



MI

Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ~ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Vol. XII No. 3

Chartered June 24, 1884

Winter 2004

In Memoriam

Edward L. Blakely "True Son"

8 December 1903 – 28 October 2003
Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1

Bruce B. Butgereit, DC

In the end, it would seem that the goal of reaching the age of one hundred was less important to Brother Edward L. Blakely than seeing his beloved Monument, the Kent County Civil War Monument, restored and rededicated. On Tuesday, October 28, 2003 "True Son" Brother Blakely passed away quietly in his sleep. He was the son of Egbert Blakely and Anna Bloom Blakely. He is survived by his wife Thelma and son Tom.

Brother Blakely (I could never address him as simply Ed) first contacted me in May 2000 following an article he had seen in the Grand Rapids Press concerning the Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1 effort to raise funds for the restoration of the Kent County Civil War Monument. I took his call on my cell phone and although I never before pulled off the road to use my phone, the moment I heard him say he was the son of a Civil War soldier, I pulled onto the shoulder to complete the call. Within an hour, I was sitting in the basement of his condo and meeting a man who would become over the next three years, my Brother, my best friend, a father-figure, the best man at my wedding, and a great pard.

(Continued on page 14)



Brother Blakely sitting in his favorite white cane chair at the 2003 Jackson, MI Civil War Muster.

IN THIS ISSUE

Andersonville Monument	2	Pvt. John Huff	15
Department Orders	3	A Family of Veterans	16
Senior Vice Commander	3	Buy-a-Brick	17
Chaplain	4	Coming Events	17
Treasurer		Medal of Honor	18
Historian	5	Blakely Memorial Invitation	18
Graves Registration	5	Mid Winter Conference	19
Patriotic Instructor	6	Burial Document	20
		Cemeteries of D.C.	6
		Remembrance Day	7
		Anniversary Invitation	7
		Camp News	8
		Photo Gallery	11
		Soldier's Diary	12
		Pvt. Charles C. Becker	13

*Department Officers
2003/2004*

Commander

Bruce B. Butgereit
1691 Summerfield St. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508-6499
(616) 827-3369
civil-war@attbi.com

Senior Vice Commander

Neal Breaugh
10230 E. San Remo Blvd.
Traverse City, MI 49648
(231) 947-5873
nbreaugh@gtii.com

Junior Vice Commander

Richard Greene
9245 Willits Road
Mayville, MI 48744-9535
(517) 843-5967
rgreene@TorcaUSA.com

Secretary

Richard F. Lee
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257
(517) 223-9497

Treasurer

Richard A. Williams
1917 Teel Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910-3117
(517) 484-2496
rawsuvvw@aol.com

Council

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C
Howard Streeter
Max Newman

Camp Organizer

Richard Lee

Patriotic Instructor

Tim Kolean

Chaplain

William B. McAfee

Counselor

E. Lou Hoos

Historian

Paul Hodges, PDC

Guard

Ed Dowd

Guide

Bob Grove

Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong

Communications & Technology

Eric G. Kirchberg

Camp-at-Large Coordinator

Kevin Lindsey

Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

B.S.A. Coordinator

Bruce Zann

Commander's Group Rep.

Bruce B. Butgereit

Ceremonies & Ritual

Gregory Hayes

AN UPDATE ON THE MICHIGAN MONUMENT AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA

Bruce B. Butgereit, DC

Mercene Karkadoulis, of Karkadoulis Bronze Art, Inc, the woman who restored the Kent County Monument, has offered to recreate the missing bronze wreath on the Michigan Monument at Andersonville, GA at no expense. As Mercene and I worked together to restore our Monument, a true friendship and appreciation for each other's talents was developed. Out of a respect for the dedication I had with our Monument, she has offered to do the restoration as "her contribution to our cause." Before Mercene offered her services, one estimate I had was over \$4,300.

While Brother Chris Czopek of Camp 22 (Marshall) continues his efforts to organize the grave records of Michigan men buried there and to find their stories, I have been keeping in contact with the National Park as to the ceremony.

I am in communication with the Honorable Vernon Ehlers, United State House of Representatives as to his availability of attending and speaking at the 10 AM, Sunday, May 30, 2004 Memorial Day service.

For those who may have forgotten the history involved with this project, the Michigan Monument was dedicated on May 30, 1904 and Michigan will be the first State to return and rededicate their Monument with our ceremony. For many years, the Monument has been missing a bronze laurel wreath and this is where Mercene will be assisting us.

I encourage your attendance. For those of you who may wish to fly down (we of the Grand Rapids Allied Orders are in order to return by Monday to participate in the Memorial Day services on Monday), please contact me. We are trying to arrange a group price for tickets.

Whether you fly or drive, I recommend making hotel accommodations at the Windsor Hotel in Americus, GA (about 15 miles from Andersonville). Their phone is: 1-888-297-9567. Their website is: www.windsor-amicus.com/

More in the Spring issue of Michigan's Messenger.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

WHY ACTUAL PHOTOS ARE NECESSARY

Briefly, the reason electronic photo files are not used is three fold. 1st, my printer is not of a high enough quality to print a photo that is good enough to be "shot" by the printshop to make a halftone for offset press printing. Unless an inkjet or laser printer can print at very high quality or TRUE photo quality, 2400 dpi (dots per inch) or higher, the result looks muddy when converted to halftone.

2nd, the quality of electronic files varies tremendously, especially those taken with digital cameras. A minimum resolution of 3 mega pixels should be used for 4 x 6 photos, especially if they are to be cropped and the cropped area enlarged. What looks acceptable on a computer screen doesn't necessarily look good in print.

3rd, the printshop can take the electronic file and convert it directly to a halftone, but that doubles the processing cost per photo. The Messenger already consumes a major portion of the Department's budget and by having everyone snail mail their photos, the result is the Messenger is a higher quality product and costs the Department (you, our members) less to print.

The **Deadline** for the
Spring 2004 Issue
of
Michigan's Messenger
is
Monday, March 1st

All articles and photos must be in the hands of the editor by this date to ensure inclusion. Text files may be submitted by e-mail (attached file preferred). Please use the subject line, *Messenger Article*. Photos **MUST** be mailed (**actual photographs only***). Include a SASE if photos are to be returned. No electronic photo files accepted.

John R. Mann, Editor
Michigan's Messenger
2495 Washington Road
Lansing, MI 48911-7216
jrmsuvvw@comcast.net

* Please refer to "Photo Submissions" on the left for a brief explanation.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 4

SERIES 2003 ~ 2004

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,
KENTWOOD, MICHIGAN

1. It is with sincere regrets that I must announce the passing of a "True Son," Brother **Edward Blakely**, age 99. Brother Edward, senior member of General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, passed away in his sleep on October 28, 2003. Brother Blakely's father was Corporal Egbert Blakely of the 10th Michigan Cavalry, Co. E. It was Brother Blakely's request that I conduct the funeral services and we gave him a proper and fitting memorial service for a "True Son." His final resting place is within sight of his boyhood home, a small house his father had completed just before he passed away in 1910. Our own Brother Kent Armstrong, C-in-C, was honored to serve as a pallbearer and deposited a flag in Brother Blakely's SUCVW flag holder.

2. With Camp elections and officer installations well underway, I would like remind each Camp Commander and/or Secretary to communicate with me any changes that you would like made to your Camp advertising flyer. These changes may include not only officers, but also any increase in Camp dues you may have voted on or any changes to your meeting schedule. With many of you expressing concern over Camp membership and attendance, I still believe these inexpensive flyers can be a great tool for getting the word out about who we are and what we do. Who knows, your next Camp GRO or Patriotic Instructor just might be out there!

3. It is with my apologies for not submitting this in an earlier Department Orders, but it is still not too late to take care of. An item that many Camps have "ignored" for some time is the election of Camp Delegates and Alternates to the Department Encampment. This is a directive in our By-laws that should be followed, regardless of the fact that in most cases, no Camp ever sends their full allotment to the Encampment.

Having been slack in following this procedure in the past, I have requested Brother Rick Greene serve the Department in the same manner he did at the National level with the Credentials Committee and we go through the process of adhering to the C&R and By-laws. (Just as a heads-up for our 2004 Department Encampment, we will officially elect Delegates and Alternates to represent the Department at the 2004 National Encampment rather than just adopting an alphabetical list.)

While this is an effort to adhere to the Order's C&R and By-laws, I also believe each Brother who makes the effort to attend either the Department or National Encampment or both, deserves to be officially recognized for his worthy contribution.

4. I would like to thank each Brother who attended the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ceremony. The graves of Michigan's brave soldiers were once again decorated with a flag of our State. (For more, see the article elsewhere in this issue by Department Senior Vice-Commander Neal Breaugh.)

5. I would like to thank each Brother who attended a Civil War memorial or headstone dedication or rededication service or any event that shared who we are with the public. I encourage you to submit up to two (2) pictures of any event your Camp sponsored to our Department Signals Officer for inclusion on our Department website under the section, "Where We've Been." (See that webpage for ideas on what to submit.) These pictures might encourage better Camp attendance or lead to possible membership.

(Continued on page 4)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Neal F. Breaugh

The response to my request for Camps to send me a copy of their newsletter or just their minutes, continues to be good. In September, I received six such items from Camps, 7, 14, 17, 58, and two from Camp 1. In October I heard from Camp 427, and in November Camps 7, 14, 17, 58, and 266 sent me material. So far in December, I have received one from Camp 1. Now this was there shortest one yet, just one page, but it was wonderful to receive it. So all you Camps out there who have not sent me anything, don't be shy. It doesn't have to be long or fancy. Just a copy of your minutes would be great. Receiving this from Camps not only keeps me informed, but it helps me to be a better Officer and it helps me and Department Headquarters to encourage and assist each Camp.

I am also happy to report that two Camps have sent newspaper clippings. Camp 14 had a picture in the Bayleaf, the publication of the Grand Traverse Area Retired School Personnel, showing Camp members presenting the Colors at the GTARSP June meeting. They also had a picture in the Traverse City Elks Lodge newsletter showing Camp members raising the Flag at Veterans Day Ceremonies. Camp 427 sent in several articles with a fabulous picture of Dearborn Mayor Michael Guido, five Members of the Camp and a SUCVW banner looking great in the background. This packet also contained some other good pieces of information. Now I know we must be getting more articles in the newspapers than just the ones just mentioned. If we are not, then we should be. So I really encourage all Camps to get all the P.R. they can and by all means, send me copies.

Since the Fall Michigan's Messenger, I have enjoyed attending the Grand Rapids Monument Rededication, the Central Region Conference, the Day of Remembrance in Gettysburg, a Camp 58 meeting, and was also honored to attend the 20th Anniversary Dinner of General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

As Bylaws Committee Chairman, I am happy to report that this item on the Department Encampment Agenda in April will be short and sweet. There were no major changes made at the National Encampment in August that would cause us to amend our Department Bylaws. In addition, I have not receive any proposals for changes from any of our Camps or from any individual Member. However, there was one item at the 2003 Encampment that was tabled and sent to the By-laws Committee. It dealt with adding a new Section 6 to Article III. This new Section would require Department Officers to turn over all materials when relieved of duty to the Department Historian. The 2003 Encampment By-laws Committee gave no recommendation. Rick Danes supported the addition, Richard Veit seconded. A discussion followed bringing up many good points on preserving the materials, cost of copying, reimbursement, storage, and access to the data. Jim Lyons moved and Gary Gibson seconded to table the proposal until next year's Encampment (2004). The proposal was sent to the By-laws Committee to set up procedures for implementation of the proposal and report to the next Department Encampment. At this point in time, it will be the By-laws Committee's recommendation that this proposal not be adopted and included in the Department By-laws. However it is possible that the Committee will submit a list of suggested guidelines that would encourage this to be done while continuing to investigate the long term effects of such a proposal.

As you read this, Commander Butgereit and I along with the help of Department Treasurer Dick Williams, and Department Council Chairman and PDC Keith Harrison will be in the midst of visiting almost all of Camps in January to install Officers. Right now, it looks like I will be visiting 14 Camps before February 7th. I am looking Forward to it.

CHAPLAIN

William B. M^cAfee

"The boatman comes, and comes again,
And brothers, one by one,
He bears away far o'er the tide,
Beyond the setting sun."

These familiar words are taken from our ritual, specifically the portion set aside for the "Optional Memorial Service for Departed Members". In my official capacity, those words are ever more true as I receive the reports of our brothers being borne away, "one by one...beyond the setting sun". Never am I more aware of the truth in those words than when I receive, all too often, reports of brothers passing from this life to the next. I am not complaining - I have chosen to accept the position of chaplain for the department and further, highly honored to be asked by our commander-in-chief, also to serve in that capacity for the national organization. Soon, I will once again hold the same office in our local camp. Because of the number of death reports I receive, I have chosen to permanently drape my membership badge with a black ribbon. Admittedly it saves me the time of putting it on and taking it off. If that isn't strictly by the book, I apologize for taking that liberty. There must be some precedent for it in the history of our Order or the GAR. It does express my sentiment of regard toward those of our ranks who "have slipped the surly bonds of earth... and touched the face of God".

This all was brought close to home when we attended the funeral services of our beloved brother, Ed Blakely, on November first. However, it didn't end there. I shortly thereafter started receiving reports of other True Sons who also recently met "the boatman". We may not know them personally, but we honor their standing in our Order. First was True Son Roswell A. Chaplin of the COL Geo. L. Willard Camp No. 154, Dept. of New York, who died September 4. Then, True Son Lemuel P. Robertson, Phelps Camp No. 66, Dept. of Missouri died on 17 October, followed by Brother Blakely. The most recent True Son death report was for Madison W. Gadberry, Farragut Camp 6, Dept. of Tennessee on 31 October. A recent report indicates there may be 200 World War I veterans still living. Our True Sons must be in the same age group. In addition to that, we are losing our World War II veterans at a rate that seems too high to be real.

Yes, we honor our departed veteran ancestors through our membership and our activities. We also need to acknowledge those who are blood connections to them and those who served in other conflicts now, while they are still here with us. They are valuable resources to our past. Wouldn't it be the least we can do to listen to their experiences, to let them know we value their contributions, thereby honoring our commitment to keep green the memory of the soldiers and sailors who served the Union from 1861 to 1865? I leave it up to you.

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 3)

- 6. As we draw closer to our April 24, 2004 Department Encampment, I encourage those of you who would like to serve the Order in a Department capacity to contact the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Brother Bruce Butgereit, II. He can be reached by phone: 616-827-3369 or by email: kidsfirstpb@comcast.net
- 7. I'd like to thank each one of you who offered your support and encouragement to me through prayer and cards during my nearly four weeks of illness.
- 8. As Department Commander, I have participated in the following events (Camp No. 1 Commander events not included):
 - A. September 13 - Attended Department Grave Registration Committee meeting in Lansing
 - B. October 4 - Attended and was emcee at evening banquet of Central Region Conference
 - C. October 5 - Attended and participated in the "Civil War Days" programming at the State Historical Museum/Library
 - D. October 5 - Presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Lloyd Heuvelhorst for his adopting an unknown banner of a Michigan Artillery unit in the Michigan "Save the Flags" program
 - E. October 25 - Attended headstone dedication service for Pvt. Williams in Rolling Prairie, IN
 - F. October 26 - Attended headstone dedication service for Pvt. Koon in Vermontville
 - G. November 8 - Drove to South Bend, IN with every intention of attending the memorial service for Father Corby but was unable to find location of service
 - H. November 9 - Visited and installed officers at Camp 43 (Blissfield)
 - I. November 15 - Attended and participated in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ceremonies
 - J. November 15 - Participated in the memorial service at the 24th Michigan monument at Gettysburg
 - K. December 6 - Attended Grave Registration Committee meeting in Lansing

By the order of:

Attest:

Bruce Butgereit,

Richard Lee,

TREASURER

Dick Williams

Current balances in the Treasury:

Assets:	
Alger Medal of Honor	\$735.66
Checking	\$93.33
Savings	<u>\$15,009.21</u>
Total Assets	\$15,838.20

Liabilities:	
Memorial Fund	\$2,041.84

Total Equity \$13,796.36

The two major expenses during the last quarter were the Messenger and Central Region Conference.

Remember, a new year is beginning and Camps should be collecting their annual per-capita early and working with those Brothers who may not be able to pay right away. A final roster and annual per-capita must be submitted to the Department Secretary no later than the last day of April.

I'd like to remind Camps that the Department has available funds to help out local Camps in restoring or replacing the memorial in their area. An account was set up in 1998 to set the money aside to help local Camps in their memorial restoration projects. A request for funds needs to be written to the Department Council indicating how the funds will be used and the amount of money requested.

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The Department of Michigan is compiling a collection of copies of records of Civil War veterans. Some military records and pension records have been furnished to me for it, but many more are desired and are requested.

Many of our members don't have their ancestors' records and perhaps don't know how to get them from The National Archives and Records Administration. To obtain the latest information about the procedure, I recently went to the NARA website, www.archives.gov. That led me to the NARA Research Room and ultimately to Order Forms for Military Service and Family History Records.

Two types of NARA records are particularly pertinent to Civil War veterans. One is the military service record, available through the use of NATF Form 86. It has facts about a specific veteran in the war but rarely has family information. The other kind is the military pension and bounty land warrant record, obtainable through the use of NATF Form 85. A pension record often contains material about family members and covers a greater time period.

To obtain NATF forms, a person must provide his or her name and postal address, specify the desired form number, and state the number of forms wanted, with a limit of five forms per order. This information must be furnished either through the NARA web site or in a letter addressed to National Archives and Record Administration, Attn: NWCTB, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001. (My forms ordered through the web site arrived in three days.)

Completed Forms 85 and 86 will need to be returned to that same NARA address in Washington, DC. Orders placed with Form 86 commonly are completed in about eight weeks after being received. Those of Form 85 generally take twelve to sixteen weeks due to the large size of full pension files.

NARA suggests that an applicant first request copies of a soldier's full pension application file (using Form 85), as it contains the most complete information about a soldier's military career. The cost of it is \$37.00. A pension document packet, containing up to eight documents, is available (also using Form 85) for \$14.75. The cost of a military service record (ordered with a Form 86) is \$17.00.

Payment can be made either by credit card or by being billed, but it should NOT be sent with the application form. If an applicant prefers to pay by a credit card and provides the related information on the form, the documents will be shipped immediately upon their preparation. On the other hand, an applicant desiring to be billed will be invoiced, and the documents will be held as long as 45 days pending receipt of payment.

Good luck in acquiring copies of your Civil War ancestor's records! And don't forget to send photocopies of them to me for the Department's collection.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE MESSENGER

This issue of Michigan's Messenger marks the adoption of a smaller type size, smaller photos and limiting the number of photos, along with some minor changes in page layouts in an effort to cut publication costs. These changes will allow for a reduction in the number of pages while maintaining the normal amount of content. In effect, the same quality newsletter you have come to expect from the Department of Michigan, at a lower cost.

Editor

GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Rick Danes, Chairman

WHERE THE GREEN OF THE MEMORY HAS A SPECIAL MEANING

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to go through a cemetery and not be bothered by those pesky, malaria-and-encephalitis-toting mosquitoes? Of finishing a row of graves and not have to wipe the sweat off your brow? Of getting through a section without needing to look over your shoulder to see who's behind you? Well folks, it's that time of the year! Not only to the die-hards in graves registration look forward to the fall and early winter season to complete their field work, but those who have never been out because of all of the previously mentioned reasons should go along for a lesson. I recall the first year I became involved in the task, I stayed out regularly until the first heavy snow fall.

At the December Graves Committee Meeting my report will reflect that at Mid-Winter, 2003, the Department Graves Database contained 41,400 records which includes Michigan Men buried anywhere, and soldiers from any unit including the Wars from before the Civil War through the Spanish American. My update will state that we now have over 45,100 individual records. This effort is no small feat, thanks the efforts of Dick Hutchins in Livingston and Oakland Counties; of Jim Slis in Leelanau County; of Bill Lowe from all over the state, but particularly Washtenaw and the lower north-central counties; of Judy Gross through Bill in the U. P.; of Lou Cuyler and Camp 17 in St. Joseph's County; of Dick Williams in Eaton and Ingham Counties, and of Don Harvey, who faithfully sends me an update of his dB every quarter. Why, our members even went into Detroit and completed Woodmere and Grand Lawn Cemeteries this year. With a little help, we could be looking at the 50K number by this date next year.

I must mention the results of the launch of our Department Graves Registration Database. We know that this is not the finished product, and we have several refinements that we would like to make in the future, but since our launch this summer, I now receive 15-25 new queries or requests to register soldiers into the system. We are linked to the MI GenNet and other top sites. We have shared our program format with at least four other Departments. The work that Bill Lowe, Dick Williams, and the Brothers and Sisters from Camp 7 do on our behalf at the local and county level has greatly enhanced the Graves Program by providing the public with real-time documentation of their ancestors' part in the War. Bill reports that between June and September the Graves Program was presented at Lansing, Jonesville, Charleton Park, at the National Encampment, in Louisville, KY, at the Jackson Muster, and at various Genealogical and Historical events. I always know when Bill has been to an event, because I get an increase in civilians wanting their ancestor registered.

The committee meetings are open to all members interested in Graves Registration. We still have over half our Camps that have not sent a representative or Graves Registration Officer to a Committee Meeting in three years. Perhaps you can all make the February 21, 2004 Graves Registration Committee Meeting that will be held at 11:00 am prior to the Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Lodge in Lansing. Other meetings next year will be May 1, September 18, and December 11 at the State Library in Lansing. If your Camp has a new Graves Registration Officer for 2004, please let me know so that I can contact him.

Irma and I wish each of you the very best in Holiday Cheer and safety during the upcoming season.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Kolean

I am the proud father of two small girls. My oldest daughter is 4 years old and my youngest is 20 months old. Alicia, my eldest, seems preoccupied with Cinderella and pretty frilly dresses. She is all girl. I often wonder if my kids will ask questions about their Civil War ancestors when they are older. Will they even be interested? Will they be interested in the service that their Grandfather performed while serving during WWII and the Korean War? My hope is that when they grow up, that they will have a respect and interest in the service given by all our Veterans. This poem, when I discovered it, reminded me of these thoughts.

MAJOR CEMETERIES OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

PAST AND PRESENT

Compiled by Rick Danes

As you search for records concerning your ancestor or seek to confirm information for another project, you will undoubtedly run across cemeteries that have been renamed, are removed to another site, or just have disappeared.

This was the case during a recent business trip to our Nation's Capital, as I searched for Harmony Cemetery, listed as a burial place for many soldiers. I include Harmony as one of several that I have researched for the Department Graves Registration Program.

Harmony Cemetery was located on New Bladensburg Road, one-and-one-half miles from D.C. It was opened February 17, 1863, and was reserved for soldiers who died of contagious diseases. All remains have been removed to the Arlington National Cemetery, and the Cemetery closed.

The **United States Military Asylum Cemetery, or National Soldier's Home Cemetery** is a six acre facility on the grounds of the United States Military Asylum, at 21 Harewood Road. It was one of the original 14 National Cemeteries, is located about two miles north-east of D.C., and contains 5,211 graves of Civil War heroes. The cemetery opened on August 3, 1861, and due to the great number of deaths in area hospitals, the final burial was held on May 13, 1864.

Battle Cemetery is located about 4 miles from D.C., and one-quarter mile from Fort Stevens at 6625 Georgia Avenue. It derives its name from military action there on July 12, 1864. Graves of the soldiers who lost their lives defending the Capitol during that battle are in a circle surrounding the flag pole. This cemetery is closed to further burials.

Arlington National Cemetery is a 612 acre landmark located in Arlington, Virginia, about three miles from D.C. across the Arlington Memorial Bridge. It includes 150 acres of the former Robert E. Lee property which was purchased at auction by the United States Government following tax default after Lee joined the Confederacy. The family home, called the Arlington (or Custis) House still remains, and is used as a cemetery office. It was opened on the same day that the **National Soldier's Home Cemetery** closed, and by June 30, 1865 held 5,003 soldiers.

For GROs who find burials at cemeteries that remains have been disinterred from, the correct entry into the database is to note the cemetery that the soldier is actually buried at, and then note the original interment place in the miscellaneous field.

FYI, we have several burials at a "National Cemetery at Brownsville, Texas". I have recently received confirmation through the US GenNet site that this Post Cemetery was closed in the early 1900's and all remains re-interred at the Alexandria National Cemetery at Pineville, Louisiana (NAT-ALXN). The appropriate changes will be made in the dB, and corrected copies will be available at the Mid-Winter GRO Meeting.

BLUE & GRAY

O, mother, what do they mean by blue?
And what did they mean by gray?
Was heard from the lips of a little child
As she bounded in from play.
The mother's eyes filled up with tears;
She turned to her darling fair,
And smoothed away from the sunny brow
Its treasure of golden hair.

Why mother's eyes are blue, my sweet,
And grandpa's hair is gray.
And the love we bear our darling child
Grows stronger every day.
But what did they mean? persisted the child;
For I saw two cripples today,
And one said he fought for the blue,
The other, he fought for the gray.

Now, he of the blue had lost a leg,
And the other he had but one arm.
And both seemed worn and weary and sad.
Yet their greeting seemed kind and warm.
They told of battles in days gone by,
Till my young blood thrilled;
The leg was lost at the Wilderness fight,
And the arm on Malvern Hill.

They sat on the stone by the farmyard gate,
And talked for an hour or more,
Till their eyes grew bright and their hearts seemed warm
With fighting their battles o'er,
And parted at last with a friendly grasp,
In a kindly brotherly way.
Each calling on God to speed the time
Uniting the blue and the gray.

Then the mother thought of other days,
Two stalwart boys from her riven;
How they knelt at her side and lispily prayed,
"Our Father which art in Heaven"
How one wore the blue the other the gray
Are merged in colors of light.

And she answered her darling with golden hair,
While her heart was sadly wrung
With thoughts awakened in that sad hour
By her innocent, prattling tongue;
The blue and the gray are the colors of God
They are seen in the sky at even,
And many a noble, gallant soul
Has found them passports to Heaven.

*The poem, Blue & Gray, is from 1877 Kansas newspaper,
author unknown.*

MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF CAMP 22
LCP Ty Jason Streeter
8426 Jordon
San Diego, CA 92123
motuxmen@yahoo.com

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN

CAMP 1 ~ GRAND RAPIDS

Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

On behalf of the men and women to whom the Kent County Civil War Monument was dedicated, we of Camp No. 1 wish to thank each of you who attended and participated in the rededication of that Monument on October 4. Although the weather was a bit chilly, it was a colorful, emotional and very worthy event, long to be remembered. We also know that each time we hold our Memorial Day services at that Monument, we will still hear the words of our faithful Brother Blakely as he turned on the water for the fountain.

The effort to restore that Monument was truly immense and we hope that it can serve as a reminder to each Camp that no project is really too big...the boys who wore the Blue deserve nothing less from each of us.

Our work on the project continues as we wish to secure a place on the State and National Historic Registry, obtain interpretive signage, park benches, and more. We have also set our sights on working with other local communities to assist in the restoration of their Civil War memorials. We have presented programs to Byron Center and will soon include Lowell.

On January 31, 2004, Brother Keith Harrison will install our new slate of officers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Commander | Tim Kolean |
| Senior Vice Commander | David Wrightsman |
| Junior Vice Commander | Ed Woodard |
| Secretary | Bruce B. Butgereit |
| Treasurer | Cleon Duryea |
| Council | Harold Becker |
| Council | Harry Robinson |
| Council | Lee Stroschine |
| Guide/Guard | Colin Butgereit |
| Chaplain | Comer Skinner |
| Graves Registration | Bill Johnston |
| Encampment Delegate | Colin Butgereit |
| Encampment Delegate | Comer Skinner |
| Encampment Delegate | Cleon Duryea |

For more on our Kent County Civil War Monument of rededication and the headstone dedication we conducted in Canada, please see the 2004 Spring issue of the BANNER.

GEN. ISRAEL B. RICHARDSON

CAMP 2 ~ OAKLAND COUNTY

William Nash, SVC

WOLCOTT MILL CIVIL WAR MUSTER.

It was an absolutely beautiful day on Sunday, September 21st, 2003 at the Wolcott Mill Civil War Muster held at the Wolcott Mill Metro Park. Brothers William Nash

(SVC) and Kevin Lindsey (JVC) of the General Israel B. Richardson Camp 2 attended the festivities representing the SUCVW. Brother Nash also brought along his six year old grandson (and future SUCVW member!) Christopher Nash. The schedule for the day included visiting the various tent setups showcasing authentic 19th Century camp life. The event culminated with a recreation of the Battle of Franklin. Brother Nash and Brother Lindsey also visited the Camp of the 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company H (Erv Rock, Military Commander). Bruce Robere (Treasurer) provided a tour of the camp and was a gracious host. The 21st Michigan served in many campaigns including Perryville, Stones River, and Atlanta. There were several other Union outfits represented at the encampment. It was good to be able to share information about the SUCVW with these fellow Civil War enthusiasts!

AUSTIN BLAIR

CAMP 7 ~ JACKSON

John Mann, PCC

With the onset of colder weather the Camp's Cemetery work has been put off until the Spring. Camp Graves Registration Officer, Brother Bill Lowe continues to work researching and verifying the "possible and probable" veterans recorded while surveying cemeteries, then updating the Graves Registration database with the new found information. Brother Lowe will also be taking the Department's Graves Registration "on the road" to several events this winter. (For more information on Bill's "road show" see the related story on page 20.)

Our Auxiliary ladies will once again host a *Christmas Get Together* pot luck dinner on December 14, with the Auxiliary providing the main course and beverages. The *Christmas Get Together* has become an annual tradition for the Camp and Auxiliary with a majority of the members of both our organizations attending, many dressed in period garb.

Again this year Auxiliary member and auctioneer Brenda Walters will be conducting a "paper bag" auction, raising funds for Auxiliary projects. You bid on the unseen contents of the paper bag with only a hint of what it contains from auctioneer Brenda. Last year PCC Max Miller (a wood working fanatic) laid out a tidy sum of money for a "do-it-yourself woodworking project" which turned out to be a bag of sawdust and wood chips!

As Camp 7 (chartered 11 April 1914) and Camp 14 (chartered 26 March 1914) will be celebrating our 90th anniversaries next year, both Camps have voted to each provide a cake to be served during the noon dinner at the Department Encampment in April. Both cakes

will feature the SUCVW Coat of Arms in the center along with the respective Camp's name, Camp number, city and charter date and "Celebrating 90 Year's of Service in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" written in frosting. On the edges will be Member and Associate Badges. There will be cake enough to serve 150, so come help us celebrate!

Camp Officers were elected and installed at our November meeting, with Department Treasurer Dick Williams officiating during the installation. Here is the line-up for 2004:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Commander | Ron Lewis |
| Senior Vice Commander | Ron Tyrll |
| Junior Vice Commander | Henry Hawker |
| Secretary | John McFeters |
| Treasurer | Mike Maillard |
| Council | John Mann |
| Council | Mark Heath |
| Council | Bud Tallman |
| Encampment Delegate | Ron Tyrll |
| Encampment Delegate | Bob Griggs |
| Encampment Delegate | John McFeters |
| Encampment Delegate | Mike Maillard |
| Encampment Delegate | Frank Engle |
| Chaplain | Mark Heath |
| Guard | Dan Conklin |
| Guide | Bob Griggs |
| Color Bearer | Landon Hawker |
| Graves Registration | Bill Lowe |
| C.W. Memorials | Frank Engle |
| Historian | Mark Heath |
| Patriotic Instructor | Frank Engle |
| Counselor | John Mann |

ROBERT FINCH

CAMP 14 ~ TRAVERSE CITY

Bill Skillman, CC

The roll call for Robert Finch Camp 14 shows a total of 31 Members, (increase of 1 new member since the last report), 8 members being Associates. Our next meeting is scheduled on Saturday January 10, 2004 (12 noon), at the South City Limits restaurant.

This Fall has been extremely busy for the members of the Camp, and I will apologize in advance should I accidentally overlook the many dedicated endeavors by our members.

On October 2nd, Sec./Treas. Breaugh, SVC Jim Sliis, Brother Jim Johnson, and Commander Bill Skillman presented to Chuck Lerchen (Department of Veteran's Affairs) a second check for \$500 to be used to restore the Civil War soldier monument. Commander Butgereit accompanied by his wife, Jeannine Trybus (WRC) and Marcene Karkadoulis and daughter were also in attendance. Ms. Karkadoulis (Karkadoulis Bronze Art Co. of Cincinnati, OH) assessed the condition of the statue and volunteered her services toward the

restoration effort. Adjourning to the County building, Marcene showed us examples of her projects around the county. All of us were thoroughly impressed with her work and integrity, and Mr. Lerchen requested that she submit a bid as to her estimated costs to restore the soldier monument.

On October 4th, Secretary Breaugh and I represented Camp 14 at Kent County Civil War monument rededication in Grand Rapids. Carrying our Camp flag, I joined the nearly two dozen other Michigan representatives circling the monument. I found the ceremony to be a very moving one; and I treasure the opportunity to have met True Son Brother Blakely, who was coach, mentor, and standard bearer to Commander Butgereit and the restoration project. I want to recognize re-enactor Nathan Tingley (Co. B. 2nd USSS) for stepping forward to serve as a 'living statue' in front of the monument.

That evening, Brother Jim Ribby performed his repertoire of Civil War poetry that was enthusiastically received by the guests at the Central Region Conference Banquet Dinner. Department Senior Vice Commander Breaugh paid a tribute to Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong for his support to Camp 14 over the years.

Brother Don Gray has been actively working with local schools to enlist the services of students and teachers to volunteer to play the bugle at community ceremonies and veterans funerals. Camp 14 has assisted the local Veterans organization by donating money to acquire a 'digital bugle' that allows a non-musician to activate the device and appear to be playing the instrument. This is preferred to the 'boom-box' tributes that veterans and families dislike.

The Women's Auxiliary convened a meeting at the Pifer's home on October 29th. Marge Pifer reports that 12 women have notified her of their desire to join the Auxiliary. She is sending out applications for membership. In an amusing follow-up, the original Women's Auxiliary charter was discovered a few years ago at Sam's Joint restaurant in Rockford, Michigan. The owner, Mr. Sam Bravata, has had a laser copy made of the original charter and framed it. There will be a celebratory dinner at Sam's Joint where Mr. Bravata will return the charter to our Women's Auxiliary and SUVCW representatives.

Camp elections were held on November 8th. The officers-elect for 2004 are as follows:

Commander:	Neal Breaugh
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Skillman
Junior Vice Commander	Robert Clark
Treasurer	Jim Slis
Secretary	Jim Ribby
Council	Al Pifer

Council
Council
Encampment Delegate
The installation of officers will take place during our January 2004 meeting. I would especially like to recognize Brother Ribby, who stepped forward (or more correctly, was pushed), to fill the Secretary vacancy.

Brother Fred Knoodle has been in contact with restoration companies for 'our' Confederate cannon. We have formed a committee to explore the restoration of the piece, potential restoration companies, and fund-raising strategies. Brother Al Pifer has suggested that the cannon may have been brought North during the Centennial for or by author Bruce Catton. Speculation abounds, but so far we have not uncovered how this one-of-a-kind cannon found it's way to Petosky.

Camp 14 was well represented during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Vietnam memorial in Traverse City. Commander Skillman, Secretary Breaugh, Vice Commander Jim Slis, Brothers Jim Johnson, Josh Kuchmuck, Tyler Putnam, Howard Byrne and wife Ellen (a national officer of the DAR), and Marge Pifer were in attendance. Brother Tyler and Skillman were selected to raise the National Colors and then set them at half-staff. Taps and an honor guard fired a volley to salute the veterans in attendance and those who had fallen in America's wars.

On December 3, 2003. Neal Breaugh, Chuck Lerchen and Skillman met with the Grand Traverse County Human Services Committee to submit a proposal to have Camp 14 undertake the restoration project for the soldier monument. The committee unanimously endorsed the project and the proposal is to be forwarded to the County Commission for final approval. Councilwoman Margaret Underwood has volunteered to serve on the committee to oversee this project.

Robert Finch 14 has been recognized as Michigan's oldest Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp, our charter dates from March 26, 1914. In honor of the 90th anniversary of it's founding, Camp 14 will be holding a celebratory dinner on March 26, 2004 in Traverse City. The specifics of the celebration can be found in this issue of the Messenger.

On a more solemn note, PCC Al Pifer suffered a stroke on November 14th and is recuperating at Munson Medical Center. He has enjoyed visits by Camp members, but his recovery is slow and difficult. All Brothers who wish to send cards or letters of support may do so at the following address:

Mr. Al Pifer
815 Westminster
Traverse City, MI 49686

Jan White
Bill Skillman
Neal Breaugh

In closing, I wish to express my deepest gratitude for all of the Brothers of Camp 14 who have been so supportive to me this past year. I am proud of the Camp and all of the dedicated members who have so selflessly and enthusiastically donated their time, energy and money to perpetuate the ideals of our Order. I know that our Commander-elect will find your unceasing support and aid to be invaluable in the coming year.

GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD

CAMP 20 ~ KALAMAZOO

Chuck Worley

Season's Greetings to all of the Brothers of the Department of Michigan from all of us at Camp 20. Here in southwest Michigan, we have already enjoyed several fresh blankets of snowfall, and our lakes have a skim of ice forming. Our house is changing daily with the decorations and symbols that remind us of the significance of the Holidays. Many of us will enjoy our Christmas celebration with our extended family, a hearty dinner, and gifts under a decorated evergreen tree. While we rejoice for God's goodness and provision, we should also remember the sacrifices made by our grandfathers to preserve our Union and the sacrifices of our service men and women and their families during this current affair in the Middle East. Closer to home, let us each take time to extend goodwill to our neighbors throughout the New Year.

Of interest in Camp business, we elected the officers for 2004. They are:

Del Farnsworth	Commander (3 rd Year)
Jeff Baker	Senior Vice Commander
John Keith	Junior Vice Commander
Ronald Bellinger	Council
Steve Redinger	Council
Bruce Gosling	Council
Chuck Worley	Secretary
Joseph A. Orbeck	Treasurer

Installation of the new officers will be conducted at a 6:30 PM dinner meeting on January 17th, 2004 at the Blackhawk Bar and Grill, 8940 North 32nd Street, Richland. Commander Del will send further details to the Camp members at a later date. Our regular Camp meetings will resume on March 2, 2004 at the Oshtemo Library.

On December 2nd, thirty Brothers, family members, and friends met and enjoyed a buffet dinner to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Camp Charter. There was a great amount of conversation around the table and no one left hungry. Special guests included Howard Streeter, representing Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22, and Department of Michigan Senior Vice Commander Neal

(Continued on page 10)

Breaugh. From here, the Brothers of Camp 20 look to a New Year of activities to carry forward the mission of the SUVCW.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF

CAMP 22 ~ MARSHALL

John Lohrstorfer

Members were pleasantly surprised at our October 2nd meeting when SVC Lou Cuyler presented to the Camp a beautiful SUVCW Camp flag. This was done on behalf of and in memory of his father, Brother Leo Cuyler, who died June 15, 2003.

The following officers were elected and appointed at the December 4th meeting:

- Commander Russ Streeter
- Senior Vice Commander Louis Cuyler
- Junior Vice Commander Craig Berg
- Secretary/Treasurer Jim Kowalchuk
- Council Howard Streeter
- Council Louis Cuyler
- Council John Lohrstorfer
- Patriotic Instructor Howard Streeter
- Chaplain Blaine Valentine
- Guide John Lohrstorfer III
- Guard Herb Everett
- Color Bearer Steve datema
- Historian John Lohrstorfer
- Graves Registration Louis Cuyler
- Monuments Chris Czopek

Installation was by Department Treasurer Dick Williams.

Two Camp awards and plaques were presented by Commander Russ Streeter. One to SVC Louis Cuyler for ten years of dedicated service and for presentation of the Camp flag; the other to Secretary/Treasurer John Lohrstorfer for ten years of dedicated service.

Brother Williams read Department Commander Butgereit's letter of appreciation to the above named two recipients.

Restoration of the Civil War monument in Union City has progressed well, thanks to the extra-ordinary efforts of Brother Howard Streeter. Work will resume in the spring, followed by a formal re-dedication.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

CAMP 101 ~ DETROIT

Michael D. Nick, CC

Well, we're winding down another year. Hope all of yours has been as good as ours. Membership at Camp 101 has stayed the same this year, but we are hopeful that 2004 will bring in new members. Our regular meeting place at historic Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit has been in a little disarray. The main office has been going through major

renovations throughout this entire year, which has slightly complicated our ability to have efficient meetings. All should be back to normal for our January meeting and we are all looking forward to this beautiful new addition.

The Veterans Day ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in Detroit was once again a big success. In attendance from Camp 101 were Greg Miles, Henry Heatley, and myself. Unfortunately there were no active military units in attendance. The conflict in Iraq seems to have deployed most if not all of them. Hopefully, they will be in attendance next year, and the conflict in Iraq will be over.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Detroit is now officially dismantled and in storage until its reassembly in the summer 2004. Something very wonderful was discovered on 30 September when the last 3.5-ton granite cornerstone from its base was removed. Inside it was a copper box was discovered filled with an 1866 silver dollar, a silver medallion, a silk ribbon, and the remains of books and papers. They had become a muddy pulp over the 136 years it had been resting there. This time capsule was placed in the cornerstone on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit on 4 July 1867 to honor the 90,747 Civil War veterans from Michigan.

Dennis Zembala, director of the Detroit Historical Museums said that the museum fortunately has copies of several paper documents that were destroyed. The Detroit Tribune from that date reported that dignitaries filled the time capsule with roll calls if Civil War veterans and casualties, gubernatorial proclamations from the war era, law books, contemporary maps and manuals, a history of Detroit, and a 4 January 1800 newspaper announcing George Washington's death.

The only intact items were a silver dollar inscribed on one side by "J.H. Morrison, jeweler Detroit, Mich., July 4th, 1867" and a silver medallion assumed to be made by Morrison as well. The medallion depicts Michigan's coat of arms and carries the inscription "Michigan's Contribution to the War, 90,747 men" on one side and "erected by the people of Michigan to the honor and memory of the gallant soldiers and sailors of the State that fought and fell on the war of 1861-65, for the preservation of the Union and Freedom" on the other. The museum said that the artifacts are essentially priceless and will soon be on display at the museum. With that said, that particular cornerstone will be incorporated and visible on the new base when the monument is relocated and reassembled 125 feet from its past location in the city's new Campus Martius Park.

Currently the city of Detroit is scheduling the opening of the new Campus Martius Park on 24 July 2004. I have been trying to work with the Detroit 300 Conservancy and other city

members to plan a rededication ceremony for the Solders and Sailors Monument that same weekend. My hope is that we, the SUVCW, in conjunction with the city of Detroit, Civil War re-enactors, and other veterans groups will be willing and able to participate. The current road block I've run into is getting to the right people within the city to agree to this event. They must realize that it will be wonderful publicity for Detroit. If for some reason the city of Detroit is not willing to participate, I feel that our organization should go forward with a ceremony ourselves.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY

CAMP 427 - DEARBORN

Rick Danes, SVC

Camp 427 has been very busy this year, participating in activities that we have considered in the past. A short list of our achievements since January are:

- Procured National and Camp Flags
- Attended the Department and the National Encampments
- And Mid-Winter Conference
- Held 9 membership meetings

Provided service at or attended:

- A Mayor's State of the City Address
- The Dearborn Historic Guild Antique Show
- The Kalamazoo Living History Show
- Conducted A Public Memorial Day Ceremony
- Civil War Sunday at the State Library
- The Dearborn Homecoming
- Sportsmen for Scouting
- Greenfield Village Civil War Days
- Completed Registered Graves Registration at Woodmere and Grand Lawn in Detroit
- Cherry Hill Cemetery Presentation in Canton
- Conducted a Major Fundraising Event
- Dearborn Art on the Avenue
- Grand Rapids CW Memorial Rededication
- Dearborn Historical Guild Victorian Tea
- Conducted a GAR/SUV Historic Document Presentation
- Jackson Civil War Muster
- State of Michigan Flag Day Celebration
- Dearborn Historical Guild Open House
- All Department Graves Committee Meetings
- Established Bylaws and S.O.P.s
- Welcomed 9 new Members
- Published the *Arsenal Gazette*, a quarterly newsletter

Officer Elections for the 2004 year are now complete. Those who will serve are:

- Commander Jerry Olson
- Senior Vice-Commander Rick Danes, Sr.
- Junior Vice-Commander Jeffrey Montminy
- Secretary Bill Fritz
- Treasurer Rick Danes, Sr.
- Assistant Treasurer Rick Danes II
- Chaplin Gus Sherwin

CAMP 427

(Continued from page 10)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Council Chairman | Jeffrey Montminy |
| Council | Gerald Olson |
| Council | Aaron Schrader |
| Eagle Scout Coordinator | Jerry Olson |
| Graves and Monuments | Rick Danes, Sr. |
| Historian | Bill Fritz |
| Patriotic Instructor | Jon Reed |
| Color Bearer | Aaron Schrader |
| Guard | Aaron Schrader |
| Photographer | Aaron Schrader |

At the Dearborn Homecoming Celebration, the Honorable Michael Guido, Mayor of Dearborn stopped by the Camp 427 interpretive history



Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp 2's SVC Nash & grandson Christopher Nash with the assembled 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. H.

PHOTO GALLERY



Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427 at the Dearborn Homecoming Celebration. Front row, left to right, Dearborn Mayor Guido, Member Keith Kushmir, and CC Jerry Olson. Back row, left to right, Member Gus Sherwin, SVC Rick Danes, Member Ian Kushnir, and Guard Aaron Schrader. Photo by Mary Olson.

Remembrance Day, 15 November 2004, Members of the Michigan Allied Orders gathered around the 24th Michigan Infantry Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield.



A SOLDIER'S DIARY

EXPERIENCES OF ONE OF THE BOYS IN BLUE WHO DIED IN THE DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY

The following is the diary kept by Stephen A. Osborn of Cambria, Mich., member of Co. B, 27th Michigan Infantry, and the son of Rev. Richard Osborn of this city, from the time of his leaving for the front until his death in the stockade at Andersonville, Ga.:

Sunday, Feb. 14, 1864, Hillsdale, Cambria, Mich. – To-day is my last day at home among my friends. They all try to appear joyful, but miserable attempts enough to make one sick. Should I come home – O God! may it be.

Monday, Feb 15, Hillsdale. – Bid farewell. Oh, how hard to bid adieu to those who have been so indulgent, but so goes this world. Now we go to the cars to stay all night.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, Hillsdale. – Now I take my last lingering look at the beautiful town, and start on my way to the sunny south to fight for my country and maybe die for it.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, Lafayette, Ind. – Away from the cars to refreshments; if they would get me something to eat.

Feb. 18, Indianapolis, Ind. – This is a beautiful city. Soldiers everywhere. We are marched up to the soldier's home, get our supper, and then back and on our way to the south.

Feb. 19, Jeffersonville, Ind. – Come to the Ohio River. Get on the ferryboat and cross it, and see the ice strike the sides and hear the grating sounds. We are now over to.

Saturday, Feb. 20, Louisville, Ky. – Oh, what a dirty city. Dust equal to the middle of July. We are put into the house Gen. Buckner had about 500 soldiers.

Sunday, Feb. 21, Hardin Co., Ky. – Here we are, and Hardin Co. it is.

Bowling Green, Ky – Oh what a country – red, sandy soil, green water, sickly climate, but.

Sunday, Feb. 28. – Started from London, Tenn. Spent all day in marching. Stopped at night near a stream sawmill. Rained all night; had no tents, wet as rats. In the morning start to.

Monday, Feb. 29. – Off this morning. I marched about a mile with them and gave out, and went to a house near the track and the soldiers there got a wagon, and took me to the depot, and now I am at Knoxville, Tenn.

Wednesday, March 9. – Small-pox camp. Been exposed to the small-pox and have to

stay here to see how many will take it. Two hospitals in sight – 160 patients in them, some dying every night. Don't know how soon I will have to go there.

March 10. – Raining to-day. N. Millard is sick. Makes it pretty hard for me to wait upon him, get water, and go to town and get rations. Have to buy most of them; it takes off money fast.

March 11, small-pox camp. – Some of the men are quarreling all the time about the rations, but maybe we will get better after awhile. Two men or boys taken off to the hospital.

Saturday, March 12. – To-day had some swearing done. Frank Sanderson trying to get sick; will have to try pretty hard. Some of the men trying to fight.

Sunday, March 20. – This is a beautiful morn. We have orders to be ready at a moment's warning to march to London. We have packed up our traps and start for headquarters of the 9th corps.

Monday, 21st. – We are on the cars starting to report to Gen. Burnside at Maryland. About 100 of us that are not able to walk; the rest are going afoot to Cincinnati.

Saturday, April 30. – To-day we were mustered for pay.

Friday, May 6. – To-day we were in the fight for the Wilderness. My God! may I never be in another, but we are not done yet.

Saturday, May 7. – To-day we have built breastworks and are lying behind them waiting for the rebels. To-night they are yelling as they are going to charge, but they did not.

Sunday, May 8. – This morning about 3 o'clock we left the works and started for another point. Traveled until daylight, then made some coffee and started for another point. I had to fall out because of my foot.

Monday, May 9. – I have traveled to-day with stragglers; I never will again, but my foot is sore. I don't know what has got over it. I got up to the corps headquarters and they would not let me go to my regiment till morning.

Tuesday, Mat 10. This morning I went to my regiment and got there in time to help on the charge. We started and charged upon the enemy's line, then built works and lay in them till about 8 o'clock, then went back and stayed till morning.

Wednesday, May 11. – Then we started for their lines in three grand battle lines, our regiment on the right and the second line; one company went out skirmish line.

Thursday, May 12. – This morning we started for their works, and the enemy shelled us and outflanked us and took us prisoners, and took us back to Spottsylvania Courthouse, and they took us to their rear, and here we camp in the mud.

Saturday, May 21, Danville, Va. – The rebels have us in an old brick warehouse. We dare not look out the window. One of our company went up to the window and they shot him dead. We get plenty to eat here. They say we are going to leave here to-day, but I go.

Sunday, May 29. – To-day we arrive at Camp Sumpter, near Americus, Ga., one of the worst holes I ever saw. (May 30) The rebels took our tents away from us and we have no way to make anything to keep the sun off us, and (May 31) we cannot get any stakes on account of having no money. They are dying off at a rate of 30 or 40 per day. There are 20 acres in this lot and 18,000 prisoners.

Tuesday, May 31. – There is common good water. We get for one day a piece of corn bread about the size of half a brick, a piece of meat the size of three of your fingers. I can eat it all at one meal and then would not have half enough.

Wednesday, June 15. – Eighteen years old to-day. I wonder if my mother, when she saw me for the first time, thought of where I would be eighteen years from that time, in a hole like this.

Wednesday, June 22. – To-day is the first day it has not rained this month.

Monday, July 4. – I am spending my 4th in a rebel prison, while some are having the best to eat and drink, while we have meal and beef and a little salt, poor water. It is tough.

July 5. – And it is settling on me fast. It is awful hot days and nights. There are rumors through camp every day that we are going to be exchanged soon, but I guess there is no one knows anything about it but we.

Wednesday, July 6. – We get more meal than we can eat, but we get very little salt. We have four of us to cook in a tin plate, pint cup and one quart cup. No spoon, no knife. We have one blanket over four of us and nothing to lie on. It rained to-day and pretty near overflowed us. It is awful to see men dying off, from 60 to 70 per day.

Thursday, July 7. – There are prisoners coming in nearly every day. Some say we have taken Petersburg and some say not, so we know nothing about it. I would like to know how our army is prospering.

Friday, July 8. – I heard to-day that Sylvester and Elias were killed the day I was captured. I found Colon Stafford. He was captured at Petersburg (sic) the 17th of last month. There are a good many of their regiment here.

Sunday, July 10. – We have dug as deep as 70 feet for water and still can't get water. The brook we wash in is covered with grease

(Continued on page 18)

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

CHARLES CONRAD BECKER

PRIVATE

CO. H, 128TH INDIANA INFANTRY

FATHER

OF

HAROLD BECKER

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN CAMP 1



Private Charles Conrad Becker, 1864

Charles Conrad Becker enlisted as a seventeen-year-old private in Co. H of the 128th Indiana Infantry on March 7, 1864 and the Army promptly mistakenly recorded his name as Conrad; he served until April 10, 1866. He was 5 feet, six inches tall and weighed 135 lbs. While in the service, Conrad contracted measles in Nashville, TN and the disease permanently damaged his eyes. Conrad passed away on July 22, 1934 when his son Harold was 17-years-old. Brother Becker today remembers many good times from those years and offers the following history.

Charles Conrad Becker was born to German immigrants in September 1846 in Hanover Twp. (presently city of Cedar Lake), Lake County, Indiana. Charles went by the name of Conrad for most of his life, though he started using the name Charles more often after he remarried in 1900.

At one point during his adult life, Conrad had to fill out a government pension affidavit for the purpose of explaining that there were no government, church, or family Bible records confirming his birth date of September 8, 1846. Further confusion was caused by a clerical error, which had Conrad enlisting in the 65th Indiana in 1862. While Conrad didn't make much of these errors at the time, in later years, he would have to provide several written explanations to the pension office to convince them that Conrad Becker and Charles Conrad Becker were indeed one and the same person.



Charles Becker (the man on the far right) in his GAR uniform and Stetson hat, along with some unidentified GAR pals and ladies. The photo was taken about 1910, seven years prior to the birth of his son and our Brother, Harold Becker.

Following the war, Conrad returned to farming in Indiana; with his first wife Florence, he had six children. About the turn of the century, Conrad moved the family to Chicago and went into the retail business. While being nursed back to health by the family maid, following being hit by a carriage during a ride on his bike, Conrad fell in love with the young girl – he was about 54 and she about 23! While a number of different stories exist as to the end of the first marriage and the occurrence of the other, Brother Becker was one of four children born of this new marriage – his father was 72 and his mother 48 years old. Brother Becker just celebrated his 86th birthday.

Brother Becker remembers his father packing for many trips and putting on his GAR uniform and Stetson hat and simply telling everyone he would be back in a week, leaving the four new grocery stores in the hands of Barbara and trusted employees – Conrad did not miss many Department or National Encampments. As Commander of the Lyon Post No. 9 in Chicago, they could boast of having over 900 members and a female adjutant.

Brother Becker's favorite story is of finding candy in the pocket of his father's Civil War coat and helping himself to a piece everyday – the pocket was never empty and his father never said a word about it. One of the tragic stories that his father shared with him was the duty the 128th had of re-interring the bodies of over 10,000 Union soldiers who had died in the prison at Salisbury, NC; recent rains had exposed the bodies of many of the quickly and poorly buried. Not a pleasant thought for anyone, let alone a seventeen-year-old boy.

IN MEMORIAM

(Continued from page 1)

His father, Egbert Blakely enlisted in the 10th Michigan Cavalry, Co. E in 1863 at the age of 15 and served until 1865. He was promoted to Corporal at age 16 and was wounded twice, once being shot on the right side and once while falling off his horse. (Brother Blakely always chuckled when he thought of his father falling off a horse.) Brother Blakely's uncle, Buell Blakely also served in the Civil War, serving in the 21st Michigan Infantry, Co. E from 1862 to 1865.

In the three years that I knew Brother Blakely, he and I traveled 10's of thousands of miles doing the work of the Order, representing the SUVCW proudly in honor of his father. He attended the 2000 National Encampment in Lansing, the 2002 Encampment in Springfield, IL, and in 2003 found him in Ft. Mitchell, KY; the reason for missing the 2001 National Encampment was he had taken his wife Thelma to a cottage on Lake Michigan for three weeks. On numerous occasions, he would travel with me to present certificates of appreciation to groups who had "adopted" a flag as part of the State of Michigan "Save the Flags" program; in one program at Mattawan Later Elementary, the entire school passed by Brother Blakely and touched his hand as he held it out for them.

Locally, Brother Blakely became a celebrity of sorts; serving as Chair for the Kent County Civil War Monument Restoration Project Committee, he was the subject of countless media stories and a favorite at many events.

During the time that Brother Blakely and I spent together, I learned more about just who he was, what he believed, and why he did what he did. Following the death of his father in 1910, his mother remarried and the relationship he experienced with his stepfather was not a good one. When his stepfather tried to sell the family farm in 1920, Mr. Blakely purchased the farm; the road in front would later become Blakely Drive. His first car was a 1922 Ford Model T Coupe and the event made the local papers. As a Grand Rapids streetcar conductor, he more than likely conducted members of the GAR around town during the 1927 National Encampment – one of the few details he couldn't remember.

Other events in his life included founding several Credit Unions in the area and the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Brother Blakely was active in the Knights of Columbus, the Happy Campers Club, and a supporter of all Veteran's groups (he had been too young for WW I and too old for WW II). The only time he missed a Camp 1 meeting was when he was in Florida over the

winter. Sitting in the same chair each meeting, he would continually challenge us to be active and questioned the dedication of those who are members but rarely attend a meeting or event.

In 2001, when funds for our Monument were coming in slowly, he made the statement, "I hope to live long enough to see the Monument rededicated and to stand where my Dad did in 1885." On October 4, 2003 the Lord granted his wish and there seemed to be no prouder moment for all than when Brother Blakely flipped the switch to turn on the water for the Monument's fountain.

During our many travels, Brother Blakely and I would occasionally talk of our relationship coming to an end; having lived a good life, the subject was never a difficult one. Although Brother Blakely had been a member of the St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish for over 40 years, he had not attended services in recent years and didn't feel it right to have a Catholic funeral, he simply said, "Bruce, you'll know what to do when the time comes."

Nothing I have ever done had prepared me for such a task, but with God's help I did know what to do. The funeral was held at Reyers North Valley Funeral Home in Grand Rapids, Camp 1 Chaplain, Reverend Comer Skinner assisting me in officiating the service. The focus of my service was on the example that Brother Blakely had provided us as Brothers in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:

1. Always smile and extend your hand in friendship.
2. It's not about us personally or what we've done – it's about those who wore the Blue.
3. As a Brother, you swore to do the work of the Order - schedule your other activities around the work of the SUVCW.
4. Treat your Brothers and Sisters in the Allied Orders as such – that's what Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty is all about.
5. Finish what you start.

At our last Camp meeting, Brother Blakely had once again exhorted us to remain active. I'd like to share an email I received from Camp 14 (Traverse City) Commander Bill Skillman that mirrored Brother Blakely's words:

Dear Commander Butgereit,

On behalf of all the Brothers and Members of Robert Finch Camp 14, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you, Marcia and Brother Blakely's wife with the passing of Brother Blakely. His passing 'over the river to rest in the shade of the trees' is a great loss for all of us. From my brief introduction and your glowing comments about Brother Blakely during the rededication ceremonies, I know that he was the epitome of a 'True Son'. He was full of energy, perseverance, and possessed a

powerful Faith and Trust in God that he knew would overcome all obstacles. Brother Blakely leaves us with a legacy that I hope that all members of our Order will strive to emulate in the sublime character and devotion that he and other 'True Sons' have left for us to carry on.

I believe that it was no coincidence that it was Brother Blakely who appeared at your side to serve as mentor, advisor and close friend during the laborious years to see the Kent County Civil War monument through to restoration. I also have no doubt that once the rededication was completed that Brother Blakely knew that his work here was finished. He now rests in peace secure in the confidence that the sacrifices made by his father and comrades were not in vain, and the duty to preserve their memory has been passed into the worthy hands of the current generation of Sons. I give thanks that He selected you and Brother Blakely to join hands and become the link between the past and the future of the Sons of Union Veterans.

Brother Blakely was buried in the his favorite coat, the replica of the cavalry shell jacket he wore in honor of his father, still bearing the badge of the Order, the badge of the 2003 National Encampment, and the button and ribbon from the Monument rededication. As Brother Blakely had assisted in the presentation of the Commander-in-Chief badge to our own Kent Armstrong last August, Brother Armstrong had the honor of serving as one of Brother Blakely's pallbearers and also deposited a flag in a new SUV flag holder at the gravesite. Whenever I'd take Brother Blakely home, we'd look each other in the eye and he'd shake my hand and say, "Well Bruce, another mission accomplished and we can still part friends." The graveside service closed with all members of the Allied Orders placing a flower on the casket as we parted for the last time, still as friends.

A Closing Note - There were some (not Allied Orders) who questioned why much attention was given to Brother Blakely's Civil War activities, when they numbered only three of his 99 years. To answer that, we only needed to look as far as Brother Blakely's pockets and heart - while he wore our Department memoriam ribbon on both his regular sport coat and his cavalry jacket, I found a third ribbon in his wallet – he carried it everywhere he went. He had come into this world the son of a Civil War soldier and had left, carrying the memory close to his heart.

PRIVATE JOHN HUFF

5TH MICHIGAN CAVALRY

THE MAN WHO SHOT J.E.B. STUART—MAYBE

Linda Berch

Far away from the rolling hills of Virginia, there is another tiny town about the same size as Stuart. It's name is Armada, Michigan, population 1,573, which has a favorite son who fought in the Civil War, Private John Huff, sharpshooter, Company E, 5th Michigan Cavalry. General George Armstrong Custer and many Union soldiers believed that he was the man who shot J.E.B. Stuart.

Armada is a pleasant little town, surrounded on all sides by farms and apple orchards. Not many people know about it. It is located close enough to Detroit for those who don't mind a long drive to work, but still small enough to stay hidden from the public eye, unharmed by traffic, crime and developers. It is a nice, safe place to live where its people are friendly, unpretentious and helpful to travelers and historians alike.

My first stop was the local library. I called ahead and had spoken with Margaret Smith, Library Director of the Armada Free Library, a delightful person who showed great interest in my project. She is originally from South Carolina and has three ancestors who fought in the Civil War. Margaret graciously gave me detailed directions to the cemetery, and photocopied several obscure articles concerning the life of John Huff. She was very impressed with the photographs I brought of the J.E.B. Stuart encampment and the copy of the interpretive sign of Jeb and Flora written by Robert J. Trout and illustrated with Dale Gallon's painting of the "Farewell Rose" which now stands at Laurel Hill.

The next stop was the cemetery, resplendent with fall colors. Photographs were the order of the day. The cemetery is small, overlooking a wooded ravine. There are many Union soldiers buried there of various regiments as well. A friend and I spent some time wandering about the cemetery looking at all the small, slab-like Union grave markers. We soon came upon the gravestone of John Huff. It was a Union headstone, taller than the rest but just as plain. Someone had placed a small American flag adjacent to the grave. This marker was replaced on Memorial Day in 1960, as the result of a fund raising effort, by several prominent townspeople after the Lansing Adjutant General's office had noted that it had not provided a marker for Private Huff's grave since 1900. At this point in time, John Huff was a forgotten hero and his grave was in poor condition. No one knew for sure who Huff was, and no relatives appeared, until James E. Neely, President of the Armada State Bank recalled the Huff story he had heard told by one Goldsworthy and other GAR men as they gathered at the mill operated by his father. Private Huff's gravestone then became a community project.

It was then my good fortune to meet Ms. Esther English, Curator of the Armada Historical Society, who took an immediate interest in my project, and after a long discussion, she led me to the location of John Huff's home which was only a few doors down the street from her home. My next stop then being the home of John Huff, which is a small but plain gray house still occupied by local residents. It seems that J.E.B. Stuart would have liked a cozy little house like this one. He seemed to prefer the closeness of military quarters, rather than big mansions. He mentioned to Flora in one of his letters that he hoped she could have a nice little home of her own someday. This home resembles the original in size and shape. In 1960, the foundation, the front room downstairs and the west bedroom upstairs were original to the house. A modern kitchen replaced the large one that served the Huffs and their seven children. In 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wolak, who owned the house at the time checked their property abstract after

reading the centennial publicity about Private Huff and discovered that they were actually living in his house. Relatives of the Wolaks, still live there today.

Private Huff lived and died a poor man. Robert Shoecraft, a direct line male descendant of Huff's and the family genealogist stated that John had only lived in it for two years, and he did not know how he could have had space for a wife and five or more children. John had seven children in all. After John passed away on June 23, 1864, his widow Abigail was forced to sell the house and all of John's personal belongings to make ends meet. He left no will and possessions of real and personal estate valued at only four hundred dollars.

Not much information is known about Private Huff, except the barest of facts. Private Huff was a journeyman carpenter, paid by the day and had learned his trade from his father. He was of Dutch ancestry, and like many of the Michigan settlers had come from the state of New York. Over time, the last name Hoff changed to Huff. He had ancestors that fought in the Revolutionary War. A student paper stated that he was five feet, eight and one half inches tall, fair skinned with brown hair. According to the Huff family genealogy, Private Huff was born 14 November 1816 in East Gwillimbury, Ontario. He married Abigail Cutler in Niagara County, New York in 1841. He survived J.E.B. Stuart for less than a month after he himself was shot in the head at Haw's Shop about three miles away from Yellow Tavern. He died at home on June 23, 1864 in Armada. In his enlistment record for Company E, he was forty four years of age, the oldest of any man in the company. No one to my knowledge has ever uncovered a photograph of him or of Company E.

It seems that Private Huff was a very good man, and a good soldier. General Armstrong Custer in his report covering the operation of his campaign from May 5 to May 25, 1864, described him as a "man of truth." The Berdan's Sharpshooters required that their men be of good moral character. He seems to have been a popular person because he won shooting contests in town, and the residents encouraged him to become a sharpshooter.

Company E was composed mostly of small town boys and men from Macomb County, Michigan. Life in nineteenth century was hard and rugged. Winters were cold. Roads were primitive. The men were, for the most part, good, honest and practical minded. They were accustomed to hard physical labor in farming, logging, carpentry, food processing, stores or small factories. Michigan men were very good soldiers because they had to be physically strong and rugged with good problem solving skills in order to survive.

John enlisted in Company B of the 2nd United States Sharpshooters (Berdan's) at Detroit for a term of three years at the age of forty-two. General Custer wrote that he had won first prize in a shooting contest. He was discharged for disability on February 26, 1863. He remained at home for a time, before he then enlisted in Company "E", 5th Michigan Cavalry at Armada, Michigan on January 27, 1864 for three years service at age forty-four. He was shot at Haw's Shop on May 31, 1864 about three miles from where J.E.B. Stuart was also shot. Different debates have raged on throughout the years about who actually shot J.E.B. Stuart. We do know one thing that is certain: Private Huff was actually there and very close to the scene of what actually happened. General George Armstrong Custer in his report dated July 4, 1864 covering the operations of his Union cavalry brigade from May 4th to June 30th supported this contention as well as Colonel Russell Alger who was there at the time. There was also his shadowy companion one, "Goldsworthy" whose name and identity have been lost over time. I found a cemetery stone with the surname "Goldsworthy" at the Willowgrove Cemetery at Armada, a possible descendant of that shadowy companion who accompanied Private Huff when he first went to war. Goldsworthy is not listed on the roster of the 5th Michigan

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Cavalry Company E, but somehow he returned to Armada to tell of Huff's exploits in the Civil War. Private Huff became a legend among the members of the G.A.R. chapter in his own hometown for many years after he died, but no one seems to have recorded the stories.

In conclusion, this was a wonderful day and a good starting point for my research on Private John Huff. I hope to continue to look for anything I can find on him and give a more comprehensive report in the future. The joy of discovery is the reward of adventure.

¹ "Trooper John A. Huff's Life Comes to Light Again: Ed Wolaks Possessors of Abstract and Property on Which They Reside As the Former John A. Huff Home," The Armada Times, June 1960?

² Will Muller, "A Private's Civil War Saga: Archives Reveal Exploit of Michigan Man Who Shot J.E.B. Stuart," Detroit News, 19 June 1960.

³ J.E.B. Stuart to Flora Cooke, 19 March 1863, Virginia Historical Society.

⁴ "Trooper John A. Huff's Life Comes to Life Again. Ed. Wolaks Possessors of Abstract and Property on Which They Reside in the Former John A. Huff Home," The Armada Times, June 1960?

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Sarabeth K. Samoray, "The Private John Huff Residence," The Armada Times, 14 November 1990.

⁷ Robert Selwa, "How John Huff of Armada Affected U.S. History," The Macomb Daily, 18 May 1983.

⁸ <http://pages.prodigy.net/rs.shoecraft/huff.htm>

⁹ Steven J. Mrozek. "John Huff: Macomb County Civil War Hero?" Mount Clemens Macomb County Michigan History Newsletter Vol III, No. 1 (September 1975), p. 1.

¹⁰ George Armstrong Custer, "The Official Report of Operations From the First Brigade, May 4 to May 25, 1864."

¹¹ Robin Smith and Ron Field, eds., Uniforms of the Civil War (Guilford, Conn.: The Lyons Press, 2001), p. 76.

¹² Robert Selwa, "How John Huff of Armada Affected U.S. History," The Macomb Daily, 18 May 1983.

¹³ General Armstrong Custer, "The Official Report of Operations From the First Brigade May 4 to 25, 1864.

¹⁴ Correspondence with Don Harvey, Webmaster, "Michigan in the War," March 26, 2001.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Jno. Robertson, Adjutant General. Michigan in the War (Lansing, Michigan: W.S. George & Co. 1882), p. 601.

¹⁷ Will Muller, "Private's Civil War Saga: Archives Reveal Exploit of Michigan Man Who Shot J.E.B. Stuart," Detroit News, 19 June 1960.

About the Author: Linda Berch was born in Detroit, Michigan, and was last year's newsletter editor and secretary of the George W. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Howell, Michigan. Linda graduated from Hillsdale College with a double major in History and Art and graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master of Library Science degree. She is a member of the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Trust and has contributed generously to its support. She is married and lives in Howell Michigan.

Editor's note: Pvt. Huff's descendant, Robert L. Shoecraft, is a member of Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp 2. Permission to print was

A FAMILY OF VETERANS

John R. Keith, CC

Gen. Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20

The family of James & Mary Cooley Williams of Rolling Prairie, Indiana was a typical Civil War era family. But, I expect that when family members got together for whatever reason, the Civil War was a major topic of the conversation, because they had 3 sons and 4 son-in-laws that served the Union during the Civil War out of 11 children. All 7 were burdened by physical ailments incurred from their military service for the rest of their lives. All 7 received Disability Pensions from the Federal Government.

1. Nancy Jane Williams, b. August 27, 1831 d. October 10, 1913 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She married Thomas C. Winters, b. July 14, 1825, d. June 15, 1901 in Grand Rapids, Michigan Mr. Winters enlisted as a Private in Company A, 15th Michigan Vol. Infantry. He was discharged for disability and after less then a year recovering at home he enlisted in Company D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery.

2. George Washington Williams, b. November 1, 1837, d. September 8, 1911 in North Liberty, Indiana. He married Ann Eliza Auton, b. 1844, d. 1925 in North Liberty, Indiana. George Washington enlisted as a Private in the 21st Battery Indiana Light Artillery.

3. Benjamin Franklin Williams, b. April 15, 1839, d. March 1, 1895 in Rolling Prairie, Indiana. He married Esther Teeter, b. September 11, 1850, d. February 9, 1925 in Rolling Prairie, Indiana. Benjamin Franklin also enlisted in the 21st Battery Indiana Light Artillery, with older brother George!

4. Sarah H. Williams, b. 1843, d. October 23, 1894 in Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan. She married David Loren Shay, b. June 6, 1846, d. April 18, 1915 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He died at the Soldiers Home. He is buried in the cemetery there. Mr. Shay enlisted in the Company D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. This is the same company and unit that Thomas Winters was in, as stated earlier. They would become brother-in-laws a few years later when David would marry Sarah.

5. Mary "Mollie" Williams, b.1845, d. May 10, 1922 in Yankee Spring, Barry County, Michigan. She married Charles Marcellus Bixler, b. September 18, 1834, d. December 24, 1924 in Middleville, Michigan. Mr. Bixler enlisted as a Private in Company K, 44th Indiana Infantry.

6. Elizabeth E. Williams, b. July 1846, d. 1930 in Middleville, Michigan. She married David Marcus Webb, b. May 28, 1837, d. May 25, 1917 in Middleville, Michigan. Mr. Webb enlisted as a Private in Company A, 151st Indiana Infantry.

7. Charles Wesley Williams, b. June 8, 1849, d. April 20, 1918 in Leroy, Osceola County, Michigan. He married Sophia Angeline Berry, b. September 1846, d. 1926 Rose Lake, Osceola County, Michigan.

What's interesting to me about Charles joining is this. Charles enlisted in the 30th Michigan Infantry, Company E, at Buchanan, Michigan, on December 16, 1864 at the age of only 16. He was under age and living near Rolling Prairie, Indiana and went to Buchanan, Michigan to join, a distance of about 28 miles. I can imagine young Charles was thinking about all the adventures he was missing out on. I would be willing to bet his parents were against his joining, and being underage, he couldn't enlist without their consent. He had to go to a place where no one knew his family or his age.

James & Mary Cooley Williams are my wife Jan's 3rd Great Grandparents.

BUY-A-BRICK

Bruce Butgereit, DC

The City of Eaton Rapids is currently raising money to restore Island Park in the Grand River thru a "Buy a Brick" fundraiser. This park, formerly known as "GAR Park," has a long history of hosting numerous GAR functions including regional encampments and picnics. The island boasts two cannon and a memorial boulder with an inset bronze plaque. In recent years, a new memorial tree was planted to replace the original one that was lost to disease.

The city has already agreed to create a separate section for Civil War veterans and their organizations in the veterans section if there are enough bricks ordered to warrant it. The spirit of the GAR and those old boys who wore the Blue can be kept alive, but your help is needed. The Department is urging its Camps and individual members to order the bricks in a mass order thru the Department so that we may have some influence on possibly getting the city to return the park to its original name of "GAR Park."

Bricks are available in two sizes: 4" x 8" inscribed with 3 lines of text, and 8" x 8" inscribed with 5 lines of text. Each line may have up to 14 characters (including spaces and punctuation). The characters are set rather deeply into the bricks, so they will not wear away. The cost of a 4" x 8" brick is \$25 each & 8" x 8" bricks are \$50 each with a 10% discount for multiple orders.

DEPT. OF MICH.
SONS OF
UNION VETERANS
OF THE
CIVIL WAR

The Department has agreed to buy the first brick at full price, so all orders turned in with that initial order will receive the 10% discount making your cost \$22.50 for the 4" x 8" size and \$45.00 for the 8" x 8" size.

Some members have questioned, "Why should I place a brick on an island in Eaton Rapids where I or any of my family will rarely or never visit?" My answer is 1) this is about honoring our ancestor or his unit, not about us; 2) we are Brothers in the SUVCW and should offer our help to other Camps

whenever possible (Camp 17 in this case); and 3) by purchasing brick en mass, we may help convince the City of Eaton Rapids to once again title the park as "GAR Park."

These bricks will be around and readable for a hundred years or more, memorializing our ancestors, letting future generations know that this man was a soldier who served his country in the American Civil War and perhaps piquing the interest of our descendants to further learn about who he was and the war he served in. We are bombarded by requests for funds continuously, but opportunities like this rarely come along. Think about it, for as little as \$22.50, someone's name or unit will be seen by others for

AUSTIN BLAIR
CAMP NO. 7
S.U.V.C.W.
JACKSON, MICH.
EST 4 APR 1914

decades to come.

Coordinating this effort will be Brother John Mann, Editor of Michigan's Messenger. The deadline for submitting your brick orders will be April 24, 2004. *Make checks payable to Dept. of MI SUVCW.* Please direct any questions and send orders to:

Buy-a-Brick
% John Mann
2495 Washington Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911-7216

For each brick ordered, please include the text EXACTLY as you want it to read on each brick, line for line, as shown in the accompanying samples. Remember, each letter, number, punctuation mark and space counts as a character, with a maximum of 14 characters per line.

Anyone or any organization may be honored with a brick. Veterans of other wars, civilians and non-Civil War related persons and organizations will be grouped in their separate dedicated sections.

DAVID DUNCAN
PRIVATE CO. A
23RD MICH. INF

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

31st Grand Rapids

Memorial service for Brother Edward Blakely followed by the Grand Rapids Allied Orders Winter Banquet. Details on page 18.

FEBRUARY

21st Lansing, MI

Graves Registration meeting, 11:00 am prior to the Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Lodge. Open to all.

21st Lansing, MI

Mid-Winter Conference (1:00 pm) and Washington/Lincoln Dinner (6:00 pm) at the Midway Motor Lodge. See page ?? for meal reservations, directions and details.

MARCH

10th Messenger Deadline

26th Traverse City, MI

Robert Finch Camp 14's 90th Anniversary Dinner. See page 7 for details.

APRIL

24th Grand Rapids, MI

Department Encampment at the Airport Hilton Hotel. The Encampment will be hosted by the WRC. Details to follow in the Spring issue of Michigan's Messenger.

24th Buy-a-Brick Deadline

Last minute orders will be taken at the Department Encampment.

30th Camp Reports Due

All Camps should have Form 27, the Camp Annual Report and per capita dues turned into the Dept. Secretary by this date.

MAY

1st Lansing, MI

Graves Registration meeting, 1:00 pm at the Library of Michigan. Open to all.

30th Andersonville, GA

Memorial Day ceremony to rededicate the Michigan Monument. More information to follow in the Spring issue of Michigan's Messenger.

JUNE

24th Detroit, MI

Grand opening/rededication of the Michigan Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in Detroit. More information to follow in the Spring issue of Michigan's Messenger.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

THE MICHIGAN CONNECTION (CON'T.)
Mike Maillard, Austin Blair Camp 7

DANIEL MCFALL

SERGEANT

17TH MICHIGAN INFANTRY, Co. C

Enlisted Aug. 6, 1862 at Ypsilanti, MI for three years. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous bravery at Spottsylvania, Virginia on May 12, 1864. Of some 225 men that comprised that ill fated charge, 194 men were killed, wounded or missing, as the result. Accounts indicate McFall captured the Confederate Colonel leading an assault on their battery and later rescued a Lieutenant Harman who had been taken prisoner by the rebels.

McFall received his Medal in Cone, MI on July 27, 1896. He died Nov. 15, 1919 and is buried in Rice Cemetery, Dundee, MI.

JOSEPH BRANDLE

PRIVATE

17TH MICHIGAN INFANTRY, Co. C

Originally enlisted at Burr Oak in Co. G with the 17th Michigan for three months. Mustered out Aug. 7, 1861 at Detroit. He reenlisted as a Color Bearer in Co. C of the 17th Michigan on July 1, 1862 at Colon, MI and muster in on August 18, 1862.

Brandle was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bearing the colors of his regiment during the battle around Lenoir. Specifically, he was involved with the rear guard action for Burnside's Army that was retreating from Loudon to Lenoir, Tennessee on Nov. 16, 1863. Brandle was the Color Sergeant for the 17th on that day and received severe wounds one entering his head and passing through his right eye. Though twice wounded and losing the eye, he tenaciously held onto the colors until ordered to the rear by the commander.

He was discharged from the army on Sept. 24, 1864. He was considered unable to serve in the Veterans Reserve Corp, labeled as 92% disabled. A senator applied for the Medal of Honor for him in 1897 with the Medal was issued on July 20, 1897, in Coldwater, MI. He died May 13, 1909 and is buried in Oak Grove cemetery, Coldwater.

DIARY

(Continued from page 12)

from the cook house, but I suppose that makes no difference to the rebels.

Monday, July 11. – They are erecting a gallows to hang six of the soldiers that murdered the men in here for their money. It is an awful sight to see them hang men.

Tuesday, July 12. – Just to think of men being so degraded as to murder each other for what little they have got. To-day will make two months since we were captured, and it is telling on me fast. More prisoners coming in.



You Are Invited!

While looking through the many pictures that we had of Brother Blakely over the three years we knew him, we found him often sitting in a white cane-seat chair at the events we were conducting.

Taking a page from the past and our Brothers of Camp 17 who meet at the Sunfield GAR Hall, Camp 1 is going to honor Brother Edward Blakely with a short memorial service on Saturday, January 31, 2004 by permanently "reserving" his now vacant chair.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has graciously allowed us to place his chair in the room where we meet and to place a plaque on the wall with a picture of Brother Blakely sitting in that chair and a description of who he was and why we are "reserving" his chair. I am going to include the Meritorious Service Award presented by C-in-C Kent Armstrong to Brother Blakely at our Monument rededication.

This service will be part of the 4th Annual Grand Rapids Allied Orders Winter Banquet to be held that same day. You and your guest are invited to join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and remembrance.

The details:

When: January 31, 2004 at 1:00 PM

Where: Grand Rapids Home for Veterans,
3000 Monroe NE

Cost of the Dinner: \$10.00 per person

Make check payable to: DUVCW Tent No. 2

Mail to: Joanne Bailey-Boorsma, 2050 Michael SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509

Reservation deadline: January 19, 2004



Thursday, July 14. – Command, command. Eighth chapter of Matthew and eight verses.

Friday, July 29. – To-day I am.

(These are the last words ever written in his diary by Mr. Osborn)

The date and newspaper this article is from is unknown. However, an obituary in an adjoining column dates it to somewhere around the 20th of November, 1917 and the City of Hillsdale, MI.

Contributed by Val Somerlott, Austin Blair Camp 7

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The annual Department Mid-Winter Conference will once again be held at the Midway Hotel in Lansing; the date is set for February 21, 2004. In an effort to create open communication and the sharing of ideas, we will conduct the meeting in a workshop style.

As this is not a formal meeting, no Department officer reports are expected or required. Camp Commanders, please encourage your fellow Brothers to attend as each Department officer will be ready to share more about the various positions within the Order as well as assist in answering any questions you might have. Something I'd like to see happen this year is each Camp sharing some highlights of their meetings and activities – a Camp Roundtable so to speak.

One the highlights of the Mid-Winter is the George Washington-Abraham Lincoln Banquet that follows later that same evening. A joint effort between the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of the Revolution, the evening includes a dinner followed by a speaker. This year, we are privileged to have Michigan State Senator Cameron Brown as our speaker. He has researched both time periods we represent and offers a knowledgeable program.

Dinner will be bourbon-pecan chicken (it's really delicious!) and will include a dessert...all for \$24 per person.

- 1:00 PM Conference opens with prayer from Department Chaplain and introduction of those present
- 1:15 – 1:30 Commander's thoughts
- 1:30 – 2:00 Attending Camp's Roundtable
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:00 *Workshop* opens with Camp officers meeting with their Department Counterparts
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 4:00 *Workshop* continues with anyone interested in meeting with Department officer of a position different than their own
- 4:00 – 4:30 Open forum – questions, thoughts, comments, complaints, concerns, etc.
- 4:30 Commander's closing thoughts – Chaplain closes conference with prayer
- 5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour
- 6:00 – 7:15 Washington/Lincoln Dinner (*optional*)
- 7:15 – 8:15 Program with guest speaker State Senator Cameron Brown

MIDWAY MOTOR LODGE

DIRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE

For those wishing to stay overnight, room reservations can be made through this toll-free number, (877) 772-6100. The special SUVCW rate (*you must ask for it when booking*) is \$80.00, single or double occupancy, which includes coupons for a complimentary breakfast for each person.

The Midway Motor Lodge is located on the West side of Lansing, about a block off of I-96/I-69. Use exit 93 East (M-43/Saginaw Highway). Turn right (South) on Canal Road at the traffic light. The hotel is on the South-West corner of the intersection and can only be accessed from Canal Road.

GEORGE WASHINGTON / ABRAHAM LINCOLN

DINNER RESERVATION
Saturday, 21 February 2003

*Breast of Chicken with Bourbon Pecan
Sauce
Potato, Vegetable, Roll, Dessert and Beverage*

Make check payable to:
Dept. of Michigan, SUVCW

Number of Dinners Requested _____
@ \$24.00 per Dinner \$_____.00

Mail Dinner Reservation form and check to:
*Richard Williams, Treasurer
Dept. of Michigan, SUVCW
1917 Teel Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910-3117*

Name _____

Camp No. _____

Meal tickets will be distributed at the Conference

Deadline for Reservations is February 14th

20TH CENTURY METHODS TO REMEMBER 19TH CENTURY PATRIOTS

*Bill Lowe, PCC
Austin Blair Camp 7*

The Jackson Citizen Patriot's lead story on the front page of their August 24, 2003 issue said: "2003 CIVIL WAR MUSTER, High-tech memories" Their story continued with, "About 42,000 Civil War soldiers could be found under one tent on Saturday at the Cascades Civil War Muster. But these veterans weren't lined up in their blue uniforms with rifles slung over their shoulders. They are on a computer database."

The article continues with what we have learned through our Graves Registration program and another way we can fulfill the "Purposes and Objects" of our Order as found in Article II of our Constitution. In an effort to find a new way to honor our ancestors and attempt to link folks with the men "who saved the Union" a document has been designed to be printed from the Department of Michigan Graves Registration database. The information is printed in an attractive format designed by Brother Bob Griggs of Camp 7, Jackson. A program developed by Brother Dick Williams of Camp 17, Sunfield, accomplishes the work.

Besides the Jackson Muster the program was at Charlton Park this summer and at numerous genealogy and historical society meetings in many parts of the state since the first part of 2003. It will access instantaneously any name of a veteran whose grave has been registered and submitted to Rick Danes, our Department Graves Registration Officer. An additional benefit is that as the public inquires about their ancestor, if his grave has not yet been registered, they are given a form to complete at home and mail in for inclusion in the next update of the database.

With a CD-rom of "Dyers Compendium of the Civil War" it takes just a minute to provide a person with a history of the unit and the battles in which they took part.

*Today we continue
"to perpetuate the memory of the
Grand Army of the Republic
and the men who saved the Union, 1861 to 1865,"
and hereby honor one of those men:*

Christian Rath
1831 – 1920
LTC 17 MI INF Co. D
17 Jun 1862 – 19 Jul 1865

(Room for additional information)

Final resting place:
Mount Evergreen Cemetery
Summit Township
Jackson County
Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Michigan
www.suvcw/mi/deptmi.com

The document is printed in blue and red ink with a blue border on blue-gray parchment like paper. The soldier's data is printed in black ink. Centered in the background is a faint GAR Badge (not visible here.)

The Department of Michigan is on the Internet at: <http://suvcw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
1917 TEEL AVENUE
LANSING, MI 48910-3117**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1171
Lansing, MI

Address Service Requested