Michigan's

Messenger



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

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ABANDONED CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S GRAVE

~ Special Report from the Department Commander ~

Back in the 1920s, the first Elmer Township (Oscoda County, Michigan) Cemetery was abandoned (the land is now part of the state forest reserve) and nearly all bodies interred there, were exhumed for reburial in the township's new cemetery off Kittle Road, approximately 3.5 miles Northwest of Mio, Michigan. The body of Daniel C. Calkins was left behind due to no "next of kin" being located for permission to move the remains. At least that's the story from township officials, who allowed the grave, marked by a military style headstone, to go unattended for seventy-some years.



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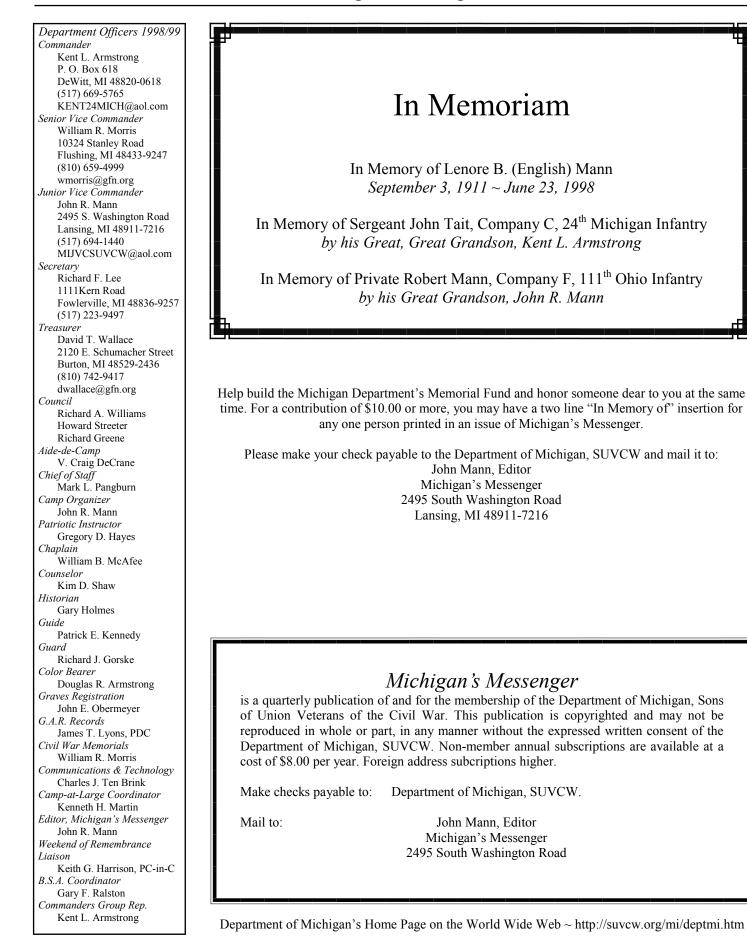
That was the way it was, until a few members of the Luzerne, MI American Legion Post No. 162 discovered the situation. Working through the state's Department of Natural Resources, the Post obtained permission to clear away overgrown vegetation from the grave and mark it with a U.S. flag. A small picket fence was also constructed around the plot and a "grave-blanket" provided.

Although no township or VA funds have been made available to move the remains. the American Legion Post has started a collection toward the expected \$1,500 fee. With approval of our Department Council, a special fund has been established by our Department Treasurer, to accumulate donations toward a sum that the Department can then contribute on behalf of our entire membership. I encourage every member to consider joining me in making a contribution, however small. Please Mail your check or money order (payable to "Department of Michigan" with notation of "D.C. Calkins Fund" on the Memo Line) to: David T. Wallace - 2120 East Schumacher Street, Burton, MI 48529-2436.

As the American Legion has respectfully requested the participation of a Civil War Honor Guard, the Dept. membership is also encouraged to either take part in or attend the reinterment service at "Kittle Cemetery" near Mio on Saturday, May 29, 1999. Organization of the uniformed Honor Guard will be conducted by Michigan's SVR unit. Final details will be printed in the next issue of the Messenger but to reserve space for free overnight camping (to anyone interested), commitments should be conveyed to the SVR Adjutant a.s.a.p.

Our thanks to Mrs. Judy Brown-Kurnick, incoming President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) Tent at Corunna, for bringing this situation to our attention and for sharing the following information from her research on Daniel Calkins.

DANIEL C. CALKINS - Artificer, Co. D, 50th New York Engineers. 1841 ~ 1900. Enlisted - Co. F, 181st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment as Pvt., September 20, 1861. Age 21, height 5'-8", light complexion, brown hair, blue eyes. Occupation, Carpenter. Transferred to Co. D, 50th New York Engineers as Pvt., July 25, 1862. (Continued on page 19) Waggoneer with Quarter Master - March, 1863. Teamster in Quarter Master



DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 3 Series 1998-99

1. It is my sad duty to report the passing of Brother **David P. Gage**, grandson of Private William P. Putnam (Company I, 210th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment). Brother Gage was a veteran of World War II and supported our organization as a member of **WA-BU-NO Camp No. 53**. All Camps are directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for thirty days.

2. All Camps are commended for their response to my direct notice of draping Charters in respect for Past Commander-In-Chief Eugene E. Russell (1984), who passed away on 11-09-98. Condolences have been expressed to his family, on behalf of everyone in the Department of Michigan.

3. Sincere wishes for getting well have been sent by the Department to PC-In-C Richard C. Schlenker, who was hospitalized in December, following a major heart-attack.

4. For those who don't already know, PDC Thayne C. LaBanta is back home and doing well after a lengthy hospital stay. Brother LaBanta wishes to thank everyone who has visited, called, written with their concern, and kept him in their prayers.

Congratulations to Department Signals Officer Charles J. 5. TenBrink, who was honored by the U.S. Field Artillery Association by induction into its Order of St. Barbara - the "Patron Saint of Artillery." Brother TenBrink has done much to honorably maintain the memory of those who served in artillery batteries during the Civil War. Through his own artillery related Internet Website (http://www.cwartillery.org), he has educated an unknowing public of the merits of Civil War era ordnance and its tactical use. Chuck, like so many of our other Brothers of Camp No. 22, is also a "mainstay" of the Third Battery, First Michigan Light Artillery reenactor unit. Brother John Hughes (Sr. Vice Commander of Camp No. 22 and commanding officer of the Third Battery) presented Brother TenBrink with the Order of St. Barbara Medallion and membership certificate before the crowd of spectators, immediately after the Saturday afternoon mock-battle at the 1998 Jackson, Michigan Civil War Muster.

6. My thanks to all Camps that were able to take part in Veterans' Day related Parades & Ceremonies across Michigan. Special mention goes out to our Department Aide-de-Camp, Craig DeCrane, for presenting regards of the Commander at *Grace United Church of Christ*'s Veterans' Day Ceremony in Grosse Pointe Park.

7. My sincere thanks to all from our Department who attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, PA on November 21, 1998. After the National SUVCW Ceremony, held near the Gettysburg N.M.P. Visitor Center, our delegation paid respect to the 175 volunteers from Michigan who are

buried in the National Cemetery there. Michigan men buried at Gettysburg

Due to the generosity of Mr. Richard Micka, VP of the La-Z-



Boy Chair Company, a 8 x 12 inch State of Michigan flag was provided for each man's grave. Brother Chuck TenBrink inquired if these flags could be purchased as a keepsake of the occasion, and the man who was honored. He offered \$10.00 and thus, a new fundraiser for the Department of Michigan was initiated. At the end of our Special Use Permit, all flags were removed from the cemetery - being carefully marked with the identity of the soldier whose grave the flag flew over (many thanks to my son, Doug, and our wives for helping with this detail). With the blessing of the donor (Mr. Micka & La-Z-Boy Chair Co.), these flags are available for a \$10.00 donation (\$4.50 of which, will be set aside for a replacement flag to be placed the following year). A full listing of Michigan's honored dead, buried at Gettysburg, and their units will be printed elsewhere in this issue of Michigan's Messenger. Please make your \$10.00 check or money order payable to "Department of Michigan." Mail your check and the name of the soldier, whose flag you'd like to have, to Kent Armstrong, PO Box 618, DeWitt, MI 48820. Delivery can take place when I visit your Camp or you may send an extra \$2.50 for postage and handling. Deliveries can also be arranged for exchange at the Mid-Winter Conference next month (details elsewhere).

After our salute to those interred in the national cemetery we honored the men of the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and placed a wreath at their Monument, on Meredith Avenue (see photo elsewhere).

8. Effective 12-01-98, the new address for former Department Treasurer James T. Williams (PCC of Camp No. 120) is 9144 Bay Port Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46236, (317) 826-2735. Please be advised that Jim has officially changed his last name back to the family origin of "Weeks." Please join me in wishing Brother Weeks good fortune in his job change, and transfer to the Department of Indiana, SUVCW.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 3)

9. Effective 01-01-99, Brother Kenneth H. Martin takes on duties of Coordinator for our Department's Camp-at-Large. Please direct such referrals to Ken at 608 North Birney St., Bay City, MI 48708-6676 or telephone (517) 893-5647. Thank you. We appreciate the fact that Ken is accepting this responsibility, in addition to his duties as Camp No. 67 Secretary.

An increased active military role has taken Brother Wade Chapman from this post. Please join me in expressing appreciation to Wade for a job well done.

10. With the new year upon us, I ask all Brothers of the Department of Michigan to join me in a *New Year's Resolution* of recruiting *at least one* new Member, Associate or Junior into the SUVCW in 1999.

11. With annual Camp Officer Installations taking place this time of year, Camps are respectfully asked to announce their 1999 Officers in the local press. Space may be available for a group photo as well. Please include the name & telephone number of your Camp JVC (or other designee) to receive inquiries about the SUVCW. Thank you.

12. In addition to sending in two completed Form 22s to Department Secretary Lee, please share this information with Department Signals Officer TenBrink as well, so he may update your Camp's Page on the Department's website. Thank you.

13. New Camp Commanders, Secretaries and Treasurers (or Secretary-Treasurers) are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the current method of submitting per-capita payments and quarterly reports (via Form 27-28) as soon as possible.

14. The Department Archive is in receipt of a lockable shelfcabinet, that I purchased at a State of Michigan surplus auction. My thanks again to all our Brothers at Camp No. 22, who help look over things at the Marshall G.A.R. Hall. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Marshall, Michigan Historical Society for saving this structure for the appreciation and education of future generations.

15. In the last issue of the *Messenger*, I reported that the newer "Ritual and Ceremonials" booklet, just revised in August of 1997 was rejected at the National Encampment (the amount of mis-spellings and omissions reported, were judged to make this example not worthy of the membership). I asked that Camps make photocopies of the older handbook available to their new members until a corrected version can be brought to press. I will gladly provide an example to our newer Camps, on request.

Please NOTE that the national SUVCW Council of Administration voted in November '98 to furnish an "errata sheet" with each handbook, until the present printing is sold

out. Thus, there will be no replacement of the defective booklets. When the *errata* becomes available, an example will be sent to each Camp for reproduction.

16. Another matter that has been referenced in the last two issues of *Michigan's Messenger*, has been our wait to see if our Department would be granted approval to host a *Central Region Conference* in the fall of 1999. I am happy to report that our request was approved at the 1998 Conference, which I attended in Ohio on 10-3-98. Per tradition of the date being the first Saturday in October, I have reserved meeting facilities for October 2, 1999.

Through my role as part of the State of Michigan's *Civil War Battleflags Task Force*, I have been in communication with Brothers of the SUVCW in both Illinois and Iowa, regarding their interest to foster a similar flag conservation program in their states. Therefore, Lansing will be the site of this next Conference and I will arrange visitation to the state's original Civil War flag storage facility.

More details will follow but for now, we need to start lining up volunteers to provide cross-town transportation from the meeting site to the State Historical Center where the flags are stored. If you have a van and would be willing to help, please contact Department Chief-of-Staff Mark Pangburn via e-mail at pangburnm@state.mi.us or by telephone at (517) 321-8162.

17. Our Department now has a certificate available to recognize citizens (not businesses) who faithfully and **correctly** display our nation's flag every day and have it properly lighted at night. I encourage all Camps to take advantage of this certificate and use it as a tool to generate good will and "P.R." for the SUVCW by having the presentation of such mentioned in the local press. Camp Commanders are asked to send me the name of the recipient and the date that you plan to present the certificate. I will then prepare one and mail it back to you.

18. All Brothers of the Department of Michigan are respectfully reminded that proposed amendments to our Department Bylaws should be submitted to the Department Bylaws Committee, via Sr. Vice Department Commander Morris, a.s.a.p. This will allow the committee to evaluate and distribute a full accounting to all Camps, for review, by the first of March (ref. Bylaws ARTICLE XIV, Sec. 2).

19. All Brothers are encouraged to attend the Department's upcoming *Mid-Winter Conference* on Saturday, February 13th. I have reserved a larger room to more comfortably meet in, at the Best Western Midway Hotel & Conference Center, 7711 West Saginaw, Lansing. For those who haven't attended one of these conferences before, the Midway Hotel is located on the South side of Saginaw Hwy., with access off of Canal Road. Take the Eastbound Saginaw Hwy. Exit off of I-96, and you'll easily see the facility. We'll be meeting in the *Eaton Room*, which is to

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

William R. Morris

§533. Purposes of corporation

The purposes of the corporation shall be: "To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865 to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members; to cooperate in doing honor to all those who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of, our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all." (US Code Title 36 Chapter 24).

Although this section of Federal Law seems like a very wordy sentence, it goes a long way to tell us what we are suppose to be about. Reading it, its clear what is expected of each of us. Yet how to we go about accomplishing this apparent lofty objective? Well many Michigan Brothers regularly take an extra step not only fulfilling this objective but excelling at it.

"To perpetuate the memory...." While we can do that by simply by joining the Order, there can be so much more that can be done. I have yet to meet a Brother that didn't know a great deal about at least one element of the War of the Rebellion. You can go a long way in sharing your knowledge by cooperating with the efforts of the Department's Research Committee. Almost daily, the Department and individual Brothers receive requests for assistance in researching military ancestors, units, ships, and actions. Thankfully, we have Brothers in our Department like Chris Czopek, Chuck Ten Brink, and Don Harvey who are willing to volunteer their time and share in their knowledge to respond to these requests. Although our Brothers are knowledgeable and generous, there is a limit to what they can do. No one Brother has all the answers nor do they always have the time needed to handle all the requests they receive. Take some time to share your knowledge, I am certain that they would enjoy any assistance you could offer.

"...To assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members..." It is sometimes amazing to me how much information GAR records can hold. Over the summer I met a lady from a western state who had traveled to Michigan so she could conduct GAR and Allied Order research for her doctoral dissertation. PDC Jim Lyons has made tremendous strides in the long and tedious project of locating, recording, and cataloging records. In Michigan while many GAR Records are located in the State Archives, others are scattered in libraries, antique shops, personal collections, and laying undiscovered in ancient attic trunks. They are valuable relics of our past. Our Department needs Brothers to volunteer their time towards the re-discovery of these records. If you are interested in this aspect, you may help in this effort though your Camp GAR Records Officer. While this activity may be difficult it does have its share of personal rewards that makes your efforts worthwhile.

"... To cooperate in doing honor to all those who have patriotically served our country in any war..." While Camps tend to be actively involved in rendering honors to our fallen American Veterans on Memorial Day, some Brothers have taken this a step further. Over the past year for example PCC Rick Greene, made arrangements to support a current Veterans organization in Lapeer, MI by arranging for several Michigan Brothers to assist them in their Memorial Day Parade. It was a simple thing to us but it meant so much to those old soldiers that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War wanted to express our thanks for what they did for us. Likewise, this past August, PC-in-C Keith Harrison, Camp Commander Lee Stroschine, and many other Brothers and Sisters of Michigan's Allied Orders were again actively involved in the Weekend of Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Over the weekend participating Brothers and Sisters frequently met with the resident veterans often expressing their thanks for the service that they rendered to help keep our country free. In between wide smiles we often noticed more than a few tears the eyes of those old soldiers that told us how much that simple thank you met to them. I think that all our Brothers appreciate what our veterans have done for us. In the coming year encourage your Camp's Visiting Committee stop by your local Veterans Organization and find out how you can help to do honor to those that have served our Country.

"...To teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our flag ... " While we do this simply by following the ideals of our Order, some of our Brothers take this objective to heart and into the classroom. Among those are Camp Commander Dave Hilliker and Brothers of his Camp who annually participate in a school related living history program. Likewise, during the past year Brothers Patrick Wallace and Bill Wilkins often found themselves in elementary school classrooms sharing their knowledge and helping children understand our history. I could continue to recite a long list of Michigan Brothers that have been and continue to be teachers of patriotism, citizenship, history, and the honor of our flag, but it would only be telling you what you already know. I suspect there are Brothers in your own Camp, perhaps even you, that would enjoy doing this kind of thing. If you have not already done so, make yourself known. Your participation in this area can make you a valuable commodity to our Order.

The chartered Purpose of our Order outlines our basic objectives. Although many Michigan Brothers regularly fulfill

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

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them on a more personal level, so much more can be accomplished by volunteering some of your time and special talents towards more actively assisting in the Order's many projects. Please feel free to contact your Camp or Department Officers and let them know what you are interested in. I am pretty sure we can find something that would interest you and help us "keep green the memory" of those that have gone before.

Often our Mid-Western Modesty gets the best of us when it comes to passing the word about our good works to others in our communities. An unfortunate fact of life for us is that we do not have the funds to have an advertising company to do this for us. This pretty much compels us to rely on the news media to help get the word out.

I recently read a note from Brother Chris Czopek in which he pointed out the need for a Camp to publicize their activity. His hometown has a very active DAR Chapter that regularly publicizes their activities in the local newspaper. It appears that because of their efforts, they have become so well known that the DAR is essentially the point contact for veteran history ... any veteran history. Chris conducted his own informal survey during which he asked, "If you needed information on a Civil War veteran, who would you ask?" He explained that instead of getting the expected answer of the SUVCW, the most frequently heard response was "Well, I guess I'd call the DAR." While Chris' note dealt with an interesting information sharing proposal, it exemplified the need for Camps to share their activities with the local news media.

It is true that some Camps will have better success than others will. Some newspapers may only want to publish scary headlines or are so leftist that they don't want to bother with news of men that hold their country dear. Others papers may be news hungry and will publish most anything they are given. On the whole though, you may expect more successes than failures. The broadcast media is another element that should be explored as well. Keep in mind however, with this fast paced medium, even though your story may be filmed and in the can, it may be displaced by some late breaking news.

In spite of having media failures it is very important that we continue to try. We need to get our name out in the community. Consider all those poor lost souls out there looking for information about their Civil War ancestor and asking the DAR for help. I am certain the ladies are willing and able, but the Civil War is our cup of tea and we can do it so very much faster and maybe pick up a new Brother in the process.

In my working life, I have been called upon many times for news releases and have some experience at it. If you are unsure of how to proceed we can go over some basics to help get you started. The Department Commander has provided me with a list of local newspapers and I am sure yours is on there. Rest COUNCIL by Dick Williams

Message from the Department Council:

The Council supports the re-interment of Daniel C. Calkins and has committed part of the Department general funds to this purpose, if all the necessary monies cannot be collected through a special donation from the general membership.

We asked the Department Treasurer to set up a special memorial account for the purposes of depositing and dispersing of monies to repair or replace memorials, monuments, cannons or to contribute to special activities that support the duties or goals of the Order. The money in this account will not be used for running the Department (i.e. postage, encampment, percapita, etc).

We also authorized the disbursement of money to purchase mouse pads to be sold to the general membership, nationally (see the *Banner*). The mouse pads have the Emblem of the Order on them. The money collected will also go to the special memorial fund mentioned above, after the initial startup money has been replaced in the general fund.

We have a Dale Gallon painting (donated by him) that we will be selling raffle tickets for, beginning with the Mid-Winter Conference. The raffle drawing will take place at the Civil War Muster in Jackson in 1999. That money too will go into the special memorial fund mentioned above after the initial startup money is replaced in the general fund.

We would also like to remind Camps that their quarterly reports are due to the Department Secretary by the 10th of January, April, July and October. Don't miss that date!

assured this is important and it will be a topic of discussion at the coming Mid-Winter Conference.

On another topic, this past November a number of Brothers from the Department of Michigan traveled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and participated in the Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony. Following the programs, the Michigan Brothers held our own memorial programs at the Michigan Section of National Cemetery and the 24th Michigan Infantry Monument. The presence and participation of our own Department Chaplain, Bill McAfee, added a special touch to our efforts and I am very happy he chose to join us. I take this opportunity to thank everyone that made the trip and again made this one of more special kinds of things we do in our Order. This is an annual event and I invite all our Brothers to attend and participate in the program this coming November.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

John R. Mann

Now that all the Camp elections have taken place it is time for the Junior Vice Camp Commanders to review their Camp's web page and forward the necessary corrections to Chuck TenBrink or me. Make sure all of the offices listed on your pages have been updated to reflect the changes and that the addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are correct. In addition, be sure the meeting times, dates and places information is correct and up to date.

While you are looking over your Camp's web page, why not take a look at some of the other Camp web pages. If your Camp's web page only lists a bare minimum of information about the Camp, consider adding some more information such as some of the other Camps have done. These web pages are an advertisement for and about your Camp to non-members of the Order. The more information a Camp has on its web page, the better the chance it has of selling itself to a prospective "customer". You might also take a few minutes to review the JVC Columns in the August and November issues of Michigan's Messenger to help you get some ideas for improving the web pages.

To give you an idea of how important your web page is, I have corresponded with 50 people since becoming Department JVC concerning membership in the SUVCW. Of these, 41 were referrals from face to face contacts at events such as Crossroads Village and Jackson's Cascades Muster, two came from newspaper ads, one from a newspaper publicity release and six originated from our web pages on the internet. Of the first 44 mentioned (face to face, publicity release and newspaper ads), only two have joined our ranks. The six persons that originally made contact with our Order via the internet sent completed applications and the application fee in the mail! In every case I had no previous contact with them. They joined because of the information on of our web pages. There may also be others that have joined a Camp directly that I am unaware of. The web pages work! They seem to be one of our most effective recruiting tools. Please see to it that they are kept up to date.

I would like to hear back from anyone, their ideas on improving the recruiting of new members into the Order. What can we do to get more people interested in the SUVCW? Write your ideas down and either send them to me by mail or e-mail, or bring them along to the Mid-Winter Conference so we can hash them over then. Even though the Department has grown a lot in the number of Camps and members in the past few years, there is still a lot of potential for growth. One of the biggest untapped areas is in the re-enactment community. Only a small percentage re-enactors belong to the SUVCW, probably less than 10% of the total Union re-enactors. We need to improve this ratio.

One of the most effective ways to increase membership in the Order is to create new Camps where the potential new members live. No one likes to drive long distances to attend a two or three hour meeting. Many people who are interested in the SUVCW hesitate to join because there isn't a Camp close by. The easiest and most effective method of forming a new Camp is to have current members of one or more Camps act as an organizational cadre. Since I have been a member of the SUVCW (June of 1990), several new Camps have been formed by this method. Examples are, Camp 53 members of Shepherd formed Camp 28 in Big Rapids, Camp 145 members of Flint formed Camp 160 in Corunna, Camp 7 members of Jackson formed Camps 58 in DeWitt and 259 in Litchfield, and Camp 20 members of Kalamazoo formed Camp 22 in Marshall. I'm sure there are others I am not aware of and have omitted.

In all of the examples cited above, the new Camp has grown from the original Charter Members numbers and the Camp that lost members to the new Camp replaced their numbers with new members. Most of the parent Camps have actually grown in the number of members since the splits took place. As the number of Camps has grown over the years, the number of members in the Department has grown also, but in a proportionally larger number. The reason being is we have more Camps in more places that are closer and more convenient to our prospective "customers".

As this is written, Brother Bill McAfee, Department Chaplain and Chaplain of Austin Blair Camp 7, is in the process of forming a new Camp in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area. He has been in contact with several interested non-members in the area and six current members of Camps 7 and 120 who want to become Charter Members of the new Camp. Brother McAfee foresees the Camp applying for its Charter during the 2nd quarter of the coming year.

Dan Steffey, a member of the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry re-enactors is working on organizing a Camp in the Stockbridge area and will most likely be chartered entirely with new members. Dan has five definite and another one or two possible men who want to become Charter Members of the new Camp. Although no name or number has yet been decided for the Camp, Dan has indicated the prospective members will most likely be honoring the G. H. Ewens G.A.R. Post 203, of Stockbridge. This Post was chartered in 1883 and was disbanded in 1911. A preliminary meeting for the organizing the Camp will take place after the 24th Michigan's drill at 4:00 pm on January 17th, in the Vandercook Lake High School Auditorium. The organizational meeting will take place in the Opera House in Stockbridge at a later date.

Brother Richard Greene, Department Council Member and member of Camp 145, is also looking at organizing a new Camp in the Tuscola County area.

If anyone knows of a person from any of these areas who would be interested in joining the SUVCW, please forward their name and address to me. I will then contact them and also forward the

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

(Continued from page 7)

information to the local Camp Organizer. If any current members wish to transfer to a new Camp, it is only necessary to ask your Camp Secretary for a transfer form. Members can also join another Camp while retaining membership in their original Camp.

One last thing to keep in mind if anyone is thinking about forming a new Camp; the number of Members needed to form a new Camp was dropped from 15 to five as of the 1998 National Encampment. It is no longer necessary to form a Provisional Camp if there are fewer than 15 Members. A regular Charter is issued immediately upon formation of the new Camp. This was changed because history has proven over the past several years that no Provisional Camp has ever turned in its Charter and ceased functioning.

As 1998 closes, the raw numbers for the Department of Michigan are 25 Camps and 488* members broken down as follows:

Camp No.*	Name	Locati	o n
1	Gen. John A. Logan	Grand Rapids	11
3	Henry E. Plant	Grand Haven	10
7	Austin Blair	Jackson	42
9	George W. Howe	Port Huron	11
14	Robert Finch	Traverse City	12
17	Curtenius Guard	Sunfield	41
20	Gen. Benjamin Pritchard	Kalamazoo	34
22	Colegrove-Woodruff	Marshall	29
28	Alexander French	Big Rapids	13
43	Nash-Hodges	Blissfield	21
53	Wa-Bu-No	Shepherd	23
58	George W. Anderson	DeWitt	21
67	Gen. Phil Kearny	Bay City	14
70	James D. Morgan	Alpena	5
76	Col. George W. LaPoint	Monroe	11
85	Frederick H. Hackeman	Bridgman	16
101	Gen. Ulysses S. Grant	Detroit	30
120	Gilluly-Kingsley	Howell	19
145	Gov. Henry Crapo	Flint	39
147	Henry W. Quigley	Cadillac	12
160	Maj. Henry F. Wallace	Corunna	18
259	Archibald Stewart	Litchfield	9
266	Albert and James Lyon	Upper Peninsula	21
427	Sgt. John A. Cosbey	Dearborn	14
462	Russell A. Alger	Camp-at-Large	12

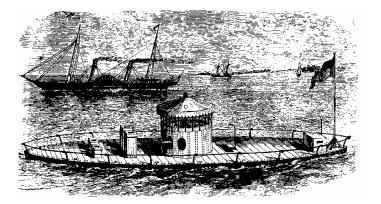
*Includes Members, Associates, Juniors and dual members as reported to the Department Secretary. Also includes applicants not yet initiated.

Michigan is currently the 3rd largest Department in numbers of members and tied for 1st in the number of Camps. We passed New York, membership wise, about two years ago, but they are

catching up with us. New York currently has a membership of 479 and 13 Camps. Ohio is currently in 2nd place in membership, with 587 and 19 Camps. Pennsylvania is the largest Department with 979 members and 25 Camps. Does the Department of Michigan have what it takes to become the 2nd largest Department by the year 2000 and the largest by 2005? All it takes is some active recruiting of new members, the retention of current members and the creating of a few new Camps. How does the phrase *600 by 2000* sound?

As noted in the first part of this column, the internet plays an important part in attracting new members to our Order. It far outweighs all the other means of getting people to join the SUVCW, *with the exception of one other method*. The method I refer to has consistantly been, far and away, our most effective recruitment tool. It is *YOU*, our current members! Probably 85 to 90% of all the members of our Order have been recruited by someone who was already a member, from his family, friends and acquaintances. The officers of the Camps and Department can correspond with many people over the course of a year, trying to entice them to join our ranks and only get a handful to actually join. But, two or three determined members can easily out perform the results of all the letter writing of the officers. To effectively grow, the Department needs YOU to recruit new members!

Commander Armstrong has asked all elected Department officers to make a statement as to whether they wish to continue on for another year in their present capacity, vacate their office or run for some other office. So, here's mine: I will offer to serve as JVC for one more year, should no one else run for the office. However, I do not seek the office of SVC or Commander. If anyone wishes to climb the ladder from Junior Vice Commander to Department Commander, I will gladly step aside so they can start their ascension in 1999.



CHAPLAIN

William B. McAfee

LEGACY

The grave markers are engraved stone, slightly arched to fit into the layout of a great wheel emanating from a common center, growing outward in ever greater rings. Each of the states that participated in the battle has the dead from its regiments making up a pie-shaped sector of the great wheel of gray stones. When we arrived at the National Cemetery that November 21, 1998, it had turned cloudy. A steady breeze was whipping the hundreds of small, blue Michigan flags placed earlier by Commander Armstrong and his family, highlighting our sector of the park. There was one small flag for each of the Michigan dead buried at Gettysburg.

It had been sunny and unseasonably pleasant earlier that day when we formed up and marched through the streets with three to five thousand other members of the SUVCW and the SCV. We had all come to pay our respects on this Remembrance Day anniversary of President Lincoln's now famous speech over the graves of the soldiers who will be "long remembered" by their ultimate sacrifice. Following the ceremonies at the Woolson monument, we had now come to rededicate the Michigan graves with a tribute, a moment of silence and a prayer.

From there, we traveled to the monument to the 24th Michigan Infantry, which had made a very costly stand at Gettysburg's northwest boundary, holding the advancing Army of Northern Virginia until forced to retreat back into the town. We held a ceremony there, similar to the one in town. It was very easy to feel the "spirits of Gettysburg" while standing where they stood, fought and fell, leaving a legacy which we intend to "keep green" for future generations. It was a solemn time for us, reflecting on what it may have been like 135 years before, on that hot July day, with the noise of the guns, men and horses, the smoke, the excitement, the fear, the confusion. They ultimately turned the tide of the Confederacy and preserved the Union as a strong central government supported by the many states. This is their legacy to us. What legacy will we leave? May God grant that our descendants will have something favorable to look back on in their time.

REMINDER Camp Dues for 1999 should have

SECRETARY

Richard F. Lee

Delinquent Quarterly Membership Reports and Per Capitas

The following Camp reports and per capitas were received at this office after 10 October 1998. This was $4^{-1}/_{2}$ weeks after they were mailed out to the Camps on 8 September.

Camp 1, Gen. Johan A. Logan Camp 3, Henry E. Plant Camp 28, Alexander French Camp 53, Wa-Bu-No Camp 76, George W. LaPoint Camp 85, Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 101, Ulysses S. Grant Camp 147, Henry W. Quigley Camp 259, Archibald Stewart Camp 266, James & Albert Lyon

The Department Administration appreciates the efforts of those Camp officers that got their reports in on time and enable us to send in a correct membership count and per capita check to the National office on time.

The 2nd quarter (October to December) 27/28 form and form 22 (report of the installing officer) were mailed on 11 December. They are due in this office by 11 January, 1999.



EDITOR John Mann

How many of our Camps have their own newsletters? If your Camp has one, would you like to exchange newsletters with other Camps and offer subscriptions to interested individuals? Please send in the following information to me and I will print it in the next *Michigan's Messenger* so other Camps and individuals will know what's available and can be exchanged and subscribed to:

- 1 The name of your Camp's newsletter.
- 2 The number of issues per year.
- 3 The name and address to send newsletter exchanges to.
- 4 The cost of an individual subcription.
- 5 The name and address to send the check to for subscriptions.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 4)

the left of the reception desk, as you enter the front lobby. Beginning at 1:00 pm, the schedule will follow the successful format of previous conferences and offer an opportunity for the Department Commander and Vice Commanders to informally discuss matters with their Camp level counterparts from across Michigan. This year's "program-portion" will offer a look at the various cemetery projects that I mentioned in the *Getting Involved* article on pages 17 & 18 of the August '98 issue of *Michigan's Messenger*. Things will wrap up at approximately 4:30 pm to allow the staff to set up for the evening *Washington-Lincoln Dinner*, hosted this year by the *Sons of the Revolution* (see Dinner details elsewhere).

20. Recommendations for possible recipients of the Department's *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award* must be submitted to Department Secretary Lee no later than March 1, 1999. Up to three worthy individuals may be recognized for their contribution toward "the furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic within the State of Michigan" (ref. Department Bylaws ARTICLE XVI, Sec. 3).

21. It's not too early to be thinking about taking a turn in an elected office of the Department of Michigan. With the Department Encampment taking place on May 1st, I encourage all Camp Secretaries to forward a nomination for any interested member of your Camp, to Brother Mark Pangburn (Department Nominating Committee Chair) at 921 Westover Circle, Lansing, MI 48917-4025. As I have been asked about my intentions, let me share that I would be honored to serve another term as Department Commander, should the membership deem me worthy.

22. Full details related to the Department Encampment will be published in the next issue of the *Messenger* but for now, I would like to share the following, from Commander-In-Chief Andrew M. Johnson. On 27 November, 1998, C-in-C Johnson wrote:

"I am pleased to accept your invitation to the Department of Michigan annual encampment on 1 May 99. I have a special feeling for your fine department without whose support I could not have been elected to this position."

"I was delighted with my visit to Saginaw last year representing then C-in-C Rich Orr. I am, after all, a middle western boy from Minnesota and feel at home there. My family was in Michigan at the outbreak of the war and returned to other states to serve in the war. The one who survived the war returned to Michigan and is buried near Charlotte. I know that I will be delighted to return to Lansing where we had such a great National Encampment in 1994."

23. I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead. Unique programs & ceremonies to honor the memory of the G.A.R. and all who served the Union, are already being

planned and the Department hopes to help out with some special fundraising for several things along this same line. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

> By Order of: Kent Armstrong Department Commander

Attest: Richard Lee Department Secretary

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

From the Department Commander

With consideration given to the difficulties that some Camps have with the filing of Quarterly Reports and Per Capita payments for their membership, I respectively ask that Camp Commanders, Secretaries and Treasurers consider the merits of an annual (one-time-only) payment replacing the current system. Input should also be asked from the Camp membership.

Consider how easy it would be if a member's per capita could be paid once, at the beginning of each year. [Per captia for members joining during the year would be paid at the end of the quarter in which they joined.]

If our Department supports this method, it could be an example for other Departments to consider, with the idea being that someday, the practice be adopted nationally.

The question I am asking (in the interest of simplifying the way a member's per capita is submitted to the Department) is, would you be willing to change to a once-a-year payment method for per capita assessments? Camp Commanders are respectifully asked to poll their Camp's

AUXILIARY TO THE S.U.V.C.W.

by Dorothy Lowe

The Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was organized in 1883. Founded as the Ladies Aid Society in Philadelphia it was officially recognized by the SUVCW in 1884 as their Auxiliary. Ladies Aid Societies were formed in several states and in 1886 plans for a National Organization were formed. At the National Encampment at Boston, MA in 1894, the name was changed to the Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, with it eventually becoming known as the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Auxiliary assists the Sons in keeping alive the memories of our ancestors and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union. We do this by participating in different activities; some in conjunction with the Sons, others sponsored solely by the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary members, on national, state or local levels participate in ceremonies and programs to commemorate events and honor leaders and personalities of the Civil War period and events important to the history to the Grand Army of the Republic.

We encourage patriotism through the promotion and participation in parades and service on committees publicizing observance of national holidays. First and foremost of these holidays is Memorial Day. We also participate in other memorials as well as Fourth of July and Veteran's Day ceremonies.

Charitable deeds are encouraged and members are very generous in giving of their time and substance. Indeed, its membership and resources only limit the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has a National organization consisting of the National Officers and Committees appointed by the National President. Departments are organized in many States with several Auxiliaries in the Department. Each Department has an annual Encampment to elect State officers and delegates to the National Encampment. The annual National Encampment of the Auxiliary is held in conjunction with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Encampment. While having separate annual meetings the two join together for the Opening, the Campfire and annual Banquet.

Membership in the Auxiliary can be obtained in several ways:

First: Female lineal of collateral descendants (daughter, granddaughter, great granddaughter, niece, great-niece etc.) not less than twelve (12) years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines regularly mustered and honorable discharged from the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States of America 1861-1865.

There is also a junior category for those aged eight through twelve.

Second: Wives, mothers, widows of Sons of the Civil War in

good standing.

Third: Legally adopted daughters of Sons of Union Veterans in good standing.

Women who do not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who are interested in the Civil War may become Associates. Associates may not exceed one-third of the total membership.

This is a brief overview of the Auxiliary. Let me share with you some of the history and activities of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, Austin Blair Camp No. 7. This is the only Auxiliary active in the State of Michigan at this time.

Originally chartered in 1941, the Auxiliary was active until the late 60's. We were very fortunate in receiving many old records and material from Thayne LaBanta, whose first wife, Louise, was one of the charter members. They were an active group. They donated flags to schools and organizations, raised funds for charities, visited the sick, presented programs and talks to schools and other organizations, and sponsored activities for veterans, participated in memorial services and wreath laying ceremonies. Active at both the Department and National levels, their minutes are filled with the details of their involvement. They raised much of the money needed to support their activities by social means. Potluck suppers, picnics, card parties, banquets, bazaars, and rummage sales provided them with money for their treasury as well as fun and fellowship. Along with the Sons, they worked with the Daughters of the GAR and the Women's Relief Corps.

Several years ago, Mary LaBanta (Thayne's 2nd wife) became interested in reviving the Auxiliary in Jackson. Unfortunately, she soon became ill and was not able to follow through. In 1996 Commander Bill Lowe asked Brother Bill McAfee to take on the assignment of re-activating the Auxiliary.

In July of 1997, National President Betty Baker re-instituted the Auxiliary to Austin Blair Camp No. 7. Sister Betty Baker then initiated ten members.

While not as social as the original group we are still very busy. We hold our business meetings the same time and in the same building as the Sons but in another room. Some times we join the Sons for a program on the Civil War, occasionally planned by us but usually we accept the Sons' invitation to join them.

During the past year and a half we have helped the Sons at the Jackson Muster staff a tent for informational and recruitment purposes. We also did the same for several events at the Waterloo Farm Museum, which was the original farm of a Civil War Veteran. For the last several years on Memorial Day we participated in two services and two parades, plus Fourth of

AUXILIARY

(Continued from page11)

July celebrations and Veteran's Day observances. Along with the Women's Relief Corps, Sons of Confederate Veterans and other SUVCW Camps of the Department, we have taken part in special memorial services and dedications of headstones. At Christmas, we sponsor a Civil War Christmas Dinner Party. All food, music and entertainment are of the Civil War era and is a highlight of our year.

We help the Sons with graves registration, from surveying cemeteries to documentation and verification of Civil War Veterans. We also donate magazines, greeting cards, and knitted articles to nursing homes and veteran's hospitals.

This year we are studying the dress of the Civil War. Since many of us have period dress but are not re-enactors, we wanted to become more knowledgeable about the authenticity of our costumes. Each month we are going to study various items of clothing. Hats and parasols one month, jewelry another etc. Since we wear period clothing at many of our activities we thought it would be beneficial to know more about it. I would like to stress that period dress is strictly optional but it seems to appeal to many of our Sisters.

Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43, in Blissfield will be instituting an Auxiliary on January 10, 1999. With its chartering that will bring to two the number of active Auxiliaries in Michigan.

I would strongly recommend and encourage the other Camps in sponsoring Auxiliaries. Besides the mutual assistance and benefits, it is a strong family activity. Having a Camp Auxiliary, from junior members on up, several generations can come together to promote a better understanding of the Civil War veterans and their era.

Please ask your wife and daughters to come to the Mid-Winter Conference with you. I and some of the Auxiliary members from Camps 7 and 43 will be there to discuss the forming of other Camp Auxiliaries. The Auxiliary will have its own area in the meeting room so that we will not interfere with the Sons, or the Sons with Auxiliary.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I would like to express my appreciation to the Department and Commander Armstrong for graciously offering this opportunity to the Auxiliary.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Dorothy Lowe President of the Auxiliary to Austin Blair Camp 7

Sons of Veterans

On Saturday, December 12, 1998 a meeting took place at the Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Sunfield, MI in order to help reestablish the 30th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve. As a result of the meeting I, Kenneth Martin, the Secretary/ Treasurer of the General Phil Kearny Camp No. 67, and Coordinator of the Russell Alger Camp No. 462 Michigan Camp-at-Large was elected to the post of unit Commander. Brother Bill Morris, Senior Vice Department Commander, was appointed unit Adjutant.

Granted, there must be many questions regarding the SVR and its current standing. This initial meeting was just the beginning of what I hope will be a resurgence of the 30th Michigan Infantry, SVR and its return to a place of honor. All the problems past cannot be addressed overnight. It will be an ongoing process to overcome them and make the 30th Michigan Infantry, SVR a viable, vibrant organization that we can be proud of.

We must keep in mind the reason that we belong to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that being to honor the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of the War of 1861 to 1865 and the great sacrifices they made to keep this a united country. Those interested membership with the 30th Michigan can contacted me by mail at 608 North Birney Street, Bay City, MI 48708 or by telephone at (517) 893-5647. You may also contact Bill Morris by e-mail at: wmorris@gfn.org.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.,

Kenneth Martin Commander, 30th Michigan Infantry, SVR

Attest:

William Morris Adjutant



The 24th Michigan at Gettysburg

by Kent Armstrong

After respects were paid to Michigan Volunteers buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery, on Remembrance Day of 1998, the Michigan contingent gathered at the 24th Michigan Infantry Monument on Meredith Avenue. It was at this position, in the afternoon of July 1, 1863, that this Michigan regiment stood its ground as it watched a full two thirds of Lee's Army (Ewell's Corps joining with Hill's Corps) approach the Federal Army's First Corps and part of the Eleventh.

The Confederate numbers were such that they advanced on the Federal position in two lines of battle, with their right overlapping the Union left by one quarter of a mile. With only the small remnant of the 19th Indiana on the 24th's left, they held their fire until the Rebels came within eighty paces. It wasn't long before the 19th

Indiana was forced back, exposing the 24th Michigan to terrible flanking-fire. Two companies were swung back to protect the rest of the 24th's line but the regiment was soon forced to take a new position, to the rear. At this point in the fighting, it was the 26th Regiment of North Carolina Troops that immediately faced the 24th Michigan. As this regiment's men advanced to the 24th's first position, the Michigan wounded heard several of them exclaim "Here are



Mr. Gallon donated one of these prints for our Department to raffle this year.]

All of us can be proud of the devotion-to-duty displayed by this Michigan regiment. With the other men who bravely faced the enemy on "the first day," they literally bought time with their lives, for the rest of the Union Army to arrive. One of the many "what-if" situations that have been offered in analysis of American Civil War combat, is related to what these men did on July 1, 1863. If not for their brave stand to slow the Rebels' advance, the Battle of Gettysburg may have all been fought on a single day, resulting in a Confederate victory.

Here are the terrible statistics. The 24th Michigan entered the

battle with 496 men. Their killed and wounded numbered 316. Another 81 were missing-in-action (many captured). leaving only 99 men that finally regrouped on Culp's Hill (only 26 answered the first roll call there). Theirs was the greatest numerical loss of all Union regiments that fought at Gettysburg.

Many have marveled at the discipline with w h i c h t h e s e volunteers fought. They displayed a determination to stand and fight, regardless of the number of their

Rembrance Day at the 24th Michigan Monument, Gettysburg Battlefield

those damn back-hat fellows again! This is no militia." The Confederates had apparently thought that only Pennsylvania Militia units faced them. Recognizing the distinctive black Hardee Hat, worn by the Iron Brigade of the Federal Army First Corps, they realized that they were in for quite a fight, as they had faced these troops in battle before. It also meant that the Confederates would soon be dealing with much more of the Union Army, yet to arrive.

Eventually, the Federal troops were forced out of McPherson's Woods and across the fields toward Gettysburg. After rallying and facing the enemy at six positions, the 24th Michigan was just West of the Lutheran Seminary when the regiment was ordered to regroup with the Union forces on Culp's Hill. [It is the last position of the 24th's battleline of July 1, 1863, that Gettysburg artist Dale Gallon painted in his work that's titled, "Men of Iron." As mentioned in the last *Michigan Messenger*,

comrades who fell next to them. As great a loss as the 24th Michigan suffered, their skill and courage are reflected by the losses of the 26th North Carolina, that entered the battle with 800 troops. They had 588 killed and wounded, with 120 missing in Action - leaving them with only 92 men able to stand in the ranks.

As fate would have it, on one day, these two opposing regiments suffered the greatest numerical losses of all regiments engaged during the entire battle (the 26th NCT also had the greatest percentage loss of Confederate units). It should be noted that the survivors of these two regiments, once foes, developed the strongest bonds of mutual respect after the war, having the most fraternal of combined reunions at Gettysburg.

Kent is the great, great grandson of Sgt. John Tait, Co. G, 24th Michigan Infantry, KIA April 30, 1863, ed.

MICHIGAN'S HONORED DEAD Buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery

The State Burial Sections at Gettysburg National Cemetery are referenced with a letter of the alphabet assigned to each row (A, beginning at the outermost row). Gravesites within each row are numbered from left to right - as you look from the outside of the cemetery, in toward the center.

In regard to the following list, some of the actual stone inscriptions were corrected to match entries found in the *"Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861-1865,"* published by the state via Public Act 147 of 1903.

3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment

Blood, Hersen (Hiram)	Pvt.	Co. I	B-5
Brown, John M.	Pvt.	Co. K	D-13
Burgess, Charles B.	Pvt.	Co. A	A-6
Culver, Oliver N.	Pvt.	Co. K	B-18
O'Neil, James	Pvt.	Co. H	A-8
Pierce, James M.	Pvt.	Co. A	D-15
Sly (Sligh), Robert	Pvt.	Co. K	B-17
Smith, Erson H.	Pvt.	Co. A	A-3
Thurston, Silas E.	Pvt.	Co. G	A-4
Tower, Reuben	Sgt.	Co. K	B-19
Wade, Orren D.	Pvt.	Co. D	H-4

4TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT

		INI INDOM	
Benson, Adelbert	Cpl.	Co. A	B-16
Bisonette, Samuel	Pvt.	Co. A	C-1
Brink, Joseph	Pvt.	Co. H	A-19
Comstock, Ellis B.	Pvt.	Co. D	B-11
Fountain, Hiram B.	Pvt.	Co. F	B-14
Gregory, Charles W.	Pvt.	Co. H	A-16
Hyde, J.	Pvt.	Co. D	H-5
Jackson, William H.	Sgt.	Co. I	I-7
Kimball, Duane C.	Sgt.	Co. B	E-13
King, Norman	Cpl.	Co. D	B-10
Ladd, Charles H.	Cpl.	Co. A	B-13
Laird, David C.	Pvt.	Co. A	B-22
Lampman, Lawson W.	Pvt.	Co. K	I-2
Mallenbre, Joseph	Sgt.	Co. B	E-14
Moodie, Robert	Pvt.	Co. K	E-16
Pease, Constantine	Pvt.	Co. C	B-23
Pendleton, James H.	Pvt.	Co. H	A-17
Phelps, Charles W.	Pvt.	Co. D	A-11
Pryor, William A.	Cpl.	Co. D	A-13
Purdy, George	Pvt.	Co. H	A-18
Rouse, Charles A.	Pvt.	Co. D	A-14
Sheets, Frederick A.	Sgt.	Co. D	E-17
Thurlack, Charles A.	Pvt.	Co. A	A-15
Tripp, Edwin G.	Sgt.	Co. H	E-9
Wilson, Charles H.	Pvt.	Co. H	E-15
Worden, Freeman P.	Cpl.	Co. C	A-12
Zimmerman, Dions	Pvt.	Co. D	E-7
5 th Michigan Volunt	'eer Infan'	fry Regim	ENT
Alway, Richard	Pvt.	Co. E	E-3

Artley, Asher D.	Pvt.	Co. F	H-6
Butler, Henry	Pvt.	Co. I	D-1
Cole, William A.	Pvt.	Co. G	B-4
Dover, John	Pvt.	Co. K	H- 9
Folkes, John Garrett	Pvt.	Co. K	D- 6
Franklin, Luther	Pvt.	Co. C	E-2
Generous, Peter	Capt.	Co. B	G-9
Harlan(d), William C.	Pvt.	Co. F	I- 10
Hazzard, James	Sgt.	Co. C	E- 6
Hillee, George H.	Pvt.	Co. I	H-8
Howe, Reuben	Cpl.	Co. C	G-2
Lawrence, George	Pvt.	Co. C	D-16
McAlex, Chester	Pvt.	Co. D	G-10
Moore, Alexander	Sgt.	Co. E	G-12
Roberts, John	Pvt.	Co. C	D-17
Roy, Peter E.	Pvt.	Co. G	E-4
Shook, Jerome	Cpl.	Co. B	B-15
Smith, Albert	Cpl.	Co. D	G-8
Sutter, Joseph	Pvt.	Co. E	G-11
Thayer, Charles W.	Pvt.	Co. I	H-7
Thelan, John P.	Lt.	Co. A	E-5
Tucker, Joseph	Pvt.	Co. I	H-12
Turner, Charles A.	Cpl.	Co. B	C-2
Vodra, Daniel A.	Sgt.	Co. A	B-20

7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment

		THE REGIM	
Almas (Almouth), William	Pvt.	Co. G	C-7
Beebe, Edwin	Pvt.	Co. E	A-21
Godfrey, Russell B.	Sgt.	Co. B	D-18
Goshey, Nicholas	Sgt.	Co. E	A-20
Harris, Sidney G.	Pvt.	Co. B	G-3
Hopkins, H.	Sgt.	Co. I	E-12
Hulmer, C. H.	Pvt.	Co. C	F-2
Sholes, John	Sgt.	Co. G	C-5
Slafter, Albert	Lt.	Co. E	G-13
Underwood, William	Pvt.	Co. F	C-6

16TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENTBags, J.Pvt.Co. IE-18Barret, H. H.Pvt.Co. BH-15

Duilet, 11. 11.	1 / 0.	C0. D	11 10
Beagle, John R.	Pvt.	Co. G	D-19
Beckett, James	Cpl.	Co. I	G-17
Bond, Josiah G.	Pvt.	Co. F	H-14
Brown, Butler	Lt.	Co. F	H-1
Burton, Edward	Pvt.	Co. K	E-20
Ervey, C. W.	Pvt.	Co. H	E-11
Geiner, J.	Pvt.	Co. C	E-10
Hall, James K.	Pvt.	Co. D	G-16
Hart, John	Pvt.	Co. G	E-19
Hunt, William B.	Pvt.	Co. G	C-22
Jewett, Wallace	Lt.	Co. K	H-2
McBrahmie, Charles	Pvt.	Co. D	H-3
Martin, C. W.	Pvt.	Co. C	F-1
Mason, J.	Pvt.	Co. D	F-16

MICHIGAN'S HONORED DEAD Buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery

Neston John M	Cral		E 17
Nestor, John M.	Cpl.	Co. A	F-17
Raw, Henry	Sgt.	Co. I	D-21
Scott, Isaac H.	Pvt.	Co. K	D-20
Stevens, C. W.	Pvt.	Co. D	E-8
Stevens, J. M.	Sgt.	Co. E	G-15
Tuttle, Emery	Pvt.	Co. B	F-18
24 th Michigan Volun	teer Infan	JTRY REGIN	1ENT
Browning, Elias B.	Pvt.	Co. G	B-6
Cline, George	Sgt.	Co. B	B-8
Colburn, George	Cpl.	Co. G	A-1
Dewyer, John	Pvt.	Co. D	B-1
Dickey, Gilbert A.	Lt.	Co. G	A-7
Fales, Jerome F.	Cpl.	Co. G	B-7
Harrison, Edward B.	Pvt.	Со. Н	A-2
Hermann, Robert	Pvt.	Со. Н	A-2 A-9
Hoisington, A.	Pvt.	Co. F	B-12
Jenks, Augustus	Pvt.	Co. A	B-12 B-2
		Co. G	в-2 В-3
Luce, William H. McNish, John	Cpl. Pvt.	Co. G Co. F	Б-3 G-6
	r vi. Pvt.	Co. F Co. D	С-0 Е-1
Palmer, Mason	Pvi. Pvt.		E-1 I-1
Paton, Charles		Co. E	
Pettinger, George	Sgt.	Co. G	A-5
Powell, John	Sgt.	Co. H	B-9
Rider, John S.	Pvt.	Co. B	G-4
Rounds, David E.	Cpl.	Co. D	I-6
Ruff, Charles	Pvt.	Co. D	I-5
Southworth, Otis	Cpl.	Co. C	A-10
Suggett, Thomas	Pvt.	Co. G	I-4
Williams, William	Pvt.	Co. B	G-5
1 st Michigan Volunt	TEER CAVA	lry Regim	ENT
McElheny, J. S.	Lt.	Co. G	H-13
Shannon, Thomas	Pvt.	Co. A	B-21
Sitts, Charles	Pvt.	Co. L	H-10
Wilcox, Phillip	Pvt.	Co. L	F-6
wheek, i minp	1 / 0.	00. E	10
5 th Michigan Volun	FEER CAVA	lry Regim	
Allen, Nelson A.	Pvt.	Co. D	C-14
Ballard, Charles A.	Sgt.	Co. E	D-2
Barbour, Frank A.	Sgt.	Co. A	I-11
Barse, Horace S.	Cpl.	Co. E	C-16
Becker, Henry	Sgt.	Co. F	D-5
Bennett, C.	Pvt.	Co. I	G-1
Brennan, William	Pvt.	Co. B	H-11
Buzzell, Stephen	Sgt.	Co. A	C-11
Clark, Artemus	Pvt.	Co. G	D-11
Cole, Moses	Pvt.	Co. I	F-14
Cole, W. A.	Cpl.	Co. C	D-14
Cole, W. A.	Cpl.	Co. G	I-12
Crowell, W. A.	Pvt.	Co. G	F-10
Daft, William	Pvt.	Co. A	A-22
Diatt, F. J.	Lt.	Co. D	I-13
Divitt, F. J.	Sgt.	Co. D	C-8

Falketts, J.	Pvt.	Co. H	C-21
	Maj.	C0. 11	I-14
Ferry, Noah H.	Pvt.	$C \sim C$	C-20
Gibbs, Leroy		Co. G	
Hichler, George	Pvt.	Co. E	F-8
Hill, Phillip H.	Pvt.	Co. E	F-9
Kent, Francis P.	Pvt.	Co. G	D-9
Lavaby, John	Pvt.	Co. A	C-9
LaValley, Peter	Pvt.	Co. A	F-3
Masters, Charles I.	Pvt.	Co. D	C-15
Merrifield, David M.	Pvt.	Co. F	D-8
Miller, Christopher	Pvt.	Co. E	D-3
Norris, Albert S.	Pvt.	Co. G	F-12
Notting, Jan (John)	Pvt.	Co. I	F-13
Orenberger, John	Pvt.	Co. I	C-17
Riolo, Henry	Pvt.	Co. F	D-7
Skinner, J. M.	Pvt.	Co. C	D-10
UNKNÓWN		Co. A	C-13
Warner, Edward A.	Pvt.	Co. I	D-4
Webster, Miles D.	Pvt.	Co. G	F-11
Whitman, Austin	Pvt.	Co. F	C-12
,			
6 th Michigan Volu	NTEER CA	VALRY REGIN	MENT
Crouse, Charles	Pvt.	Co. A	I-9
Fox, Charles	Sgt.	Co. C	C-18
Hart, Horace	Cpl.	Co. D	H-16
<i>,</i>	1		
7 th Michigan Volu	NTEER CA	VALRY REGIN	MENT
Bedell, James T.	Pvt.	Co. F	A-23
Brickell, Edward J.	Pvt.	Co. A	C-3
Church, Benjamin	Sgt.	Co. C	C-4
Harris, D.	Cpl.	Co. C	D-12
Hasty Dobort	Dut	Col	E 7

Hasty, Robert	Pvt.	Co. I	F-7
Lundy, George W.	Pvt.	Co. H	A-24
Milford, J.	Sgt.	Co. D	C-10
Miner, Charles E.	Sgt.	Co. F	C-19
Moore, E.	Sgt.	Co. E	G-7
Motley, Thomas	Pvt.	Co. C	F-4
Walters, Nelson	Pvt.	Co. A	F-5

9 th Batter	ay (I), First Michiga	n Light
	ARTILLERY	
Barber, John W.	Pvt.	G-14

R. H. HALSTEAD AND PVT. THOMPSON

by Kilbourn Halstead Snow

With the New Year of 1861 it was becoming increasingly apparent that a War of Southern Rebellion was about to become a reality. In January and early February, seven of the southern states had declared their succession from the Union. In March, a Republican lawyer from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as President of the United States. In his inaugural address he asserted that the power of the federal government took precedence over that of the individual states and declared that secession was unlawful. He promised he would execute the laws of the nation in all states, and, "to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the government." In April, Confederate troops under Brigadier General Beauregard fired on Fort Sumpter.

President Lincoln promptly called for 75,000 volunteers for an enlistment of three months. Excitement gripped the North; in all states young men were rushing to join in the great adventure. According to Harper's Magazine, a judge and a jury in Wisconsin walked out of a courthouse during a trial to enlist.

In May, a Flint, Michigan militia unit, the Flint Greys were accepting recruits. Among the volunteers were four young men, Sam Houlton, Robert Bostwick, Franklin Thompson and Richard H. Halstead. The Flint Greys shortly became Company B of the 2^{nd} Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

One of the recruits, R. H. Halstead was my great grandfather. He was an educated young man, had served as a schoolmaster in Vassar, Michigan and was studying the profession of pharmacy at the time of his enlistment. For him the enlistment was something of a patriotic lark and moral adventure. It was widely held that a show of military determination and perhaps one good victory on the part of the Union would bring an end to the rebellion. He would have done his duty and would be home by the end of summer. His enlistment was extended for the duration of the war. He was wounded and spent time as a prisoner of war.

After the war, R. H. Halstead started a family and moved to Concord, Michigan where he owned a pharmacy and the Merchant's Bank, was on the board of directors of the Presbyterian Church and was instrumental in building the first high school. He was an officer in the G.A.R. Post in Concord and took part in local business and civic organizations.

Another of those recruits, Frank Thompson, was a young book agent whose territory covered Michigan. Frank was originally from New Brunswick, Canada and was not obligated to take part in the conflict. However, he had grown to despise the institution of slavery and viewed the rebellion as a struggle between those who opposed it and those who embraced it. He too, was caught up in the spontaneous enthusiasm of the day and found himself standing before the enlistment examiner.

Thompson appeared to be no more than seventeen, but was able

to convince the examiner that he was in fact, twenty years of age and thus eligible to enlist. Frank was a smaller man, but obviously in good health, so with a handshake was accepted into the Flint Greys.

Physical exams were not a part of the recruitment process, for even the most casual of exams would have revealed that Pvt. Franklin Thompson was in fact a female, formerly Sarah Edmonds.

Sarah Edmonds had adopted the disguise of a male in order to escape an abusive upbringing and avoid a marriage that had been arraigned for her by her father. She came to the states and secured a position as a book agent for a publisher of religious books. She had taken the popular advice of the day to go west to Michigan when selecting her choice of territories.

In June the 2nd Michigan, training under Col. Richardson, was ordered from Fort Wayne to Washington, D.C. to join the Army of the Potomac. For the next twenty months the 2nd Michigan and Pvt. Frank Thompson had been given the duty of riding the mail between Washington and Centreville, Virginia. On the day of the Second Battle of Bull Run, Frank was trying to reach Berry's Brigade before the battle commenced. In order to do so, he decided to take a short cut across open ground. He soon found himself confronted with a very wide ditch, which the mule he was riding was unable to negotiate. The mule wound up falling on Thompson, pinning him under and partially submerging him in mud and water.

Thompson suffered a severe injury to his leg, internal injuries that resulted in his coughing blood from both lungs and permanent damage to his left side. He could not report to a field hospital for treatment, for fear of discovery and was forced to take to his bunk and rely on the help of his three comrades. They took over his mail and other duties, saw to his feeding and the treatment of injuries.

When Pvt. Thompson was able to resume his duties, he was appointed to the position of orderly for Col. Orlando M. Poe serving in that capacity until after the Battle of Fredericksburg. When the Army of the Potomac went into camp at Falmouth, Thompson was pressed into service as a spy, making several trips behind Confederate lines.

After his first adventure, disguised as a contraband and nearly getting caught, Thompson assumed the role of a female for his future missions. Thompson was so good in assuming the role that many of his fellow soldiers began to take notice of his talent. Many thought that he was perhaps too good. It wasn't that his gender came into question, rather they simply began to wonder about his masculinity.

Sometime during the Peninsular Campaign, Thompson first contracted malaria. It was a recurring but manageable problem.

R. H. HALSTEAD AND PVT. THOMPSON

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

However, in 1863 he was stricken with a severe case that required medical attention, which he refused. His camp mates once again came to his aid, caring for him and assuming his duties. He asked for a furlough but was refused. It became increasingly apparent that he would not be able to continue without medical attention. However, seeking medical attention from the army meant discovery of his true sex and being led away in the chains of a criminal.

Being treated as a criminal was something that Thompson could not face. So, R. H. Halstead, with the help of the others sold some of Thompson's personal belongings, including his watch, to raise funds to travel and seek civilian treatment. On April 25, 1863, the 2nd Michigan camped at Lebanon, Ky. Thompson separated himself from the Army and went to Overlain, Ohio to recuperate. Pvt. Thompson, listed as a deserter by the War Department, returned to his true identity of Sarah Edmonds.

During her period of recovery, Sarah Edmonds wrote a very popular novel, *Nurse and Spy*, very loosely based on her war experiences. It sold more than 75,000 copies and with the exception of \$1,000.00 used to cover personal expenses, she donated all the proceeds to the Christian Sanitary Commission. Miss Edmonds also studied nursing and reentered the service as a female nurse. She occupied that position until the end of the war.

In 1867 she married John Seelye, the young man to whom she had initially turned to help to secure boys clothing and make good he escape from New Brunswick. She related her story of adventure to John, who encouraged her to reveal her identity to her closest comrades in arms.

At a reunion of the 2^{nd} Michigan, held in 1883, she was included on the guest list. What a surprise it must have been to those who were not yet aware of the true identity of Pvt. Frank Thompson. At the reunion, one of her fellow veterans recognized her immediately, but unaware of her full story, inquired, "Frank, why are you dressed as a woman?"

Once her story became fully known, members of the 2nd Michigan successfully petitioned the War Department to have the charges of desertion removed from the record of Pvt. Frank Thompson. Congress granted her the privileges due according to her war time service.

With the help of R. H. Halstead, Col. Poe and the others who supplied affidavits testifying to her war time service, Sarah was granted by Act of Congress, in 1893, a lifetime pension of twelve dollars a month. The pension was to compensate her for injuries sustained when the mule fell on her during the Second Battle of Bull Run. Those supplying affidavits were most careful to point out that they were not aware of her true identity until after the war. The complete accuracy of that statement may in some cases be open to question. While she was very grateful to receive her pension, she revealed in one of her letters to R. H. Halstead that the cost to her in public sentiment may not have been worth the twelve dollars per month.

Sarah Seelye moved to LaPorte, Texas where she became a member of the George B. McClellan Post, Grand Army of the Republic of Houston. She was in fact, the only female veteran of the G.A.R. She died in LaPorte, September 5, 1889, from complications attributable to her wartime injuries.

The preceding was written based on the contents of a scrap book kept by the wife of R. H. Halstead and handed down through the family. The scrapbook included letters written to R. H. Halstead by Sarah Seelye and collected articles written about her. The original scrapbook and other Civil War works were donated to the Central Michigan University Library in the 1960's to insure the successful completion of my brother's college career. They are housed under the name, *Halstead papers*.



Conference for all ladies interested in Auxiliary membership and the forming of local Auxiliaries in Michigan. Sister Dorthy Lowe, President of the Auxiliary to Austin Blair Camp 7 and some of the members of Camp 7's Auxiliary, as well as members of the Auxiliary to Nash-Hodges Camp 43 will be there to discuss the Auxiliary.

With the formation of just one more Auxiliary within the state, an Auxiliary Department may once again

Coming Events

JANUARY

11th — Monday

Camp Officers

Quarterly Reports (Form 27-28) and per capita payment are due in the Department Secretary's office by this date. Make sure your Camp is not delinquent!

16th & 17th — Saturday & Sunday Wyoming, MI Civil War Show at the Grand Valley Armory, 1200 44th Street SW. Hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday and 10:00am to 4:00pm Sunday. Reproduction and original guns, relics, documents and photos. Drill demonstrations, genealogy workshops, dance demonstrations, civilian fashion shows and door prize drawings. Admission \$2.00. For further information, contact Kerry Snider at (616) 891-9292.

FEBRUARY

13th — Saturday

Mid-Winter Conference at the Best Western Midway Motel. A larger room has been booked this year to better accommodate the ever growing numbers of Brothers attending this popular conference. Bring your wife and daughters. A section of the room will be available for the ladies to discuss the forming of Camp Auxiliaries. Dorothy Lowe, Camp 7's Auxiliary President will host the discussion.

MARCH

20th — Saturday **Newsletter Contributors** Deadline for articles for the April issue of Michigan's Messenger. Articles must be received by this date.

APRIL

10th — Saturday

Camp Officers

Quarterly Reports (Form 27-28) and per capita payment are due in the Department Secretary's office by this date. Make sure *your Camp is not delinquent!*

MAY

1st — Saturday

Lansing, MI 110th Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, at the Best Western Midway Motel.

JULY

10th — Saturday

Camp Officers

Quarterly Reports (Form 27-28) and per capita payment are due in the Department Secretary's office by this date. Make sure your Camp is not delinquent!

AUGUST

20th & 21st — Friday & Saturday Indianapolis, IN 118th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This is also the 50th Anniversary of the final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

CAMP NEWS

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Max Miller

At the November 9th meeting, the Camp had its election of officers for 1999 and they were sworn in to office by Brother John Mann, Department Jr. Vice Commander. Elected were: Max Miller, Commander; Bob Hoffman, Sr. Vice Commander; Mike Maillard, Jr. Vice Commander; Mark Heath, Secretary and Bud Tallman, Treasurer. All appointed positions were filled. My thanks to all who accepted these positions.

The Camp has been busy with the graves registration of Mt. Evergreen Cemetery almost all summer. After our Saturday morning round table breakfast (2nd & 4th Saturday of each month), as many as we could muster would proceed to the cemetery for a couple hours and register a section or two. Mt. Evergreen is one of two large cemeteries in the city of Jackson. Many of G.A.R. Post 48's veterans are buried here. Under the direction of Brother Bill Lowe we have proceeded quite well with this cemetery. With 105 (some unknown) cemeteries in Jackson County, and approximately 40% of the registrations complete, we still have a way to go.

On Veterans' Day, November 11, the Camp had very good attendance at the memorial service in Withington Park in Jackson. The Camp posted four guards with muskets at the Civil War monument and a wreath was placed by Vicki Weiss of the Camp 7 Auxiliary and me.

On Sunday, December 6, the Auxiliary sponsored the 2nd annual Civil War sit-down dinner at Sister Brenda Walter's home in Concord. In attendance were 31 members of the Camp and Auxiliary and guests, most in uniform or period dress. The food served was all from that period. In the afternoon, two of the local historical buildings in Concord were open for visitors. After dinner, the attendees were invited to a Christmas Concert at the Middle School. The concert was by a local musicians group of which Sister Brenda was a part, Brother Todd Holton served as Master of Ceremony. After the concert the group returned to Brenda's home for dessert, coffee, tree lighting and carols. A great time and something a little different.

On January 15, I or someone from the Camp again will be awarding Eagle Scout Certificates to ten new Eagle Scouts at the annual awards dinner at American Legion Post 55 in Albion. The scouts are all from the Chief Baw Beese District, Great Sauk Trail Council.

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Lansing, MI

The following items are available from the Department Treasurer

S.U.V.C.W. Hat Badge ~ This is a heavy brass badge, with the letters S.U.V. encircled by an open topped oval shaped laurel wreath. Very similar to the hat badges of the G.A.R. The price of the badge is 25.00 + 30.00 postage.

Cap Mark ~ This is a round cloth patch with the 7th Corps insignia (crescent moon enclosing a five pointed star) made to be worn on the top of a kepi. The crescent is red, outlined in gold and the star is silver. This was adopted by the Michigan Department back in the late 1800's, as the Department insignia. The price of the Cap Mark is 15.00 + 33.00 postage.

Emblem Pocket Patch ~ This is a cloth patch with the Emblem of the S.U.V.C.W. (the lower portion of the membership badge) sewn embroidered on it. The price is 20.00 + 3.00 postage.

Coat of Arms Pocket Patch ~ Like the above patch. The price is 30.00 + 30.00 postage.

Plastic Pocket Clip ~ For attaching the above pocket patches to so they can be clipped on the breast pocket and removed easily. The price for this item is \$5.00 + \$3.00 postage.

Send your order to:

David T. Wallace, Treasurer Department of Michigan, SUVCW 2120 East Schumacher Street Burton, MI 48529-2436 Make checks payable to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW

DANIEL CALKINS

(Continued from page 1)

Department - April, 1863. Promoted to Artificer by order of Col. Petters - April 1, 1864. Teamster with the pontoon train - May 1864. In charge of 5th Corp. instructing tools - June 1, 1864. Discharged at end of enlistment on September 14, 1864 and mustered out on September 20, 1864.

Pension Claim - Contracted rheumatism around October 1862, from exposure while in Chickahominy and White Oak Swamps in Virginia. The affliction severely affected his right side (stiffening all joints).

Michigan Information - Came to Michigan from Elmira, NY (exact date unknown). He homesteaded Federally granted property in Oscoda County, Michigan in 1881 (Oscoda County was incorporated the same year).

ATTENTION CYBER-COMMUNICATORS



S.U.V.C.W. computer mouse pads are available. The mouse pad features a Sons emblem like the one shown here. The emblem is 4.8" x 5.4", approximately twice the size of the above picture, centered in the pad which is 9" wide x 8" high, and is available with a blue (Camp), red (Department) or gold (National) background. A G.A.R. mouse pad is also available. These have G.A.R. membership badge of approximately the same size as the S.U.V.C.W. emblem in the center of the pad, with a red, white and blue striped background.

The pads are \$10.50 each, plus \$2.50 each for packaging and postage. Please use the order blank below (or a photocopy). Make checks payable to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW. Mail to: Department Commander Kent Armstrong, P.O. Box 618, DeWitt, MI 48820-0618.

S.U.V.C.W. MOUSEPADS
I would like to order the following items:
Blue mousepads @ \$10.50 ea.\$
Red mousepads @ \$10.50 ea. \$
Gold mousepads @ \$10.50 ea. \$
G.A.R. mousepads @ \$10.50 ea. \$
Shipping & Postage @ \$2.50 ea. \$
Total \$
Name
Address
City
State & Zip

WASHINGTON ~ LINCOLN Commemorative Dinner

The 13th Annual George Washington – Abraham Lincoln Dinner will be held on February 13th, following the Department's Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Hotel in Lansing. This event is sponsored jointly by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan for the pleasure of the members and guest of both organizations.

The 1999 dinner meeting will be hosted by the Sons of the Revolution. It will begin with a social hour at 5:30 pm, continue with dinner at 6:30 pm, feature a program at 7:30 pm, ending at 9:00 pm. The speaker for the evening will be Max Riekse, PCC talking on "The Culminating Battle of the American Revolution: Yorktown." The cost is \$20.00 per person, with the choice of grilled salmon or stuffed chicken breast for the dinner entrée. The Deadline for reservations is February 1st.

Tota		
	al Enclosed \$	Mail the check and this form to:
Name		Keith G. Harrison, Treasurer
Address		Sons of the Revolution – Michigan Socie 4209 Santa Clara Drive Holt, MI 48842-1868
City, State & Zip		1101, 111 +00+2-1000

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

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