

Michigan's  
*Messenger*



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

Vol. IX No. 1

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## CIVIL WAR SOLDIER TO BE RE-INTERED

by Bill Lowe, PCC  
Austin Blair Camp 7

Photo No. 1  
@100%

On Saturday, September 23, 2000, Austin Blair Camp 7 in Jackson has the unique privilege and obligation when we re-inter the remains of Private Daniel W. Pine who served with the 122<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry. This regiment started with Antietam in 1862 and fought in most of the major battles of the east ending at Appomattox Court House in 1865. Mr. Pine was mustered out with his regiment in that summer in New York.

His presence in Michigan was first recorded in the 1875 Jackson City directory. In 1887 he was admitted to the Michigan Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids and was back in Jackson in April 1889, on "furlough" from the Soldiers Home, when he died. He was buried the next day by the county as a "destitute" Civil War soldier. His destiny for more than 100 years was to be alone, nearly a ¼ mile from the next nearest grave in a small cemetery which was soon abandoned and overgrown with trees and scrub vegetation.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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*Commander's Group Rep.*

Gregory Hayes

## RE-INTERMENT

(continued from page 1)

In the ongoing project of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of visiting every grave, in every cemetery in the county searching for the final resting place of those we pledged to honor, Mr. Pine's lone grave was located. Single, with no known relative in Michigan and only a brother in New York, his military issued headstone stood alone. More details of the ceremony at 11:00 am on September 23<sup>rd</sup> may be found by visiting the Camp 7, website on the Department of Michigan page.

The members and friends of Austin Blair Camp 7 and their Auxiliary invite anyone interested in honoring this veteran as his remains are relocated to the Field of Valor in Hillcrest Memorial Park. The cemetery is located at 1425 Elm Road, just south of exit 141 on I-94. The actual burial ceremony will be taken from the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic and will be conducted as a local Post would have done in their day with members of the SUVCW in the same positions and functions.

Uniformed military groups or individuals, re-enactors of previous wars, current members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and all other such groups are welcome to be an honor guard as his flag draped casket is brought to its new resting place. Taps will follow a three-volley salute.

Members of the SUVCW in civilian attire are requested to wear their membership badge(s) and stand with the burial party as the G.A.R. would have done. We would appreciate a response from any groups/individuals who would like to take part that day.

Please check our web site (<http://suvchw.org/mi/007home.html>) for updates, it will be updated frequently the closer we get to the re-interment. My name address, phone number and e-mail address are listed below if you would like to contact me direct.

Please plan now to join with us for this occasion as we in one more way seek to honor those who fought to save the Union between 1861 and 1865. Mark your calendar today!

Bill Lowe  
Graves Registration Officer  
Austin Blair Camp No. 7  
3916 Allston Drive  
Jackson MI 49201  
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### Michigan's Messenger

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## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

*DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 1**SERIES 2000 ~ 2001*

**1.** Having been duly elected and installed by the 111<sup>th</sup> Encampment of the Department of Michigan, command is hereby assumed. Department Headquarters will be located at 14360 Seymour Road, Linden, Michigan, 48451.

**2.** My sincere thanks go to all of the Brothers of the Department for conferring this honor upon me. My tenure will be guided by the principles of our Order, Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

**3.** Brothers are asked to send a card to Past Commander-in-Chief Richard Orr recovering from bypass surgery in Pennsylvania. PC-in-C Orr has been a good friend of our Department and he has dedicated many years to the furthering the causes of our Order. His address is:

Richard D. Orr, PC-in-C  
153 Connie Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1251

I wish to also request that Brothers remember Don Workman with a card. Brother Workman has been and continues to be a driving force in continuing the work of our Order and the Grand Army of the Republic. I would suggest sending cards to him in care of the Camp at:

Wa-Bu-No Camp 53  
Keith W. Kuhlman  
311 W. Nelson Rd.  
Midland, MI 48640-3343

Please keep these Brothers in your thoughts and prayers.

**4.** The most sacred of our Holidays, Memorial Day, is upon us again. We must use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the principles that our forefathers sought to preserve. The bond between the memory of their deeds and the present day is a thin thread, being held only by the Allied Orders. It is incumbent upon us to honor their memory and keep their spirit alive. I request all Brothers of the Department to participate in programs, both on the Observed Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and Memorial Day, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**5.** Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Sunday. The Grand Army used this day to attend their churches and places of worship in the G.A.R. uniform. All Brothers are encouraged to participate in this tradition.

**6.** The office of Department Commander exists to serve all of the Brothers of Michigan. As such, I would like to visit all of the Camps in the Department during my tenure. Please contact me if there is a special date or event that you would like me to attend.

**7.** There are still openings for several positions at the Department level. Should you have a little spare time and wish to help 'further the cause' please contact me.

**8.** Various committees will be having periodic meetings for planning and information. As the times are decided, I will post the date and place on the Department Home page. All Brothers are welcome to attend these committee meetings. The first meeting will be the Graves Registration Committee in June or July.

**9.** The National Encampment is only a few months away. As host Department, we want all of the Delegates to have a great Michigan experience! The members of the Department Council conducted the election of our Delegates and Alternates. However, even if you are not a Delegate, I encourage you to attend the Encampment in August. Much hard work and planning has been done and I believe this will be the best Encampment yet!

**10.** At the Department Encampment, several Brothers were honored for their contributions and efforts to our Order. I would like to recognize these gentlemen by listing their awards:

In addition to the recipients of the Department's Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation, Commander Armstrong presented a "Recognition of Excellence" certificate to Brothers: Keith Harrison, PC-in-C; Richard Lee; John Mann, PCC; James Pahl, PDC; David Wallace, PDC; and Richard Williams for their skills and dedicated service to our Order, above and beyond the responsibilities of their respective offices.

Brothers Douglas Armstrong; James Lyons, PDC; and John Obermeyer were presented with a "Certificate of Recognition" for their efforts related to their respective Department Offices of Civil War Memorials Officer, G.A.R. Records Officer, and Graves Registration Officer.

Special efforts at the Camp level were cited with a "Certificate of Recognition" presented to Brothers Richard Danes of Camp 427 and Gary Woodman of Camp 7 for their respective accomplishments in the Graves Registration and Civil War Memorials Assessment projects.

By Order of:

**Gregory D. Hayes**  
*Department Commander*

Attest:

**Richard F. Lee**  
*Department Secretary*

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*SECRETARY**Richard Lee*

3rd Quarter Per Capita reports (January thru March 2000) were received by the due date, 10 April 2000, from 20 of the 25 Camps in the Department.

3 Henry E. Plant	85 Frederick H. Hackeman
7 Austin Blair	101 Ulysses S. Grant
14 Robert Finch	120 Gilluly-Kingsley
17 Curtenius Guard	145 Gov. Henry Crapo
20 Gen. Benjamin Pritchard	160 Henry F. Wallace
22 Colegrove-Woodruff	180 Carpenter-Welch
43 Nash-Hodges	259 Archibald Stewart
53 Wa-Bu-No	266 James & Albert Lyon
58 George W. Anderson	427 Sgt. John S. Cosbey
67 Gen. Phil Kearney	462 Russell A. Alger

The following Brothers were given the "Nicolay-Hay" Award for "Dedicated and Faithful Service in Meeting the Responsibilities of Camp Secretary" for having all reports returned on time and correct in the calendar year 1999.

Thomas L. Emerick	17	Charles L. Pfauth, Sr.	85
John Lohrstorfer	22	Jerald R. Walters	101
David Schneider	43	David F. Wallace	145
Donald H. Workman	53	David L. Hilliker	160
Mark L. Pangburn	58	Randy L. Iles	259
Kenneth H. Martin	67 & 462	Paul A. Nelson	266

The Department administration sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Camp Officers who have made this possible.

*TREASURER**Del Farnsworth**ACCOUNT BALANCES REPORT**AS OF 28 APRIL 2000*

## ASSETS

## Cash and Bank Accounts

Alger Memorial	\$ 712.59
Checking	3,135.65
Savings	5,960.23

## Total, Cash and Bank Accounts

\$9,808.47

**TOTAL ASSETS****\$9,808.47**

## LIABILITIES

## Other Liabilities

Camp at Large	\$ 202.50
Memorial	1,965.84
SVR	0.00

## Total, Other Liabilities

\$2,168.34

**TOTAL LIABILITIES****\$2,168.84****BALANCE, Assets minus Liabilities****\$7,640.13***Report prepared by Dick Williams and Richard Lee**HISTORIAN*

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

As the Department Historian once again, I am seeking contributions to the Department's collection of materials about the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic and its members, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its membership. Department officers, past and present, are invited to provide the records which no longer are needed for conduct of their respective offices. Camp historians are requested to collect and forward copies of items received for their Camp accumulations. Relevant contributions from individuals in the SUVCW and from the general public always are welcome.

One purpose of the SUVCW is to preserve records pertaining to the GAR and its members. Each person joining our Order pledges himself to promote such objects and interests.

We fulfill that obligation individually and collectively on the

Camp, Department, and National levels of the organization. For example, Camps conduct graves registration activities. A committee of the Department searches out records of the GAR, and another committee deals with Civil War memorials.

Each Camp should have a historian who gathers and preserves historical and biographical materials pertaining to the Civil War, the GAR, and the SUVCW. He should collect and protect the membership records, meeting minutes, and financial records. Any person in the Camp can help by contributing pertinent newspaper articles, photographs, printed programs, brochures, and other memorabilia.

Together we can do much to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union, 1861 to 1865.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**Philip N. Parks*

It is an honor for me to have been elected to the position of Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Michigan by the delegates assembled at the 111<sup>th</sup> Encampment at Kalamazoo, MI on May 6, 2000. Reviewing those who have held this position before me makes this position even more of a challenge. May I give volunteer service in the same manner and with the same spirit with which our ancestors preserved the Union.

Promoting membership and organization of the Department of Michigan under the direction of the Commander is the Junior Vice Commander's primary responsibility. The Upper Peninsula with its 15 counties and covering a distance of more than 300 miles from east to west has given me some experience with the difficulty of recruiting new members to the SUVCW. Since the organization of the Albert and James Lyon Camp 266, we have welcomed a total of 24 men. We have been able to draw members from 8 of those 15 counties. The last three to join are James Decremer, Delta Co., Rick Hamblin, Marquette Co. and Eugene Niedholdt, Houghton Co.

Our Camp will be attempting to go to where people gather this summer. The Upper Peninsula State Fair will be in session from August 15<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> at Escanaba. PCC Patrick Kennedy and Senior Vice Commander Richard Spriks are in charge of obtaining booth space, securing hand outs and scheduling volunteers for that week, which may include some Wisconsin Re-enactors. It is a rather expensive experiment for our Camp to undertake as well as providing us with a steep learning curve. Evaluation of this recruitment effort will have to be reported at a later date.

Other Camps throughout the State may wish to look around for county fairs that can provide an opportunity for exposure of the SUVCW. You may have tried this method in the past and can share your experience, its joys and sorrows, with rest of the Order.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War came into existence so that the men who fought to preserve the Union would be remembered and the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic which they formed would be perpetuated. When we recruit new people to share our vision we help maintain that growing edge.

Those who wish to give me suggestions, advice or encouragement can do so by sending email or snail mail to the address below.

Philip N. Parks  
1228 Minnesota St.  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Phone: 906-482-7070  
Email: [jparks@ccisd.k12.mi.us](mailto:jparks@ccisd.k12.mi.us)

*CHAPLAIN**William McAfee*

As we slogged around in the morning drizzle at Highland Cemetery on Memorial Sunday, I realized that we have a BIG program of education ahead of us. It was really not until then that I had the necessary experience to arrive at that conclusion. We had volunteered to help the other veterans' organizations place an American flag on the graves of the veterans there interred. With the heavy drizzle, there wasn't much organization to it. We left the relative comfort of our respective vehicles, went to the man in the 4x4 who had bundles of flags and set out in general directions where no one else had yet gone, to place our flags. We watched other people, and most especially younger people, walk past the arched stones with the shields on them and go to other graves with their flags. Flag holders are scarce in this cemetery, which is something else we need to correct. However, it quickly became evident to me that these folks didn't even recognize the Civil War military stone as one that deserved a flag.

Yes, we need educational programs in the schools, and for the general public, but we really need to start with the other veterans' groups and educate THEM. The current generations don't realize from whence they got their start, their ritual, their officers' stations, ETC., ETC.! We need to reconnect them to the G.A.R. We need to show them photographs of the CW military stones and flag holders. At Highland that day, there were not enough flags to go around. One of our Brothers even went out on his own and bought more flags to recognize our departed ancestors. Why? I don't think they have had an accurate count on how many military graves are there. While I realize the magnitude of the problem here, it must be multiplied around the state of Michigan. We know the size of the problem could have a tendency to overwhelm us, unless we remember to take just one step at a time, but to be tenacious and persevere in our goals. Let's not give up, but keep on plugging away. It HAS been done in other areas and it CAN be done here, or there, wherever YOU may be! God bless your efforts!

*MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER*

When submitting copy:

- If you have a computer, send the copy by electronic file either via e-mail as a part of the message or as an attached file (preferred). If e-mail is not available, snail mail the file on disk. IBM format ONLY. No Mac files please.
- No Computer? Use a typewriter if available or sharpen up the old quill pen.
- Photos. Electronic scans are NOT accepted. Send a photo. Do not send photos that cannot be replaced. Send a duplicate, as photos may be cut to size to fit the space available.

Mail or e-mail to the address at the bottom of page 2.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

*Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman*

Greetings gentlemen. I would like to thank our newly elected Department Commander, Greg Hayes, for deeming me worthy for appointment to chair this committee for another term.

The Committee is proud to report continued progress in our Department's Civil War Memorials Assessment Project. We have received completed assessment forms for all memorials in the counties of Washtenaw, Jackson, Clinton and Ionia. Many more have been returned from Camps across the State. We respectfully ask that, this year, Camps renew their efforts to assess the condition of monuments and memorials in their area and return the completed forms to this office. If your Camp does not have a supply of the Civil War Memorial Assessment Form (Form CWM#61), please contact me and I will send some out for your Camp to make copies from.

While assessing the physical condition of the memorial, enter as much information as possible. We would request that pictures be taken from all sides and included with the forms. In addition, the Camp's Civil War Memorials Officers and Committees can do further research of the memorial's installation and dedication. Local historical records, newspaper archives, and County Historical Societies could be utilized for this research. We also encourage periodical visits to the monument after the initial inspection, to assess its condition.

The Cannon Inquiry Project is still ongoing, with several more communities being contacted. Recently, while attending the Clinton County Republican's Lincoln Day Dinner, I had the chance to speak with U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham and Congressman Dave Camp about the possibility of seeing some form of legislation protecting these memorial cannon from being sold to collectors. They assured me that they would review the material I sent to their office and render any support possible. The Committee encourages all Brothers to contact their elected representatives and aid us in protecting these pieces of our history and heritage from disappearing.

## GETTYSBURG TOWER

A Federal Judge has given the go-ahead for the National Parks Service to take possession of the 370 foot observation tower near the Gettysburg National Battlefield. It is reported that the tower will be demolished this year, sometime during the 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The tower has been considered an abomination by many historians, Civil War site preservationists and visitors since its erection many years ago.

## GRAVES REGISTRATION

*Rick Danes*

Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters in the Department of Michigan. Being one of the "new guys in town" I would like to take a moment and thank those Graves Registration Officers (GRO) who have worked so hard at guiding the program to the advanced level that it is today. Especially of note is Brother John Obermeyer, who has taken time out of his busy schedule to spend time with me and share his database and other records.

I come to you with very little experience in the organization and procedures of the SUVCW. However, after looking for a way to honor my ancestor James Coleman Franklin (who served in Company E, 27<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry and in the 187<sup>th</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, VRC and 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, Provincial Cavalry, VRC from September 15, 1861 to July 11, 1865) I found Camp 427 in Dearborn. Here, my 25+ years as a family genealogist was channeled into the graves program. I hope to share the same enthusiasm for the Department program, as I was able to do at the Camp level.

As I reviewed the records, I ran across some facts that might interest you. The last report from National GRO Leo F. Kennedy indicates that the national database contains 57, 155 gravesites. Of that number, the Department of Michigan has contributed about 9000. That number represents just over 16% of the National total! I know that some of you out there have surveyed cemeteries both in and out of your jurisdiction, and for whatever reason have not submitted them on the Department level. I urge all of you to overcome those reasons, and send all of your hard work to me. Don't worry about how, but we will get the information into the proper database, and submitted to the National.

Also in the Record, I find that we in the Department of Michigan have 23 Camps, which cover 59 counties, and of those Camps, as of June 1999, only 12 have appointed GROs. Perhaps a key to the success of the program in Michigan is to encourage each Camp to assign that officer, and let us help them to plan how they can visit and list a few cemeteries in their area until all are completed.

By the time you read this, all Camp GROs or the Camp Commander will have had the opportunity to participate in a meeting that will set the tone for our bringing the Graves Registration Program into the National spotlight where it belongs!

Thanks for all of your hard work and cooperation.

For further information or direction, please feel free to contact me at [REDanes@aol.com](mailto:REDanes@aol.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*COME ONE! COME ALL!**G.A.R. DAY IN EATON RAPIDS*

The City of Eaton Rapids has proclaimed Sept. 16, 2000 as Grand Army of the Republic Recognition Day. Meet with us on Island Park (formerly, G.A.R. Park) and help commemorate the contributions of our Civil War veterans. All Camps and Brothers are invited to attend and participate. For those who are not familiar with the park, it was the site of the Eaton County Battalion's Annual Encampment for many years. It is located in the Grand River, one block east of the main drag (M-99) in downtown Eaton Rapids. The island is accessible via a footbridge to both sides of the river. There are two Civil War era muzzle loading cannon mounted on concrete pedestals on the island, as well as a bronze plaque placed there by the James B. Brainerd G.A.R. Post.

As this is written plans are still being finalized, but we hope to have a ceremonial replanting of a G.A.R. Tree, an artillery demonstration by the Fifth Michigan Light Artillery, perhaps a Gatling Gun demo and more. This promises to be a pleasant way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

*REGIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FORMED*

The Eastern Michigan Allied Orders Regional Association has been formed by the Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp 145 of Flint, the Gen. Phil Kearny Camp 67 of Bay City, and the Gilluly-Kingsley Camp 120 of Howell. The Association is open to all Camps, Tents, Corps and Circles in the area. There is no membership fee, although an activity fee may be charged to cover the costs of various programs and activities offered. The activities of the Association are limited to meeting on a quarterly basis; promoting the teaching of the history of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic and its Allied Orders and representative members through seminars, roundtables and lectures; travel to and visit sites of significance to the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic; lend coordinated support to the ceremonial activities of the member Camps, Corps, Tents and Circles; and to hold an annual "Bean Soup and Camp Fire" program.

*CITY OF EATON RAPIDS**PROCLAMATION**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC**RECOGNITION DAY**SEPTEMBER 16, 2000*

**Whereas,** The Grand Army of the Republic was an organization whose membership was composed of men who served the United States honorably as Soldiers, Sailors and Marines during the Civil War, and

**Whereas,** The Eaton Rapids Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was named in honor of James B. Brainerd, a local man who served with the Sixth Michigan Infantry in seventeen battles and skirmishes and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant for "Meritorious Conduct in the Field", before dying of pneumonia in Louisiana in 1863 at the age of twenty-three, and

**Whereas,** the James B. Brainerd Post Number 111 Grand Army of the Republic numbered among its four hundred and sixteen members seven Mayors, numerous other civic leaders, prominent business men, founders of the fire department, mechanics, skilled artisans and men from all walks of life who made significant cultural and historical contributions to the City, and

**Whereas,** Members of James B. Brainerd Post were instrumental in developing Island Park and for many years hosted the encampment of the Eaton County Battalion of the Grand Army of the Republic at that location, and

**Whereas,** the James B. Brainerd Post 111 Grand Army of the Republic was organized on March 14, 1883, and served its members and the community in fraternity, charity and loyalty until the death of its last member on June 11, 1936.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** We, Mayor Donald C. Colestock and the Eaton Rapids City Council consider it a great honor to join in the recognition of the Grand Army of the Republic, with a celebration being held on September 16 on the Island Park. This is a fitting occasion to pay homage to the members of the Grand Army of the Republic men who laid down there lives for the good of the public, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the Grand Army of the Republic and to support the

## CAMP NEWS

*GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1**by Bruce Butgereit*

On the traditional Memorial Day, 30 May, the Gen. John A. Logan, Camp 1, SUVCW, held a memorial service at the Grand Rapids Civil War Soldiers Monument. The local press and a television station and about 30 other spectators attended the event.

It was at this ceremony that we also kicked-off the fund-raising drive for our Monument Restoration Project. We have received a quote from the Karkadoulis Bronze Art, Inc., Mercene Karkadoulis conservator, and have accepted the challenge of raising the \$210,000 to restore our monument/fountain.

The Grand Rapids Press had run a very good story with pictures on our efforts and intentions. The day following this article, I received a call from a gentleman by the name of Edward Blakely, who introduced himself as a 96-year-old son of a Civil War veteran. Mr. Blakely stated that he had seen the article and wanted to contribute to the fund. Since I was driving along the I-96 expressway, I pulled off the road to continue the conversation, as I really couldn't believe what I was hearing. I offered to go to Mr. Blakely's residence to talk with him more about the project and in several hours, I had the pleasure of meeting this fine gentleman and his wife.

Photo No. 2  
@ 70%

*True son Edward Blakely and Bruce Butgereit*

Mr. Blakely's father was Egbert Blakely of the 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, Co. E. Egbert enlisted on 17 September 1863 at Grand Rapids as a Private. On September 18 he mustered into Co. E, Michigan 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He was discharged on 19 October 1865 at Detroit, Michigan. He was listed as admitted 23 September 1865 Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. Promotions: Corporal. Source: Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers 1861-65. Egbert was also wounded twice, once by gunshot.

Mr. Blakely's uncle was Buel B. Blakely of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry, Co. E. Buel enlisted 5 August 1862 at Grand Rapids as a Private. On 3 September 1862 he mustered into Co. E, Michigan 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry. He was mustered out 8 August 1865 at Washington, D.C. He was listed as POW 31 December 1862 Stones River, Tennessee. Exchanged 6 May 1863 (place not stated). Source: Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers 1861-65.

Mr. Blakely also showed me all of his newspaper clippings of any item relating to the Civil War. I was even able to see a picture of his father, taken in 1885 in Muskegon. After this, Mr. Blakely then wrote out a check for \$100 to contribute to the Monument Restoration Project.

Mr. Blakely then offered to participate in our Memorial Day service, where he "officially" made his contribution in front of a television audience while wearing a borrowed kepi and sack coat. From there, Mr. Blakely then participated in the Grand Rapids' Memorial Day parade by riding in Michigan Senator Glenn Steils' Hummer (the horse of today's cavalry). Afterwards, Mr. Blakely was a special guest on the platform of dignitaries for the Memorial Day services.

What is so special about Mr. Blakely's attendance at our fund-raising kick-off was the very likely possibility that he was standing where his father and uncle had stood in 1885, when the monument was first erected and dedicated. As part of the festivities that 16 & 17 September 1885 in Grand Rapids, were many regimental reunions. These included the 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry and over 220 men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry. Could Mr. Blakely's relatives have been at the first dedication?

It is Mr. Blakely's intention, after attending our June meeting, to join our Camp as a member. He has even offered to attend a day or two of the National Encampment in August.

And while the Monument Restoration Project is the largest portion on our plate, we are still dedicated and active in graves registration, memorial services, and the Weekend of Remembrance coming 5 & 6 August in Grand Rapids at the Veteran's Home. The City of Grand Rapids, celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, has also invited us to march in the Celebration on the Grand parade on 9 September.

*AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7**by Bob Hoffman, CC*

Camp 7 has had a busy time the last couple of months. The project we are focused on currently is the re-interment of Private Daniel Pine of the 122<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry, from a desolate weed and trash filled cemetery to a place of respect and honor in Hillcrest Cemetery in Jackson. To cover our portion of the expenses, Camp 7 must raise about \$2,500.



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## CAMP NEWS

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Brother Bill Lowe and his committee are planning an 1880's style G.A.R. funeral service on Sept. 23 to honor Private Pine. More information can be found by visiting Camp 7's web site at <http://suvcw.org/mi007home.html>

Saturday April 27 found the Brother participating in a cemetery work day in Spring Arbor Township where twenty grave stones were straightened and reset.

A contingent from the Camp attended the Department Encampment and saw Bill Lowe elected to the Department Council. Congratulations Bill.

Brothers and Sisters from Camp 7 attended church services on Memorial Sunday at the First Congregational Church in Jackson, many dressed in civil war era clothing. Brother Mark Heath participated in the service by reading General Order No. 11 and reading the lyrics to "Taps", after which Brother Blaine Valentine played the music on his bugle.

Memorial Day parades in Jackson and Spring Arbor finished out the month for Camp 7's members. The parade in Spring Arbor is jokingly referred to in Camp 7 as the "Holton Quarter Mile". It was given this moniker after Brother Todd Holton, who has a problem estimating distance, first proposed we march in the parade several years ago. Because the 10:00 am parade in Jackson is fairly long, from downtown to the south side of Mt. Evergreen Cemetery, it was naturally asked just how long the 1:00 pm parade in Spring Arbor was by our foot-weary members. Brother Holton's reply was, "Oh, about a quarter mile." His quarter mile turned out to be nearly 1 1/4 miles!

### *CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17*

*by Brian Schumway*

Curtenius Guard Camp continued its tradition of observing Memorial Day in multiple ways. They came between two special events: the centennial rededication of the Samuel W. Grinnell Post 283 GAR Hall in Sunfield on May 21 (*article on page 13*) and the dedication of the General John A. Logan Memorial in Lansing on May 30 (*article on page 12*).

In spite of occasional rain showers on Saturday, May 27, the Camp participated in the Memorial Day parade in downtown Lansing. Afterward, the Camp conducted a service at the GAR plot in Mount Hope Cemetery. The ceremony was complete with fife-and-drum music, a firing squad salute, and a bugler playing "Taps".

The next day, Camp representatives participated in the Sunfield Community Memorial Day Service. Arranged by the Helen M. Edwins Tent 30, DUVCW, that service was held indoors due to inclement weather. Rev. Brian Allbright presented the message, and Mr. Ed Black described his experiences as a member of a

bomber crew during World War II. In keeping with a local custom, Camp Commander James Lyons was the master of ceremonies, and Camp Chaplain Dale Calder offered the benediction. The program concluded with all veterans present standing together in ranks for the retiring of the colors

### *GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD ~ CAMP 20*

*by Gary Gibson, PDC*

It has been a very busy spring for the Brothers of Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20. We held our usual spring clean-up at the G.A.R. plot in Riverside Cemetery on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We currently have five government headstones waiting to be placed on unmarked graves, and two more to be ordered. Additionally, 12 "Unknown U.S. Soldier" headstones are to be ordered for those men who died at the military hospital in Kalamazoo in 1863 and 1864. Even the G.A.R. records refer to these men as unknown. Research has turned up nothing on them. The Camp is slowly able to identify the regiments in which the other veterans buried in the plot served in. Since many of those buried there were not members of the G.A.R., but were indigent veterans, the records are not complete in this respect. We have about 40 more to identify. Commander-in-Chief Danny Wheeler inspected the site during his visit to Kalamazoo for the Department Encampment, and expressed his approval for the work that has been done, and the work that is in progress.

May 20 turned out to be a VERY busy day. Camp 20 has taken on the responsibility to place the flags on the graves in Kalamazoo's Mountain Home Cemetery. Camp members gathered at 9:00am and spent a few hours placing flags and sharing in fraternity. Meanwhile, PCC Steve Redinger and wife Sally, the Department Patriotic Instructor for the Daughters, were coordinating Boy Scout Troop 205 in a day of cemetery clean up and graves registration in three small country cemeteries in Van Buren County. The boys cleared brush, washed stones, and recorded over 100 veterans graves. By preliminary reports, the boys enjoyed the project and learned a lot about the G.A.R. One scout said that "it was something different, and we can't wait to do more." A good working relationship is building with the Troop, and perhaps some new members will be realized.

Camp 20 participated in the Allegan Memorial Day Parade on May 29 in our usual capacity as the honor guard at the cemetery. The Camp held its annual Memorial Day services at Riverside Cemetery on Monday, May 30.

### *COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22*

*by Chris Czopek*

The Camp's famous "History Detective", Chris Czopek, spoke in Battle Creek on May 23 about the latest discoveries made by

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## CAMP NEWS

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the Graves Registration Committee. The highlight of the evening was the presentation to representatives of the county's libraries, of a book listing the gravestones found in an abandoned cemetery near Albion. The Battle Creek newspaper gave the event "front page" coverage, complete with a picture of the speaker. Public response was terrific - the hall was "packed"! Afterwards, three members of the Sons were kept busy until closing time answering questions. The donation of a rare and valuable item was made to the Marshall G.A.R. Hall museum as a result of this event.

### *GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58*

*by Douglas Armstrong*

These past months have been very active for Camp 58. We welcomed two new Brothers at our meeting in May. Brother Frank Tegge, who's ancestor served in Co. A of the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry and Brother Clark Tinney, who's ancestor served with Co. H of the 118<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry. We have recently ordered a headstone for Brother Tinney's ancestor who's grave was never marked in the North Eagle Cemetery.

On Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, members of our Honor Guard attended the Clinton County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Tribute. It was an honor for us to present the Colors at the opening ceremony once again this year. United States Senator Spencer Abraham served as keynote speaker for the evening. Also present were Congressman Dave Camp, State Representatives Valde Garcia and Larry Julian, and State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman.

Our Memorial Day Observances in Clinton County began at Wacousta on May 27<sup>th</sup>. This small town just a few miles northwest of Lansing annually musters a tremendous amount of patriotism and community pride. It is always a pleasure to participate there.

On Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, we held a ceremony at the G.A.R. Monument in the DeWitt City Cemetery. Our Camp Historian, Ken Coin, gave a biographical history of several Civil War Veterans buried there. A new plaque designating the G.A.R. section of the cemetery was also dedicated.

On Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Camp 58 participated jointly with the St. Johns V.F.W. and American Legion Posts in the parade through St. Johns and ceremony at Mt. Rest Cemetery. St. Johns, to their credit, has continually observed May 30<sup>th</sup> as the traditional Memorial Day. I personally was honored this year to be invited to M.C. the program at the cemetery. Mt. Rest Cemetery's grounds were well manicured for the day and over 200 casket flags donated from the funerals of veterans buried there lined the drives into the cemetery. It was indeed an awesome site. Camp 58 was proud to honor the efforts of David Miller, Mt. Rest's Sexton, with a donation of a 4' x 6' flag to be flown over the G.A.R. Monument.

Members of Camp 58 are continuing their efforts to clean and paint all veteran grave markers within Clinton County with the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Bath being completed prior to Memorial Day. A donation of paint and supplies from a hardware store in St. Johns has helped greatly with this project.

An upcoming project of the Camp will be the restoration of the Memorial Cannon and Monument in the Maple Grove Cemetery in the community of Ovid. Village officials have given their full support of the project and we expect to begin work this month and complete the project by summer's end. We will conduct a fitting rededication of the monument at next years Memorial Day Ceremony.

### *GOV. CRAPO ~ CAMP 145*

*by David F. Wallace, PDC*

The Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp participated in a rededication of the GAR Monument in Romeo on May 29<sup>th</sup> as part of Memorial Day ceremonies in that city. This was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the monument in 1900. The day started out with a well attended parade through town to the local cemetery where the VFW held its Memorial Day ceremony. Members of the Gov. Crapo Camp Guard were led by Camp Commander Shaw and Guard Commander, Sgt. Gayle Steele. Brother David Bock, the representative of the Albert Nye Division of the Camp, organized and led the impressive rededication ceremony following the format from the GAR Services book. The Brothers of the Camp enjoyed the opportunity to represent our Order at this special ceremony and were well received by the citizens of Romeo.

On Memorial Day, the Brothers of the Camp conducted their annual observance at Flint's Aventine Cemetery, where 34 members of the Gov. Crapo Post 145, Grand Army of the Republic are buried, along with two known Spanish American War veterans, several World War I and World War II veterans, and also a Brother of the Sons of Veterans, USA. This year's ceremony was made more meaningful with the inclusion of a brass quintet coordinated by the Camp's Principal Musician, Patrick Wallace, and under the direction of Prof. R. Scott Adkins, Director of Bands at the University of Michigan - Flint. Selections included "The Star Spangled Banner", "Abide with Me", "America the Beautiful" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". An addition to this year's ceremony was a wreath laying held by the side of the Flint River in memory of the veterans of the U.S. Navy and the Revenue Cutter Service during which "Eternal Father Strong to Save" was played by the quintet. Afterwards those participating marched back the short distance to Aventine Cemetery to decorate the graves of the veterans buried there.

The Camp has organized a raffle to benefit the work in obtaining historic designation and a State Historical Marker for

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## CAMP NEWS

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Camp Thomson, the Civil War training camp for several Michigan regiments during the Winter of 1861-62, which was located on the grounds of Aventine Cemetery, Avondale Cemetery and the National Guard Armory in Flint. The Camp is raffling a "Classic Civil War Library" which consists of the 6 volumes of Carl Sandburg's *Lincoln – The Prairie Years* and *The War Years*, Bruce Catton's *Civil War Centennial Trilogy* and his *Army of the Potomac Trilogy* (6 volumes total), and Shelby Foote's *The Civil War – A Narrative* (3 volumes). Tickets are \$1.00 each and are available by contacting the Gov. CrapoCamp Secretary, David F. Wallace, PDC, at 810-635-2602 or at [GovCrapoCamp145@aol.com](mailto:GovCrapoCamp145@aol.com)

### *CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180*

*by W.B. Mc Afee, CC*

"Greetings from Carpenter-Welch Camp 180, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" is what the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table has heard at the Member's Moment portion in most of its meetings during 1999-2000. It has reached the point that President Tom Nanzig is starting to parrot it before we have the chance to say it. We told Tom when we opened our Camp that we wanted to work together and not in opposition. So far, it's working out well. Unfortunately, it hasn't yet gotten us new members, yet.

We're starting to get active. Since the last issue, we have:

1. helped to clean the ("Very Old"-sic) Old's Cemetery in Salem Twp.;
2. attended the Departmental Annual Encampment;
3. helped the Commander at the VFW (where we hold our meetings) with his pre-Memorial Day area beautification;
4. attended their Memorial weekend open house;
5. attended the presentation by the U.S. Army of an actual Congressional Medal of Honor to the family of Pvt. Frederick Alber, whom we honored in Oregon Twp., Lapeer Co., last November;
6. helped place the flags on the graves at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti prior to Memorial Day;
7. participated in the veterans' "Procession" and program in Ypsilanti on Memorial Day; and
8. held our first True Memorial Day Program at Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor.

I appreciated all the Brothers (and Sisters) who took part in these activities which are so important to our PR in the communities in which we serve.

Our May meeting program was a training session in "Graves registration, tombstone straightening and cemetery inventorying" presented by Brothers Bill Lowe and Max Miller of Camp 7. We also appreciate the donation of a presentation wreath given our Camp by Sister Vicki Weiss of Camp 7's Auxiliary.

### *SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY - CAMP 427*

*by Rick Danes*

Dearborn- The word of the day for Camp 427 is service. Many of our small contingent of members were not available for weekend service, but the quality of the presentations was not lacking.

During the recent Memorial Day weekend, your Brothers took advantage of two opportunities to bring our Camp into the

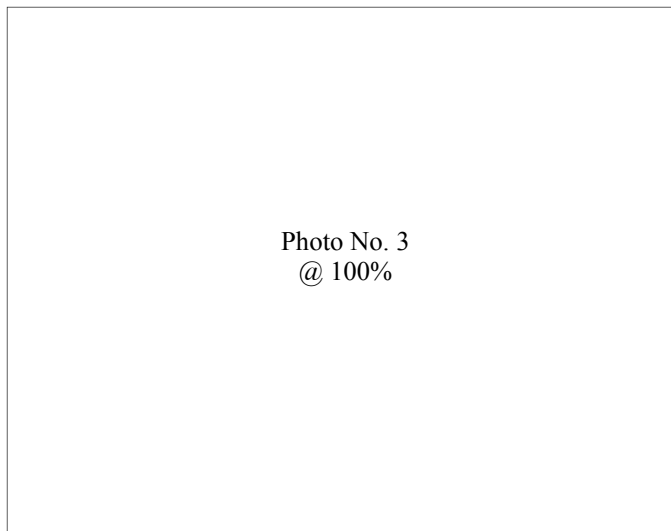


Photo No. 3  
@ 100%

public eye.

On Monday, May 29, we provided service for the Dearborn Historical Museum by driving antique cars in the Dearborn Memorial Day Parade. Shown above is Commander Jerry Olson and Senior Vice Commander Rick Danes standing beside the 1930 Ford Model A that was driven by Danes and owned by Mr. Jack Tate of Dearborn. Olson drove a 1923 Center Door Model T. Both were in full uniform for the event, which was intended to remember GAR Post 427, which Camp 427 is numbered after.

On Sunday, May 30, Camp 427 performed a Memorial Day Flag Ceremony, which included a reading of "The Unknown Dead". The ceremony was performed at the Fort Dearborn Commandant's Headquarters, located at the corner of Monroe and Michigan Avenues, Dearborn.

The remaining calendar for the year 2000 is as follows:

July 30	Camp Meeting at the Commandant's Headquarters
September 24	Camp Meeting at the Commandant's Headquarters
November 11	Service and Flag Placement
November 26	Camp Meeting and elections at the Commandant's Headquarters
December	Provide Service at Dearborn Holiday on the Avenue

## CAMP NEWS

*GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN MONUMENT DEDICATED**by James T. Lyons, PDC*

John A. Logan has a new presence in the City of Lansing. On the evening of May 30, 2000, nearly 300 gathered at Mt. Hope Cemetery for the unveiling of a new memorial to General Logan, dedicated to the veterans of all American wars.

The monument, backed by a thirty foot, illuminated flag staff carries the image of Logan as well as the full text of General Order No. 11, issued on May 5, 1868 which established Memorial Day as May 30 each year.

A massed color guard from the local veterans organization provided the backdrop as the United States Naval Reserve raised the Colors. The opening prayer was offered by Lansing Police Department Chaplain William Renfrew. William E. Vernon of the American Legion lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Ingham County Commissioner Wally Juall provided opening comments on behalf of the Logan Memorial Committee comprised of Juall, William E. Vernon, Past Adjutant of the Ingham County Veterans Council and James T. Lyons, PDC, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brother Lyons spoke on Logan's political life as a Congressman, and later, Senator from the State of Illinois. He stressed his role in providing pensions and other benefits for veterans of the Civil War and their families. Logan also supported many other "civil rights" programs and initiatives during his twenty plus years in the U. S. Congress.

The monument was unveiled by Ingham County Commissioner Alfreda Schmidt, a long time supporter of veterans activities,

and Robert Brockwell a member of the Lansing Parks Board who made the motion granting permission for the placement of the monument in the cemetery.

Featured speakers for the evening were BG Michael Rice of the Michigan National Guard and Norbert Shollett, Commander, Michigan Department of the American Legion. Gen. Rice spoke of the importance of remembering the service of those in the military in our time. Commander Shollett outlined the military exploits of General Logan.

The program closed with a prayer given by Curtenius Guard Camp 17 Chaplain Dale Calder. A salute was fired by the Camp 17 Camp Guard under the command of PC-in-C Keith Harrison, the Honor Guard of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 701 and a gun from the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Battery. Taps was played by Scott Boutwell and Bryan Dore. Period music was provided by the Camp 17 fife and drum.

The thought was offered after the program that the renaming of Logan Street was in some ways a blessing in disguise. Although the name had been on this major Lansing street for 130 years, its removal in 1994 provided a new opportunity to call attention to the life of General Logan. It also provided this new, tangible recognition which not only honors him, but calls attention to the Grand Army of the Republic and our obligation to keep green their memory.

The placement of the monument, just inside the entry to the cemetery, makes it visible to all who visit. We encourage all, when in Lansing, to take a moment to stop at the cemetery, on

Mt. Hope between the Sycamore Golf Course and Aurelius Road. There are approximately 1700 veterans buried in this cemetery, 473 of whom served in the Civil War. Included in that number is the grave of Dr. George Ranney, the only Medal of Honor recipient buried in Ingham County.

*Unveiling the Logan Memorial on May 30 were Robert Brockwell (left) of the Lansing Parks Board and Alfreda Schmidt, an Ingham County Commissioner. Behind the monument are Committee members James T. Lyons, Ingham County Commissioner Wally Juall and William E. Vernon, Past Adjutant, Ingham County Veterans Council.*

Photo No. 4  
@100%

## CENTENNIAL REDEDICATION OF G.A.R. HALL IN SUNFIELD

by John Nash, PCC

Photo No. 5  
@ 100%

*Ella O'Neal, senior member of Helen M. Edward Tent 30, DUVCW unveiled the plaque stating that the Sunfield GAR Hall in on the National Register of Historic Places. She was assisted by Curtenius Guard Camp 17 Commander James T. Lyons.*

"..... Speech and anecdote and song, attention, march and presence of comrades from other posts....."

That is how the "Sunfield Sentinel" began its 21, September 1899 article describing the Dedication of the new Samuel W. Grinnell Post 283 GAR Hall. Those same words apply to the events of 21, May 2000, and the Ceremony Rededicating the Hall, beginning its second Century of Service.

The day began with a "Pot Luck" which was well attended by the members of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 and Helen M. Edwins Tent 30 and guests. The Rededication Ceremony began at 3:00 pm with PCC John Nash handling introductions, and Camp Commander James T. Lyons PDC supplying a brief history of the Hall and Members of Post 283. Other speakers included: Eunice Black - Secretary of Tent 30, Ronald Wells - Sunfield Village President, Gregory Hayes - Commander, Dept. of Michigan SUVCW, Celestine Hollings - President, Dept. of Michigan DUVCW, and Ruth Ann Knysz - President, Michigan Dept. WRC.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Weldon Petz, Lincoln Scholar and Member of U.S. Grant Camp 101, who spoke on the significance of the Hall and its preservation. In a unique conclusion, Dr. Petz borrowed the words of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and applied them to the Rededication Ceremony. The program ended with Ella O'Neil of Tent 30 unveiling a new plaque designating the S.W. Grinnell GAR Hall's placement on the "National Register of Historic Places". Throughout the day, period music was provided by Camp 17's "Drum and Bugle Corps",

### PRESERVING HISTORY

Gentlemen:

We as a group are bonded together to keep green the memories of the brave men and women, who gave everything to keep this great nation of ours together. We have to set our eyes on the forever present danger of this great part of history becoming politically correct. You can look in the newspaper each day now and find articles that request Confederate flags to be removed, from capital buildings and areas designated as preservation of this heritage. You might question this, "as it doesn't concern the SUVCW", but it takes "two" teams to play in the super bowl. What if in the future it is agreed upon to forever remove any suggestion that this conflict ever happen. As has been proven throughout history, the longer one waits to do anything the harder it is to correct. Right or wrong this is part of American history, to ignore it, is to turn your back on the Americans that fought on both sides. Soldiers and Sailors joined and fought for the Union and died for the preservation of this great nation.

*In F. C. and L.,*

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

*ALBERT L. NEALLEY*

Private  
Company F  
134<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry

Great Uncle  
of  
William A. Brennan, PDC  
Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Photo No. 6  
@ 60%

*G.A.R. Van Buren Co. Battalion Reunion,  
October 4, 1933 in South Haven, Michigan.  
Standing, l to r, Albert J. Nealley, John F. Jones and Francis Martin.  
Seated, l to r, Hiram Fry, Nelson R. Wood and Uriah Wood.*

Albert L. Nealley was born February 26, 1847 in Northville, Illinois. He was the son of Ezra and Mary Nealley. His father was a cooper, one who makes tubs and barrels.

On May 2, 1864 Albert answered the call of the Union Army and enlisted as a private in the 134<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, Company F. He was discharged on October 25, 1865.

Comrade Nealley, as he was called by his fellow veterans, joined the G.A.R. Zach Chandler Post 35 on May 4, 1893 in the city of South Haven. At the time of his joining, the Post had a membership of 15 members. The Post was chartered in 1881 and was disbanded in 1943, when its last member passed away. The peak year for Post 35 was in 1915, when it had 77 members. Both Albert and my great grandfather, Henry P. Gillespie were members of the Post at that time. As the years passed, Comrade Nealley served in many different offices of Post 35. He served as its Commander in 1925, followed by the office of Post Chaplain from 1926 until the time of his death in 1936.

Albert was employed in the painter's and decorator's trade until the last few years of his life. At the time of his death, the South Haven daily newspaper, dated Thursday, February 20, 1936, ran an article titled, "City's Last Veteran Joins His Comrades." The article went on to say,

"South Haven's 'Last Man' answered the echo of Grant's bugle early this morning when Comrade Albert L. Nealley 88, last South Haven member of Zach Chandler Post 35 of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at the city hospital. Death followed a long illness." His widow Nancy passed away just 48 hours later at the same hospital. Heart trouble caused the old soldier's death. Had he lived just six more days, he would have been 89 years old.

The funeral services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church in South Haven. Burial was at the G.A.R. plot in South Haven's Lakeview Cemetery, behind the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument. All members of the W.R.C., S.U.V., S.U.V. Auxiliary and Legionnaires attended the funeral of the city's last Civil War veteran. A G.A.R. flag holder guards his grave and veteran's headstone.

There were five surviving members of Zach Chandler Post scattered throughout the county at the time of Albert's death: John F. Jones, W. W. Buys and William Parker, all of Covert; Rev. Nelson R. Wood of Benton Harbor; and John Eitel of Lacota. The Post closed with the death of Rev. Wood in 1943.

When the Carnegie Library was built in South Haven in 1906, Post 35 held its meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the building. It still stands today, but it is used as an arts and entertainment center. An old Confederate cannon which

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

*VARDEN REECE PLUMMER*  
*ALIAS CLARENCE L. LINDEN*

Musician  
 Company B  
 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland "East Shore" Infantry  
 Private  
 Company D  
 11<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry

Great-Grandfather  
 of  
 Willard C. Grant,  
 Sergeant John S. Cosby Camp 427

Varden Reece Plummer was born July 8, 1847 in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, the third of five children of Edward Plummer and Mary Rouse. Edward was a carpenter by trade. Varden was an Episcopalian by faith, although a brother, George, was reported to have been a Methodist minister.

The Plummer family was firmly aligned to the southern cause, themselves owning a slave, and all except Varden answered the call of the Confederacy. On December 5, 1862 at fifteen years of age, Varden enlisted in Company B, Maryland 1<sup>st</sup> East Shore Infantry as a Fifer, mustering in the same day. Joining at Cambridge, one source lists him as a student, and one as a farmer at the time of his enlistment.

The Maryland 1<sup>st</sup> East Shore Infantry was formed in Cambridge, Maryland in September of 1861. The first assignment was to control Confederate activities in Northampton County. It was here that Varden joined the regiment, and soon the 1<sup>st</sup> was made part of General Lockwood's Brigade, and assigned to an expedition into the eastern counties of Virginia.

In 1863, as Lee invaded Pennsylvania, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland requested to be made part of the Army of the Potomac. As part of Lockwood's Brigade, the regiment was ordered to Baltimore, and then to Gettysburg, where it arrived on July 3 and joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps at Culp's Hill, where "...it gave a good account of itself during the fighting that day". After Lee was driven back into Virginia, the regiment was sent back to the east coast to continue their assignments.

On May 31, 1864 Varden was charged with mutiny and imprisoned at Fort McHenry, Maryland. He was cleared of those charges, and was transferred into Company D,

Photo No. 7  
 @ 75%

*(l. to r. Varden Reece Plummer (alias Clarence L. Linden), daughter Myrtle Lillian (1886-1907), wife Emma Buffum Bates Plummer, son Clyde Reece (1883-1884).*

Reorganized 11<sup>th</sup> Maryland Volunteer Infantry on January 15, 1865. The 11<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry was assigned to garrison duty at Fort Delaware. His honorable discharge and muster out is dated June 15, 1865 in Baltimore, Maryland.

After the War, Varden moved to Coldwater, Michigan and changed his name to Clarence L. Linden. He would not return to Maryland, nor see his mother again until after his father died, over twenty years. Was this the price that he paid for going against family sentiment and joining the Union Army? Was he ashamed of his accused mutiny charge even though he was acquitted? The author has searched for the answers to these questions for many years, to no avail.

The 1870 Michigan Van Buren County Census lists Varden as C. L. Linden, a 22 year old laborer, wife Emma Anna (Buffum Bates, the War widow of Stephen Bates). His birth place was given as Ohio. Why was he trying to hide his real identity?

*(Continued on page 16)*

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

## COMING EVENTS

*GEORGE W. BENNETT HEADSTONE DEDICATION**by James T. Lyons, PDC*

Brothers of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 gathered at the Benton Township Cemetery on June 10, 2000 to dedicate a new government headstone for George W. Bennett. Private Bennett served in Co. D, 111<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry and settled in Pottersville after the war. He died in 1878. His original headstone is illegible.

Photo No. 8  
@ 100%

Camp Commander James T. Lyons, PDC led the ceremony assisted by Chaplain Dale Calder and PC-in-C Keith Harrison serving as Officer of the Day.

PC-in-C Andrew Johnson, of Arlington VA, and other family members from Ohio and Minnesota were present. Brother Johnson and Andrew L. Johnson placed a wreath and offered comments on Pvt. Bennett's life and background. PC-in-C Johnson is Bennett's great great nephew, and Andrew L., of Minnesota, is PC-in-C Johnson's nephew.

A rose was placed on the grave by PDC Paul Hodges and a laurel wreath by PCC John Nash. PDC Gary Gibson of Camp 20 provided and placed the "Symbol of the Army", a musket with fixed bayonet, canteen, cup and haversack at the grave. Brother Ken Russeau served as "guard of the Symbol of the Army".

The Camp 17 Camp Guard fired a salute and taps was played by Pottersville High School student Nathan Johnson. Period music was provided, on fife and drum, by Jean Wank and Tom Emerick.

A number of people helped in locating Private Bennett's grave. PDC Kent Armstrong and Commander Doug Armstrong of Camp 58 did the work of securing the new headstone, seeing that it was set, and a flag holder was provided.

It is this type of cooperative effort which allows us, in this Department, to accomplish so many worthwhile projects.

*Left to right, Past Commander-in-Chief Andrew Johnson, Past Department Commander James T. Lyons and Honor Guard, Ken Russeau.*

*VARDEN PLUMMER*

*(Continued from page 15)*

The 1890 Van Buren County Pension Census lists Varden as being enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry, another cover up.

Varden became a printer, and between 1873 and 1886 he and Emma had three children, one of them being my mother, Effie May. Before 1907, two of them had died, one source believing that the chemicals from the ink at the family printing shop contributed to their early demise.

In 1904, Varden and his family abruptly moved to Chicago. This author believes that he began to think about drawing his army pension, and could not change his name back to Varden

Plummer in a small town where everyone knew everyone else's business. An article in the July 23, 1912 Coldwater Courier noted that "Clarence Linden of Chicago, an old time Coldwater printer and former employee of the Courier office is calling on friends here...He now has a position with the International Harvester Company".

During the next 20 years, Varden's heart and lungs began to fail. A 1924 notarized document from Cook County, Illinois verified that Effie M. (Linden) Grant had cared for Varden R. Plummer during his continuing disability, and in that same year the family placed him in the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors in Milwaukee, where he died on March 22, 1927, age 80. He is buried in the



## 2000 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT INFORMATION

*SUVCW**2000 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT**AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 20*

Michigan's Host Committee for this year's National Encampment wishes to remind all Brothers in our Department that you are welcome to attend as an "Alternate", if you were not placed on the list of Delegates. Alternates may be seated and witness the Friday and Saturday business meetings (but not vote) and also attend the Campfire Program and Banquet. Pre-Registration details are included elsewhere in these pages, in case you have not received the May 2000 BANNER. As at our recent Department Encampment, attendees will receive a special commemorative medallion, made possible by the efforts of Brothers Del Farnsworth, Gary Gibson, and Richard Micka.

A list of meeting/activity rooms is being printed in the Messenger for your reference (this will be familiar to those who attended the 1994 National Encampment). On site registration will be in the lobby of the Convention Center, as you enter from the hotel's Atrium Lounge.

Camps and individuals are encouraged to purchase space in the special Encampment Booklet, to honor your "Civil War ancestor" and/or to extend greetings to everyone attending. Brother Mann has provided examples to all Camps represented at our Mid-Winter Conference and Dept. Encampment this year. Further reference can be found in these pages.

Secure space has been reserved for Camps and individuals to share special displays of Civil War/G.A.R. related memorabilia and/or visual records of your efforts related to cemetery work and memorial preservation. Volunteers will be needed to take turns "standing-watch" over these displays. Those interested may contact Brother Dick Williams or Yours truly.

In F., C., & L.,

Kent Armstrong, PDC  
Department of Michigan Host Committee  
SUVCW 2000 National Encampment



CONVENTION CENTER  
6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI  
48911

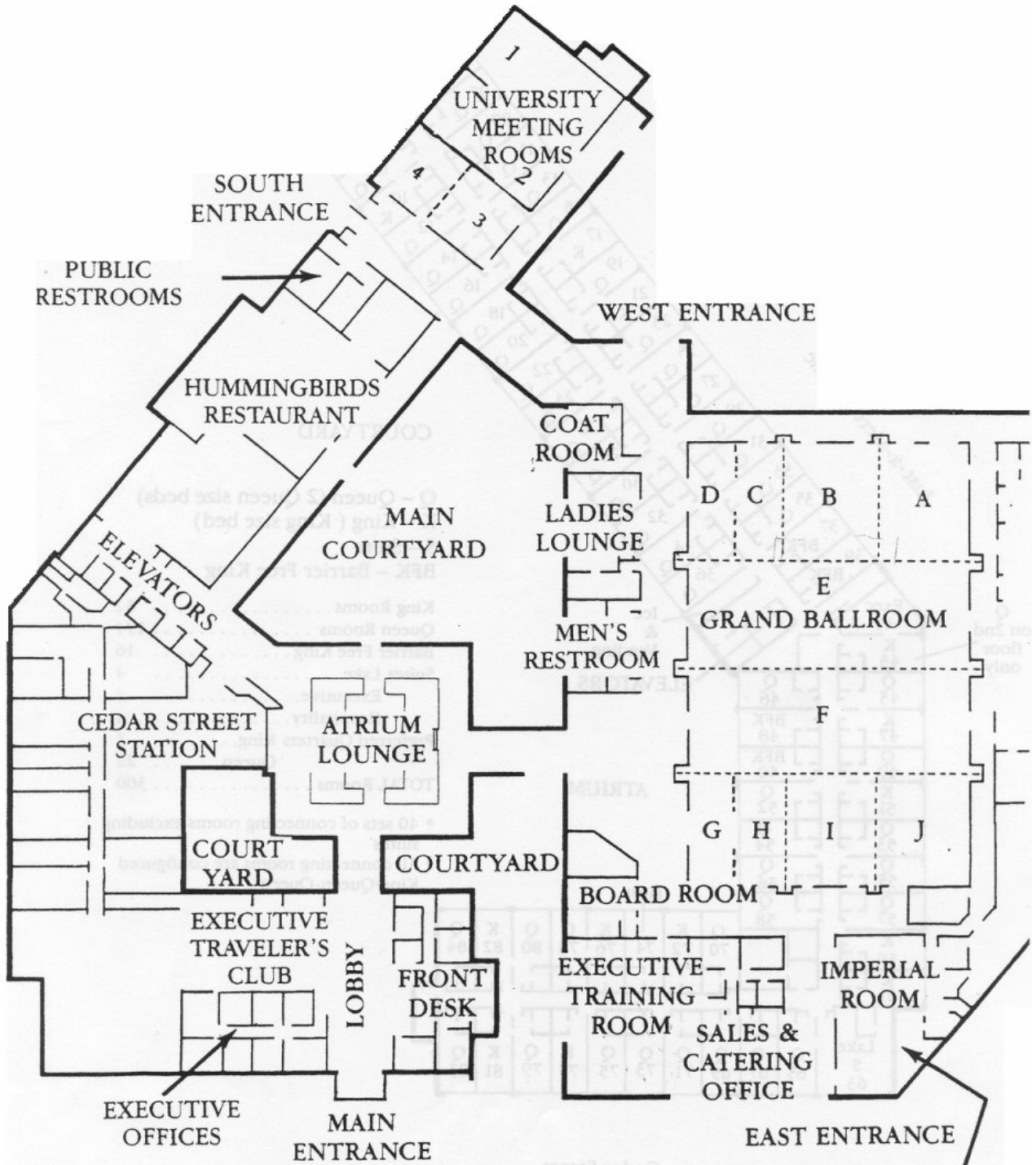
**ARRIVING:**

1. Take Exit 104 off of I-96, turn left at the first light and proceed on S. Pennsylvania Avenue.
2. Turn left at the third light and proceed South on Southbound Cedar Street.
3. Proceed under the Interstate overpass. Proceed past the traffic light at Long Blvd., and turn right into the Holiday Inn entryway. Parking is behind the hotel.

**DEPARTING:**

1. Leave Hotel via Long Blvd., taking advantage of the traffic light for a left turn onto Cedar Street.
2. Proceed Northward on Cedar, following directions back to I-96.

2000 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT INFORMATION



**Holiday Inn**  
 South/Convention Center

6820 South Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48911  
 517-694-8123

Pool and Health Club  
 Take elevator 3 to  
**Lower Level**

DIRECTOR'S ROOM  
 DOWN STAIRS

2000 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT INFORMATION

**2000 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT**

Thursday, August 17 through Sunday, August 20  
Lansing, Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 119<sup>th</sup> Encampment  
Auxiliary to the SUVCW 114<sup>th</sup> Encampment  
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic 114<sup>th</sup> Encampment

Holiday Inn South/Convention Center  
6820 South Cedar St  
Lansing, MI 48911

For reservations and courtesy transportation from  
the Lansing airport call 800-333-8123

A block of rooms has been reserved by the Department of  
Michigan SUVCW at \$69 + tax for single/double occupancy,  
and \$79 + tax for triple/quadruple occupancy.

**Hotel room registration deadline is July 20, 2000.**

**ALLIED ORDERS BANQUET**

Saturday, August 19, 2000  
ROAST RIB of BEEF or BONELESS CHICKEN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken meals at \$24.00 each

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Beef meals at \$24.00 each

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Make check payable to: **Department of Michigan, SUVCW**  
And mail to: 2000 Encampment Committee  
1917 Teel  
Lansing, MI 48910-3117

**2000 ENCAMPMENT PRE-REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your e-mail address for electronic confirmation

*Each delegate will receive an Encampment Medallion.*

Current or Highest past office held: (check only one)

- Past Commander in Chief
- Dept. Commander
- Delegate
- Past Dept. Commander
- Alternate

Please fill out this form completely. Write a check or money  
order (no cash) to the **National Organization, SUVCW** in the  
amount of \$7.00 and mail it to:

2000 Encampment Committee  
1917 Teel  
Lansing, MI 48910-3117

**NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
OFFICIAL PROGRAM BOOK**

Help support the 119<sup>th</sup> Encampment of the SUVCW by taking out an  
ad in the Official Program Book.

Memorialize your ancestors that took part in the Civil War or a  
departed comrade from your Camp or Departments. Congratulate  
Commander-in-Chief Danny Wheeler, Auxiliary National President  
Mary Jo Long, L.G.A.R. National President Kathy Stiffler, or all three!

Individuals, Camps and Departments can show they take an active part  
and have pride in our Order by placing an ad in the Official Program  
Book. Costs for the ads are as follows: Full Page - \$30.00; Half Page -  
\$17.00; Quarter Page - \$10.00; Eighth Page - \$7.00. Consecutive  
facing pages may be requested if two full page ads are ordered at the  
same time.

*To make this book more than just a keepsake of the National  
Encampments, a complete listing of all 613 G.A.R. Posts in Michigan  
from 1879 to 1948, along with the town where they were located and  
their charter/disbandment dates will be included.*

Please make your check payable to: **Dept. of Michigan, SUVCW**

Mail the check and copy of your ad to:  
Nat'l Encampment Book  
2495 Washington Rd  
Lansing, MI 48911-7216

**Deadline for receipt of your ad is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000!**

Please include your e-mail address or snail mail address.

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Photo No. 9  
@ 100%

*PAUL W. ROOF*

81 years young on June 29<sup>th</sup>

Paul is a Charter Member of George W. Anderson Camp 58 in DeWitt. Brother Roof is the Great Grandson of Sergeant Nathaniel Roof who served in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry. Brother Roof is an active member of Camp 58, participating in many projects and Memorial Day Ceremonies. He is a veteran of WWII, serving with the 706<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion in the Philippines and Okinawa. Paul is pictured here with his grandson, Brother Eric Martens, during a Memorial Day Ceremony in St. Johns.

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER IS SEPTEMBER 15.***

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

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