



Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume XX, Number IV

Chartered June 24, 1884

Spring

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Commander's Musings

By DC Richard Greene

Over the next few months the Department will be taking inventory of its assets, both current and historical. No, nothing's missing and no skullduggery is implied. I just believe it to be good administrative policy to know what our assets are and where they may be found. For ease of effort, the project is broken down into two manageable segments.

Department Historian, John Keith has already begun searching out historical artifacts and archival records. In the next few weeks another team will begin documenting the more current items: banners, accouterments, ceremonial furniture, current documents, and the like.

By most accounts, it has been many years since such a project was undertaken. It is hoped that a full and accurate knowledge of what we own and where it is located will be of benefit to the current and to future administrations. The greater goal is to facilitate researchers of the future who, someday, may ask about the legacy of the Department and our Order.

If you currently have ANY Department property in your custody please contact me at rgreene@tds.net or (989) 843-5967 so that we can get whatever you have accounted for. You may also notify Department Secretary, Dennis C. Derr II at dderr@chartermi.net or via phone at (810) 653-0859. Thanks ahead for your help in this important endeavor.

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Camp 2 Welcomes It's First Junior Member



General Israel B. Richardson Camp 2 welcomed Christopher Nash, grandson of Camp Chaplain William Nash, as their first Junior Member at the February meeting. Both men are ancestors of Edmond Nash, 8th Tennessee Mounted Infantry. Shown with Christopher and William Nash is Camp Commander Kevin Lindsey.

Department Orders #4**Series 2005- 2006**

Department Headquarters, Mayville, Michigan

1. *The 117th Annual Department Encampment is coming soon. We will convene on Saturday, April 29, 2006 in Grand Rapids. All Brothers are encouraged to attend. This is your chance to see the governing mechanism of the Department at work, renew old friendships and lend your voice to discussions and decisions made on your behalf.*
2. *All Brothers are strongly urged to pre-register for the Encampment prior to April 22. Pre-registration is \$5.00, with "at the door" registration being \$10.00. Pre-registration enables better planning, saves you money and does much to reduce Encampment Day work for the Credentials Committee. Pre-registrations should be sent to: Brother Matt Adair, 409 Bent Oak Street, Fenton, MI. 4848430-2288. Details of the upcoming Encampment and "coupons" for registration may be found elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger".*
3. *The Woman's Relief Corp will host, both, a luncheon and an evening dinner at the Department Encampment/ Convention. The luncheon is set for 12:00, noon with the dinner coming at 6:00 PM. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Again, coupons, for your convenience in making reservations, may be found elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger". Send checks and meal choices to: Mrs. Lucile Streeter, 782 W. Girard Rd., Sherwood, MI. 49089-9705*
4. *All Camps are requested to bring their Camp colors to the 117th Annual Department Encampment. All Camp colors will join the Department colors at the front of the room for the duration of the Encampment.*
5. *Annual reports of all Department Officers and Committees are due and receivable at the start of the Department Encampment. Hard copies of each report should be tendered the Department Secretary and Chief of Staff prior to the opening of the Encampment. Where possible, a labeled electronic copy of the report should be given the Department Secretary, in addition to the printed copy. Chief of Staff, Donald Shaw will be contacting each Department Officer and Committee Chairman to offer guidelines and other assistance needed to generate and present annual reports.*
6. *Please join me in congratulating "Michigan's Messenger" Editor, Rick Danes on a fine debut at his new post. The December, 2005 issue, Rick's first, looked sharp and come off without a hitch. Well done Rick.*
7. *The most recent issue of the Messenger was also the inaugural issue of the "all electronic" presentation of our newsletter. By vote of the 116th Annual Encampment, the Department ceased mailing the Messenger, as of the first of this year. With only minor glitches, the transition went well. The new distribution will do much to save Department money in order that it may be used in other endeavors to keep green the memory of the GAR.*
8. *A Special Committee is formed to assess nominations for the Abraham Lincoln Award and select deserving recipients. The Abraham Lincoln Award may be presented by the Department Commander, in the name of the Department to those who have "done outstanding work to further the memory of the Grand Army". Brothers James T. Lyons, PDC, of Camp #17, John Keith, of Camp #20 and Richard L. Scott, of Camp #3 are appointed to serve on this committee. Brother Lyons will chair.*
9. *The Charter of the Gen. Phil Kearney Camp #67 (Bay City) was suspended in 2004 when the Camp failed to select Camp officers and pay annual per capita tax. With no reasonable hope of bringing this Camp into compliance, the Charter is hereby revoked, effective December 31, 2005*

Continued from page 2

- 10. *Please join me in congratulating Miss Emily Miller, of Blissfield in the adoption of the battle flag of the First Michigan Engineers & Mechanics. The daughter of "Butch" Miller, PCC of Nash-Hodges Camp #43, Emily, over the past two years has, almost single handedly, raised the funding for the adoption. The adoption ceremony will be held on April 29, 2006 in Blissfield.*

- 11. *I have directed that a thorough inventory of all Department property be undertaken. This operation will be carried out in two parts. All materials, records, accouterments, tools and other assets owned by the Department that are associated with the current work of the Department will be inventoried by a work team comprised of Department Secretary Derr, Department Treasurer Shumway and myself. Articles, records, archives and other items that are of a historical nature will be located and inventoried by Department Historian, John Keith and such team help as he shall require. Details of this project can be found, elsewhere in this issue of "Michigan's Messenger".*

*Submitted in F, C, & L,
March 1, 2006*

Attest:

/s/

/s/

*Richard Greene, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW*

*Dennis C, Derr II
Department Secretary*

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Senior Vice Commander

By Robert C Grove, Sr.

While the ground is still white with snow, and the days are still gray. We must ever in our hearts keep Green the memory of the "Boys in Blue".

No amendments, alterations, or additions to the Department Bylaws. have been forwarded to the Bylaws Committee.

The following article is found on p. 58 of the "Journal of the Fifty-First Annual Encampment, Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic. Held at Bay City, June 5-6-7, 1929.":

"HERITAGE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC"

""The Grand Army of the Republic is a unique organization. No child can be born into it. No proclamation of President, edict of King or Czar can command admission. No university or institution of learning can issue a diploma authorizing its holder to entrance. No act of Parliament or Congress secures recognition. The wealth of a Croesus cannot purchase the position. Its doors open only on the presentation of the bit of parchment, worn, torn, and begrimed as it may be, which certifies to an honorable discharge from the armies or navies of the Nation during the war against the rebellion, and, unlike any other organization, no new blood can come in. There are no growing ranks from which recruits can be drawn into the Grand Army of the Republic. With the consummation of peace through victory its ranks were closed forever; its lines are steadily growing thinner, and the ceaseless tramp of its columns is with ever-lessening tread. The gaps in the picket lines grow wider ever day. Details are made for the reserve summoned into the shadowy regions until by and by only a solitary sentinel will stand guard, waiting until the bugle call from beyond shall muster out the last comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic."--From Official Program, Wisconsin State Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic."

2004-2005**Department Officers**Commander

Richard Greene, PCC
9245 Willits Road
Mayville, MI 48744-9535
(989) 843-5967
rgreene@tds.net

Senior Vice Commander

Robert C. Groves, Sr.,
PCC
611 N. Washington Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-
1567
(989) 330-1503
wilgrove@msn.com

Junior Vice Commander

Jeff Baker
P. O. Box 32
Augusta, MI 49012-0032
(269) 731-4379
sturmwarnung69@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Dennis C. Derr II
4033 Horizon Drive
Davison, MI 48423
(810) 653-0859
dderr@chartermi.net

Treasurer

Brian Shumway
127 West Walnut Street
Hastings, MI 49058-2260
(616) 945-2942
brianne127@sbcglobal.net

Department Council

Max L. Newman, PCC
Howard Streeter, PCC
Kris Kuhlman

Chaplain

William B. McAfee, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Kevin Lindsey

Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Counselor

James B. Pahl, PDC

Chief of Staff

Kim Donald Shaw, PCC

Signals Officer

Matt Adair

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes

Historian

John Keith

Guide

John McFeaters

Guard

Ed Dowd

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong,
PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Charles Worley

Camp At LargeCoordinator

Robert Mitchell

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

Department Patriotic Instructor

By Kevin Lindsey

Greetings Brothers,

I want to remind and encourage all Camp Patriotic Instructors to fill out their forms as soon as possible. I sent to an email to all the Camps in Michigan with a link and a request to fill out the Form and return it to me by April 1st. These were sent to the Brothers listed on the Departments web site as either the Patriotic Instructor, or another contact person, depending on the available emails. If you are the camps Patriotic Instructor and have not received this email, you can contact me and/or check with your camps contact person. If you received this email, and are not the Patriotic Instructor, I ask you forward it to the appropriate person. As I have only received a few replies so far, I would like remind all camps to fill out this form. In addition to the PDF form I sent, I have recently created a word version of the form, per request, which I will gladly forward to you. I look forward to hearing from you all klindsey@comcast.net

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Department Historian

By John Keith

Brothers, I would like to remind all Department Officers that they are free to send me copies of your "papers" periodically, showing items and your progress and other thoughts of interest concerning the office you hold. I will store them away for future reference.

It is the same for all Camps; you don't have to be a camp officer to send items to me.

Please send me papers or C/Ds, etc. with what your Camp has done and is doing so I can add that information to the Department of Michigan Archives to be set aside for safe keeping.

This insures what we do for the cause is never lost like so many of the papers, items, etc. of the Grand Army of the Republic have been. Just think how interesting and easier some of our research would have been looking up our Civil War ancestors, if every G.A.R. Post had set aside a copy of their records in one shared spot, never to be lost.

I want to thank Bro. Neal Breaugh and Bro. Bruce Butgereit for sending in C/Ds and I'm sorry to say, I believe that is all I have received for the year.

Also, Commander Greene has asked me to compile a list of what artifacts that are the Department of Michigan's prosperity and where they are stored. I need everyone with knowledge of the whereabouts and description of these items to please email me at Hardtackcw@aol.com or snail-mail me at 950 106th Ave., Plainwell, MI 49080, and share your knowledge. I have contacted a few members of the SUVCW on this without success in learning anything on this subject.

I hope to get everyone's assistance in these matters!

Graves Registration Committee Report

Rick Danes, CC, Department Officer

Spring is teasing us this weekend, and with it our Camp Graves Registration Officers (CGROS) and their committees are planning which cemetery they will walk first!

We have had our first quarter meeting for the year, and the attending CGROS reported that the following counties have been completely walked and reports are in various stages of completion: Monroe, Wayne, Macomb, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Livingston, Jackson, Clinton, Calhoun, Branch, Cass, Newaygo, Lake, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Missaukee, Wexford, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Montmorency, Otsego, Antrim, Emmet, Mackinac, Chippewa, Luce, Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta, and Marquette, and we are still only half way done!! Some of our CGROS are finding out that previous studies were lacking in some information that we now collect, so they are re-walking and re-looking at their areas.

The remainder of our 2006 Meeting calendar has been tentatively set for June 10, September 9, and December 9 at the State Library in Lansing, stay tuned about that, though. We still would like to encourage some of the 14 Camps who are not active in the program to climb on the train. I'll bet that many of you have some records in a storage area that haven't been submitted yet! If you would like to participate, drop me a line at SUVMIDGRO@aol.com.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Camp 83 News

by Camp Coordinator Ed Woodard

The William A. Kent Camp 83 held its first organizational meeting on January 27, 2006 at the American Legion Post 101 in Greenville, Michigan. There were 5 men in attendance as well as Department Commander Rick Greene. Brother Greene assisted in filling out applications for the new members. The second meeting was held on February 9, 2006 at the American Legion with 7 men in attendance and temporary officers were elected. The meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm and will be held at the Fighting Falcon Military Museum at 516 W Cass St. Greenville, MI.

Bill Johnston, Camp graves Registration Officer for Camp 1 will be our featured speaker on March 20th.

Anyone in northeast Kent County, northern Ionia County or Montcalm County who is interested in joining the William A. Kent Camp 83 SUVCW is invited to come.

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Camp 58 Dedicates Dewitt GAR Hall



Camp 58 Brothers participating in the recent dedication of the Dewitt GAR Hall are from right: Tom Emerick, CC Doug Armstrong, PCC Gordon Mc Garey, Dick Williams, PC-in-C Kent Armstrong, Craig Whitford, Dewitt Mayor Paul Opsommer, and Bruch Fech. The Camp provided a bronze plaque commemorating the dedication.

Robert Finch Camp #14

January to March 2006 Report
Submitted by W. E. Skillman, Camp Commander

The Camp #14 roster shows 48 Members with 10 Associates. Visiting Brothers are invited to our March 11, 2006 meeting at the Elks Club 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division).

The presentation will be by Bill Skillman entitled: The United States Sharpshooters at Gettysburg- July 2-3, 1863.

The 2006 Camp officers were sworn in by PDC Bruce Butgereit at the January meeting. Brother Bruce brought the Camp members up to date on State and National activities. The Brother's were particularly impressed when PDC Butgereit had fulfilled the "Rally Around the Flags" project on his own initiative. Brother Bruce humbly refused offers by the Camp members to help defray some of the costs he bore. Brother Bruce thanked the Camp for their offer and praised them for their fidelity to meeting the goals of the Order. He received a loud and enthusiastic ovation from the Brothers.

Official fundraising for the Petoskey 'Mystery Cannon' began in January. Workers digging new sewer lines behind the Perry Stafford Hotel unearthed it in 1996. It was given to WMO Fred Knoodle and adopted by the Camp in 2003. The 'Mystery Cannon' is the only iron smoothbore Napoleon cannon (Pattern '5'-6 foot long barrel with reinforcing band around the breech, like a Parrot rifled cannon) cast at the Augusta, Georgia arsenal in existence. Surviving CSA arsenal records show 125 similar cannon cast at the Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond between 1863-65, 4 survive today. Research of local newspapers have failed to reveal when the CSA cannon arrived in Petoskey, what it was used for, and what caused 12 inches of the muzzle to be blown off. The Cannon Committee has raised \$5390.50 towards their \$25,000 goal. Marcene Karkadoulous has been commissioned to restore the cannon. The barrel will then be mounted on a reproduction aluminum/steel field carriage. When completed, the cannon will be displayed at Arlington Park, the site of GAR encampments in Petoskey.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

A Field Trip to Fort Washington, Virginia

By Doug Armstrong



From top left:
Overview of Ft. Washington with the Potomac River on the lower right of the photo;

Names carved in the stone of the Fort by men stationed at the Fort during the Civil War;

Repair work in progress below the main gatehouse to the Fort.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Publication/Distribution

Franklin Township: Site Of The Oldest Civil War Monument In The State A Rededication Ceremony Planned for July 4, 2006 in Tipton Michigan

The Franklin Township Board has approved a rededication of the Civil War monument in the Franklin Township Cemetery at Tipton Michigan. The rededication ceremony is scheduled for July 4, 2006.

The names and brief stories of thirty-three men from Franklin Township are inscribed on the four sides of the monument. The inscriptions in the sandstone were so worn that the monument was disassembled and is presently being restored. In some places the erosion was so severe that a committee of historians and interested parties had to do some research to determine the original wording.

The restoration committee reported to the Franklin Township board recently and proposed the date of July 4, 2006, for the rededication ceremony. That date will be the-140th anniversary of the first dedication, which took place on July 4, 1866. As the date draws closer more details of the ceremony will be released.

The restoration committee is looking for anyone with connections to the men listed on the monument. It is hoped that the committee can find at least one relative of each man to take part in and be recognized during the ceremony. The names are as follows: George Marlatt, Amos Skinner, Edwin Cook, Consider Mapes, Frank Mason, George Mason, Harvey Warner, William Warner, Vergil Tripp, John Smith, Lorenzo Smith, Allen Smith, Sympert Elsasser, E.P. Hampton, Seymour Skinner, Alford Lamkin, Hiram Larrue, Hiram Slater, William Card, Jerry Burroughs (actual last name may have been spelled "Burrows"), Charles Eddy, John Barnum, William Penticost, John Ellis, L.F. Bunting, George Butrick, Benjamin Van Wert, John Jackson, William Mathews, Philo Mills, Franklin Halbert, J. Simeon Whelan, and Edwin Whelan. The spellings of these names are taken from the monument. There may be variations from present day spellings.

The committee members are also looking for information on the location of the very top of the monument. The stone piece, in the form of a spike 25 to 30 inches tall, was misplaced after the Palm Sunday tornado in 1965, when the staff portion of the monument toppled to the ground. The monument was restored but the top piece was never found.

If you have any information about the monument or you are a relative of one of the above named soldiers please contact Butch Miller, 311 Jipson St., Blissfield, MI 49228, 517-403-1227 or Marlin Klumpp at 517-431-2887.

**9TH ANNUAL SALISBURY CONFEDERATE PRISON SYMPOSIUM
April 7-9, 2006**

The Robert F. Hoke Chapter No. 78 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy® will host its 9th Annual Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium April 7-9, 2006 in Salisbury, North Carolina. The event will open at 5 PM on Friday evening with the traditional reception for descendants of Prisoners of War and descendants of guards and others interested in the Prison's history.

The "Reunion of Descendants and Friends" is followed by the Friendship Banquet. Lectures on Saturday will be held in the Tom Smith Auditorium on the campus of Catawba College in Salisbury and will begin at 9:15 AM and should end around 4 PM with lunch on your own from Noon to 2 PM.

Scheduled to speak on Saturday on subjects pertaining to the Prison and those who were there are: Annette G. Ford of FL, Dr. Don French of MI, Dr. Gary Freeze of NC, and more.

*Authors will have some of their books available for purchase and will autograph them during breaks.**

In the Salisbury National Cemetery, Union Civil War Soldiers are in an area marked by the absence of individual tombstones. Under the grassy mantle and stately trees are the remains of some of the men who died at the Salisbury Confederate Prison. Eighteen trenches are marked with headstones and foot-stones but there exists no record of the exact location where each soldier was placed. In a publication of the U.S. Government in 1868 it is reported that there were about 5,000 Union soldiers buried in the area that became the National Cemetery. In another Government Report published in 1871 the number of dead was estimated at 11,700.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday morning, at Salisbury National Cemetery, starting at 10 AM, and is open to the public and will remember the Union soldiers buried in the Salisbury National Cemetery.

A second memorial service is held at 11AM for Confederate soldiers buried in the Old Lutheran Cemetery.

Registration is open to anyone interested in the history of the Salisbury Prison. Fee is \$70 per person. Seating is limited. Checks or money orders should be made payable to: Robert F. Hoke Chapter No. 78, UDC and mailed to PO Box 5093, Salisbury, NC 28147-0088.

For additional information on accommodations and refund policy contact Symposium Chairman Sue J. Curtis at 704-637-6411 or southpaws@salisbury.net. Registration forms are available at www.salisburyprison.org.

Re-enactors interested in participating in the Memorial Services on Sunday should contact Chairman Curtis.

For more information contact Anne Wilson - Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 - Juliet E. Stevens Tent 14 member and SPCA Board Member at (517) 374-6460.

***Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates***

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer – June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall – September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter – December 1 for a December 15 Publication

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

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON TIME

***We are happy to report that there is no need for
a TAPS column this quarter.***

***Please remember those and their families who
need our prayers because of illness, and please
remember those who are in harm's way
protecting us.***

2006 Department of Michigan
Allied Orders Conventions/Encampments

Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29, 2006

We are pleased to welcome the newly re-formed Department of Michigan for the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans to our Annual Department Conventions and Encampments

Hilton Hotel - Grand Rapids, MI 49512
4747 - 28th Street SE
(Intersection of 28th St. and Patterson Ave.)

Phone: 616-957-0100 (or Toll free 877-944-5866)
Allied Orders Room Rate -\$75.00 plus taxes
(Must mention **ALLIED ORDERS** for group rate
when making your reservation-Deadline April 7)

General Schedule

Friday Afternoon:

Registration & Council Meetings (WRC, DUVCW, ASUVCW)

Friday Eve:

Food & Fellowship & Fun - All Allied Orders Members Welcome

Saturday during day:

8:00 Registration - Business Meetings of the Allied Orders (Lunch)

Saturday Evening:

GAR Memorial Banquet & Special Program

From the South:
North on US 131 or I-196 to new M-6
M-6 East to I-96 (to Grand Rapids)
Exit from I-96 at 43A (28th St -West)
Go West on 28th St to hotel on Patterson

From the North:
Follow US 131 South to I-96 East
Exit from I-96 at 43A (28th St -West)
Go West on 28th St—hotel on about 1 mile

From the East:
Follow I-96 West to Exit 43A
Exit off of I-96 at 43A (28th St -West)
Go West on 28th St—hotel on about 1 mile

Below are two coupons to mail in - one for food to the WRC and the other for Pre-Registration to the SUVCW Credentials Committee.



Meal Reservation Form for 2006 Department Convention/Encampment

(Please indicate quantity for each meal in the boxes.) **NOTE! Meal reservations must be received by April 14th.**

Saturday Luncheon - Noontime

Park Avenue Deli X \$9.75 = \$ _____ Total for Luncheon \$ _____
(Assorted Deli meat/cheese)

GAR Memorial Banquet - Saturday Evening (Choice of Entrée)

Raspberry Chicken X \$15.95 = \$ _____
Sirloin Steak X \$18.85 = \$ _____ Total for Banquet \$ _____
Check Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Dept. of Mich. WRC**
NOTE! Reservations must be received by April 14th.

Address: _____

Send to: Lucille Streeter
782 Girard Street
Sherwood, MI 49089-9075

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Questions?: Call Lucille (517) 741-7161
or Marcia Butgereit (616) 291-3959



Department Encampment Pre-Registration Form

Please check the appropriate designation for yourself.

Camp Delegate Camp Commander Department Commander
Alternate Camp Delegate Past Camp Commander
Past Department Commander Past Commander-in-Chief

Name _____ Camp Number _____

SUVCW Pre-Registration Fee is \$5.00 (\$10.00 at Door)

Make Check Payable To: Dept. of Mich. - SUVCW

Mail by April 20, 2006 to: Matt Adair, Chairman, Dept. Credentials Comm., 409 Bent Oak St, Fenton, MI 48430