



Michigan's

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume XXIII, Number 2

Chartered June 24, 1884

Summer 2014

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard E. Danes, Editor

Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, 2011

Commander's Comments

By Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR

Brothers of The Department Of Michigan:

The National Encampment of the Allied Orders, held in Marietta, Georgia this past August is now behind us. The Michigan Delegation consisted of 10 Brothers including: James Pahl, Don Shaw, Dale Aurand, L. Dean Lamphere, Gary Granger, David Smith, Skip Bryant, Chris Cox, Ron Shull and Paul Davis. We thank those Brothers who attended the Encampment and represented the Department of Michigan.



The Department of Michigan has consistently ranked within the top three Departments in the Order and has also consistently provided a delegation that represents a significant voting block. This year the Department of Michigan was entitled to 35 votes and we were only able to utilize 10 votes of our capability.

By comparison, the Department of Pennsylvania is the largest Department with 49 votes; the Department of Ohio is second with 45 votes and voted almost 50% of their strength; the Department of the Chesapeake ranks third with 40 votes and cast 14 votes; Michigan ranks fourth with New York nipping at our heels with 34

votes.

So why is this important? The Department of Michigan has been and can continue to be an effective and respected voting block, but we need the support of our Brothers with their attendance at National Encampments. There were at least two votes that came before the Encampment this year that created impassioned debate and discussion taking up the better part of one day in deliberations. The voting was so close that the totals were separated by just a few votes resulting in a failure to adopt the proposed motion.

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During the National Encampment Brothers Pahl, Shaw, Aurand and I had the opportunity to meet with the new Chairman of the National Encampment Site Committee. In addition to introductions, we had the opportunity to clarify our intention to host the 2017 National Allied Orders Encampment. Our proposal is well along the way and should be finished for submission in the next week or two at the latest. The proposal document is extensive and detailed and will amount to about 150+ pages when completed. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2014.

The Department has had a number of complaints regarding our website and the outdated information that is posted there. We will remind the Brothers that a last minute resignation just before the Department Encampment left us without a webmaster. A call went out earlier asking each Camp to ask their membership for a volunteer.

None was found.

We have had one individual volunteer to do some minimal maintenance and only for a limited time period. That time period has passed and we still do not have a webmaster. Our website is our face to the public as well as a tool used by all of the Camps and members of the Department for the posting and access to important information. It is critical to the operation of the Department that we find a person to manage and maintain the data on our Department website

Therefore, I ask each Camp Commander to once again survey their membership for a volunteer. I ask each Brother to think about a student or scout who needs a public service project and seek out in earnest any one who can perform the maintenance requirements for our website.

If we can not find a volunteer, I may have to ask that a person be hired to do the maintenance. Please give this need some serious consideration and if you have a candidate, an idea or a suggestion, please let the Department Secretary or me know.

Thank you for your attention.

Senior Vice Commander

By Dale Aurand, PCC



On my way to attend the National Encampment in Marietta, GA. my wife and I visited the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, TN. Visiting such a cemetery invites one to reflect on the sacrifices of those buried there and those left to mourn them. I became aware of one individual soldier from the 23rd MI Infantry who was killed at the Battle of Resaca, GA. We located his grave, paused to think that we could have been one of the few, if any, to have visited this location and pay tribute. We learned of this soldier while transcribing letters written 150 years ago. In these letters we discovered the wife wanted to visit the grave of her husband. It was her brother-in-law who wrote and advised she should not see a battlefield burial ground. After the war his grave was removed from Resaca, GA. to the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, TN. I have visited a number of National Cemeteries, it always moves me to consider how many lives were cut short.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War it is our obligation to recall those incomplete lives and pay our respects to them.

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Chaplain's Report

Submitted by Charles Buckhahn, CC, Dept. Chaplain

Over the past summer, the Department has not been notified of any deaths within the Camps of the Department. Of this, we all can be thankful. I continue to urge all the Camp Commanders and/or the Camp Secretaries to notify me in a timely manner on the passing of any of our brothers, and to inform me when brothers are ill or are hospitalized. I urge the Camps to contact me either at buckhahn@sbcglobal.net, by phone (989-780-2259), or by mail (1109 Elmdale Dr., Saginaw, MI 48602) when either situation takes place.

During the summer, I presented a first person presentation of Chaplain F. W. Richmann (Chaplain of the 58th Ohio Infantry Volunteer Regiment) at St. John's Lutheran Church, Elgin, Illinois, at their 155th Anniversary Worship Services on July 5 & 6, 2014. Chaplain Richmann was also the Pastor at St. John's from 1869 – 1875. And I am a son of that congregation. A video of my presentation to my beloved home congregation can be seen on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkluCSp5qY4>.

On November 13-14, I will be giving presentations of a Union Chaplain at the Blue Gray Days at Carnton Plantation, Franklin, Tenn. I will also take the field with the Federal forces as a Union Chaplain at the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin Re-enactment, November 15-16. I am looking forward in representing our Department at these two events. Finally, my wife and I wish to announce that our daughter, Elizabeth Swartz, will make us grandparents for the first time in early February. Join us in praying for a healthy grandchild and a safe delivery for Elizabeth.

Civil War Memorials

By Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, PCC

As some of you know, Marcia lost her father in May during the Department Encampment and then in July, my mother passed away. I have been dealing with some health issues of my own and so it has been a challenging summer. Although this report is brief, work does continue on the Department Civil War Memorials Program.

Several Camps continue to not only assess the memorials in their area but have taken steps to clean and restore these important connections to the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.

In looking through the Messenger, I see some new memorials have been created. Please remember to forward information and a Form CWM61 to me regarding these so they can be added to the database.

My definition of a memorial goes beyond stone and bronze. I would like to include signage designating a Soldiers' Cemetery, historical markers, interpretive signage and even G.A.R. Buildings. While some of these items are identified elsewhere, having them listed in more than one location is not a bad thing.

By the time some of you read this, Camp Commanders and Memorials Officers will have received a communication from Department Memorials Committee member, Brother Jerry Grieve of Camp 14, requesting your assistance in identifying the various memorial cannon across the state. Using the material donated to the Department by Brother Richard Hutchins (Camp 120) and his wife Mary, Brother Grieve has identified more cannon and a number of missing pieces as well.

I encourage each Camp to participate in this important program. If you didn't read the outstanding and heartfelt comments made by Department Patriotic Instructor, Brother Gary Granger in the last issue of the Messenger, I would add filling out the assessment forms in the Memorials program to be another important part of each Camp's responsibility.

I have had the slides of Dr. Petz's memorial photos scanned, cleaned, edited and digitized at a personal cost of about \$900. In total, there are over 2,700 images that will become part of an online database of Department memorials.

Thank you for your support in this program.



Ulysses S. Grant Camp #67

By Charles Buckhahn, CC

The Ulysses S. Grant Camp #67 met at the Secretary/Treasurer's home (that would be Jack Frost) in Bay City on July 23rd. After hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers; plus cold, adult beverages, a short meeting was held. The Department Encampment and the actions taken there were reviewed. We also reviewed the Camp's participation in the May 26th Dedication Service at the G.A.R. Soldiers Rest at the Pine Ridge Cemetery in Bay City; in the May 30th Remembrance Ceremony at Aventine Cemetery in Flint; and in the gravestone dedications on May 31st, at the Clayton Township Cemetery, where the gravestones for Luther Johnson, George Fish, Alva Scofield, and Charles Hamlin were dedicated. Plans were made to have a table set-up for the Camp at the River of Time event in Bay City on September 27th and 28th. It was announced that flag poles were purchased for the flags of the Camp. Individual summer plans were shared and Sailor Bob gave, once again, an informative Patriotic Officer's report.

Detroit G.A.R. Building Update

By Bruce B. Butgereit

Many exciting things are happening almost daily at the Detroit G.A.R. Building. The ventilation system for the two ground-floor restaurants has been installed. The Parks and Rec Diner, a tribute to the use of the building by the City of Detroit in the 1940s-early 1980s, will seat about 40 people. The Republic, a tribute to the G.A.R., will seat over 100 guests and will have the feel of an old tavern. Because of building security, access to the restaurants will not be made through the main entrance but all guests will still be able to see the beautiful mosaic tile entrance through specially designed windows from inside each restaurant. The lobby will include a special display of items found during the restoration process.

The new heating and cooling system has been installed. The previous method of cooling the building was to open a window and if you wanted to get warm, you stood near a steam radiator. By mid-October, the new elevator will be functional.

For more on the progress and the interesting items found, please visit: <http://gardetroit.org/>

Please read the following carefully and please be patient over the next eight or so months – you will have an opportunity to see the building.

There will be a special open house held at the building on Saturday, November 8, 2014. It will be a tickets-only event with the lowest ticket price set around \$100 for about 400 guests; a higher-priced ticket will also be offered to about 100 guests. The money raised from this event is scheduled to be donated to the Michigan-based Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund.

Parts of the building will probably not be completed by the date of this event, but the event will bring more awareness to the project and will hopefully encourage some additional funding support. More details will be available in an upcoming Civil War Circular.

In the Spring of 2015, we will have another open house where members of the Allied Orders will be able to view the restored building. More details to follow.

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

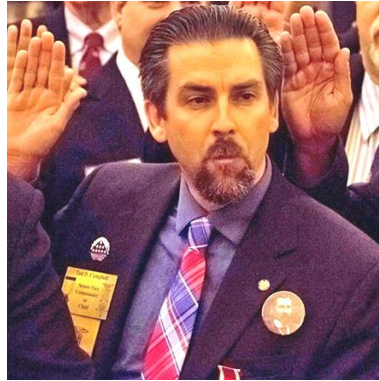
The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

2014 National Encampment, Marietta Georgia - SUVCW



Photos by Tim Reese of California showing the swearing in of the 2014-2015 C-in-C Tad Campbell of California.

Group photo of the 2014-2015 National Officers was taken by David Sosnowski.



COMRADESHIP

Submitted by Jim Jackson, CC

By Leslie D. Weatherhead

When a soldier, Jim, was injured and could not get back to safety, his buddy went out to get him, against his officer's orders. He returned mortally wounded and his friend, whom he had carried back, was dead.

The officer was angry. "I told you not to go," he said. "Now I've lost both of you. It was not worth it."

The dying man replied, "But it was sir, because when I got to him he said "Jim, I knew you'd come."

**2014-2015
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James Pahl, PCC, PDC, PCinC

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Eagle Scout Coordinator

Jerry A. Olson, PCC

Signals Officer

Open

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Guide

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Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

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Keith Harrison, PCC, PDC,
PCinC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Dennis Zank

Aide de Camp

Brian Shumway, PCC

Henry F. Wallace Camp #160

Submitted by Gary Granger, JVC

Members of SUVCW Henry F. Wallace Camp 160 participated in the Owosso-Corunna Labor Day Bridge Walk by providing the starting gun using a replica Civil War brass cannon. This year's firing created a perfect smoke ring that drifted across the Shiawassee River much to the delight of the dozens of walkers and runners.



Each year on Labor day the two communities come together for a more than three mile walk called the Owosso-Corunna Labor Day Bridge to Bridge Walk. The walk begins at Owosso's Heritage Footbridge in Curwood Castle Park and ends at the footbridge in Corunna's McCurdy Park.



The cannon was built and is owned by David Hilliker of Corunna. Helping man the cannon were Gary Granger of Corunna and Max Newman of Caledonia Charter Township. Hilliker, Granger and Newman are all members of Camp 160. Leston Curtis -- another Camp 160 member -- was one of the walkers. Also attending the event were ASUVCW Sisters Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh and Helen Granger of Corunna and DUVCW members Teresa Grace and Denice Grace of Owosso. (ASUVCW Photo)

We refuse to apologize for any "errers" in this publication because a few are left in on purpose to drive any literary perfectionists up the wall.

Austin Blair Camp 7

Submitted by Bob Griggs, PCC, Signals Officer

This has been a very busy summer for members of our Camp and Auxiliary. In the month of June we visited two schools Parma Elementary, and the Linden Charter Academy, to talk to the students about the life of a Civil War soldier. We also set up camp and displays at the Waterloo Farm Museum for their Blacksmiths, Soldiers & Log Cabin weekend, and the Springport Summer Festival. At both of these places we were able to talk to many visitors about the life of a Civil War soldier and what they did to help save the Union. Work continued as well on the planned new monument for the Soldiers Cemetery as the hole was dug, forms set, concrete poured for the base of the monument, After it had cured the monument was delivered and put in place for a scheduled early August dedication.



Brothers digging the hole for the foundation.

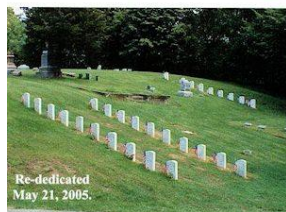


A new recruit

not to be. Brothers August assisting annual Civil War how to drill, load and camp life. We would us help "Keep Green day rest Camp and project that has as we dedicated a inside of Mt. members would like A very hearty tireless energy Consumers Energy President Jerry Casting, and the

We managed to find a little bit of time to rest before the month of July but once again we hit the road running. On the 6th we presented the Colors at the Under the Oaks event in Jackson to celebrate the birth of the Republican Party. Brother Chris Cox, acting as General Gordon Granger, read the Emancipation Proclamation. We moved from there to the Learning Fair held at the Career Center on Jackson College Campus. There we were able to enlist many "soldiers" for Father Abraham's Army, and tell them how a soldier would have lived. Also, we spoke with many adults about how to locate the records of their ancestors as well as their gravesites. On the 26th Camp and Auxiliary members were at the Paddock Hubbard House in Concord for their annual Civil War Day. We once again presented the Colors, and took part in many of the day's events. The ladies made and passed out rag dolls, as we were once again able to replenish the ranks of Father Abraham's Army by recruiting some young soldiers to replace our loses during the battle which we fought.

You might have thought with the end of summer in sight that we should be winding down, this was



of Camp No. 7 spent most of the first week in staff of the Ella Sharp Museum with their Camp. While at this camp recruits learned fire a musket, attack an enemy position, and like to thank the museum for once again letting *the Memory* of the Boys in Blue. After a one Auxiliary members put the finishing touch on a been on-going for more than 20 years permanent memorial at the Soldiers Cemetery Evergreen Cemetery in Jackson. Our to thank those who made this event possible. HAZZAH! to Brother Mike Maillard, whose brought this memorial dedication together. To Economic Development Director, Allan Hooper, Baily Sand and Gravel, Bailey, Jackson Monument Company Owner, Chris John, Centec City of Jackson-Parks Department. Without the help of these folks, and

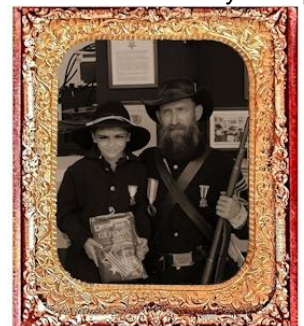


Brother Maillard stands next to the permanent memorial.

their commitment to this country's veterans, this project very possibility would have never been completed. Next, in keeping with the purpose of our group, members of Camp No 7 traveled to Eaton Rapids where they set up camp to assist staff members of the GAR Brainerd Post 111 Memorial Hall and Museum in putting on their 1st Civil War Day Camp, where recruits learned about the life of a Civil War soldier. After learning about camp life, they were taken into the museum where they learned about the Grand Army of the Republic and their role in the country after the war.

Moving on, to what is probably the highlight of our year, the Jackson Civil War Muster. Once again a camp was set up on top of the hill, along with our tent and fly for the ladies, and our tables under the bandstand. As in years past, we were able to talk to many visitors to the muster about our organization, our ancestors, their ancestors, and assist them in finding out more about them, through the Brown Books and the graves registration database. We also installed a new member. Welcome Brother Alex Tingley. We look forward to working with you on upcoming events.

To find out more about these events, check out our webpages at www.austinblair.com or find/like us on facebook.



Our newest Alex, with his dad, Brother Nathan.

Robert Finch Camp 14

July to September 2014

Submitted by W. E. Skillman, PCC ~ Signals Officer

As of September 1, 2014; Camp 14's roster shows 43 Brothers present; 38 are Members and 5 are Associates. Our next Camp meeting will be 11:30 Saturday, September 20th at the Elks Lodge in Traverse City. Our speaker will be Brother H.G..Smith, his presentation is entitled: "*Confederate Actions on the Great Lakes.*" We welcome all Brothers visiting the region to attend.

We are sad to inform readers of the passing of former Brother Jim Slis, who was active from 1999 until his discharge in 2012. Brother Charles Heffer (who passed away in 2013) bequeathed \$400,000 each to the Kalkaska and Elk Rapids Libraries. His generous gifts were totally unexpected by both Library staffs, they are currently soliciting ideas from their communities on how to make the best use Brother Chuck's gifts.

On Saturday, July 26th Camp 14 honored Orderly Sgt. Charles DePuy and Private Charles Thatcher at Kalkaska's Evergreen cemetery. Both men were bestowed the Medal of Honor for heroism at the Battle of the Crater. Over 100 visitors and guests were in attendance to learn of Sgt. DePuy and Thatcher and their comrades desperate fighting at the 'horrible pit' 150 years before. In addition to the Sons and Auxiliary, the Girl Scouts of America (Michigan Shore to Shore, Kalkaska County Service Unit) contributed to the ceremony. 'Riley' played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes, while 'Jori' read a poem entitled "The Crater". The Kalkaska VFW provided an honor guard, as well as the American Legion delegation was present. Following the ceremony, Dept. Commander Paul Davis stepped forward to congratulate everybody who contributed their time and talent for this auspicious occasion.



Robert & Francis Finch participants at Pvt. Charles Thatcher's grave following the MOH ceremony in Kalkaska's Evergreen Cemetery

Immediately following the ceremony, new Brother Thom Duvernay and his nephew started on a road trip to retrace his great-grandfather's experiences 150 years earlier. Thom's first stop was Salisbury, NC, "*where my great-grandfather was held prisoner after being captured at Ream's Station, VA on August 26, 1864.*" He met Ed and Sue Curtis, (who established the Salisbury Confederate Prison Association), who gave Thom a personal

tour of the cemetery and grounds where the prison stood. Thom says: "*traveling around and seeing where (the original stockade and buildings stood) was moving, especially knowing my great-grandfather was held there.*" Thom's next stop was Ream's Station, just south of Petersburg; "*just to be in the area where my great-grandfather was captured.*" On July 30th, Brother Duvernay rose at 4 a.m. to be present for the 150th commemoration of the Crater. He joined a couple hundred visitors listening to Rangers read personal accounts by soldiers who survived the fighting. "*At 5:44 a.m. (4:44 a.m. 1864 time) a cannon was fired*" marking the explosion of the mine. At one point, a ranger asked who had ancestors in the fight and Thom "*raised my hand, I was probably the only Union hand that went up.*" Ranger Jimmy Blankenship showed Tom "*exactly where my great-grandfather's regiment, the First Michigan Sharpshooters, stood just before the mine blew.*" Next, Thom traveled to Richmond to visit Belle Isle where his great-grandfather was temporarily held (before being moved to Salisbury). Thom's journey retraced the marches of the Sharpshooters and Ninth Army Corps from Cold Harbor, Spotsylvania Court House and finally the Wilderness

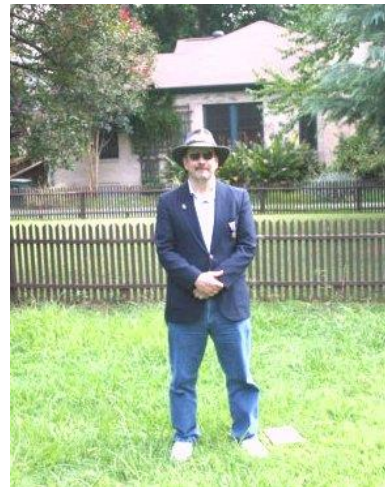
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"Unfortunately, (where the Sharpshooters fought) was in what is now a gated community; ironically, the road that would have been their picket line was named 'Lee' (the crossroad was 'Grant')". In the end, Thom spent ten days and drove 2,400 miles on his Reverse Overland Campaign, but he reports; "It was well worth it to honor the memory of John (Kedgnal/Kedgnot) Duvernay of Company B, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters and all of his comrades."



Original painting of Salisbury Prison baseball game, circa 1864



Dr. Thom Duvernay standing at home plate 150 years later

CC Bryant, Treasurer Ted Mattis with several friends of Camp 14 entertained visitors attending the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park about Port Oneida pioneers who served the Union and opened the Leelanau Peninsula for settlement after the War.

CC Skip Bryant, SVC Dave Smith, and DSVC Dale Aurand attended the National Encampment in Marietta, Georgia. They enjoyed the camaraderie of Brothers from across the country, and welcomed new Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell (Dept. of California-Pacific). Upon his return, PCC Aurand attended the Jackson-Cascades Park Civil War Muster and a monument rededication at "Depot Park" in White Pigeon. The ceremony was conducted by the March to the Sea Camp 135, to honor the memory of the men who served in the 11th Michigan Infantry.

Presentation of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award

By Bruce B. Butgereit

With the passing of Marcia Butgereit's father on the eve of the 2014 Department Encampment, Department Commander Paul Davis was unable to present her with the inaugural Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award. This new award is given to a Sister member of the Allied Orders. On Saturday, June 14, at a Flag Day event in Lowell, MI, Commander Davis officially presented the award to Marcia.



LeValley - Heusted Camp 255

Submitted By Leo Marr

Members of LeValley-Heusted with support from Brothers from U.S. Grant Camp 67, Crapo Camp 145 and Curtenius Guard Camp 17 participated in the Mayville 150th Celebration by setting up a small encampment for visitors. The encampment featured displays of Civil War artifacts, visitor interactions with uniformed members of the Sons, and an opportunity for the public to search for their Michigan Civil War ancestor.

Ron Shull and Duaine Phillips did meet and greets and offered photo opportunities for youngsters or older visitors as well who wanted to get the feel of a Civil War musket.



Ron Shull and Duaine Phillips explain the life of a Civil War soldier and his equipment



A Lincoln presenter read the Gettysburg Address from the rail station platform to an assembled crowd while flanked by his Honor Guard.

The LeValley - Heusted Camp passed out six membership applications utilizing this event to recruit new Camp members.

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer - June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter - December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn,
Michigan 48124-3204**

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

**Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the
photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!**

General John A. Logan Camp 1

By Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, PCC

Due to a variety of reasons, the Brothers of Camp 1 will have conducted the fewest number of events since 1999. This did not mean that we were inactive but after restoring an average of one monument/memorial each year since 2000 and numerous headstone dedications and more; it just seemed as if we needed to take a break.

In May, our Camp Patriotic Instructor, Brother John Uplinger (in middle of the photograph on the right) once again presented three JrROTC awards to cadets from Union, Innovation Central, and Ottawa Hills High Schools. If other Camps aren't participating in this program, I highly encourage you to do so. (One cadet was unable to attend the event.



Our Camp also conducted four headstone dedications on the Saturday before the Federal Memorial Day holiday.

We also conducted the traditional G.A.R. Memorial Day services at the Kent County Civil War Monument on Friday, May 30. We were joined by Real Son Brother Harold Becker and our Sisters from the Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps; Eva Gray Tent No. 2, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865; and the Henry Jenks Chapter, National Society Daughters of the Union.

Earlier in the day, we again honored the request of the Guy V. Henry Camp No. 3, United Spanish War Veterans, made in 1963, wherein they asked the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to conduct a Memorial Day service at their war memorial, The Hiker. Attending was the daughter and granddaughter of Sgt. Clifford Stegenga, Co. B, 13th U.S. Infantry.



The Camp celebrated Saturday, June 14, Flag Day, by hosting a special Flags and Fathers event at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. We introduced a new Flag Facts brochure, designed for students, giving the history of the flag of the United States. Real Son Harold Becker was present and shared stories of his father with visitors. In the photo on the left, Department Commander Paul Davis presents Brother Becker a flag pin.

Brother Uplinger coordinated our participation at the Allied Orders booth at the annual Carnival at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on Saturday, July 26.

The Report of His Death Was Highly Exaggerated

Submitted by Chris Czopek

Hurlburt (or Hurlbutt), Nehemiah, Michigan 27 Infantry was wounded in the famous Battle of the Crater July 30, 1864. Was left for dead two days at the bottom of the crater. A burial detail found him alive, and took him to a hospital. He recovered. But his regiment reported him dead !

Our SUV data base had him dying on July 30, 1864 as it was reported in the Michigan Brown Books and correctly shows his grave is in Gratiot County near St. Louis, when in fact he survived the war and died March 18, 1887. Our record has been corrected!

March to the Sea Camp 135

Submitted by Bruce Gosling, PCC

On August 24 the March to the Sea Camp #135 conducted a ceremony of rededication for a monument in White Pigeon Michigan dedicated to the Eleventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry by the Alba Columba Club in 1915. Brothers from all over the state, several of whom are descended from men who served in the Eleventh Michigan, joined us for the celebration. We were honored to have Mr. Leland Thornton, author of the authoritative history of the regiment, as our featured speaker as well as Department Commander Davis and Sr. Vice-Commander Aurand take part. Descendants of the veterans of the regiment were invited to sign by their names in a copy of Volume Eleven of Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861-1865 (Brown Books). A poem that was written for the original dedication was read by members of the Alba Columba Club and a Legislative Tribute was awarded for the occasion by State Senator John Proos.

The Eleventh Michigan was a regiment that was raised in Southwest Michigan with almost 2/3 its complement coming from St. Joseph County. It was the only regiment to be trained and mustered into service in this County, specifically at this site in White Pigeon. White Pigeon Attorney William J. May was the organizer of the regiment, and William Stoughton of Sturgis was his second in command. Training was conducted on the railroad grounds that were known as Camp Tilden. The Eleventh reached its goal of 1,000 volunteers and was fully mustered into service on September 11, 1861 leaving for active service December 9, 1861. They served their three years of service and left the siege of Atlanta in August of 1864. After their return home the regiment began having annual reunions starting August 24, 1865.

The Alba Columba Club of White Pigeon in order to recognize the valor of these men erected this monument commemorating their service in 1915. It was dedicated on August 24, 1915 to coincide with the fiftieth reunion of the regiment that was held at the site of Camp Tilden with 54 men of the regiment participating in a splendid ceremony. In 1966, after rail service ended in White Pigeon and the depot and hotel had deteriorated along with the surrounding grounds the Alba Columba Club asked the Village to relocate the monument to a more visible site in Wade Park. Happily, the community has resorted the depot and there is now this beautiful park to welcome this monument back home. With thanks to the Village of White Pigeon and Jason Trospier and his Building Trades class this has come to pass and we are here today to rededicate this monument to the brave men who rose to the defense of their nation and went to war 153 years ago.



Above, Brothers participating in the event take a well deserved break... Right, PCC Gosling receives the legislative tribute for the occasion.



Last Soldier Project

By Jim Petrimouix, Camp 67 GRO

Even before I became affiliated with the SUVCW and the U.S. Grant Post #67 as its GRO, I was interested in Bay County history. So I had heard of Civil War veteran, Judge Thomas Webster. In 1939 before his death he was named as Bay County's "Last Civil War Veteran". From his death in 1940 until 3 years ago, he was awarded this honor. At that time I was asked to help obtain a headstone for Phenix Ballard. Phenix was a Veteran who lived in Linwood, a small farming community in northern Bay County. During the research it was discovered that Phenix had died almost 18 months after Judge Webster, but was not even recognized as a veteran.

Working with a woman in Midland County to locate Civil War burials in that County. She discovered that George Wells was the Last Soldier of the Civil War in that county and not George Rockwell who had been reported to be the last Veteran.

These two events started me wondering about the last soldier of the Civil War in other counties in Michigan. I searched, but could not find any such list for Michigan.

At the June meeting of the Department of Michigan GRO's in Lansing, I brought up the subject. I found out that some camps had not only identified the Last Soldier but had also erected a memorial at his place of burial stating that distinction.

The counties that have memorials are: Alcona, Allegan, Berrien, Calhoun, Clinton, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph.

A question was then posed as who was the Last Soldier. Was he the last soldier to die in that county or the last to be buried in that county? We came to the conclusion we might have to look at recording both of these facts.

In Clinton County, Henry Rouse was the last to die in that County, but William Holland, who had lived in Clinton County but died in Calhoun County was the last to be buried in Clinton County.

In Gladwin County, David Foutch was a long-time resident and the sole surviving veteran. He became ill and went to his daughter's home in neighboring Isabella County where he died and was buried.

Monroe County longtime resident Joseph A. Remelee and sole surviving veteran became ill and was taken to a hospital in Toledo, Ohio and is buried in that City.

There are a lot of questions and a lot of unknowns.

At the meeting we came up with additional names and tentatively have names for 44 of the 83 counties in Michigan. In September we decided to take this on as a Committee effort, and create a database, attached as part of the Graves Registration effort for the public, showing the last Civil War Soldier whose address was in the County when he died, and another entry for the last Civil War Soldier who died there (but whose address was somewhere else).

Although this is not a new idea, it is an incomplete project. Seeing that 2015 is the 150th anniversary of the ending of the war, it would be an honorable effort to honor the Last Civil War Soldier in each county. We are asking that each Camp review their records, and send us the list of men, and any other information about them that fit the above criteria to either me at jpetri221@att.net, or Rick Danes at suvmidgro@aol.com.

We will start publishing a partial list of our compilation in a future *Michigan's Messenger*.

In advance, thank you for your help in completing this project.

Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer



Your Department Graves Registration Committee met on September 13 at the State Archives. The date for the next meeting is December 13.

Our database now has 64,719 Civil War burials and 3503 Other War records.

We have no further news from the VA about headstone ordering, but there are at least two federal laws that are proposed, one in each house, that will allow certain groups, (one of which is the SUVCW) to be an authorized party for requesting headstones. We will continue to monitor these laws, and we can all contact our representatives for support.

I would like to recognize a very few men who have submitted records regularly or recently during the last quarter – Chuck Harthy, Jim Petromoulx, Dick Williams,

Tom Bruce, and Ed Houghtaling.

I was distressed to read in the latest Banner that our good friend and Graves Registration Officer from Camp 250, Bob Groves, Sr. had passed away on February 9. Too bad the Brothers there did not allow us to pay our respects by contacting Department Chaplain Buckhahn with that information. This is the second member of the Graves Registration “old guard” to pass within three months, we will miss their expertise.

The Committee has taken on another task, that we hope to complete by April of 2015 – the Last Soldier Project that you will read about by our Brother GRO Officer, Jim Petrimoulx. It was he who had the idea of resurrecting this past program (and one which did not get completed) to further memorialize our heroes of 1861 – 1865. Jim is currently loading his information into a database which we hope will join our Graves Database on-line. You can help by surveying your county, and see if we have the name and regiment of 1) the last Civil War Soldier to die; and 2) the last Civil War Soldier that was living (permanent residence) in the county.

I will close this quarter by encouraging those Brothers in Camps 1, 2, 3, 43, 85, and 139 to make a plan and start surveying your cemeteries – one at a time, and perhaps someday (not in my lifetime) we can say that we have surveyed all counties in our state.

Good luck, and watch out for muskrat holes!

*If you look across the hill-tops that meet the Northern sky,
Long moving lines of rising dust your vision may descry;
And now the wind, an instant, tears the cloudy veil aside,
And floats aloft our spangled flag in glory and in pride;
And bayonets in the sunlight gleam, and bands brave music pour –
We are coming Father Abraham – three hundred thousand more!*

From the Civil War Era Song “We Are Coming Father Abraham”

A GETTYSBURG 150TH UPDATE

By Bruce B. & Marcia Butgereit

Gettysburg Flags –

Prior to the 150th anniversary program held last November in the Gettysburg National Cemetery, an assessment was made of all the flags and it was determined that time and the elements had taken their toll on the flags. The Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps has faithfully cleaned, mended, and ironed these flags for more than ten years. In honor of the sesquicentennial event, the WRC suggested that each flag should be retired as part of the event and as a fundraiser for the Department.

These flags were a gift from Mr. Richard Micka, VP of the La-Z-Boy Corporation, in the fall of 1998.

In conjunction with the special ceremony, Michigan Remembers Gettysburg, that was held at Gettysburg, the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has partnered with the Woman's Relief Corps and History Remembered, Inc. to conduct a special "flag retirement" project.

How You Can Help Retire the Colors –

You can purchase both the U.S. and State flags that have flown at Gettysburg for any of the soldiers in the following list.

Price includes packaging and shipping.

- 1 set: \$20
- 2-10 sets: \$15 each
- 11 or more sets: \$12 each

With each set purchased, you will receive the matching commemorative tin used to transport soil from Michigan to that soldier's grave for the November 2013 ceremony at **no additional charge**. These 4.5" tins include a special label identifying the soldier's name, unit and grave and still include soil residue from the soldier's county, farm, school, or other connection.

All orders must use the official order form. All money raised, minus the packaging and shipping will be presented to the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for future maintenance and the purchase of replacement flags.



Another Editor's Note:

In order that we maintain the high level of excellence that we have set for this publication, it is important for each of you to become owners of this effort.

To that end, some helpful hints are: make sure that your articles are submitted on time – that is before the 1st of the month that Michigan's Messenger is due for publication; in order that each Camp has equal opportunity to have their information published, please limit your submissions to two pages including photos; do not use exotic photo programs, .pdf or .jpg works just fine, and do not use "editor" programs, a simple word program is good.

We have been very fortunate to have such dedicated brothers that keep this effort fresh, and that effort is evident by the recognition that we have received by the National Organization.

**In advance, thank you for your continued help in making this a multiple-award winning publication,
Rick**

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Chris Czopek – Camp 17

Destination: Clinton County - There is a corner of Clinton County where all the roads are dirt, the farm houses old, and the cemeteries hard to find. A monument is there, unknown to the outside world. It is a memorial to a soldier who died in the Civil War. On the stone is carved the word "Died In Andersonville Prison". For years I've wanted to visit it – but not alone. I needed a partner, someone to hold a map and be my navigator....someone to walk down rows in a cemetery, calling out the names on gravestones...someone to fetch more water when I'm scrubbing the moss off a gravestone....someone to hold a large, white sheet of cardboard to reflect sunlight when I am photographing a dark stone. I used to have such a partner – my wife. But years ago her knees went bad, and walking cemeteries became too painful. It seemed our Road Trip days were over. But then came the miracle of modern surgery. Last winter she had both her knees replaced. After months of therapy and walking the level sidewalks around our house she felt ready for a challenge. On the 4th of July, she looked outside at the beautiful day and said "We need to get out of the house and go somewhere". I thought of the monument in Clinton County and smiled...

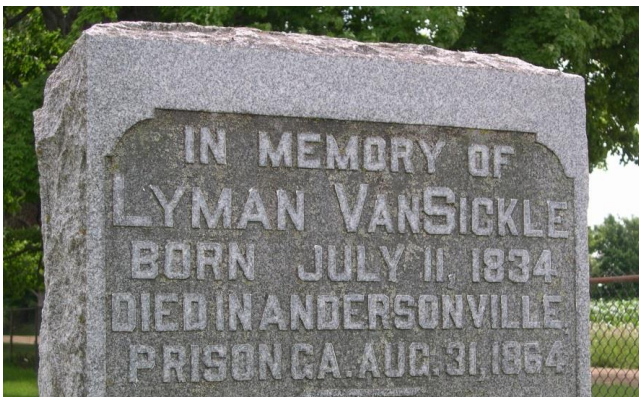
Next day, for the first time in years, we were "on the road again". Paved roads took us to Maple Rapids. Then we rode on gravel to the entrance of Sowle Cemetery. The day was sunny. Wind rustled the leaves and made a cool breeze. The old routine came naturally: parking in a shady place, setting up a comfortable lawn chair under a tree for a resting place.

Then we went to work! Our routine is simple, start at one end of the cemetery and walk the rows together. She saw it first – the cenotaph for the soldier who died at Andersonville Prison. Lyman Van Sickle was his name. He was a trooper in the 5th Michigan Cavalry. He had the misfortune to be captured and sent to the infamous Andersonville prison. He did not survive. I've seen his grave in the Andersonville National Cemetery, headstone number 7595. Now I was looking at a memorial here in Michigan, put there by his grieving parents. They did not want their boy forgotten. I was there to help.

I Sat down in the lawn chair and wrote a story about him, to be published someday in a magazine. Meanwhile my wife wandered around on her "new legs". She straightened up the artificial flowers that had fallen sideways. And of course she read the stones, comparing names and the dates, figuring out the stories of local families. One mother rested alongside her young children, victims of an epidemic of some childhood disease. Another mother lived to be nearly 100, and her children and grandchildren surrounded her on all sides. My wife's favorite stone was brand new, a large block of granite with a picture of a complete farm. House, barn, tractor in the field, orchard on the side, it was all there. And she discovered something else, something I had not expected - a magnificent GAR monument. The G.A.R. of Maple Rapids put their monument in Sowle cemetery. It is in the shape of an Obelisk and stands about 20 feet tall. Erected in 1884 by the Billie Begole GAR Post No. 127. Most interesting was the way they carved on the sides of the shaft the names of all the local men who died in the Civil War. The man who died at Andersonville, Lyman Van Sickle, has his name among the honored dead. This discovery alone made the trip worthwhile.

I took my camera equipment from the car and began documenting the discoveries. My wife learned long ago that "shooting a few pictures" can take an hour or more. And she was prepared. Out of the car came a sewing project. She sat in the shade on that beautiful summer day, sewing quilt blocks while the wind rustled the leaves above her and the birds sang their summer song.

Next morning, at breakfast, she said "Yesterday was fun. Do you have any more monuments to search for?" I thought of one in Fenton and smiled...



Albert and James Lyon Camp 266

Submitted by

Camp 266 was very active during the summer with events keeping Civil War veterans in the public mind.

Remembrance Service on Mackinac Island

On June 4th, a Remembrance Service was held for Lt. Garrett Graveraet and his father, 1SG Henry Graveraet, of Co K, First Michigan Sharpshooters to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their deaths during the Overland Campaign. Lt. Graveraet is buried in St. Anne's Cemetery on Mackinac Island and a memorial stone for his father is alongside his headstone. Henry Graveraet is buried in Fredricksburg National Cemetery. Sgt Graveraet died in May, 1864 at Spotsylvania Courthouse. His son was mortally wounded in the early stages of the Petersburg siege and died in a Washington, D.C. hospital in July, 1864.

The service included sixty five Boy Scouts and leaders from the Upper Peninsula who were serving as the Mackinac Island Scout Service Troop for the week, Cub Scouts and parents, and about 15 community members including a color guard from American Legion Post 299. Uniformed interpreters from Fort Mackinac State Park staff served as honor guard. Department Senior Vice Commander Dale Aurand participated in the ceremony and Brother Chris Czopek from Camp 17 made an excellent presentation about the Graveraets. CC Dewey Jones and PCC Gary White participated in the program. Drummers Brother Jim Strain and his son Charley led the Scouts who marched from the Scout barracks to the cemetery. The event received front page publicity in the Mackinac Island Crier.



CC Dewey Jones and PCC Gary White at the gravesite of Lt. Garrett Graveraet



Bro. Jim Strain and son Charley leads walkers on the Cemetery

Cemetery Walk

The Marquette History Center Cemetery Walk on June 26th in Marquette's Park Cemetery included a stop at the grave of Cpt. Edward Watson of the 1st and then the 9th Michigan Cav. A high school student, Perry Truscon, outfitted in one of the camp's uniforms, read letters written from Cpt. Watson to his family. Perry is a descendent of a veteran of the 1st Michigan Cavalry. There were over 100 on the tour including about 40 young people. Brother Jim Strain and Charley drummed the walkers to the gravesite after Jim gave a presentation on the role of drums in the Civil War. CC Jones and Bro. Spencer were present as flag bearer and sentinel.

Memorial Bricks Dedicated

The Camp participated in the dedication of 21 memorial bricks at Marquette's Veterans Memorial in Harlow Park on July 4th for Union soldiers who died during the Civil War. PCC Gary White for coordinating this project and secured funding for it. Gary, Paul Silver, and Tom Spencer served as escorts for the American Legion's past commanders as they entered and CC Jones offered remarks.



Left to Right: Bro. Paul Silver, CC Dewey Jones, PCC Gary White, and Brother Tom Spencer

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Leroy Wyatt at state Fair



Flag Lowering at the UP State Fair: left to right, Brothers Spencer, Silver, White, and Strain

Upper Peninsula State Fair Display

Eight members of the camp helped staff a display for the week long Upper Peninsula State Fair in Escanaba from August 11 – 17. This is the third year that the camp had a display at the fair. The display consisted of a replica Light Mountain Howitzer, an encased log from Gettysburg, US flags from the Civil War era, replica Civil War drums, pictures of brothers' ancestors, books, and other memorabilia. Brothers also raised and lowered the flag in the Antique Village area of the Fairgrounds.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

For Jerry Jacobs, Secretary



Camp members "pose" before a Decoration Day Ceremony



Reenactors from two of the many military eras represented at the Camp sponsored Dearborn Homecoming History Hill in August

From Our ASUVCW Sisters

Submitted by Helen Granger



MICHIGAN Commander Paul Davis (back toward camera) leads the Michigan Sons and Auxiliary delegates in a rather tongue-in-cheek un-professional rendition of "The Ohio Song" at the Aug. 14 Campfire held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, Marietta, Ga. The song was one of several entertainments at the annual Encampment Campfire where outgoing national C-in-C Ken Freshley of Ohio and the outgoing ASUVCW National President Dianne Mellor were presented with gifts and skits to thank them for their service. (ASUVCW Photo)

MICHIGAN Past Department President Linda Kronberg (standing foreground third from left) was elected to serve as the 2014-2015 ASUVCW National Vice-President. Sister Linda was honored earlier this year with the SUVCW Department of Michigan's Dr. Mary Walker Award. Newly-elected 2014-2015 National Auxiliary President Rachelle Campbell is show to the right of Sister Kronberg. Mrs. Campbell is the wife of Tad Campbell of Calif. who was elected to serve as the 2014-2015 Commander-in Chief. Sister Kronberg was reportedly stunned to silence and brought to tears for the second time this year. (ASUVCW Photo)



MICHIGAN Sister Delegates (left to right): Auxiliary PDP Linda Kronberg, Jan Davis, Sharon Patton, DP Karen Hamann, PI Lisa Smith and Secretary Helen Granger attended the Aug. 14-16 Annual National Encampment held in Marietta, Ga. Kronberg was elected the Auxiliary's National Vice-President. (ASUVCW Photo)



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Sister Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh (foreground, left) and Sister Rachelle Campbell of California (foreground, right) are shown tasking their oaths of office as the National ASUVCW Vice-President and President (respectively). To the left of the photo (foreground, with backs to the camera) are the officiating officers and past national presidents Virginia Twist of N.Y., and Danielle Michaels of Wisconsin.

Sister Linda and Sister Rachelle were elected at the Aug. 14-16 National Encampment and conventions held Aug. 14-16 in Marietta, Ga. The other Sisters from Michigan can attest to the fact that Sister Linda was speechless for the second time this year. The first time was when she received the SUVCW Department of Michigan Dr. Mary Walker Award

in Lansing in May. The second time was when it was announced she had won the National Vice-President election.

Sister Linda and Sister Rachelle will serve the 2014-2015 term.

"I am very pleased and happy to have been elected National ASUVCW Vice-President. I want to thank every one of my Sisters in Michigan (my Michigan Minions) for having the faith in me to urge me to go on to the National level. I would also like to thank my many Brothers in the SUVCW Michigan Department for all of their support and guidance through the years. I am looking forward to working with all of my Sisters and Brothers as the ASUVCW National Vic-President."

After The Ohio Song, gifts were given and C in C Freshley and President Mellor were transformed in the Carol Burnett "Gone With the Wind" characters of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler ... with a twist. Good sports Brother Ken and Sister Diane switched roles with Brother Ken becoming "Scarlett" complete with a curtain rod green bodice and white hoop skirt and Sister Diane dressed as Rhett gray Civil War frock coat, hat and exaggerated moustache.

A good time was had by all.

