



Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume XXII, Number 2

Chartered June 24, 1884

Fall, 2008

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Danes, Editor

Department Orders #2



Series 2008 - 2009

Headquarters, Davison, Michigan

1 September 2008

1. I cannot stress enough the importance of 100% compliance in regards to on time reporting by the Camps of this Department. On 2 June 2008 then Commander-in-Chief Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., suspended 13 Departments for failing to submit their Annual Reports on time. Not only were these Departments suspended, they were prohibited from conducting any business, including holding their Annual Encampments and their Delegations were barred from attending the National Encampment until such time as they submitted their properly completed Annual Reports, paid Per Capita Tax in full and reinstated by the Commander-in-Chief. This is the reason why this Department has been so adamant about on time reporting over the last 3 years. We knew this day was coming and National has now made it clear that strict compliance to reporting deadlines is not optional and there will be consequences for failure to comply.
2. I have the sad duty to report the passing of two of our Brothers. Brother Clair "Bud" Tallman of the Austin Blair Camp No. 7 passed away on 7 July 2008 and Brother Fred Knoodle of the Robert Finch Camp No. 14 passed away 21 August 2008. All Charters are to be draped for a period of 30 days in memory of these Brothers.
3. Congratulations to Brother Gregory D. Hayes, PDC! The 127th Annual National Encampment, SUVCW acted favorably on the request of the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW to restore his Past Department Commander Rank.
4. I am pleased to report that the Service Numerals Resolution adding 10, 15 and 20 year service numerals to the Constitution & Regulations of the Order which was introduced by the LeValley-Heusted Camp No. 255 and supported by the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan was adopted by the 127th National Encampment, SUVCW.
5. The Resolution introduced by Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and passed by the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan to request that the National Organization pro-rate the National Per Capita Tax for Brothers who take an Honorable Discharge and later apply for readmission to the Order was ruled to be without basis by the 127th Annual National Encampment, SUVCW. A Brother, who has taken an Honorable Discharge and later applies for readmission into the Order, does so, the same as a New Brother.

6. The Resolution introduced by Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and passed by the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan to pro-rate the Department Per Capita Tax for those Brothers who take an Honorable Discharge and later apply for readmission to the Order is also without basis.
7. All Brothers are encouraged to attend Remembrance Day activities on Saturday, November 22, 2008 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This year the Department of Michigan, SUVCW will be holding its' annual wreath laying ceremony at the Michigan Cavalry Brigade Monument. Also, Brother James B. Pahl, PC-in-C has suggested those attending from the Department of Michigan meet for dinner at General Picket's after picking up the flags from the National Cemetery. I think this is an excellent idea and that it should become an annual tradition.
8. Also in regards to Remembrance Day, I would like to create a list of the Michigan Monuments and the years wreath laying ceremonies were held at each one. This way, each year we will not have to try to remember when a ceremony was last held at a particular monument. It would also allow us to rotate the ceremony from year to year through the list of monuments. Any Brother who can provide any of this information is asked to please contact both me and Brother Jim Pahl so we can start compiling the list. Once completed, I will have the list posted on the Department Website.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
 /s/
 Dennis C. Derr II
 Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
 /s/
 Kevin J. Lindsey
 Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Small but Mighty

The Michigan Delegation to the 127th National Encampment was small this year, but made it's voice heard. Attendees were (l to r): Gary Granger (Camp 160), Max Newman, PDC Gary Gibson PCC, PDC (Camp 22), James A.K. Pahl (Camp 17), Dave Arnold, CC (Camp 17), Neal Breough, PCC (Camp 14), James Pahl, PDC, PCinC (Camp 17), not shown George Boller (Camp 427).

**2007-2008
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James Pahl, PCinC

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John R. Keith, CC

Guide

John McFeters

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Robert Mitchell

Henry E. Plant Camp #3

Submitted by Daniel Grable, Secretary-Treasurer

This year the Henry E. Plant Camp #3 of Grand Haven has been a small but active camp. In January we held our 8th Annual Holiday Muster at Vic's Restaurant in Spring Lake where we had a great meal and installed our 2008 Officers. In March Chris Kleinjans of the Holland museum and a Civil War re-enactor attended our meeting and invited our Camp to participate in the Holland Civil War Encampment in August. We were invited falls in our Camp's area, and we have a number of members that live there. The Holland Museum plans next year to host a Civil War Muster and battle re-enactment at the Van Raalte farm, and hopes that in future years that the event will rival the Jackson Muster in popularity and size.

This year the camp celebrated Memorial Day by filling the prized position of color bearer at the front of the spring Lake memorial Day Parade. We were just behind Grand Marshal Sherman VerPlank, grandson of Joost VerPlank, last Civil War Veteran and GAR Member of the Grand Haven/Spring Lake area. At the Spring Lake Cemetery the Camp participated in the community's ceremony, with Camp Chaplin John Baldus reading General John Logan's Order #11, Daniel Grable placing a memorial wreath, and John Baldus, Paul McDonald, Don Ogden, Jonathan Scott, and Commander Richard Scott firing a salute. *The Grand Haven Tribune* featured photos of the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the camp held an annual picnic in Central Park.

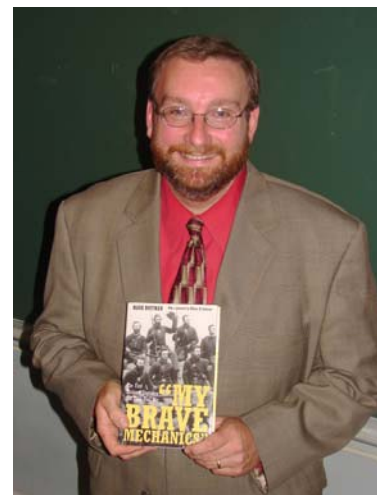
In June the Camp participated in the Spring Lake Heritage Festival with a Civil War Camp and presentation. The camp set up an officer's tent and conducted talks about Civil War ancestors and Medal of Honor recipient Henry E. Plant. In August Camp 3 participated in the previously mentioned Holland Encampment. We set up a recruiting table where we exchanged information with 9 possible camp candidates.

In September we will start our new program year and hope to have the new men sign up as members.

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My Brave Mechanics Author Speaks

Mark Hoffman, Member of Camp 17 and Deputy Director of the State of Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries. Recently gave talks about the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics at two Jackson Area Libraries. The talks covered not only information found in his book, but more of the "never before seen" photos and drawings of the Civil War Engineer, and has been awarded the prestigious 2008 Michigan Notable Book Award, and the 2007 Michigan Historical Society Award. Be sure to welcome Mark to the Order when you see him, and take a look at his book, which is available on line or at the State Library bookstore.



Taps

Clair F. "Bud" Tallman, Life Member of Austin Blair Camp No. 7, Department of Michigan, died suddenly July 7, 2008 in Jackson, MI. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, (4600 Ackerson Lake Road, Jackson, MI 49201, three sons and twin daughters, one being Pat (Mrs. Mark Heath, wife of Camp 7's Chaplain), also of Jackson.

He served as Camp Treasurer(1999-2002), Camp Council(2003-2005, 2008); he was the recipient of the Thayne Labanta award in 2003 and one of the recipients of the Austin Blair award in 2007.

His Civil War ancestor was Corporal Edward Tallman, Co. K 55th Ohio Infantry. Bud was himself a veteran of the U.S. Army WW II, Pacific Theater.

We regret to inform you of the untimely death on August 21, 2008 of Brother Fred Knoodle, Robert Finch Camp No. 14, Traverse City, MI. Brother Knoodle, who lived at 4768 Lightfoot, Harbor Springs, MI 49740 with his wife "Jimmie", was struck by a truck while engaged in one of his favorite activities, riding his bicycle.

Brother Knoodle's membership in the SUVCW was by virtue of his Great-great Grandfather, John Knodel, Sgt., Co. I, 161st N.Y. Vol. Infantry. Camp 14's Civil War Memorials Officer, Fred was 68 years old and very active in the Camp and community. He was the "driving force" behind the restoration of a Confederate cannon which had been found in the area. He has been on the departmental GAR Records and the Civil War Memorials committees. Fred was also a member of the Petoskey Civil War Roundtable.

The funeral was held Monday, August 25.

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**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@wowway.com or to 2612 Burns Street,
Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

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

HOW DID IT GET FROM HERE.....TO HERE???

By Bill Lowe, GRO Camp 7



As a Camp Graves Registration Officer (GRO) requests come in frequently via e-mail with people asking questions about their Civil War ancestors such as where are they buried, with what regiment did they serve and how can I find out about where he fought. Most often these can easily answered especially if our Camp GRO's are sending in the graves they register to be included in our Department database.

However a new question came along last winter requesting information on a Civil War veteran's grave in downtown Nassau, Bahamas. This really caught my attention because when I lived and worked in South Florida our company was opening several branches in the Bahamas and I spent a great deal of time there, especially Nassau. Many an evening was spent walking the bay Front Street which is where the stone in the right hand picture above is located, downtown Nassau.

Thus began an interesting exercise as to how the headstone, and possibly the grave, of Enoch Campbell, Sixth Michigan Infantry, ended up in Nassau. He died in the hospital in New Orleans, LA, June 12, 1862, and was buried in Grave No. 5774 in the Monument National Cemetery in New Orleans.

Many e-mails followed and eventually escalated to include many Camps in the Department of Michigan as well as most of the Department Officers. A request was even sent to the Washington office of U. S. Senator Carl Levin asking for assistance... especially *if* the soldier was buried in Nassau how we could arrange to bring him "home".

Remembering that Battle Field Cemeteries, i.e., Gettysburg, Shiloh, Antietam and etc., are under the control of the National Park Service, not the Veterans Administration, I called the New Orleans Headquarters of the NPS. One of the Rangers was as interested as myself after hearing that the headstone was in the ground on one of the main streets of Nassau, Bahamas. He promised to check their records as to whether the remains had ever been removed.

A few days later he returned the call after reviewing all of their original records. He never found *anything suggesting that the remains had ever been moved*. Still questioning if their grave still had the headstone in place he personally drove to the cemetery and verified the headstone was indeed on the grave. The top left picture taken in the cemetery matches the one in Nassau identically.

Further discussion revealed that at most VA Cemeteries they have maintenance crews that also take care of periodic burials and placing headstones. Their policy is that all old stones be destroyed. However, there are no continuing burials for cemeteries on Civil War battle fields and if a stone, or stones, needs replacing they contract with an independent vendor. Apparently they have no established plan regarding disposition of the "old" stone.

Continued from Page 5

So, the question will probably never be answered. One thing we can be very thankful for is that there is absolutely no indication that the remains of Enoch Campbell are in Nassau. Just imagine the legal quagmire and red tape that would be involved removing the remains of a U. S soldier from the Civil War back to the United States. Several years ago Camp No. 7 was finally able to move the remains of a Civil War soldier to a cemetery less than a quarter of a mile from where it lay in the woods, only after many months of getting government approval was this accomplished.

In closing this chapter of the mystery, we can be relatively confident that even though we have an errant headstone in Nassau, the remains of Enoch Campbell remain interred in what is now known as Chalmette National Cemetery in New Orleans. He is still in the company of many of his comrades who also died preserving the Union.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Department Graves Registration Committee

Rick Danes, Chairman

By the time you read this article, I hope to be sorting through the many Graves Registration Forms that I know are on the way to me right now. A cool and otherwise perfect summer has now passed, and since I have not received any submittals during the summer, they must still be in the mail, or will be delivered at the GRO Meeting on the 13th.

We have lost our long-time friend and National Graves Registration Officer Bob Lowe recently. While he was a great leader and motivator, Brother Jim Davenport from the Department of Colorado and Wyoming seems to be stepping up and filling Bob's shoes admirably.

Although when I peruse the various Camp websites I see fewer and fewer Graves Registration Officers, I look at camp 7 "carrying the banner" at Jackson and am encouraged; I also take great pride that for the past two years, the top Department award has gone to those who have done so through graves – related work. The folks from Camps 145 and 20 continue to lead the way.

I also read in this publication about how Camps from all over the state spend countless hours conducting ceremonies and cleaning and replacing headstones in cemeteries next to where our forefathers lay unrecognized.....what will it take to get your Camp motivated??

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

By Rick Danes, CC

One of the highlights of each year is the opportunities gained by Camp 427, along with the Dearborn Historical Museum, coordinating the History Hill at the Dearborn Homecoming. For the tenth year, we have brought together historical interpreters, re-enactors, and artisans from the French colonial to the World War II eras to entertain and educate the public. This year the event covered three days, and involved over 65 volunteers and 1750 volunteer hours. Below are some of the people and activities that were Civil War related from the weekend.



The opening ceremony which brought together re-enactors from nine different military eras to demonstrate their hardware and knowledge of the times.



Butch, Kathy, and Emily Miller (Camp 43) brought along their Michigan Cavalry Brigade savvy and their "Save the Flags Program" to share. The event offered an opportunity to camp overnight in the comfort of a "city park".



Members of the 21st Michigan re-enactor group joined Camp 427 and the 8th Michigan Cavalry Skirmishers NSSA as the Civil War focus groups at History Hill. Past attendees have been the Fort Wayne Coalition, Butgereit and Company, and The 2nd Michigan Light Artillery, Hudson's Battery B with their 6 pounder.

What's In the Box??

By Rick Danes

In 2006 I received the following letter as a query:

Dear Mr. Danes:

I have been working with the Confederate Relics Room of the South Carolina Museum on a knapsack brought home to South Carolina following the War. This knapsack was originally owned by Nathaniel Rogers (age 43) of company C, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters. Until recently we were unable to read the stenciled name on the knapsack. Using photo enhancement software we were able to read the following:

SGT NROGERS
Co C
MC 1SS

The story of the knapsack is an interesting one. On September 30, 1864 the "Battle of Jones Farm" occurred SW of Petersburg. The 1st Michigan Sharpshooters were on the battlefield that day...attached to the 27th Michigan. The field was swept by CSA Units from North Carolina (Lane) and South Carolina (McGowan). The Confederates obtained 1000 rifles, knapsacks, and other equipment from the field.

Oscar Chappell (Company F, 12th South Carolina Regiment) obtained the knapsack...the shoulder straps had been cut by the Michigan Sharpshooter to lighten his load as he quickly retreated. Oscar kept the knapsack until he was captured on April 3, 1865. He was sent to Hart Island Prison, New York and released in July 1865 from Bridgeport, Connecticut. A steam transport brought Oscar home along with his comrades and the knapsack.

The knapsack was donated to the Confederate Museum between 1896 and 1904. Attached was a tag with Oscar's name. The knapsack was buried in the museum's collection until discovered in 1994 by one of my associates [who is a member of the re-enacting group] company C, 2nd Berdan's Sharpshooters. It had been mis-labeled as coming from the Seminole Wars.

The knapsack is a Prussian design...rectangular with hair-covered hide...one that was issued to the Berdan Sharpshooters and other sharpshooter units. There are only three others that have survived the war and time. Two years ago the story made national news and until recently we were unable to determine the original owner's name. Going through your records [the Department of Michigan Graves Registration Database] we found Nathaniel Rogers.

Jim Chappell is a living descendent of Oscar Chappell, living in Winnsboro, South Carolina. We are very much interested in finding the gravesite of Nathaniel Rogers and any living descendents who might have an interest in this finding.

I have contacted the University of Michigan to locate any research on the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters. Nathaniel is listed with a home in Reading, Hillsdale County. I have contacted the cemetery officials there without any luck.

Any help you can provide with this matter would be most appreciated. We have a great story here...and one that deserves completion.

Thank you,

Doctor David Moore

*Assistant Professor Science Education
North Georgia College and State University
Dahlonega, Georgia*

I was able to quickly research and respond to the Doctor with a track of Nathaniel and his family through the Census Records in Hillsdale County to the Grand Rapids Census, and finally to the Grand Rapids Soldiers Home. There we found that this patriot had died and rested in Section 4, Row 14, Grave 21.

This is one more example of how your Graves Registration Committee serves you and the Order in honoring those who sacrificed their all during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865.



3rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry (The Old Third)

By Jim Pahl, PCinC, PDC, PCC

The recruitment of the Third Infantry regiment commenced simultaneously with the Second, but was not accepted into service of the state until May 15, 1861. Organized under the direction of Colonel Daniel McConnell of Grand Rapids, it was mustered into federal service June 10, 1861. The 10 companies are as follows: Company A from Grand Rapids, under Captain Samuel A. Judd; Company B from Grand Rapids under Captain Baker Borden; Company C from Grand Rapids under Captain Adolph Birkenstock; Company D from Saranac under Captain Moses Houghton; Company E from Lyons under Captain Edwin Pierce; Company F from Grand Rapids under Captain John Dennis; Company G from Hastings under Captain John Price; Company H from Georgetown under Captain Emery Bryant; Company I from Grand Rapids under Captain George Weatherwax and Company K from Lansing under Captain Byron Pierce.

On June 4, a delegation of 34 young ladies presented the regiment with a silk banner, delivered at the Cantonment Anderson near Grand Rapids. On the flag was an inscription in gold: "Presented by the ladies of Grand Rapids to the 3rd Regiment Michigan Infantry". Leaving Grand Rapids with 1,040 officers and men, the unit was assigned to Richardson's brigade of Colonel Miles's division and was in action at Blackburn's ford on June 18th.

Shortly thereafter, Col. McConnell resigned, replaced by Colonel Champlain. The regiment encamped during the winter near Alexandria, Virginia with the 2nd and 5th Regiments from Michigan. In the spring, they moved to the Peninsula as part of Berry's brigade (2nd, 3rd, 5th Michigan and 37th New York), 3rd division, 3rd corps. They fought at Williamsburg and heavily engaged at Fair Oaks. They were also engaged at Charles City Cross Road and Malvern Hill, where the brigade was complemented highly on holding firm in the midst of a "disordered mass".

Moving from the Peninsula, the regiment then took part in the battle of Fredericksburg, but only suffered 9 wounded. The regiment was more heavily engaged in Chancellorsville, with 63 killed, wounded or missing.

The old 3rd next participated in the Gettysburg campaign, heavily engaged on both the 2nd and 3rd. Upon arrival, they were sent forward with the 5th Michigan to serve as sharpshooters on a skirmish line about a mile beyond Emmittsburg turnpike. Being hotly engaged during the two days of fighting, they lost 41 killed, wounded or missing.

On December 23, 1863, 207 members of the regiment re-enlisted as veteran volunteers, where by they were returned to Michigan and given 30 days furlough. Returning to the army, the regiment became part of the 2nd brigade, 3rd division, 2nd corps and participated in the battles of the Wilderness with heavy loss. Prior to Spottsylvania, the regiment was temporally consolidated with the 5th Michigan. They participated in the successful charge and captured many prisoners and two rebel battle flags.

On June 9, 1864, the regiment, with the exception of the re-enlisted men and such as had joined the regiment since the original organization, were ordered to proceed to Michigan to be discharged. The remainder of the regiment was consolidated into a battalion of four companies and then attached to the 5th Michigan regiment, per special orders of the War Department issued June 13, 1864. On June 20, 1864, the 3rd Regiment of Michigan Infantry was formally mustered out of federal service.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt 1907