



Michigan's

Messenger

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

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Spring 2015

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Richard C. Danes, Editor

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

Commander's Comments

By Dale Aurand, PCC, DC

Greetings, Brothers,

It has come to my attention that several Camps are questioning the boundaries of their geographical responsibilities. In asking around, I find that the most currently used assignment is that used by the Graves Registration Committee. I have asked Graves Registration Committee Chair Brother Rick Danes to reprint a map of that on the last page of this newsletter.

This will serve as a starting point for conversations later on. I urge you to continue to work together in furthering the work of the Order without conflict.
Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, telephone
calls ... and for thinking of us during our time of
recovery and healing.
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Max and Nancy Newman, Michigan*

Department Orders #5  **Series 2014 – 2015**
Headquarters, Flint, Michigan
March 26, 2015

Effective communication between the Department and the various Camps of the Department is still lacking. Communication is an important aspect of conducting the Department business and providing effective and timely communication to the Camps.

In addition, distribution of the *Michigan Messenger* Newsletter can not be accomplished without a designated Camp contact person with an accurate and functioning Email address.

The Department has requested on several occasions the designation of a responsible party in each Camp with a working Email address.

As that request has not been honored by all Camps, it is therefore ordered from this date forward, that all Camps must provide the Department Secretary with the name of at least one contact person and their Email address. That person will be responsible for receiving E-mailings and communications from the Department and distributing these communications to all members of their respective Camps.

The phone number and mailing address of the designated person who will receive the Email is also beneficial in the event there is an electronic malfunction in the various Email systems and devices.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Paul Davis
 Department Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

George Boller
 Department Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Orders #6  **Series 2014 – 2015**
Headquarters, Flint, Michigan
March 26, 2015

Effective on and for the day of Saturday, March 28, 2015, the Headquarters of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, shall be located at the Great Lakes Christian College located at 6211 W. Willow Highway, Lansing, Michigan, to allow for the transaction of business by the 131st Department of Michigan Encampment. Thereafter, the Department of Michigan Headquarters shall revert to the previous address until such time as the 2015-2016 Department Commander shall designate a different location in his Department Orders.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Paul Davis
 Department Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

George Boller
 Department Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Orders #1  **Series 2015 – 2016**
Headquarters, Traverse City, Michigan
March 30, 2015

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Department Commander, I hereby assume command of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
2. Headquarters for the Department is hereby transferred to 321 W. 9th St., Traverse City Michigan, 49684. General correspondence to the Department should be sent to Secretary for the Department, Gerald L. Jacobs, 1929 Wakerobin St., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 or Emailed to jerry_jacobs@comcast.net. Correspondence to the Department Commander should be sent to: Dale L. Aurand, 321 W. 9th St. Traverse City, MI 49684 or Emailed to daurand321@yahoo.com.
3. We would like to extend the appreciation and gratitude of the Department to all of the outgoing officers who served the Department so well and so faithfully for the previous term.
4. We offer the thanks of the Department to all those brothers filling elected and appointed offices for the 2015-2016 term as well as all of those who are currently serving the Order on committees.
5. The Department also extends our appreciation and gratitude to the Allied Orders. We thank C in C Tad Campbell for attending our Department Encampment and installing our officers for the 2015-2016 term.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

/s/

Dale L. Aurand
 Department Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

/s/

Gerald L. Jacobs
 Department Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Orders #1  **Series 2015 – 2016**
Headquarters, Traverse City, Michigan
May 6, 2015

Memorial Day will be celebrated on Monday, May 25th this year. May 30th

is the original Decoration Day set forth by the Grand Army of the Republic. All camps and brothers are encouraged to participate in some form of remembrance to commemorate the memory of the "Boys in Blue" and the many sacrifices of their generation.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

/s/

Dale L. Aurand
 Department Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

/s/

Gerald L. Jacobs
 Department Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Senior Vice Commander*David S. Smith, LM*

Greetings Brothers,

First of all, I want to personally thank you for electing and entrusting me with the office of Department Junior Vice Commander. It is a real honor, and I am truly humbled.

I had the opportunity to represent the Department of Michigan and Camp No. 14 at the Traverse City Memorial Day Ceremony, along with my wife Department Patriotic Instructor, Sister Lisa, and Frances Finch No. 9 Auxiliary President Dorothy Roush. It was a moving service, and as always a well-attended event.



As a reminder, if you need SUVCW Department of Michigan membership brochures, please let me know and I will ship out as many as you like. Prices for the brochures are: \$11.00 per 100 brochures.

I look forward to seeing many of you through various activities and ceremonies across Michigan during the year. If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to say "hello" do not hesitate to contact me (wyattsmagnus@gmail.com).

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Patriotically Speaking*Gary Granger, Department Patriotic Instructor*

Dear Brothers:

I would like to thank my Michigan Brothers for appointing me as 2015-2016 SUVCW Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor.

Thank you Brothers for reporting your patriotic activities for another year to make the annual Department PI Report to National.

The next deadline for your Camp's PI Report is January 15, 2016.

There is a fill-in enabled form on the Department website.

The form can be e-mailed to me at: hagranger@hotmail.com. My wife and I share this e-mail and it is viewed daily.

You may also fax the report. Please call before faxing because it is connected to my home telephone and we have restrictions on it so I don't get a lot of junk mail and I will need to press a button to accept the fax. You can mail your report to me at: Gary Granger PI, PO Box 41, Corunna, MI 48817.

Also, you can telephone me at: (989) 494-4993 and place your report over the phone with either my wife or me and if I am not there please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you Brothers

In Memoriam

By Charles F. Buckhahn, Department Chaplain

Brothers:

It is my sad duty to inform you and your camps the passing of Brother Allen A. Pifer PCC of the Robert Finch Camp No. 14. Brother Pifer died on Thursday, March 5th, in Traverse City, Michigan, at the age of 80.

His funeral was this past Tuesday. Brother Pifer's Civil War ancestor was Private Adam H. Bork of Co. G., 11th MI. Inf. Reg., his great-grandfather. He served our nation in the USMC, was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and was a member of the Sons since August 12, 1989.

His name will be added to those we remember at the Department Encampment on the 28th.

Please join with me in praying for the Pifer family and Camp 14.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

One Commander Honors Another



Bill Brennan, PDC presenting one of the 2015 Lincoln Awards to Gary Gibson, PDC.

IN THIS ISSUE

Officer's Reports

***Department GOs
Orders #5 and #6
Of 2014-2015***

***Department GOs
Orders #1 and #2
Of 2015-2016***

Camp News

Allen A. Pifer, PCC

***GAR Chairs
Needed***

And

Much More!

**2015-2016
Department Officers**

Commander

Dale Aurand, PCC
321 W. 9th Street
Traverse City, MI 49684
Daurand321@yahoo.com

Senior Vice Commander

L. Dean Lamphere, PCC
1062 Four Seasons Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60504
ldlampherejr@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commander

David S. Smith
P. O. Box 346
Acme, MI 49610-0346

Recording Secretary

Gerald L. Jacobs
1929 Wakerobin
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Jerry_jacobs@comcast.net

Treasurer

Bruce Gosling
20388 US Hwy. 12
White Pigeon, MI 49099
bgosling@charter.net

Department Council

Chuck Worley, PDC
Kevin Lindsey, PCC
Bob Griggs

Chaplain

Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn, PDC

Patriotic Instructor

Gary Granger, PCC

Color Bearer

Edgar Dowd

Counselor

James Pahl, PCinC

Guard

Ron Shull, PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Dewey Jones, CC

Signals Officer

Christopher Skillman

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Rick Danes, CC

Historian

Chris Cox

Guide

Rob Payne

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Bruce Butgereit, PDC

Chief of Staff

Donald Shaw, PDC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Dennis Zank

Aide de Camp

Keith Harrison, PCinC

Communication and Technology Committee

By Christopher Skillman, Chair, and Department Signals Officer

Brothers,

This past Sunday, the Technology and Communications Committee assembled at the GAR hall in Eaton Rapids to discuss the current status of the SUVCWMI website, and a tentative plan for operations this year. I will attempt to make this as thorough as possible, but as always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

The first Issue covered was the Webmaster changeover issues: The committee discussed the situation of the previous year where a webmaster could not be found for maintaining the website. A solution brought forward by Brother Keith was for the webmaster to assemble a guide and outline of the duties to be expected in the position. Furthermore, the committee is to search for a viable backup webmaster should an emergency develop where the current webmaster was unavailable.

The next Issue covered was the reworking of the website. Due to the current condition of the website, the committee resolved that the website would need to be eventually remade using the current standards in website format (including HTML 5 and mobile device compatibility). This was discussed tentatively, but the committee resolved upon a schedule for remaking the site, and another meeting will be held on the subject in August 2015. During this summer, the webmaster is to develop a concept (or sitemap) of the new website, while other members of the committee will assist in activating a test domain to work off and test concepts on.

Department Communications and Technology Committee Members

*Matthew Adair
Keith Harrison, PC-in-C
Dean Lamphere, CC
James Pahl, PC-in-C
Christopher Skillman
David Wallace, PDC
Patrick Wallace*

The current website will still be updated and supported until this new website has been developed, and it is still encouraged for Officers to pass along any issues or inconsistencies on the website to the Signals Officer.

The third issue covered was the domain and webhost. It was discussed that the website domain was to expire on June 7th, 2015; and Brother David Wallace said that he would be able to remedy this by renewing the domain. Also, it was discussed that the SUVCWMI.net and SUVCWMI.com web domains are to be purchased, so that these domains will reroute visitors to the main SUVCWMI.org website. This measure is purely for the security of our website visitors, so that no traffic will be deceived into visiting an illegitimate website bearing our name. Brother David has said he will purchase these domains using funds out of his own pocket to secure them, but it is the recommendation of the committee that funds should be set aside for continued purchase and use of these domains.

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The next issue covered was the electronic storage of data, and necessary backups of this information. It was decided that the data kept on the SUVCWMI website would be backed up to several locations, in the event that the current webhosting service fails.

A 2-terabyte external hard drive was purchased by Brother David for use by the Signals Officer to make a physical backup of the website (at the time of this writing, the website has been compiled and saved upon the external hard drive). Furthermore, a cloud storage service such as Microsoft's OneDrive will be looked into by the committee for use as a digital cloud-based backup of the data.

The fifth item covered by the committee was the plan of implementing uniform email addresses for Department of Michigan Officers. In light of the current issues concerned with obtaining the correct contact information from officers and the potential security issue of putting personal email addresses on the website, several members of the committee proposed a solution. Using the currently-subscribed-to BlueHost service, the committee would create individual email accounts for each position of the department. Using the example of Signals Officer, the email address for the position would be signalsofficer@suvcwmi.org, instead of the ever-changing personal email address of the officer. This would allow for much simpler communication on the department level, and would eliminate the need for continually updating website information.¹

The next item discussed was the possible exploration of an events management system for the Department's events, meetings, and functions. Ultimately, the committee discussed looking into the resources provided by BlueHost for these functions, and this will be brought up further in the committee meeting later this summer.

Finally, the committee discussed the costs related to the projects mentioned above. The primary expenses were the purchases of both the SUVCWMI.net and SUVCWMI.com domains (\$24 altogether), and the external backup hard drive for the website's data (\$59). Finally, the current SUVCWMI.org domain will need to be renewed, but I do believe that this may be covered within the budgeted website maintenance funds.

In conclusion, it was a pleasure meeting with the other committee members and their assistance and knowledge on these issues has been most forthcoming and appreciated. It is the plan of the committee to reconvene in August of 2015 to review the changes made and proceed with the updates.

My personal Email is: cms007@aquinas.edu

Fraternally,

¹ Also, this method allows for much easier management of emails from within the organization. In the current system, when an officer steps down or changes position within the department, he brings the emails relevant to that position with him, forcing the new appointee to work off a new slate. Using this system of assigned email addresses, the new appointee would be able to access older records, resources and contact lists for the position. How this works in practice: When a new officer is sworn in, the password to the position's email address would be reset, and the new officer would be prompted to create a new password upon logging in for the first time. Thus, the email address would be able to be switched quickly and easily from one officer to another.

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.

Camp 20

Submitted by John Keith, SVC

Allegan Boy, Girl and Cub scouts on May 17th, 2015 gathered at Gen. Pritchard's grave in Oakwood Cemetery, Allegan, for Community service, they helped put out flags on Veteran's graves.



Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer



Your Department Graves Registration Committee will meet on June 20 at Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing, weather permitting.. The date for the next meeting is September 12, 2015.

Our on-line database will have over 68,000 Civil War burials and 3550 Other War records when it is updated after the meeting.

The only news from the VA about headstone ordering that will allow certain groups, (one of which is the SUVCW) to be an authorized party for requesting headstones is that the Feds are accepting comments for a change in the Code of Federal Register (CFR).

I hope that you read in past Michigan's Messengers that "the Committee has taken on another task, that we hope to complete in 2015 (the anniversary of the end of the Civil War)" – the Last Soldier Project that Brother GRO Officer, Jim Petrimoulx is coordinating. This task has gone from slow-to-no in completion. I would like to encourage all to participate, enabling our Department to have another resource that few in the Nation has.

I will close this quarter as I did in the last, by encouraging those Brothers in Camps 1, 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.

Our time has come, get out and survey!

Be safe!

Camp 43

Submitted by Butch Miller, PCC



On May 30, 2015 Nash-Hodges Camp #43 held a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Lime Creek Cemetery on Munson Rd. just outside of Morenci MI.

Around 40 members, locals and media were in attendance.

The 33 men listed on the monument were honored by the reading of their names along with the ringing of a bell and the placement of an American Flag near the side of the monument in which their names are inscribed on.

James Malarney a local historian was the guest speaker. He told stories of the history of the men and the monument.

The ceremony was concluded with *Amazing Grace* being played on the bagpipes by Scott Wilson and the firing of a gun salute by the 4th Michigan Company G and Battery D 1st Michigan Light Artillery Reenactors, and ended with taps.

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.

Department Encampment
Submitted by Helen Granger, ASUV



RE-ELECTED and New Michigan Officers -- Karen Hamann (seated, center) of Adrian was re-elected to serve her fifth term as the 2015 – 2016 Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War Department of Michigan (ASUVCW-MI) at the 2015 Department of Michigan Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Encampment held March 28 in Lansing. Shown with her are ASUVCW-MI Council Member #3 June Lloyd of Williamston; and (seated right) ASUVCW-MI Treasurer Vicki Weiss of Jackson. Standing from left are: National ASUVCW President Rachelle Campbell of Gilroy, Calif., her daughter Emelia Campbell, 7; ASUVCW-MI Chaplain Elizabeth Lloyd of Williamston; ASUVCW-MI Council Member #1 Linda Kronberg of Tecumseh who is also serving as National ASUVCW Vice-President; ASUVCW-MI Vice-President and Council #2 Jan Davis; ASUVCW-MI Patriotic Instructor Lisa Smith of Traverse City; and, ASUVCW-MI Secretary Helen Granger of Corunna. (ASUV Photo/HELEN A. GRANGER)



SUVCW VISIT – Gathered here (from left) are: ASUVCW Council #3 Jan Davis, SUVCW Brothers and Past National SUVCW Commanders in Chief Keith Harrison, Jim Pahl and current Commander in Chief Tad Campbell and (partially visible) Liz Lloyd and Lisa Smith (escorts) during the SUVCW traditional visit to the Auxiliary meeting. The visit and greetings were part of the 2015 annual Allied Orders of the GAR Encampment and Conventions. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen Granger)

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MUSEUM -- Brother Keith Harrison, Past National SUVCW Commander in Chief (seated center) visited the March 28

business meeting of the ASUVCW Department of Michigan to speak about the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum located at 224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. The Museum is under the James B. Brainerd Post #111 Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc. Brother Harrison was actively involved with other members of the SUVCW in establishing the museum. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the First and Second Wednesdays, Patriotic Holidays and by Appointment.

Sponsorships are also needed to operate and kepe this free Museum open. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Sponsor Levels vary from a \$25 Lt. James B. Brainerd GAR Post to the \$200 President Abraham Lincoln GAR Post level. A live- time Patron sponsor level is available for \$1,000.

Sisters interested in learning more about the hall and museum may find information on its Facebook site: GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum or its website at: <http://garmuseum.com>. Or, Email Brother Harrison for more information at: GARmichigan@gmail.com.



AUTHOR Christopher Cox of Jackson (right) presented a copy of his self-published book "History of Michigan Civil War Regiments" to SUVCW National Commander in Chief Tad Campbell (left) at the annual Allied Orders Banquet held Saturday evening March 28. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen Granger)

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DEPARTMENT of Michigan Allied Orders Chaplains led the annual Memorial Service for fallen comrades at the March 28

opening ceremonies of the 2015 annual Allied Orders of the GAR Encampment and Conventions business meetings held at the Great Lakes Christian College, Lansing. Gathered (from left) are: SUVCW Chaplain Charles Buckhahn, DUVCW Chaplain Patricia Galloway, Woman's Relief Corps acting Chaplain Marcia Butgereit, and ASUVCW Chaplain June Lloyd.

The Memorial Service -- traditionally held on Saturday evenings -- was moved to Saturday mornings at the very beginning of the Allied Orders Encampment and Conventions to assure that all members of the Allied Orders may participate. Prior to the change the LGAR concluded its business meeting at noon on Saturdays and many members were not able to attend the Memorial Service. (ASUV Photo/Helen Granger)



RE-ELECTED DUVCW-MI President Bethany Hoover (far right) is shown with other DUVCW members at the March 28 Opening Ceremonies of the Department of Michigan Allied Orders of the GAR Encampment and Conventions just before the start of the annual Memorial Service. Sister Hoover was re-elected for a third term as president later that day at the DUVCW annual business meeting.

OF NOTE: Sister Lucille "Peaches" Streeter was re-elected WRC-MI President; Judy Rock was re-elected LGAR-MI President; ASUVCW-MI President Karen Hamann was re-elected for another term and Dale Aurand was elected SUVCW-MI Commander. (ASUVCW Photo/Helen Granger)

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THE Grand Ledge Bums Entertained After Annual Banquet - Music and a bit of dancing and some adlib improvisation were part of the entertainment provided by The Grand Ledge Bums. The musical group performed "Golden Oldies" from various decades. (SUVCW Photo/Dave Hilliker)

PAST DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN COMMANDERS with Perley Mellor, PCinC, Tad Campbell, CinC and Department Commander Dale Aurand. (SUVCW Photo/Dennis Derr III).



2015 ELECTED AND APPOINTED DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN OFFICERS. (SUVCW Photo/Dennis Derr III)

Save the Date
Special
State of Michigan
Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Program

August 8, 2015. Return of Loomis Cannon to State Capitol Lawn (Michigan State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan). Time to be determined. The Michigan Capitol was originally designed as a tribute and memorial to the sacrifice that our state made in the Civil War. To help commemorate that war and to pay tribute to the fallen, there were two Civil War cannon on the grounds of the east lawn, flanking the entryways. These cannon were a part of the Civil War six-gun Loomis Battery that bravely served our country with great distinction during the conflict. Sadly, it is believed that these cannon were contributed to a scrap metal drive during WWII. It is now with great pride that two replicas of these famous guns have been produced, through the generous support of numerous donors, will be returned to their rightful place of honor on the State Capital lawn. Civil War Reenactors and Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic are invited to participate in the unveiling ceremony that will take place on August 8th. Reenactor and Allied Orders of the GAR Participant Registration Contact: Keith G. Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net. Ceremony Contact: Matt VanAker at MVanacker@legislature.mi.gov .

Keith G. Harrison

Chair & Webmaster

MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY PARTNERS for the
MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

Website: <<http://www.micw150.us>>

Major, Chief of Staff/Assistant Adjutant General

CUMBERLAND GUARD

Past National Commander-in-Chief (2009 - 2011)

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

Past National Commander-in-Chief (1994/95)

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Spring - June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Fall - 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!

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

For Jerry Jacobs, Secretary

Camp 427 has continued our effort to be among the best Camps in the Department with our aggressive program of activities.

Since March we have sent a full delegation to the Department Encampment, awarded an ROTC Commendation, reenacted in the Plymouth Historical Museum "Ghost Walk", conducted an educational program about the Civil War for over 200 8th grade students at Stout Middle School in Dearborn, conducted a Civil War educational program for 3rd Graders at the Plymouth Historical Museum, continued the survey at Historical Trinity Cemetery in Detroit, marched in the Saint Clair Shores and the Dearborn Memorial Day Parades, conducted a traditional Decoration Day Ceremony, conducted a headstone dedication for the descendants of Major Sylvanus Curtis, 7th Michigan Infantry at Woodland Cemetery, Monroe (thanks Mike Wasshnova of amp 180 for your support), and conducted meetings in March, April, May, and June.

As we continue to complete our busy schedule, we wish the very best to the 2015-2016 Department Officers.



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



Ely Parker, The Civil War's Native American General

by Gil Troy

Called a “real American” by Robert E. Lee, Parker was a uniquely American success story.

Most anniversary commemorations of the Confederacy's surrender 150-years ago in April, 1865, overlooked a meaningful exchange at that little courthouse in Appomattox, Va. After the proud defeated commander, Robert E. Lee, formally surrendered to the short, squat, sloppy winner, Ulysses S. Grant, Grant introduced Lee to his staff. As Lee shook hands with Grant's military secretary Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian, the Confederate general stared a moment at Parker's dark features. “I am glad to see one real American here,” the Virginian said. Parker immediately replied: “We are all Americans.”

That, ultimately, was what the war had been all about, just who was an American and what did that mean. Northerners had gone to war—and to their deaths—singing “Glory, Glory Hallelujah,” a song, written by a New England abolitionist, Julia Ward Howe, evoking the Book of Revelation, capturing the millennial idealism that was and is America. Singing “His truth is marching on” imagines a nation of nations, stronger, prouder, freer, than any other, a chosen nation, blessed as more democratic, welcoming, equal, righteous—and thus occasionally more self-righteous—than any other country.

Their Confederate brothers had less grandiose motives. They sang “In Dixie Land I'll take my stand, an' lib an' die in Dixie.” A song epitomizing love of home, this provincial anthem cherished both individual autonomy and regional or ethnic solidarity in a centralizing, homogenizing, nation. Ironically, tragically, disgustingly, the Southerners—most of whom were not slaveholders—defended their liberty, their freedom, their prerogatives, with provincial prejudices that hurt and enslaved three million others.

At its best, this glorious selfishness, combining individualism, provincialism, and a “devil may care” spirit, has shaped Americans' entrepreneurial and libertarian impulses, especially when balanced by the North's selfish gloriousness, this grandiose vision of an ideal world which often looked astonishingly like each American's own backyard.

That “real American,” Ely Parker, lived those paradoxes. Always proud of his people, frequently bruised by prejudice, but ultimately liberated by America at its most glorious, expansive, and redemptive, Hasaniwanda, “The Reader,” was born in 1828 on the Towanda Indian Reservation in western New York. Mocked as a young boy while working at an army post for speaking pidgin English, he ultimately became renowned for his eloquence in the language, with penmanship so impressive he won the privilege of drafting the surrender documents ending the Civil War. Ambitious to advance in the white man's world, he changed his name to Ely Samuel Parker, with Ely pronounced e-Lee as in Robert E. Lee.

Unfortunately, Parker faced the kind of prejudice that unified Southerners—and that would persist despite the Northern victory. He apprenticed to be a lawyer for three years, only to discover that as a Seneca Indian—one of six nations making up the Iroquois confederation—he was not an American citizen and thus ineligible for the bar. Native Americans would secure those basic rights only in 1924 with the Indian Citizenship Act. In the 1860s, when Parker patriotically tried raising a regiment of Iroquois to fight for the North, New York state officials sneered, “The Civil War is a white man's war... we will settle our own troubles without any Indian aid.”

A true American, Parker overcame bigotry with pluck and luck. He studied civil engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic in Troy, N.Y. Committed to his Native people despite his all-American ambitions, in 1852 he became a sachem, a subordinate chief renamed Donehogawa, Keeper of the Western Door of the Long House of the Iroquois.

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After working on the Erie Canal, Parker ended up at the Mississippi River town of Galena, Ill. There, he befriended, a slovenly, often drunk, former West Point Army captain working as a store clerk. By 1864, that slob was Abraham Lincoln's best general. Parker served as U.S. Grant's military secretary as they fought their way toward Appomattox, eventually becoming the Union's only Native American Brigadier General.

In 1869, now-President Grant made Parker the first Native American Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Parker's fair, honest approach toward the Indian tribes alienated his Washington rivals. They blasted Grant for appointing a man "who is but a remove from barbarism." Undeterred, Parker tried balancing his loyalty to his tribe with his loyalty to his country. Occasionally wondering "whether it has been well that I have sought civilization with its bothersome concomitants," he yearned to return to nature's "darkness and sacred wilds." Alas, he realized: "The thought is a happy one, but perhaps impracticable."

When Parker rushed aid to starving Indians out West without publicizing bids properly, his enemies filed 13 charges of misconduct against him. The resulting Congressional hearing exonerated him—and praised his leadership. Yet the scandal demoralized Parker. He resigned in 1871.

This 19th-century Forrest Gump followed his work on developing the nation's infrastructure, ending slavery, and Americanizing the West, by experiencing the great post-Civil War Boom, which was then followed by the Bust triggered by the Jay Gould-inspired Panic of 1873. Parker ended his career clerking in Theodore Roosevelt's police headquarters in New York, as Progressives began reforming the cities. The photographer and urban chronicler, Jacob Riis, was very taken with this "noble old fellow," who died in 1895. Parker's only child, Maud Theresa, born in 1878, died in 1956—demonstrating just how few lifespans separate modern Americans from our founders, let alone nineteenth-century heroes like Ely Parker.

Unlike the fictional Gump, this "real American's" history-making was purposeful not accidental, active not passive. Talented and ambitious, he made himself into a role model for today, not just for Native Americans, but for all Americans who wish to retain their own particular ethnic or religious identity while being patriotic and who wish to advance themselves personally while contributing collectively. The prejudice Parker endured reflected the selfishness and sinfulness we have not yet exorcised. But his success demonstrates the power of those glorious basic American rights hundreds of millions exercise every day, transforming obstacles into opportunities. The story of Ely Parker, "the real American" at Appomattox, teaches us that America remains the land of liberty and opportunity, the home of a welcoming, empowering, often epoch-making American dream, powerful enough to eclipse whatever demons, both personal and collective, we face.

SUVCW TOUTED IN DEARBORN HISTORICAL COMMUNITY

By Rick Danes, Commander, Camp 427 and Editor, Michigan's Messenger

In the most recent issue of *the Dearborn Historian*, the quarterly magazine of the Dearborn Historical Museum, your editor was fortunate to have either written, or collaborated on three articles about the Order. The first, "*Those Sons Are Everywhere – Just Check Out the C.Q. On Homecoming Weekend*" was written by David Good, immediate past Chair of the Dearborn Historical Commission, and magazine editor tells about the recent activities and accomplishments of Camp 427.

The second, by myself, titled "*Sons Dearborn Roots Reach Back to 1941*" is an abbreviated history of the Camp, starting with the Shepard L. Howard Camp #18, which was chartered in 1941, and closed in 1945. This article tells the story of how PDC Paul D. Hodges "discovered" a group of historical interpreters during the dedication of an original Nation Battle Flag of Company E, 1st Michigan Cavalry to the Museum. He proceeded to recruit the members of this loose organization into Camp 427 in 1998.

The third article, "*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Service Under Many Names*" is an abbreviated history of the National Order, from its beginnings to the current time. It relies heavily on the official history of the SUVCW, its various names, and the transformation of the Organization to a modern one

GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT

JAMES B. BRAINERD POST #111 MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM, INC.

224 South Main Street

Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Email: GARmichigan@gmail.com

Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>

Face Book: [GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum)

December 13, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders, and Friends:

The GAR Memorial Hall & Museum would like to offer you the opportunity to honor your Union Civil War ancestor, or any Union Veteran.

We are looking for new or used, *sturdy* wooden chairs, similar to the ones pictured below, but not necessarily identical, to provide seating in the Memorial Hall. An eclectic collection of mismatched chairs would be ideal. These types of chairs can be found in used furniture stores, antique malls, or even yard sales.



With the donation of a chair, we will place the name and regiment or ship of the Civil War veteran on the chair, as well as your name as the donor.

As the museum is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, your donation would be tax-deductible! To arrange the placing of this memorial to your ancestor, please contact either Museum Board of Directors member Gary Gibson at glgsvvcw@aol.com or me at GARmichigan@gmail.com to arrange for your donation.

Keith G. Harrison

Board President

GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

(GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN JAMES
B. BRAINERD POST 111 MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM, INC)

Website: <<http://garmuseum.com>>

Past National Commander-in-Chief (2009 - 2011)

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

Past National Commander-in-Chief (1994/95)

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
