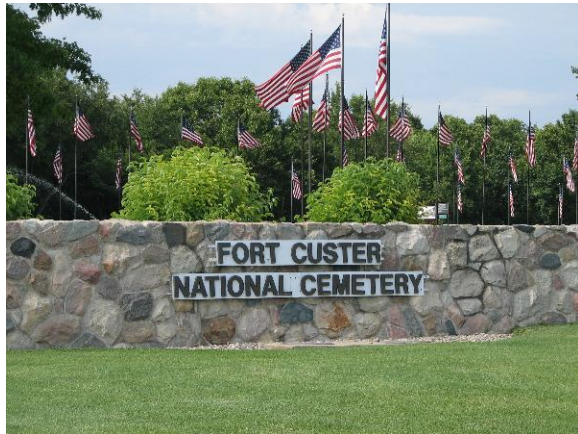


Patriotic Instruction



Fort Custer National Cemetery

Please take a moment over the upcoming Independence Day celebrations to remember the veterans who sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.



From *The Bivouac of the Dead*
By Theodore O'Hara

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.



Trivia Question Answer:

(C) Winchester, VA changed hands 72 times during the Civil War.





Photo of the Month



John L. Burns, the "Old Hero of Gettysburg" with gun and crutches-Gettysburg, July 1863

