



*Michigan's*

# *Messenger*

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

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*John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus*



*Richard E. Danes, Editor*

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

## **Commander's Comments**

By Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR

Brothers of The Department Of Michigan:

In just a few days we will be conducting the 131<sup>st</sup> Department Encampment. Your attendance and participation are encouraged so that you may take an active role in shaping the work of the Order.

This year also marks the last year of the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Civil War. You and your Camps are encouraged to commemorate this final year with appropriate activities and events.



I must now address you with an important Department issue, Communication. Communication is an important aspect of the Department's business. Communication requires both an initiator and a receptor. Without both there can be no communication.

For some time now the Department has encouraged, requested and pleaded with Camps to supply complete and accurate information for the Department to contact you. All Camps were requested to assign at least one person who could receive communication from the Department and then communicate important information to the other Brothers of their respective Camps.

While we have had some compliance, we are not where we need to be. We are still struggling with having effective communication. Many Camps still do not have a designated person to receive and transfer information. Too many Camps submit paper work and rosters that have inaccurate phone numbers and bad Email addresses. The Department cannot provide Camps with urgent and important communication such as was just recently proven by the requirements of General Order Number 15.

The Department does not want to fail you with regard to providing timely and important information. You need to do your part and be responsible recipients. Please do not fail the Department. Likewise distribution of the Michigan Messenger to all Camps can not be accomplished without designated contact person with an accurate and functioning Email address.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Continued from Page 1

The Department strongly suggests, based on the recent request and requirement of General Order No. 15 concerning Bylaws, that each Camp have a signed copy of their Bylaws in their possession at all times. The Camp Commanders and Secretaries shall be the custodians. The Camp Commanders and Secretaries, upon leaving their office shall ensure that the Camp Bylaws are provided to the incoming Camp Commander and Secretary.

The Department Secretary shall do likewise concerning the Bylaws of the Department of Michigan. Retiring Department Secretaries shall provide the incoming Department Secretary with the Department Bylaws.

Your compliance is strongly encouraged, and thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

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



Department Orders #3 Series 2014 – 2015  
Headquarters, Flint, Michigan  
October 15, 2014

Camp Commanders and Secretaries:

That time of year has come again when we will be electing and installing Camp Officers.

To ensure your Camp Officers are installed at a time that is convenient for you, please contact the Department Commander by Email with your requested date, time and location.

Email for the Department Commander is: [pdmarcomm@aol.com](mailto:pdmarcomm@aol.com).

If you or someone in your Camp does not have Email, please call 989.392.2004 to request a time for installation of your Camp Officers or write to:

Paul Davis  
Department Commander  
P.O. Box 6517  
Saginaw, Michigan 48608

Please do this as soon as possible as dates are already being submitted by some of the Camp. In the event we are not able to comply with your requested date, we will provide you with an alternate date suggestions or assign another Department Officer or Department designatee to perform your installation of officers.

When the installing officer arrives at your Camp for the installation of your officers, please have the following Form 22 and Form 22A ready for his signature:

1. 3 copies of the Form 22 with all of the required signatures completed.
2. 3 copies of your current Camp roster.
3. 2 copies of the Form 22MI

If you do not have these Forms, please contact the Department Secretary to get them:  
Department Secretary George Boller: Email to: [RELLOB@Prodigy.net](mailto:RELLOB@Prodigy.net). or mail to P.O. Box 530518, Livonia, Michigan 48153, or contacted by telephone at: 734.432.7900 or FAX at 248.478.4314.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Concurrent with this Department Order, you will also be receiving shortly a General Order Number 5 from the National Organization suspending one Camp and two Departments. We would like to make you aware and caution all Camps within the Department concerning the serious nature regarding the filing of all reports in a timely matter and always before the day of the deadline if at all possible.

The Department Secretary has a great deal of work to do once Camp reports are submitted. If we do not have your reports, he can not do his job and meet the requirements and deadlines of the National organization.

The Department of Michigan will not be suspended because a Camp fails to file their reports by the required deadlines.

Your attention to these matters are greatly appreciated.

Yours In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

/s/  
Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR  
Commander  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/  
George Boller  
Secretary  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Orders #4  Series 2014 – 2015  
Headquarters, Flint, Michigan  
January 8, 2015

Camp Commanders and Secretaries:

1. Many of the Camps within the Department of Michigan have already completed the process for their Installation of Camp Officers. Not all of these, however, have filed their paper work with the Department Secretary.

All Camps are reminded that their Form 22 along with two copies of your current roster and two copies of the Form 22MI are due to the Department Secretary by the deadline: February 15, 2015.

If you do not have these Forms or you need assistance, please contact the Department Secretary:  
Department Secretary George Boller: Email to: RELLOB@Prodigy.net. or mail to P.O. Box 530518, Livonia, Michigan 48153, or contact by telephone at: 734.432.7900 or FAX at 248.478.4314

We would like to make you aware and caution all Camps within the Department concerning the serious nature regarding the filing of all reports in a timely matter and always before the day of the deadline if at all possible. The National Organization has issued a General Order suspending one Camp and two Departments for failure to comply with reporting requirements.

The Department Secretary has a great deal of work to do once Camp reports are submitted. If we do not have your reports, he can not do his job and meet the requirements and deadlines of the National organization.

The Department of Michigan will not be suspended because a Camp fails to file their reports by the required deadlines.

Your attention to these matters are greatly appreciated.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

2. The Department Encampment will be held on March 28, 2015. This is much earlier than in years past. Notification and Registration Information usually published in the MESSENGER, will not be there this year due to the submission deadline for the MESSENGER.

Instead, you will find a two page addendum included with this Department Order that contains all of the usual information concerning Encampment location site, hotel, meal and registration information, deadlines and forms.

Please ensure this Encampment information is distributed to all members of the various Camps.

3. There has been a sufficient number of complaints and concerns registered with regard to the Department's website. While this issue has been addressed already in three Department communications, it may be that the message has not been received or if received not understood or processes not followed. What ever the reason(s) we will give you the complete history and current status as to what happened, what we did about it, and where we stand with regard to the website and a webmaster. In the beginning, and just a few days before the 2014 Department Encampment, the untimely resignation of the then current webmaster, created a very big problem which was not likely to be easily solved.

Members of the Communications and Technology Committee looked among their contacts to see if we could get a replacement for our webmaster. That effort proved unsuccessful.

Three communications went out to all Camp Commanders and Secretaries asking their assistance in asking for a volunteer within their Camps from Brothers or sons of Brothers. If none were found, would they then make inquiries within their areas of colleges, schools, service groups and any other organization that might provide us with a candidate to maintain our website.

All of these efforts failed to get even a single recommendation.

A final appeal was then made to all Camps of the Department asking once again for a volunteer, and further it was stated by the Department that if no suitable volunteer could be found, the Department would have to consider the hiring of a webmaster.

As a result of this communication, two Brothers did come forward and volunteered. This was communicated via the December issue of the MESSENGER. It was suggested by the Department that these two volunteers work as a team and back each other up as and when required. Since its publication in December, one of the volunteers has requested that he be allowed to withdraw his offer.

That brings us up to date. The interim webmaster is Patrick Wallace. Please contact him with your changes, corrections and updates at: [pdwallace@comcast.net](mailto:pdwallace@comcast.net)

At this time, please do not send inquires to the Department webmaster link on the current website. For the future, the Department has received an offer by an individual who wishes to take on the job of the Department webmaster. He is not yet graduated from college and has not yet been inducted into the Order.

Both the graduation and induction will take place within the later part of the 1st Quarter, 2015. A written proposal will likely be presented for the consideration of the Brothers during the 2015 Department Encampment in March.

We are hopeful that our webmaster problems are now resolved. Further we thank those who have been patient and understanding and apologize to those who did not have their needs met.

Yours In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

/s/  
Paul Davis, DC, PCC, MOLLUS, SVR  
Commander  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/  
George Boller  
Secretary  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Senior Vice Commander***Dale Aurand, PCC*

“the better part of one’s life consists of his friendships” an often seen phrase attributed to Abraham Lincoln. As Senior Vice- Commander I have encountered many members of the Allied Orders, whom I have come to consider my friends

It has been my pleasure to assist Department Commander Davis with some of his duties. The coming year will be eventful for us as we commemorate the 150 anniversary of Lincoln’s assassination and the end of the Civil War.

Once again I look forward to seeing you at the Department Encampment in Lansing March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Obituary**

Steven A. Redinger,

Mattawan

Steven A. Redinger, age 68, passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at his home. He was born on April 22, 1946 in Jackson, MI the son of Walter A. and Dorothy M. (Wyckoff) Redinger. Steven graduated from Northern Michigan University and had been employed by Sysco Food Services for 33 years.

He was a World War II scholar and loved airplanes, especially WWII era aircraft, and served as a docent at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. Steven was a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a member of the Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table and a member of 3rd Battery, First Michigan Light Artillery Re-enacting Group.

He also loved to travel and had visited all but two states of the United States of America.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents and a granddaughter, Stephanie Lynn Redinger. On January 25, 1969 Steven married the former Sally J. Navarre, who survives.

Also surviving are two children, Scott (Kate) Redinger of Belleville, MI and Samantha (Steve) Maxam of Kalamazoo, MI; a granddaughter, Sydney Stephenson of Kalamazoo, MI; two sisters, Joan Hodges of Gettysburg, PA and Shirley (Mike) Clink of Macomb, MI; and several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Thursday, January 22nd from 3pm to 5pm and 7pm to 9pm at Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 South 9th Street. Services will be held 11:00 Friday morning, January 23rd at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Avenue, with Rev. Trevor McDermont officiating. Interment in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mattawan will follow services. Memorials may be directed to the Gettysburg Foundation at 1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, PA 17325, 717-338-1243, [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).

**IN THIS ISSUE****Officer's Reports****Department GOs  
Orders #3 and 4****Camp News****Steven Redinger****Cheap Watches****Chesaning****GAR Chairs  
Needed****And****Much More!**

See more at: <http://www.langelands.com/obituary/Steven-A.-Redinger/Mattawan-MI/1473471#sthash.aGA5UPNW.dpuf>

## Civil War Memorials

By Bruce B. Butgereit



My goal is to have some new updates online by the Department Encampment or, at minimum, something visual to share at the encampment on March 28.

This is not a new goal but one that I haven't been able to address like I would have desired. The work my wife Marcia and I are doing on the 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg program continues and with life's other responsibilities, I've not been able to focus nearly as much time as I want to on the memorials.

The good news is that the book is progressing nicely and I will soon be able to promote Michigan's Civil war memorials in the way they need to be. Your help is still needed in sending in updated assessments and digital photos.

I recently scrolled through the slides from Dr. Petz I had scanned and digitized and was able to help Camp 3 identify what the wooden, yes wooden, G.A.R. memorial once looked like in Spring Lake. More fun stuff lies ahead.

In June, I will make a presentation to the West Michigan Genealogical Society titled "Civil War Memories in Bronze, White Bronze, and Stone."

## Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer



Your Department Graves Registration Committee met on March 14 at the State Archives. The date for the next meeting is June 13, 2015.

Our on-line database now has over 66,385 Civil War burials and 3522 Other War records.

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

We would like to welcome 4 new GROs to the Committee: Paul Silver from Camp 266, Anthony Bonecutter from Camp 14, Ray Lake from Camp 2, and welcome back Bill Eaton from Camp 180. This is the first "new blood that we have had on the Committee in several years.

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

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

Our time has come, get out and survey!

Be safe!

**2014-2015  
Department Officers**

Commander

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Chuck Worley  
Kevin Lindsey, PCC  
Bob Griggs

Chaplain

Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn

Patriotic Instructor

Gary Granger, PCC

Color Bearer

Edgar Dowd

Counselor

James Pahl, PCC, PDC, PCinC

Guard

Robert Payne

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Jerry A. Olson, PCC

Signals Officer

Patrick Wallace

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Rick Danes, CC

Historian

Matt Adair

Guide

Dave Smith

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Bruce Butgereit, PCC, PDC

Chief of Staff

Keith Harrison, PCC, PDC,  
PCinC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Dennis Zank

Aide de Camp

Brian Shumway, PCC



**Another Strange Find**

*Submitted by Chris Czopek, Camp 17*

Francis E. Hall (1886-1939), a life-long resident of Grand Rapids, resided in the family home built in 1857 by his grandfather. Hall, a member of the National Committee for Soldiers grave sites in Michigan, spent several years traveling the state, gathering information, which became the basis for our modern Graves Registration Program. Shortly after his death in 1939, his sister, Mrs. Benjamin Van Raalte, donated the entire collection to the Grand Rapids Public Library.

This interesting headstone seems to be a standard VA issue, but upon further inspection we know that Francis was not a veteran, and a SUVCW flag holder marks the gravesite. Francis lies in the Fulton Street Cemetery, Grand Rapids. His obituary can be found at:

<http://www.vbrgs.org/SoldierObituaryIndex.html>

**Encampment Ad Space Available**

Help support our Michigan Department Encampment by purchasing ads in the Encampment booklet. Typical ads can extend greetings from your Camp or commemorate your Civil War ancestor. 1/4 page is \$10.00, 1/2 page is \$15.0 and full page is \$20.00. Send your ad and check to Judy Rock, LGAR, 36829 Main St., New Baltimore, MI 48047. Make checks payable to LGA.

## John L. Logan Camp Report

By Bruce B. Butgereit

The Camp's officers for 2015 were elected and installed in December and are as follows:

Commander Bill Truss	Council Tim Kolean
SVC Tim Kolean	Chaplain John Sullivan
JVC John Uplinger	Grave Registration Gerry Christiansen
Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Butgereit	Patriotic Instructor John Uplinger
Council Harold Becker	Historian, Memorials and Signals Officer Bruce Butgereit
Council Colin Butgereit	

At our December meeting, we also voted to reduce the number of meetings we have each year to the months of March, April, October, and December.

As we have for the past fifteen years, we partnered with the Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps to give Christmas gifts to residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

As we look forward to warmer weather and our biggest week of the year—Memorial Day week—planning has been underway for a number of events and activities.

Our last week in May will find us at the GRHV on Wednesday, May 20, the Camp will set up our Color Guard and the Champlin Corps will lay flowers at the statue in the cemetery at the home. The Camp will introduce our new *What is Memorial Day?* Flier with hundreds of Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire Kids, and more as they place close to 5,000 U.S. flags on the graves there.

Some members of the Camp will participate in two Memorial Day services near Hopkins on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, May 29, we will join the Champlin Corps in rededicating two 18"x24" bas-relief bronze tablets at the Godfrey-Lee High School. These tablets were given to the Michigan Soldiers Home in the late 1920s following the two national encampments that took place in Grand Rapids by the Woman's Relief Corps and recently discovered in the maintenance garage at the Home. When the Home wasn't interested in returning them to a wall inside the Home, we requested they be returned so they could be used to help educate local students. One tablet commemorates Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the other is John A. Logan's General Order No. 11. (The Home has larger tablet from the WRC that we will try to find a new home for as well.)



On the 30<sup>th</sup>, we will start our day at 8 AM honoring the wishes of the 4 remaining members of the Guy V. Henry Camp No. 3, United Spanish War Veterans, who, in 1961, asked Robert Finch Camp No. 14, SUVCW, to conduct Memorial Day services on their behalf. After learning of this request, Camp 1 has conducted this service for the past three years. Mrs. Lois Waivio, daughter of Sgt. Clifford Stegenga, 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry, participates with us and places flowers at the Spanish-American War Hiker in Grand Rapids. I also just discovered a copy of the Memorial Day service conducted by the USWV and see that they not only read Logan's General Order No. 11 but Lincoln's Gettysburg Address too.

Following this, we will partner with the Champlin Corps in conducting the traditional Memorial Day services at the Kent County Civil War monument. From there we will conduct a headstone dedication ceremony for Private George Johnson, 28<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry, Co. D, in Fairplains Cemetery.

At 3 PM in Dutton, we will dedicate a new memorial boulder with bronze tablet commemorating the men and their families of Gaines Twp. in 1861-1865. Our last stop on our memorial tour will be the St. Patrick's Cemetery in Caledonia and the grave of Christopher C. Bruton. Bruton was serving as Captain of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NY Cavalry, Co. C and an aide to General Custer at the Battle of Waynesboro, VA when he captured Confederate General Jubal Early's headquarters flag. As a result, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

*Continued on Page 9*



*Continued from Page 8*

Bruton (see photo) died in 1867, at the age of twenty-six and nothing at his grave indicates he received the medal. Our ceremony will dedicate a new granite marker to recognize his actions.

In the weeks leading up to these events, the Camp will clean the headstone of Moses Clark, who at 15 years of age, enlisted in a Connecticut militia unit as a fifer during the Revolutionary War. The Sophie de Marcus Campau Chapter of the DAR will dedicate a new flag holder at his grave in Walker (the only Rev War soldier buried in Kent County according to the DAR) on May 31—235 years to the day Moses received his discharge from the army.

We have partnered with several organizations, including the Michigan Commandery of MOLLUS, the local American Legion Post and a Boy Scout to clean and straighten the stones in the Bruton family plot, replace the weeds with new sod, and get the new marker. This project was started by a researcher in Pennsylvania trying to find Bruton's grave.

### **Henry E. Plant Camp #3**

*By Daniel Grable Secretary-Treasurer*

It has been a while since I reported the activities of the Henry E. Plant camp #3. Last June we conducted a general Civil War presentation during the 2014 Spring Lake Heritage Festival. Commander Richard Scott spoke on the major battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. He also mentioned the tactics and the new weapons used. Brother Cliff Owen spoke on the possible expansion of slavery in the ever growing western expansion. The Kansas -Nebraska act was also talked about.

A group of local Mill Point/Spring Lake veterans were talked about by Brother Daniel Grable. The veterans included Eugene Gardner, Lucas Lyman, Noah Perkins (namesake of GAR Post #279 of Spring Lake), and Sylvester S. Rideout. Brother Donald Ogden showed a few items from his collection of Civil War artifacts. They included the eating utensils, playing cards and ammos.

The Camp's presentation ended with Brother Ronald Bellenger talking about the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic and the early groups for the sons of the Civil War veterans. He had a few of the medals from these groups along with a charter for a Sons Post from the Post system in New York State.

Earlier that day the camp had brothers that attended the dedication of a new flag pole at Mill point Park along with the local VFW and American Legion Posts. This part of the Grand haven Eagles organization's Flag Day historical flag program.

The Camp was represented in the Ferrysburg Fourth of July parade.

In September the camp conducted a recruiting tent at the Holland Museum Civil War Muster

At the Van Raalte Farm. It was a nice day on Saturday morning then it rained in the afternoon and continued to rain on Sunday that the Museum ended the event early. A cannon used by the Civil war reenactors had sunk into the ground and the horses they had couldn't pull it out so they needed a military truck to get it out. The reenactors cars also were stuck in the mud. Some of the reenactors need

During the Muster Brother Owen saw our honorary member Perry Bennett. Bennett had been promoted to Colonel and transferred to History Department of the Army allowing him to attend many reenactments as a expert on the Battle of Utoy Creek. At the Muster Colonel Bennett on Saturday was reenacting a briefing with President Lincoln on the Battle of Utoy Creek.

During this period the Camp has continued to work on naming M 231 after Henry Plant. We learned that Gerald Tripp of the local VFW post had formed a committee with representatives from

Sgt. Alvin Jonker Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post # 2326; American Legion, Charles A. Conklin, Post 28; Knights of Columbus Council #2975; and the Fraternal Order of the Eagles # 925. They had been working on the naming project. They learned that the state will no longer name highways after local heroes that did not die in their heroic actions.

*Continued on Page 10*

Continued From Page 9

So they got help from the Ottawa County administrator for another appropriate location. They came up with the bike path on the bridges on M231. In September the House of Representatives officially passed the bill naming the Bike after Henry Plant and the Senate passed it in December and it was signed by Governor Snyder in January 2015. The group held a fund raising raffle toward the purchase and maintenance of the signs mentioning the honoring of Henry Plant on M 231. The camp also raised \$150 from members of the Holland-Zeeland Civil War Round Table, \$250 from the Spring Lake heritage Festival Committee, and \$100 from our camp.

Meanwhile Brother PCC Max Riekse has been working on getting plaques with the names of the Ottawa County Medal of Honor recipients on it. So far the County of Ottawa is willing to place one in the lobby of their County Courthouse in Grand Haven and at the Fillmore Complex in West Olive. One will be placed on the Boardwalk in Grand Haven near the Army Corps of Engineers. The Crockery Township (Henry's home area) has refused to place one in the township. So Brother Riekse finally found a spot next to the northern M231 naming sign because it will be on State property. The VFW in Coopersville is working on a location for a plaque. The city of Holland is interested in a plaque.

Brother Clifford Owen reported that he was working on the cemeteries of Lakeview and Ventura near Holland. He took pictures of the Civil War veterans' tombstones in the cemeteries Grave Registration Officer (North) has been working on cemeteries in the White Lake area of Muskegon County where he lives.

In January the camp held their 15th Holiday Muster at Vic's restaurant in Spring Lake. During the Holiday Muster the 2015 camp officers were initiated into office by the Department of Michigan Civil Memorials officer PDC Bruce Butgereit. The officers included the following

Commander	Richard Scott
Senior Vice Commander	Donald Ogden III
Junior Vice Commander	John Baldus
Camp Council	Jonathan Scott
	Clifford Owen
	Carl Holsinger
Secretary-Treasurer	Daniel Grable
Delegate to Department Encampment	Max Riekse
Chaplin	Michael Boschaer
Assistant Chaplin	John Baldus
Civil War Memorials and Monuments Officer	Richard Scott
Grave Registration Officer	
South	Jonathan Scott
North	Irvin Holdgreve
Guide	Jonathan Scott
Guard	Ronald Bellenger
Color Bearer	Ronald Bellenger
Counselor	Max Riekse
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Daniel Grable
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald Bellenger
Signals Officer	Daniel Grable
Historian	Clifford Owen
Genealogist	Clifford Owen

Brother Scott Payne has written a novel [A Corporal No More](#) based on the author's Civil War Ancestor's experience during the Civil War. Copies of the book can be obtained from Brother Payne through his Email [ijisp@Reagan.com](mailto:ijisp@Reagan.com) or the Book Web Site

Brother John McGarry, director of the Lakeshore Museum Center in Muskegon, mentioned about the museum building of the Michigan Heritage Park in the White Lake Area. It will include an area on the 3rd Michigan Infantry of the Civil War. They hope to open the park in 2015 with a Civil War event in June 2015. He also mentioned they hired the former Holland Historical Museum Curator to operate the park and will hire summer interpretative Guides 18 years old and older for the park.

## Cheap Watches

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

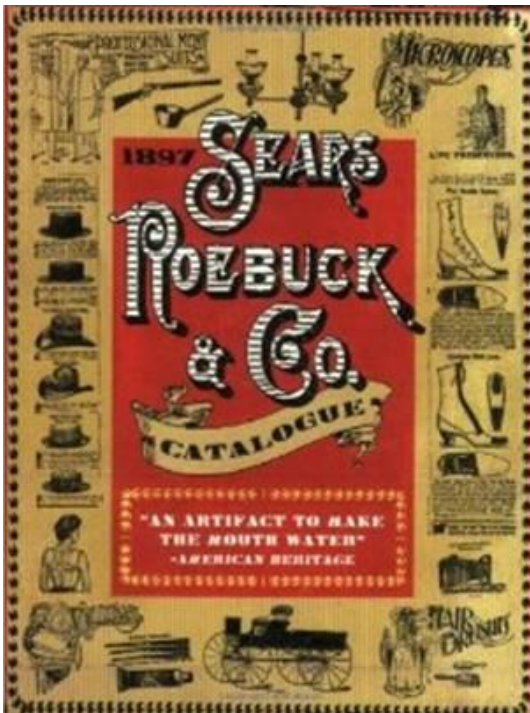
That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.



Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there. **YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT** that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: **Richard Sears** and his partner **Alvah Roebuck!**



## Robert Finch Camp 14

Submitted by W. E. Skillman ~ Signals ~

As of March 1st, 2015; Camp 14's roster shows 46 Brothers present; 40 are Members and 6 are Associates. Our March meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge at 525 Bay Street in Traverse City.

Camp 14 would like to welcome new Brothers, Walker Schwander and Christopher Skillman. Chris has supported Camp 14 since a teenager; usually as a member of the Rifle Squad during grave dedication ceremonies. Welcome, Brothers!

During our January meeting bad weather prevented Dept. Commander Paul Davis from installing officers, so DSVC Aurand presided in his stead. The elected officers for 2015 are:

C Commander	Skip Bryant	Guard	Doug Hulburt
SVice Commander	Dave Smith	Eagle Scout Coordinator	Jeff Morse Jr.
JVice Commander	John Lantzer	Chaplain	John Lantzer
Council	George Goodrich	GRO &WMO	Anthony Bonecutter
	Bill Skillman	Assistants	Scott Schwander
	Jan White		Ted Mattis
Secretary	Aurand/Skillman	Guide	John Dyle
	Treasurer	Ted Mattis	

New Brothers, Scott Schwander and Bill Burgess, were inducted into Camp 14 by CC Bryant. Scott is already busy volunteering his services to Brother Bonecutter to assist with GRO and WMO projects. His latest correspondence: *Here is an update on David Wilson Cousins, MD 102nd infantry, Co H. Today, Skip Bryant, Anthony Bonecutter, and myself met with a descendent of Mr. Cousins. The relationship is through a marriage. Long story short, he signed the VA application for a military headstone after meeting him in Thompsonville. From there we drove the application to the sexton of Mayfield Twp in Grand Traverse County. He also signed the form and agreed to accept the stone, once approved. Its beginning to look like this is starting to come together, and hopefully, Mr. Cousins will be getting that Civil War headstone after 107 years of waiting."*

Brother Alan Werdehoff, on active duty with the Air Force, wrote: *It's been a while so I wanted to pass on an update to camp. Everything is going good. At work I have been busy supporting Operation United Assistance which is the U.S. response to Ebola in West Africa. Langley AFB is an Ebola quarantine site for returning military personnel and I myself have been inside the quarantine site to offload personnel bags from the aircraft. I always have to laugh at the look I get when I tell someone I've been in the Ebola quarantine site. I was also chosen to brief the Governor of Virginia on our airlift support of the Ebola response during his recent visit to Langley. It was a very unique opportunity to brief a Governor on Ebola operations in his state. I am still active in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and recently became the Commander of the Coast Guard Auxiliary unit in Virginia Beach. Hope all is well. Reminder: Please use caution if venturing out onto the ice as warmer temps approach causing lake ice to crack and weaken. Wear bright clothing and always ensure someone knows what lake you are going to should you not return as scheduled.*

We regret the passing of a friend of Camp 14; Avis Wolfe, wife of the late Clarence Burnside Wolfe, who was a descendent of Payson Wolf of Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> MI SS. Brother Chris Czopek, who has made numerous presentations to Camp 14 about the men of Company 'K' sent this fitting tribute; *One of the reasons why Payson Wolfe is the best documented enlisted man in Company K, is due to that remarkable lady in Northport named Avis Wolfe. She gathered the material back when nobody thought it important and was generous about sharing information with me and everyone else who came asking. Her biggest achievement was transcribing the Diaries of the Rev. George N. Smith, Payson's father in law. She devoted a number of years of her life to patiently transcribing them (featured in Grand Traverse-the Civil War Era; by author John C. Mitchell). Everyone interested in Company K history owes her a debt of gratitude."*

Camp 14 recognizes the following Brother's years of service to the Order:

<b>25 years</b>	PCC Dan Bennett, PCC Al Pifer
<b>20 years</b>	Bill Hanusik
<b>15 years</b>	PCC Neal Breaugh
<b>10 years</b>	DSVC Dale Aurand, Howard Byrne, Larry Johnson, Don Gray, Ted Mattis Bill Giegerich (Associate).
<b>Life Members:</b>	DSVC Dale Aurand, SVC David Smith

## Albert and James Lyon Camp #266

Submitted by Commander Dewey Jones

The December muster was a luncheon meeting with spouses invited to attend to witness the installation of officers for the coming year. Senior Vice Commander Dale Aurand performed the installation ceremony. Officers are Commander Dewey Jones, Senior Vice Commander LeRoy Wyatt, Junior Vice Commander Thomas Spencer, Secretary/Treasurer Paul Nelson, Council Members Gary White, Patrick Kennedy, and Paul Silver, and Chaplain Alton Conrad.

In February, James Stone of Au Train, Michigan was initiated as a member. He is the Great, Great, Great Grandson of James M. Fowler, who was mustered into service on February 15, 1865 and mustered out at the rank of Private on August 31, 1865.

This spring will be very busy for the camp with activities commemorating the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War. The Camp has partnered with several other community organizations to increase awareness of the significance of the end of the War and to honor the soldiers and sailors who won the victory:

April 18<sup>th</sup>- Saturday at the Center: Civil War Remembrance at the Marquette Regional History Center  
 April 18<sup>th</sup>- Opening Reception for Co. K Display at NMU's Beaumier Heritage Center  
 May 7<sup>th</sup>- Presentation on Civil War Photography at NMU's Devos Art Museum  
 May 23<sup>rd</sup>- Honoring the Civil War Ogichidaa (Warriors) at the MRHC by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
 May 27-29<sup>th</sup>- Civil War Remembrance Week for school groups at MRHC  
 May 30<sup>th</sup>- The Grand Review at the Marquette Veteran's Memorial in Harlow Park  
 June 23<sup>rd</sup>- Cemetery Walk remembering Civil War soldiers buried in Marquette's Park Cemetery

Details are available at [www.facebook.com/DawnOfPeace](http://www.facebook.com/DawnOfPeace)



Senior Vice Commander Dale Aurand installs officers of Camp 266: Council Member and graves registration officer Paul Silver; Chaplain Alton Conrad, Chaplain, Commander Dewey Jones, Council Member Gary White, Junior Vice Commander Tom Spencer, and Secretary/Treasurer Paul Nelson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# The Dawn of Peace

Commemorating the Sesquicentennial  
of the End of the Civil War - 2015



## Saturday, April 18th

11am - 2pm \* Saturday at the Center:  
Civil War Remembrance at the Marquette  
Regional History Center (MRHC)

3pm \* Opening Reception for: Display on Co. K,  
1st Michigan Sharpshooters held at the  
Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center, NMU  
Exhibit ongoing through summer 2015

## Thursday, May 7th

7:30pm \* Presentation by Jack Deo on Civil War  
Photography. Held at The DeVos Art Museum, NMU

## Saturday, May 23rd

Noon - 2pm \* KBIC Veterans Drum-Company K.  
Remembering and Honoring the Civil War Ogichidaa  
with Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). Held at MRHC

## Week of May 24th

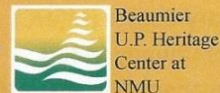
Remembrance Week for School Groups at the MRHC  
with Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

## Saturday, May 30th

11am - noon \* The Grand Review  
Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Held at Harlow Park, Marquette

## Tuesday, June 23rd

6:30pm \* Remembering Civil War Soldiers  
Cemetery Walk by MRHC, with SUVCW. Held at Park Cemetery



\* for more information: [www.facebook.com/DawnOfPeace](http://www.facebook.com/DawnOfPeace)

## CHESANING

By Chris Czopek

The town CHESANING got its name from a huge boulder in the Shiawasee River. Native Americans named the rock Che-assin (Big Rock) and used it as a landmark. On a bitter cold day in February, two members of this face book circle drove there to give a program on Company K.

Some stories about Company K have been told in this circle. But there are some untold stories few people have heard. On Thursday, Feb 12, two members of this group traveled to Chesaning to tell one of the Untold Stories of Company K. This little town in the Saginaw valley was unaware that during the Civil War, one of their sons led a company Indian sharpshooters into battle. His name was Edwin Andress, and for the First Time, his home town heard the story. It went like this:

CHESANING was named for a huge boulder in the Shiawasee River. Native Americans named the rock Che-assin (Big Rock) and used it as a landmark. The first settlers built a mill on the river near the famous rock. When the settlement had only 20 cabins, the Andress family arrived. Tragedy struck on New Years eve, 1856 when the father died in an accident at the mill. Oldest son Edwin went to work at a local store to help support his family. The store was actually a Trading Post, visited by local Indians who paid for goods with furs, baskets and blankets. Young Edwin Andress had a gift for learning languages, and in a few years time he could converse with the local Chippewa in their native tongue. Then came the Civil War.

Edwin volunteered to recruit and lead a group of Indian Sharpshooters. The cheerful trading-post clerk from Chesaning, Michigan, put on the uniform of a Captain and led his Native American soldiers in some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The details are known to members of this group so I need not repeat them. The career of this gallant Captain was ended by a bullet at Spotsylvania. A framed picture of Captain Andress sitting with the "Wounded Indians at Fredricksburg" was passed around the audience. More than one person remarked, "he looks so young". After the program, I was told there is a street in town named after the family. Better yet, I was told there are descendants named Andress still living in the town. I passed out my card and invited them to have these descendants call me. Perhaps one of them has a bundle of letters sent home during the war. Letters written by Captain Andress to his mother, brothers or sisters, talking about "his Indians" and day to day life in Company K. There may be more "untold stories" waiting to be discovered.



**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](mailto:mimessrd@aol.com) or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204**

**ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME**

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

**Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427**  
For Jerry Jacobs, Secretary

Camp 427 has left the starting blocks for another exciting year. We have over 30 activities on the planning board, including the re-hab of Thayer Cemetery in Northville, Township, a day trip to Johnson's Island and a trip to the GAR Museum in Eaton Rapids.

We want to have some coordinated activities with the Oakland County Camp #2, and complete the survey of Trinity Cemetery in Detroit. Of course the Memorial Day parades in Dearborn and Saint Clair Shores, and possibly the Detroit Veterans Day Parade will be highlights of our year, as well as our annual mini-encampment/open house and a family picnic.

We have also been honored to have been asked to honor Major Sylvanus Curtis, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry by performing a headstone dedication at Woodland Cemetery, Monroe, Michigan on Saturday, June 6.

Our opportunities are endless.....

*Brothers Ken Roberts and Howard Fite display and talk about part of their collection at the March Meeting*



**Another Editor's Note:**

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

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

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

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

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



# GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT

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

224 South Main Street

Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

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

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

December 13, 2014

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

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

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



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

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

## ***Keith G. Harrison***

Board President

**GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM**

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

Website: [<http://garmuseum.com>](http://garmuseum.com)

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

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES**

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

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**