

Michigan's
Messenger



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

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In Memoriam

Thayne Chamberlain
LaBanta

“True Son”

11 October 1904 ~ 15 July 2000

Department Commander 1947/48



The Sons lost another of its treasured links to the past with the passing of Thayne Chamberlain LaBanta. Just as it was 50 years ago with the G.A.R., our Order also witnessing the passing of an era, when all too soon, the last “True Son” will answer his last muster and join his father in the final Encampment.

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The Department of Michigan has a limited number of National Encampment Glasses and Medals available for sale.

The glasses are emblazoned with the G.A.R. medal, with the stem denoting the year 2000. These are priced at \$5.00 each.

The medals, with the Grand Rapids Soldier's Home on the obverse and the Allied Orders and date on the reverse are priced at \$10.00 each.

Since the supply is limited we would ask that you contact the Department Commander at dayhayes@aol.com or (810) 735 - 9283 to check availability before ordering.

Michigan's Messenger

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IN MEMORIAM

THAYNE CHAMBERLAIN LABANTA

Thayne was born on 11 October 1904, the son of Civil War Veteran Derick Dean Banta and Ida Florence Chamberlain. Thayne's father was the son of Quaker parents and he served as a private in the 76th Illinois Infantry, Company F, from 7 August 1862 until 6 March 1865. After the war he became a chemist in Chicago, but lost everything in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. In 1877 he changed his name to Dean LaBanta and wrote a book on ladies etiquette entitled "De La Banta's Advice to Ladies". In 1887 he moved to New York where he formed a militia of 1200 men, the "First Regiment of New York, an Independent Self-sustained Militia of Temperance Men." While on a lecture tour in 1896, he met his future wife. Ida was 27 years of age and Dean 52, but they immediately fell in love and after a brief courting period, were married. Their first child, Dean, was born the following year, 1897, followed in succession by two girls, Queen and Beulah, then Thayne in 1904. In 1899, the LaBanta family moved to Jackson where Derick joined the Edward Pomeroy G.A.R. Post 48. Thayne's father passed away 20 February 1926 at the age of 81.

Thayne's brother Dean was a Charter Member of Austin Blair Camp 7, joining the Sons on April 14, 1914. The old minutes of the Camp show that Dean was an active member right from the start. During WWI he enlisted in the Marines and was killed in France by a sniper three days before the Armistice, November 8, 1918.

As a young lad, Thayne was enamored by the automobile and often hung around the local garages after school "*bothering the mechanics*" while learning how to repair cars. One day, one of the garage owners asked him if he would like a part time job doing minor repairs and delivering the repaired vehicles to their owners. Thayne accepted his offer, but admitted he didn't know how to drive. The owner hired Thayne anyway and then taught him how to drive. He worked as a mechanic for a short while, then as a typesetter for the Jackson Citizen Patriot and the Brooklyn Exponent newspapers for a number of years. He then started a printing business, which he finally retired from in the 1960s. Retirement wasn't to his liking, so he learned how to sharpen tools, bought some equipment and went into business again, sharpening every kind of cutting tool from shears and lawn mower blades to industrial carbide lathe and milling cutters. He finally retired for good in 1997. When asked if he had ever worked on any fancy, expensive cars like a Dusenburg he replied, "*Nobody in Jackson could afford a car like that.*"

He also added that, "*The cars I liked to work on best were the Briscoes*". The Briscoe was manufactured in Jackson for several years before the firm's demise during the Great Depression.

Thayne married Louise Bartlett in 1928. She taught school in Sandstone Township in Jackson County from 1935 to 1969. After retiring from teaching, she assisted Thayne in his printing business. Louise also had an interest in the Allied Orders, serving in many of the offices of Camp 7's Auxiliary and also those of the Auxiliary Department, including that of Department President. Louise passed away on March 28, 1992.

On June 18, 1993 Brother LaBanta married Mary F. Clark. Mary and Thayne had known one another for many years, she being one of Louise's early students. She almost immediately took an interest in Thayne's work with the Sons and attended the National Encampment with him in Lansing in 1994. Mary became a member of the Auxiliary, taking the oath at the National Encampment. Her dream was to reactivate the Camp 7's Auxiliary and rebuild the Department Auxiliary. Unfortunately, before her dream could be realized, she was stricken by cancer and died shortly after.

Though our organization has several True Sons still on its muster rolls, few of them have been members as long as Brother LaBanta. Thayne joined Austin Blair Camp 7 in Jackson on April 5, 1929 but by his own admission, did not become very active until the mid 1930's. He served as Camp Commander in the late 30's and then served in several appointed and elected positions in the Department of Michigan during the next 15 plus years. He was elected to the Department of Michigan's highest office, that of Department Commander, for the 1946/47 term. In 1948 he represented the Department of Michigan, S.U.V.C.W. at the funeral of Orlando LeValley, the last member and Department Commander of the Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic. He also witnessed the final Encampment of the G.A.R. in 1949 while serving as a Delegate to the National Encampment of the S.U.V.C.W. in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1999, the 50th Anniversary of the Final Encampment again saw Brother LaBanta serving as a Michigan Delegate to the National Encampment in Indianapolis.

Thayne was a virtual storehouse of lore when questioned about the old Civil War veterans, their reunions and encampments. He also had many stories to tell about the

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 IN MEMORIAM

(Continued from page 3)

men and encampments of the S.U.V.C.W. Long before he joined the Sons, he was driving his father to reunions of his Civil War regiment in Illinois and to G.A.R. Department and National Encampments in Michigan and as far away as Boston, Massachusetts and Des Moines, Iowa. He told of driving to the National Encampment in Boston in 1924, camping along the way in farmer's fields. Whenever the locals found out that a Civil War veteran was on his way to the National Encampment, he was treated like a long lost friend. Upon their arrival in Boston, he said they were treated like visiting dignitaries by all the citizens, given discounts in all the restaurants and free passes on the trolley system. Rather than stay in hotels, Derick and Thayne joined many of the old veterans *"tenting tonight on the old campground"*, at a tent camp set up by the National Guard.

In 1922, Thayne drove his father and mother to the National Encampment in Des Moines. Photographs show the car had storage boxes attached to the running boards, the tent rolled and slung on one side and the tent poles tied on the driver's side. The roads were for the most part either dirt or graveled, for very few paved roads existed in the countryside at that time. Thayne recalled that it took the better part of a week to reach Des Moines.

Thayne and another longtime member of Camp 7, Don Hoch (Department Commander 1949/50), were very active in attending various functions of the S.U.V.C.W. throughout Michigan. At one memorable event in Port Huron prior to WWII, they were attending a period ball. Thayne recalled that Don was dancing with an attractive lady dressed in a hoop skirt and sort of jokingly asked her what ladies wore under those dresses to make them billow out so much; so the lady showed him!

During the "lean years" of the Sons, from about the early 1950's to the late 1980's in Michigan, Thayne and Don saw the membership of Camp 7 dwindle to just a few active members; then to just the two of them. They kept the Camp's Charter alive by electing the necessary officers, filing all the forms and paying the minimum five member per capita for the Camp every quarter for several years. Thayne had said that the inactive members that were kept on the rolls had never applied for a discharge. In 1987, Jack Patch, Jim Neely and Richard Halsey transferred to Camp 7, sparking a revitalization of the Camp that eventually led to Camp 7 becoming one of the largest in the Department today. Once the Camp was back on its feet and functioning again, the inactive members

were purged from the membership list, but not before an attempt was made to find out if they would be interested in "rejoining" the Camp. Unfortunately, it was discovered that one of the old members couldn't be found, one was in a nursing home and the third had been deceased for several years.

Thayne saved what few items and records he could from Edward Pomeroy G.A.R. Post 48 in Jackson when the Post closed in the 1940's. Unfortunately, he related, a lot of the items were thrown out when the county took over Post 48's meeting room in the court house. He also gathered and saved many records from Camp 7's early days, including the minute books. They were all stored items in his house and later turned over to the Camp along with several personal items he had saved throughout the years.

Though his health declined rapidly the last several months of his life, Thayne remained an active Member of our Order to the end, attending and taking an active part in all Camp meetings, save for those which took place in the winter months while he was in Florida. He was also in attendance at many of our Department and National Encampments, entertaining the Delegates with tales of past Encampments and stories of his father's G.A.R. Encampments and regimental reunions in Illinois. He served as Camp Counselor for many years, advising the Camp on the finer points of conducting our meetings per the Ritual. Many were the times he would tell of how the meetings of the Camp *"used to be conducted"* adding, tongue in cheek, that *"we have too much business in our meetings now-a-days, and not enough fun and socializing."*

Brother LaBanta passed away in Ocklawaha, Florida on July 15, 2000, where he had spent his last two winters enjoying the warmth and sunshine. The funeral service was held on July 21st at the Patience-Montgomery Funeral Home in Jackson, Michigan. Burial was at Highland Cemetery in Brooklyn, Michigan. At the family's request, Austin Blair Camp provided a graveside burial service per our Order's Ritual. There were approximately 50 Sons members in attendance and taking part in the ceremony, including the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, two Past Commanders-in-Chiefs, the Michigan Department Commander, two Past Department Commanders, several members and officers of other Michigan Camps, and a large contingency of Camp 7's membership.

Thayne will be remembered forever by all who knew him

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

*DEPARTMENT ORDERS**SERIES 2000 ~ 2001**DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 2**Department Headquarters – Linden, MI
17 July 2000*

1. **W**e mourn the loss of our esteemed friend, Brother and Real Son, Thayne C. LaBanta, PDC, upon his passing to the camping grounds of the Grand Army above on July 15, 2000, in Florida. Thayne gave wholeheartedly of his time and help in all the affairs of this Order.

2. **T**o honor Brother LaBanta's memory I hereby direct the following:

A. The Department Web page shall remain framed in mourning for 60 days.

B. All Camp charters shall be draped in black mourning for 60 days.

C. All Camps are requested to hold a moment of silence or conduct the "Memorial Service for a Departed Member" from the Ritual and Ceremonials at their next scheduled meeting.

3. **I** hereby appoint the following Special Committee to be known as "The Thayne LaBanta Memorial Committee." Its duties will be to meet, discuss and present a proposal to the Department Encampment for a suitable permanent memorial to Brother LaBanta's memory. The members of this Special Committee shall be:

- William Lowe, PCC, Austin Blair Camp No. 7
- Robert Hoffman, Commander, Austin Blair Camp No. 7.
- Richard Greene, PCC, Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145.
- Richard Lee, PCC, Gilully-Kingsley Camp No. 120.
- Kent Armstrong, PDC, George W. Anderson Camp No. 58.

By the Order of:

Gregory D. Hayes
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard F. Lee, PCC
Department Secretary

*DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 3**Department Headquarters – Linden, MI
14 September 2000*

1. **T**o honor the memory of Brother Herbert Gage, who passed away on June 25th, I ask that all Camp Charters be draped in black for a period of thirty days. Brother Gage was a past District Commander of the American Legion and a President of Michigan's Consolidated War Veterans Council.

2. **T**he National Encampment in August was a resounding success, greatly due to the hard work and dedication of the Encampment Committee: Bros. Kent Armstong, PDC; Keith Harrison, PC-in-C; and Richard Williams. Brother Williams also was justly honored for his years of work with the National Organization. Also deserving special recognition is Brother John Mann, both for his outstanding Encampment Program and other printed materials and his work at the Encampment. Brother Richard Greene did a tremendous job chairing the Credentials Committee and many Brothers assisted him in this endeavor. And, to everyone from Michigan that was there, I wish to give my personal thanks for your assistance and support.

3. **T**he Department Commander highly commends Brother Keith Harrison, PC-in-C, and the Brothers of the John A. Logan Camp No. 1 for their efforts in organizing and conducting the Ceremony of Remembrance in Grand Rapids. The highlight of the day, for me, was having a chance to talk to the veterans and hearing how pleased they were to have this annual event.

4. **T**he following Brothers are hereby appointed to the G.A.R. Records Committee: James T. Lyons, PDC, Chair, Richard Williams, David F. Wallace, PDC and J. Douglas Park, PDC.

5. **T**he following Brothers are appointed to the Communications and Technology Committee: David F. Wallace, PDC, Chair, Dan Doyle and Richard Williams.

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

6. Brother Bruce Butgereit is hereby appointed to the position of Camp-at-Large Coordinator. The Department Commander commends Brother Ken Martin for his efforts in the position over the past two years.

7. The 2001 Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 17, 2001, at the Best Western Midway Motor Hotel in Lansing. A preliminary agenda appears elsewhere in this issue. I have asked that all Committee Chairs plan to make a presentation to the assembly as to their work to date and goals. Additionally, the Department Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will give reports. My goal is to give the participants a clear understanding of the current work of the Department, its problems and successes, and outline the plans for the remainder of the term. We will leave time open for issues and questions. I encourage all Brothers to attend.

8. By the authority in me vested as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at the petition of the Brothers of the Camp adopted at a regular meeting of said Camp, I do hereby assign the Wa-Bu-No Camp the **Number 250**, effective 17 August 2000, replacing its previously assigned number. This is the number of the original Wa-Bu-No Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

9. The 2001 Department Encampment will be held April 21st at the Radisson Hotel in Farmington Hills. The Daughters of Union Veterans will host the Encampment. Although it is seven months away, our calendars start to fill quickly. Please plan to attend.

10. The Graves Registration Committee held its first meeting September 9th at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. I commend Brother Danes and all involved for putting this meeting together. The next meeting will be 2 December 2000. *I am directing that the Camps refrain from posting Grave Registration Information on their websites until the Committee works out standards for that information.* As a side note, the National Grave Registration Officer pulled me aside during the National Encampment and praised our Graves program in Michigan. The Department leads in the number of registrations - in fact we have more than triple the number of the second highest.

11. Please contact this Office if you are planning to go to Gettysburg in November

for Remembrance Day. I would like to gauge participation for both the parade and our ceremonies at the Michigan monuments.

12. My tenure of this first term of Office will always be viewed with a certain melancholy. I cherish the fraternity of my Brothers and the kindness shown to my family and me. However, the loss of Thayne was a truly sad chapter in our continuing history. To the Brothers of the Austin Blair Camp, I thank you for the moving and fitting services at the funeral, grave side and, more recently, at the Jackson Cascades Reenactment. Your devotion and love of this man was very evident.

13. With the advent of Camp elections in a few months, the Camps are reminded that the Installing Officer must be appointed by the Department Commander. I will make every effort to follow the wishes of the Camp in naming said Officer, but these wishes need to be conveyed to this Office. Additionally, departing Camp Officers need to turn over all the materials of their office to their successor. This insures the continuity of both the Office and the Camp.

By the Order of:

Gregory D. Hayes
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard F. Lee, PCC

30TH MICHIGAN SVR

A reorganization meeting for the 30th Michigan, Sons of Veterans Reserve is being planned. If you were a member in the past, or have interest in this ceremonial group, please contact me for more information. The goal is to have the 30th an active participant in memorials across the state and be available for functions by Camps and local groups.

Please contact:

Greg Hayes
P.O. Box 53
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dayhayes@aol.com
(810) 735 - 9283

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Pete Carlson

I was requested to explain who and what is the SUVCW at the Northwestern Fair on their Veterans Day program. Camp 147 SVC Charles La Bar presented the National Colors. I will also have the honor of presenting our colors for the *Breakfast with the Governor* on September 20th at the arena at the fairgrounds. Last year we also presented our colors for the Governor. People have found out that we, like our brothers before us, are there when they need us. On Friday & Saturday I will be at the Wexford County Museum to assist with the open house and homes tour. I will have our info table for SUVCW set up in the museum.

As you probably know, I have had lots of medical problems, and have not performed my duties as Department Senior Vice Commander as they should of been performed. After the next round of operations I should be in A-1 shape and I am looking forward to attending as many Camp meeting as I can. If you would send me the info on your Camp meetings and let me know if you'd like me to pay your Camp a visit I will try to get there, health permitting.

Please find time for your Camp's members to get out before the snow falls on and do as much as you can to get our Graves Registration projects completed. Also, while you're looking around be on the lookout for monuments and other memorial plaques.

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

Historians of the several Camps and Departments are responsible for the collection and preservation of historical and biographical materials pertaining to the Civil War, to members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to members of the SUVCW. The Historians are charged with organizing, cataloging, and maintaining those materials.

The help of other members of the Order is necessary to make this work effective. For that reason, all Brothers are encouraged to look for and contribute items and to be alert for possible donations from other sources.

Many kinds of materials are appropriate. Newspaper articles about Post or Camp activities, for example are very suitable. Similarly, Post or Camp membership records, meeting notices and minutes, and financial records are welcome. Other suitable items include books, pamphlets, photographs, announcements and printed programs, recordings and tapes, obituaries, and Civil War artifacts and memorabilia. Photocopies and other replicas are acceptable when originals are unavailable.

Please help enlarge the historical collections of the Camps and the Department "for the good of the Order."

SECRETARY

Richard Lee

4th Quarter Per Capita reports (April-June 2000) were received by the due date, 11 July, from 23 of the 25 Camps in the Department.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Gen. John A. Logan | 67 Gen. Phil Kearney* |
| 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 Governor Crapo* |
| 20 Gen. Benjamin Pritchard* | 147 Henry W. Quigley |
| 22 Colegrove-Woodruff* | 160 Henry F. Wallace* |
| 28 Alexander French | 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. Cosby* |
| 462 Russell A. Alger | |

The * indicates the 20 of 25 Camps that reported on time in the 1st quarter of this year. May we hope to see all 25 Camps report on time in this July-September quarter? Thank you Brothers for your cooperation and efforts.

Note: The Form 22 "Report of the Camp Installing Officer" will be mailed with the Form 27 "Camp Quarterly Report" for the October-December quarter. Article XIII of the Department Bylaws state that the Camp Officers shall be elected between the 1st regular Camp meeting of October and December and that those Officers shall be installed between the 1st regular Camp meeting of November and January, conforming to the Regulations in the C&R. Please return **both** copies of the Form 22 as soon as your Camp Officers have been installed. That information is **required** at Department and National levels.

 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

GRAVES REGISTRATION

Rick Danes

A long-anticipated Graves Registration Officers Meeting was held at the State Library in Lansing on September 9. At that meeting, 13 Camps were represented by 14 attendees. In addition, I received 3 graves completion surveys back by non-attendees before the meeting.

All issues on the agenda were covered, and many created questions that will be resolved at our next meeting, scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2000 at the State Library in Lansing. The issues covered in our meeting were:

1. A history of the graves registration effort and report out by Camps.

Result: % of completed cemeteries by county:

100%	11 Counties
50-99%	3 Counties
0-49%	12 Counties

Remember we have 25 camps and 83 Counties in the Department of Michigan.

2. Review of the current and proposed registration forms, information kept on the current and proposed state database, information that will be allowed on the state website and it's format. Also consistent abbreviations for state issues and sources, multiple fields for marriages, GAR Posts, and enlistments. This was the big topic for the day, and the issues will be resolved by consensus on December 2.

3. Review of a "Graves Registration Officer Handbook". This will be formalized after item 2 is resolved and published in its completed form.

4. Distribution of a compact disk (cd) containing all records now in the database at the state level. This will be used by the Camps as a resource, and not be downloaded into their websites or redistributed for personal use.

5. Discussion: all items veteran's gravesites should be copied and sent to the State Officer for archiving. In this manner, all information will be accessible in one area.

Brother Bill Lowe distributed copies of the 1888 Michigan Veterans Census to the individual Camps present. If you have not received one for your area, please contact him.

6. Roundtable:

Our goal before our next meeting is to send all outstanding graves registration information to me for input into the State record. At this time, all formats of information are acceptable,

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Neal F. Breough

When I returned from our National Encampment in Lansing, a headline on the front page of our paper read: "Voters may snooze through most crucial elections in decades." This hit me pretty hard--especially because of the probably truth in that headline. My purpose in mentioning it here is not to give a lecture to my Brothers on exercising their voting privileges. I am confident that the vast majority of us do so on a regular basis. We in the SUVCW are well aware of and always conscious of the tremendous sacrifice that our ancestors made not only in the Civil War, but in all of our Country's wars. Many men and women have made great sacrifices during the past three centuries; dying, being wounded, losing loved ones, and going without many things so that we could be free to vote. We know that, and we take that responsibility seriously. I don't have to ask or remind you to vote. However, I am going to ask you to be more assertive in communicating this hard won privilege to your relatives, friends, fellow workers, and yes even strangers. Some of you have no doubt done this in the past. It may be easy for some, but it will possibly be more difficult for others. Having been a political consultant in many elections, this is foreign to me because I was never interested in getting out the vote — just those who would vote for my candidate. This simply little conversation topic is hard for me, and I am an assertive type person. Asking someone if they are registered; encouraging and reminding them to vote; offering to drive them to the polls; just discussing the need and importance of all of us being involved in becoming informed and voting; that is what I am asking that we all do. I have tried it, and it is getting easier. As to specific issues and candidates, that is a personal matter with each of you, and I leave it in your hands. My message is that we all get involved in trying to get as many people as possible to take advantage of the privilege that has been handed down to us by not snoozing through the election, but by casting their vote in the true American tradition

and in the future we will try to send it in Excel spreadsheet format. Cold weather is great for surveying cemeteries; there are no dogs or mosquitoes to bother you!

Bill (Lowe) announced that according to National Graves Registration Officer Leo Kennedy at the National Encampment, the Department of Michigan is responsible for approximately 30% of the national total. I am sure that this position will change if we meet our goal by December 2.

Special thanks this month to Commander Hayes and Brother Lowe for their help in making this meeting a success.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman

With the inevitable return of winter and cold weather, this committee urges all Camps to increase their efforts to assess monuments and memorials within their area. We would respectfully ask that all Camp Commanders and Camp level Civil War Memorials Officers contact this office with their individual Camp's progress with this project. We also respectfully request that previous Camp Commanders share all materials and correspondence to them by this office with the present Camp Commander. Last year, all Camps should have received a listing of monuments, memorials and cannon within their Camp's designated area of participation. Along with this information, Civil War Memorial Assessment Forms (CWM Form #61) were included for the Camps to make additional copies. Please contact us if your Camp does not have this information or if you need forms to make copies from.

Thank you to those Camps who have continued to send completed forms to us. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The information sent will now be added to our Department's database and a copy sent to the National Civil War Memorials Committee for addition to its database.

In my travels I've seen many grand and unique monuments that were erected by the ancestors we honor. I'd like to see that these remain in good condition for the appreciation and education to future generations of the service and sacrifices of those men they honor.



COVERED WITH BADGES

So you think the controversy about the numbers of badges a member should wear is a modern one? This cartoon poking fun at some of the veterans who covered themselves with badges and medals ran in the Washington Post newspaper during the 26th G.A.R. National Encampment of 1892 in Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT REVIEW

Kent Armstrong, PDC

There have been many Brothers to thank for their part in helping our Department host the recent National Encampments of the SUVCW, ASUVCW, and the LGAR. Commander Hayes asked me if I'd be willing to write an article, so here goes...

It was immediately after the March 1999 meeting of the SUVCW's National Council of Administration when we learned that the Department of Maine would not be able to host the National Encampment in the year 2000. National Treasurer Jim Pahl contacted me, asking if I thought that Michigan could step in and prepare for a National Encampment – less than 1½ years away. I was confident that we could and asked those assembled at our 1999 Department Encampment for their vote of support to proceed.

At the top of our list for those to recognize is Dick Williams, who accepted appointment to chair our Department Host Committee and spent countless hours helping with the planning and hotel arrangements. Dick was then on-site from the first thing on Thursday morning to late Saturday night of the encampment.

Next is John Mann, who worked countless hours to give us an **outstanding** Program booklet and then tirelessly served at the registration counter. Like Dick, John was there from the very start to finish. Another Brother who put in these hours was Commander Hayes. Greg was there to lend a hand with any detail, in addition to leading our Department Delegation at the Encampment's business meetings. National Credentials Committee Chairman Rick Greene and those who helped him had an important role from Thursday through Saturday too.

Special mementos of the encampment came in the form of a medallion, nametag & ribbon, magazine & booklet, and banquet glass. Brothers Del Farnsworth, Gary Gibson, and Dick Micka worked on the special Encampment Medallion. Brothers Dick Williams and Richard Lee designed and procured the Encampment Ribbons. The nametags were worked on by Brothers Greene, Hayes, and Williams, with the original design made and donated by the talented David F. Wallace, PDC. The issue of Michigan History Magazine and a booklet, both focusing on Michigan's role in the Civil War (given to each attendee to Friday night's *Campfire* program) were secured by PC-in-C Keith Harrison. Keith and John Mann made sure that a magazine & booklet went to everyone who came through the door. [Speaking of the *Campfire* program, PDC Jim Lyons is to be congratulated on a job well done as our Master of Ceremonies. Another "MC" who deserves recognition is PC-in-C Harrison for his services at the Saturday night banquet.] The special "2000 glass" that we had prepared for the banquet with a blue-ink image of the G.A.R. membership badge, was first

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TAPS ~ OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS

HERBERT R. GAGE

Brother Gage passed away June 25th, do to heart failure. He was a Life Member of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 in Kalamazoo. He derived his membership from his ancestor, Charles W. Rawson, Company K, 12th Michigan Infantry.

Brother Gage was born 29 August 1923 and was a veteran of WWII, serving in the Marine Corps, 2nd Division during the invasion of Saipan and with the occupation force of Nagasaki. He was active in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps Legion Disabled American Veterans as well as the Masons, Shriners and other fraternal orders. Veterans affairs matters were very important to him and he volunteered many hours at the Battle Creek VA Hospital.

Herbert was employed by the Railway Express Company for a period 15 years, then switched careers for that of a realtor, working with three different Kalamazoo area firms. He was very active in rental property management.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Doris "Frostie" Warman, a sister and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Langeland Family Funeral Home in Kalamazoo on 28 June 2000, with interment in the Hill Cemetery at Lawrence, Michigan. Military honors were provided by Hess-Eastman American Legion Post 174.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT REVIEW

(Continued from page 9)

spotted by my *better-half*, Judy. In addition to further decorating and placing mints in each banquet glass, "The Mrs." also prepared each welcome bag given to all delegates when they registered. This included color-coding each meeting room on a map of the hotel as well as packing all of the brochures that were gathered from various sources. She also helped maintain the living "Michigan White Pine" trees that were given away at each banquet table.

I also want to thank Brother Bruce Butgereit (Secretary of John A. Logan Camp 1) for a couple things. First and foremost is for escorting *True Son* Edward Blakely to the encampment and banquet. Brother Butgereit afforded me the honor to introduce Bro. Blakely at the Saturday morning business session and ask Commander-in-Chief Wheeler to render the honors of presenting Bro. Blakely with his membership badge and Life Member recognition bar. One of my BEST memories of the entire encampment was to be in the company of Brother Blakely and our Department's other True Son, Adin Shank, at the Saturday banquet.

Another matter that I wish to recognize Brother Butgereit for, has to do with the *Michigan White Pines*. Bruce happened to be the winner of the tree at his banquet table and learned during follow-up conversation that the Department had to purchase a quantity of the trees that was greater than the number of tables at the banquet. Bruce wondered aloud if the Department would like to give the leftover trees to the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home for planting on the grounds there – and that's just where they went! Thanks again, Bruce.

All of you who were able to attend the encampment as delegates and alternates are to be commended for the time you

gave to witness and be a part of the business of the national organization. It was a proud moment for our Department to be able to cast ALL of its allotted votes!

Our Department delegation was not able to be present at all of the various functions during the course of the Encampment but I want everyone to appreciate the fact that on short notice, our own Department Chaplain (Bill McAfee) rose to the challenge of performing the duties of the National Chaplain. This included preparing an excellent tribute that Bill delivered at the Friday morning Memorial Service.

The "Must See" for the weekend was Brother Roger Heiple's enormous display of G.A.R. memorabilia. You had to see it to believe it, and what he brought was only a portion of his collection! Thanks again, Roger.

Our Department Council (consisting of Brothers Harrison, Lowe, and Streeter) deserves praise for their assistance and support, authorizing Dept. Treasurer Farnsworth to pay all requests made upon his office by Commander Hayes. [With careful planning and good sales of the Department's various fund raising items, all Encampment expenses have been met **without** cost to the Department's funds.]

Lastly, another thanks to Dick Williams for his kind words toward this servant, which he shared at the microphone on Saturday night. You're too generous, Sir.

I was proud to be there, to see Brother Williams receive the National Organization's annual recognition as the Order's most outstanding member. Many will never know the long hours that Dick has given to the SUVCW (at local, state, and national

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**Dick Williams*

This is the unofficial accounting for the cost of putting on the National Encampment in Lansing, Michigan from August 17 through August 19, 2000. We still have National badges and dinner glasses to sell which, when sold, will get us closer to breaking even.

Income:	National Organization SUVCW	\$2,000.00
	Auxiliary	400.00
	LGAR	400.00
	Dinner	5,160.00
	Advertising in Encampment booklet	1,778.00
	Coat of Arms patch	60.00
	Emblem patch	200.00
	Patch holders	35.00
	National Medallions	50.00
	Phone line	50.00
	Ribbons	8.00
Total Income		\$10,141.00
Expenses:	Dinners	\$4,944.78
	Dinner glasses	974.37
	Phone line	53.00
	Band	227.50
	Slide Presentation	350.00
	Piano	200.00
	Flowers for each meeting room	164.30
	Gifts fro Saturday evening	169.39
	Video tapes & Envelopes	26.32
	Encampment ribbons	225.50
	Encampment booklet	1,138.08
	Encampment badges	800.06
	White Pines	63.37
	Print	52.42
	Framing for print	72.08
	Ribbons for glasses	6.36
	Mints	102.01
	Postage	7.83
	Mug & Poster for Commander	19.03
	Pennies	87.50
	Rollaway	15.90
	Microphones	127.20
	Electronic Mixers	63.60
Total Expenses		\$10,837.45
Net Difference		\$250.40
Additional money collected:	Department Encampment badge	\$240.00
	Mouse pads	\$90.00
	Hat badge	\$150.00

On-site registration came to \$230.00 and was turned over to the National Treasurer. Bar bill waived. We sold \$447 in drinks at the banquet.

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*GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1**By Bruce B. Butgereit*

It has been just over three months since we kicked-off our Grand Rapids Civil War Monument Restoration Project fundraising drive and we are beginning to receive some interest from the corporate sponsors we are going to need to reach our goal, the first being the Steelcase foundation who is extremely interested. The funds have been coming in, but only as a steady trickle, not unlike the original efforts in 1864 to raise the funds necessary to erect the monument/fountain. So, while we may be a little disappointed, we are not discouraged! In fact, I don't know if our true son, Mr. Edward Blakely would even allow that to happen.

Mr. Blakely has, since becoming a Brother in our Camp, been one of the most active members we have. And although he is 96-years-old, his enthusiasm and dedication has taken him to every event, meeting, and reenactment he can attend. Brother Blakely has even participated in our first "Monument Sit," an event co-sponsored by Bruce B. Butgereit & Company – Civil War Presentations and the General John A. Logan, Camp 1, SUVCW, and designed to bring more attention to our Project. Members of Bruce and Co. set up tents and shared a "hands-on" look for the public at what the uniform, equipment, and personal items, including foods were like for the soldier on our monument. We were fortunate enough to receive media coverage from our three local television stations as well as a radio spot.

We will soon be introducing another plan to raise funds through the help of area teachers and their students called "*Together... we can do it!*" The closing speech of the 1885 monument dedication ceremony, given by Major C.W. Watkins of the 10th Michigan Cavalry, stated that the "...monument was being erected, not only for those living and dead, but also for the future generations..." Well, we are the future generations and it is up to us to restore this monument and our children can help. By sharing this opportunity with our area school children, they will not only learn about the Civil War and about the proud heritage of Grand Rapids and Kent County, but they also take an active part in helping restore that history and give something to the community at the same time. By bringing in a food canned good, with a dollar bill wrapped around it, the students can give the money to the Monument Restoration Project and we will give the cans to area food banks helping the students build character traits of respect, caring and sharing.

The "Monument Sit" effort was also used to advertise for the Ceremony of Remembrance event held on 5 August at the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home. The weather was pleasant until Saturday evening when the rains came, dampening the ground and tents but not the spirit of the participants or the members of the Home. The dance is one of the highlights of the event looked forward to by the Veterans of the Home and many eagerly waited for one of the re-enactor ladies in a very wet

hoop skirt or ball gown to dance with them. Attendance by other SUVCW Camps and Civil War re-enactment groups was good, as well as MOLLUS and the Allied Orders DUVCW and WRC. The battle re-enacted was Saylor's Creek with next year's re-enactment the Battle of Bull Run, 1861. Plans have already been laid for next year to organize better, get the word out sooner (even placing the schedule in the *MESSENGER* and on the SUVCW web site) to get even better attendance, and advertising more with the local media. The event will again be a one-day event on 4 August 2001 with re-enactors being allowed to set up on Friday and staying until Sunday. We, the Brothers of Camp 1, thank those of you who attended the event and ask that you circle the 4th of August 2001 on your calendar for the future.

The event also closed with some sadness when Commander John Obermeyer resigned his position as Camp 1 Commander for personal reasons. Council has chosen to have Junior Vice-Commander Garry Redding fill-in as Commander for the remainder of the year.

Camp 1 also had four alternate delegates attend the 119th National Encampment in Lansing on the 19th of August. Brothers Cleon Duryea, Comer Skinner, Edward Blakely and myself were all first time attendees. We found the business meetings very interesting, to say the least, and extremely enjoyed the G.A.R. traveling museum that was on display. We even found a post card picture of our Monument in its original 1885 condition.

While you will find a more overall look at the 119th National Encampment elsewhere in this issue, I thought I might share a more *personal* look back at the day I shared with Brother Blakely:

Our day actually started back in July at the re-enactment in Hastings, Michigan at the Historic Charlton Park Village. At that event, Brother Blakely had watched the battle, and because it took place in the Village instead of a distant field, it gave the spectator a "you are there" look. During the battle Brother Blakely had a truly moving experience in which he was able to "see" and experience some of what his own father had seen during his service in the 10th Michigan Cavalry. After the battle, he shared with me his experience and told me, "It brought tears to his eyes." Afterwards, so that Brother Blakely could wear the Blue as his father, he was outfitted with his Union kepi and sack coat so that he could wear it to the National Encampment.

Mr. Blakely and I left Grand Rapids around 6:30 that Saturday morning. On our drive to Lansing, I was able to "see" and experience some of the personal things that have happened in Brother Blakely's life. Brother Blakely was too young to serve in WW I and too old to serve in WW II. We talked of his farm, which he purchased and still owns, from his stepfather for \$500 at the age of 17. We talked of what it was like to experience electricity for the first time, the Blakely farm receiving it in 1936 and costing \$1.25 to have the line run to the house. Our

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conversation included the installation of natural gas lines for \$2,000 but then the gas company repaid everyone at a later date. Brother Blakely's first car was a Model T, purchased for \$450 while he lived in Rockford, MI, but the only "gas station" was in downtown Grand Rapids (just a short distance from our Civil War Monument/fountain). The Blakely residence also had the pleasure of running water because of the ingenuity and labor of Edward digging by hand a lengthy ditch from a nearby creek to the residence and having a vacuum pump installed for the that purpose.

The "Great Depression" of course created the necessity of becoming a full-time farmer just to be able to have food to eat. Picking potatoes for other farmers netted a penny a bushel. Of course Brother Blakely had to mention the good times when ice cream cones sold for a nickel, all-day picture shows of westerns for a dime, and going "skinny-dipping," not just because it felt good but because of economically hard times. But the most important thing that I have learned from Brother Blakely is that regardless of how tough things have been at times in his life, he has always maintained a positive outlook. His sense of humor, his "eye (with a twinkle) for the opposite sex," and his overall sense of reality truly make this man a wonderful person to be around.



True Son Edward Blakely and C-in-C Danny Wheeler

The event was extremely rewarding for us from Camp 1 and those in attendance as Commander Danny Wheeler presented Brother Blakely with his SUVWC badge and life member pin at the morning business meeting. After the morning meeting, since Edward has seen his share of meetings in his life, we chose to sit in the hotel lobby, talk to other people and take a snooze. The evening dinner was a wonderful way to conclude a long day. Brother Blakely and I shared a table with Past

Department Commander Kent Armstrong and his son Doug, as well as their wives and another friend of Brother Blakely from Grand Rapids, Marcia Bruin of the National Woman's Relief Corps. But precedence's were established that evening for future National Encampments.

Brother Blakely and the other attendees at the dinner had the pleasure of meeting Michigan's other true son, Brother Adin Shank of Lansing and both Brothers Blakely and Shank hit it right off. The evening's entertainment was a Dixieland jazz band from Lansing who performed very well. In fact, they played so well it was difficult to just sit still and finally Brother Blakely just couldn't. He proceeded to dance a little jig in front of the head table to the delight of all and then persuaded Brother Shank to also join him in a little swing dance. It was a wonderful sight to see such camaraderie! This display of joy soon had the Past C-in-C Danny Wheeler dancing with his lovely wife, to whom he had presented earlier a medal for supporting him in his position as Commander-in-Chief. Soon others were "kicking their heels" and enjoying each other's company and fellowship. Past C-in-C Keith Harrison then stated that the precedents established for future National Encampments were that true sons had to dance with each other and that Past Commanders-in-Chief and other leaders of the Ladies of the G.A.R. and Auxiliary had to dance with each other as well.

Brother Blakely was afterwards invited to a party in Past Commander-in-Chief Danny Wheeler's room to which he attended for about one-half hour and then bade adieu to all present. I dropped Brother Blakely off at his home around 12:30 AM and said goodnight a great friend and Brother.

Our Camp also participated in several memorial services, one in Wayland and one in Parnell, MI. I have been working on a memorial service for a Mr. Francis Hall who was a Past Commander of the Robert Finch Camp 14, located at one time in Grand Rapids and since moved to Traverse City, as Mr. Hall is responsible for being possibly the first "graves registration" officer. In honoring his father, a veteran on the Civil War, Mr. Hall worked diligently and used up two-typewriters in recording information and grave sites for soldiers in Michigan from the Revolutionary War through WW I.

I have recently been working with newly elected Department Patriotic Instructor Neal Breugh as he has found archive records from the Finch Camp and they have been very enlightening. He even found some information that our Grand Rapids Library archives do not have about our Civil War Monument and surrounding park. It is truly wonderful to work with other Brothers who desire to share what they have and what they learn without reservation. We have also established a line of communication with the Eva Gray Tent 2, DUVCW in Grand Rapids for working together in various activities. I always thought that this was one of the things the Sons was truly all about. We all have a talent or something to offer each other and it is up to each of us to bring those talents to the table

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and share them in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Bob Hoffman

The Brothers of Camp 7 were saddened by the passing of our own "True Son", Thayne Labanta, on July 15th. Services for Brother Labanta were held July 21st in Jackson with interment at Highland Cemetery in Brooklyn, MI. In addition to family members about fifty members of The SUVCW and Auxiliary were present. At the grave side members of the order formed ranks and rendered a hand salute as our Brother was taken to his final rest. Members of Camp 7 performed the Burial Services For a Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War. Brother Todd Holton sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and other appropriate songs.

In accordance with Department Commander Greg Hayes Department Orders No. 2, a special meeting of Camp 7 was convened on August 26 at the Jackson Civil War Muster to perform a Memorial Service for Departed Members in honor of Brother Labanta. Present at this special meeting were Commander-in-Chief Ed Krieser, Department Commander Greg Hayes and Camp Commander Ty Streeter of Marshall Camp 22, who was present at what will be his last official attendance at an SUVCW function for some time. Just 22 hours before the meeting Brother Streeter had graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp. Also attending were members of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Camp 7 Auxiliary. Vicki Weiss of the Auxiliary presented the Eulogy. A fine men's quartet from Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church sang "Nearer my God to Thee".

Because of some legal technical delays the re-interment of Pvt. Daniel Pine, originally scheduled for September 23rd, has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a date next year. The Camp is still working to raise the needed money to finish this project.

At our meeting on July 10th it was my pleasure to initiate and welcome to Camp 7 Gerald Hyslop as an Associate. Brother Hyslop hopes to soon be able to provide us with his lineage soon and transfer his status to Member.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22

by Chris Czopek

Six Year Project Ends In Success! The registration of Civil War veteran graves in Calhoun County officially ended last month during a ceremony at Willard Public Library in Battle Creek. A copy of "THE LIST" was handed over to George Livingston, the library's curator of the local history collection. Reporters were on hand to cover the event. A story with photo appeared next day in the local newspapers. The man most responsible for this success is Brother John Lohrstorfer of Colegrove-Woodruff

Camp 22.

John was the first Chairman of the Camp's Graves Registration Committee. Through the years he volunteered to continue as the leader. One by one, the 75 cemeteries of Calhoun county were explored and veteran graves listed. Then the real work began: looking up the army records of these men in the Michigan "Brown Books". Tracking down the service records of over a thousand soldiers is a daunting task. But John, a retired State Police trooper, was the perfect man for the job. Drawing on his years of experience with forms and file cards, he organized the project with "fill in the blank" forms and a portable file box. At monthly meetings he called for volunteers and issued them blank forms. Brothers Louis Cuyler (Battle Creek), Cameron Davis (Athens), John Geyer (Albion), Sam Odom (Sheridan Township), and the late Brother Jerry Friend (Tekonsha) answered the call. The blanks lines were filled in by these volunteers and the cards returned.

Little by little, the list in John's master file box grew. For the difficult job of finding the service records of soldiers who served in out-of-state regiments, John relied on the Camp's famous "History Detective" Brother Chris Czopek in Lansing. The State of Michigan Library and Archives has this information - if you know where to look for it. Chris spent many winter afternoons hunting down the records of soldiers from Maine to Missouri, filling in blank lines and mailing cards back to Battle Creek.

Year after year this work went on. Finally, it was time to publish! John Lohrstorfer sat down at a typewriter (he doesn't trust computers) and, starting with Lee Aaron, he typed up the data from the 1,400 cards in his box. When that job was finally done, the sheets of paper were punched and put into a ring binder. The resulting "book" is almost two inches thick and has complete information on every soldier: Birthday, Birthplace, Regiment, Rank, Death date, Grave location, Enlistment dates, Promotions, etc. (It's all there!) Local historians and genealogists have been quick to recognize the value of this book.

Thanks to the newspaper story, the Sons Of Union Veterans Graves List - six years in the making - is now the best known item at the Battle Creek library's Local History Room.

ALEXANDER FRENCH ~ CAMP 28

by Dave Waldron

Alexander French Camp 28 has spent quite some time in the past months attempting to put together a Civil War Roundtable program for the west-central area of the state. We have determined to sponsor this large undertaking, and with a continued interest from the communities around us, we believe we can make a go of it.

Our first session will be Tuesday, September 19th with

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following sessions on October 17th and November 21st. The Roundtables will be conducted in the library of the Crossroads Charter Academy, 215 N. State Street in Big Rapids, and will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. The September & October sessions will feature Camp 28's JVC Ronald Kerwood, BGEN USANG (Ret.), who will be speaking on "The Road To Gettysburg". We cordially invite all brothers who can, to attend.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Douglas Armstrong

Members of Camp 58 have been busy these past months restoring the memorial at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Ovid. Ovid is a small rural farming community located between the cities of St. Johns and Owosso in Clinton County. The cemetery in which the memorial rests contains approximately 150 graves of Civil War Veterans, most of who belonged to Ovid's George A. Winans Post 104 of the G.A.R. The Posts namesake, who served as Captain in Co. D, 5th Michigan Infantry and Acting Aide-de-Camp for the Second Brigade, Third Division of the Second Army Corps, is also buried here.

The memorial consists of two 24-pd. Flank Howitzers facing East and West while resting on two separate gray granite bases. The granite bases are set on a concrete foundation with an area in the center reserved for a stack of cannon balls. There were originally twenty 8" shells stacked in a pyramid shape atop a sandstone base where only five remain today. The cannon and shells were donated to Post 104 from the U.S. Ordnance Department in October of 1898 from the Ft. Monroe Arsenal in Virginia. The iron guns, weighing 1500 lbs. each, were cast in 1846 at the Cyrus Alger & Co. Foundry in Boston, MA. The inscription cut into the granite bases reads, "1861-1865, ERECTED 1898, IN MEMORIAM OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WHO FOUGHT IN DEFENSE OF THE UNION".



Members of G.A.R. Post 104 dedicated the memorial on Decoration Day 1899 with many Civil War Veterans and



dignitaries present from the surrounding area.

The 24 pounder howitzers prior to their cleaning, painting and resetting of the bases.

And after the work was completed. Note the rust stain on the granite base is all but gone.

With permission and support of the project by Ovid's Village Council the Camp was ready to start work. Camp 58's restoration began with removing the cannon and their granite bases from the concrete foundation, which was beginning to crumble. The cannon were then sandblasted and cleaned. Next, a coat of primer and black paint was applied to each cannon. The granite was cleaned using a power-washer along with a stone cleaning solution. One hundred years of iron deposits made this job more difficult. The concrete foundation was removed and forms for a new one were built. Although the concrete was cracked, the original men, possibly the veterans themselves, who constructed the foundation, reinforced the concrete with many fieldstones.

Plans were then made to reset the cannon and their bases. The 2500 lb. granite bases were hoisted and positioned within the form where they were then leveled and shimmed into place. Next, the cannon trunions were carefully set into their granite formed carriages. A reinforcing steel mesh was placed in the form and concrete was then poured underneath the bases and finished to shed water away from the granite. The concrete was also sealed and treated to repel any water infiltration. Another coat of black paint was applied to the cannon and wooden plugs were replaced and installed in the muzzles. We then cleaned and planted new grass around the memorial. Plans are now being made to have replicas cast of the 8" shells, which will again be placed, in the center of the memorial.

Camp 58 is proud and honored to have had this opportunity to restore this memorial to the men who wore the blue and served to save the Union during the Civil War. It is our hope it will be preserved for the next one hundred years for the appreciation and education of this and future generations. We also intend to rededicate the memorial next year on Memorial Day, 102 years after its original dedication.

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GILLULY KINGSLEY ~ CAMP 120

by Richard Lee

On 21 May, Department Commander Greg Hayes and Department Secretary Richard Lee attended the Rededication Ceremony at the Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Hall in Sunfield.

The Camp was invited to participate in the dedication of an impressive Veteran's Memorial monument in Fowlerville on 29 May. Brothers Greg Hayes, Larry Wall, Jim Appleton, Mike Taylor, Matt Taylor, Dick Hutchins and Richard Lee were present.

Other recent activities that Camp members attended were: Richard Lee represented the Camp at the dedication of the Gen. John A. Logan Memorial at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lansing on 30 May. Greg Hayes and Richard Lee were among the Brothers who mourned the loss of our real son, Thayne LaBanta at his funeral 21 July. The 119th National Encampment in Lansing was attended by Greg Hayes, Gary Ralston, Dick Hutchins, Dave Acheson and Richard Lee. Greg Hayes was also present at the Charlton Park Civil War Muster and the Weekend of Remembrance at Grand Rapids; and accompanied by his daughter Whitney, Richard Lee was at the Austin Blair Camp tent at the Cascades Civil War Muster in Jackson.

The Camp has moved its meetings from the Howell Library to the Barnard Recreation Center in Howell and has unfurled a new Camp Flag there.

To date this year the Camp has welcomed new members Dave Acheson, Jake Eckenrode, Paul Scheidler, Bill Vogt and William Rozek. William became our 21st member. Greg Hayes' son, Taylor Hayes has joined as a Junior.

GOV. CRAPO ~ CAMP 145

by David F. Wallace, PDC

The Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp have enjoyed an active summer. In June we held our annual Camp Picnic during "Civil War Days" at Crossroads Village near Flint with 50 members, family and friends in attendance. A highlight of the day was the "Annual Muster Day" ceremony where Department Commander Hayes re-obligated all Brothers present. During July we welcomed two new members into the Camp – George W. Bailey and Jordan A. Baumgartner. Although the Camp has no activities scheduled for August, several members participated in the "Ceremony of Remembrance" in Grand Rapids and attended the National Encampment in Lansing.

One of the Camp's projects is the maintenance of an abandoned cemetery in Flint called Aventine Cemetery. We were

distressed to find that all the flags marking veteran's graves in the cemetery had been vandalized sometime during late August along with several markers being dislodged. The cemetery committee undertook to reset the markers and the Camp is obtaining new flags for the veteran's graves.

For Veteran's Day, the Camp is planning to dedicate a new grave marker for one of the Civil War ancestors of Camp Color Bearer Thomas Holmes. The Camp is also planning Remembrance Day ceremonies to be held on the lawn of the Genesee County Courthouse near the cannons given to the Gov. Crapo Post No. 145 of the Grand Army of the Republic.

HENRY W. QUIGLEY ~ CAMP 147

by Pete Carlson

Here we are, winter is almost upon us, so we better take advantage of this weather to finish up our outdoor projects. Camp 147 has been busy researching everywhere in the area for confirmation of probable and possible CW Vets gravesites.

We were requested by the Harrietta Civic Club to assist then in there annual Heritage Days, the first Saturday of July. We started the day off with a flag raising ceremony with a 21 gun salute. After donuts and coffee, we started the 5K walk race, using our rifle squad to get them off with a bang. We then proceeded to the church, where we had our display and computer set up to do research of civil war vets. At one P.M. we gathered at the Hillside Cemetery in Boon Township which is the burial site of a Confederate Calvary veteran. No one knew the history of this man, so we researched records and found that he was born in West Virginia, but enlisted in the 8th Virginia Cavalry. His mother and father were both doctors and were born in West Virginia and remained there. A brother also settled in the Harrietta area. His wife, daughter, and son-in-law are buried in the same plot. They have a large lot with concrete retainers on three sides. As the cemetery is named, Hillside that is what it is built on. There is a Confederate headstone and marker from the Confederate Daughters. We had a Confederate re-enactor who was nice enough to bring a spare uniform, which I wore. While there a resident of the area came up and told us he was raised right along side this cemetery and he recalled, as a young lad, he used to play in the area behind the cemetery which now is completely overgrown. He explained that at his youth there used to be many CW Vets buried there. Camp Commander, Roger Church, SVC Charles LaBar and myself walked thru rough terrain and hills and about 30 feet in we found two CW Graves with headstones. The dirt remains piled up on top of the graves just as they did when they buried them. Or has someone dug the gravesites up to see what they could find? The person who told us this was running for township supervisor. He said if he was elected he would have the township come in and open the area up so we could more easily check it out. We are researching this as best as we can. I have written the Civic Club and requested their assistance in

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cleaning it out. This will be a big job and I'll have to have assistance, so when things are set up, I will send out a S.O.S. for help in this project.

At 4 P.M. we proceeded to Dayhuff Cemetery in Meawataka and performed the rededication of a CW Vet there. This site was found by Camp Commander Roger Church while we performed honors for a WW2 Veteran. There were two wooden crosses marking the gravesites. Roger spoke with the township secretary and she informed us they were both Civil War Vets. She gave us the name of a living relative and we contacted them and sent for a stone. One stone came in the early spring and we set it then. The other stone has not arrived yet. We used the services from our books, Roger performed the duties of Commander and I was the Chaplain. Our Honor Guard fired a 21 gun salute and Taps was played.

CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180

by William McAfee

The Brothers of Camp 180 put the proper military stone for Pvt. Calvin Decker in place in the cemetery in Sylvan center, near Chelsea. Working in conjunction with Brothers from Camp 7, the military headstone with the typo was removed and its replacement headstone with the correct spelling was set in its proper position.

We were represented at Remembrance Day at the veteran's home in Grand Rapids on August 5, placing a wreath at the monument in the veterans' cemetery. We marched as a unit in the Independence Day Parade in Ypsilanti and in the Saline Fair Parade on September 9. At the latter, we carried our new parade banner to identify us. It drew an inquiry from an interested local descendant of a Union veteran.

Sadly, we attended the funeral and graveside ceremonies for True Son, Brother Thayne LaBanta. He has left a grand legacy of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty. He is missed!

We were represented at the National Encampment for the first time. It was a real experience to meet brothers from all over the country who have gathered together to promote our goals and ambitions.

ALBERT AND JAMES LYON ~ CAMP 266

by Philip N. Parks

Our Camp is named in honor of the Albert and James Lyon GAR Post 266, that was located at Menominee, MI. It was organized in August 2, 1884 and met the first and third Friday of each month. In 1892 the membership was 114. Albert served in Co. F of the 12th Wisconsin Infantry and was mortally wounded in the 1864 battle of Kenesaw Mountain, GA. His brother James served in the Third Wisconsin Cavalry and was

present at the capture of Jeff 'in drag' Davis. But the death of James in 1946 marked the last member of the GAR in the Upper Peninsula. Our first organizational meeting was at the VFW Post in Daggett, MI on March 22, 1997. Michigan Department Commander Kent Armstrong presented us with our Camp Charter October 10, 1998.

We were surprised and saddened to be notified that our faithful 'Newsletter' editor and founding member, Larry Peterson, has found a new job in Independence, MO. As a Charter member he took the job of Secretary/Treasurer for our first two years as well as created our Camp 'Newsletter' that has been a vital link across the Upper Peninsula. We will miss him and hope he finds his way to the Westport Camp No. 64 in Kansas City.

SUVCW interstate cooperation took place on July 8, 2000 when JVC Gary White placed a new grave marker on his great-grandfather's grave in Weyerhaeuser, WI. Department of Wisconsin Commander Stephen A. Michaels and SUVCW members were there, as well as Wisconsin re-enactors to participate in the Memorial Dedication. The VFW Auxiliary put on a great meal for all.

Camp recognition and recruitment were attempted at the Upper Peninsula State Fair at Escanaba in August from the 15th through the 20th. The management of the project was in the hands of PCC Patrick Kennedy and SVC Richard Spriks. The 'booth' was an exceptional display of Civil War memorabilia as well as GAR, SUVCW and Camp 266 history. Interest was expressed in Daughters of Civil War Veterans, speakers in public schools, Native Americans in the Civil War and even several politicians took notice. The 'booth' was manned by 10



of our members for the entire period. The follow-up of potential members is in the works.

Report your Camp's activities and the election of Camp officers for 2001 in the next issue of Michigan's Messenger. The deadline for the January issue is December 15th. Send your Camp news via snail mail, e-mail or e-mail attached file to:

Michigan's Messenger Editor

2495 Washington Road

Lansing, MI 48911-7216

or

Jrm7suvcw@aol.com

A SOLDIER'S LETTERS

SIMEON MALLISON

by George Goodrich, Historian
Robert Finch Camp 14

I would like to share the story of Simeon Mallison with you. Simeon enlisted in Co. H of the 18th Michigan Infantry on August 11, 1862 for three years. His ancestors live about 10 miles from me in Manistee County in the Pierport area. Both of our families have lived in the area for about 140 years. Their family, knowing my interest in the Civil War, gave me copies of ten original letters that they had in their possession. It is interesting to note the change in attitude between the two letters. I would now like to share two of those letters with you.

Camp Welty, Kentucky- October 13, 1862

Dear Brother,

We are working our way down towards Lexington, think we will move again. I am down with the rheumatism, can't rest in any shape. I have not been in the hospital yet, don't know how soon I will, hope I will never. Stay out as long as I can. This damp weather is hard on me. George is sick, he is here in the tent with me. I--le says he will write to you as soon as convenient. George has just pulled on my boots, my foot is swelled it full! The damp ground is my feather bed and never did such pains run over me. There is one ha@ of our regiment not fit for duty. The hospital is stoved full. Can't take it any more. Lafe as soon as you receive this, write home and let them know how I am. I must stop and rest, my stand is on my knapsack. I ache to get up. Rather fight than not. The boys are getting rather gritty. They are yanked more like dogs, than like soldiers. I am sorrow to say so far, I know Uncle Sam don't allow it, but never mind, there is a better day a coming. We can stand it three years and then we can stay three more if needed for that old flag shall wave until I die. We are grit until the last star is down. We are doing nothing but guarding rebel property. Our officers live on the top she@, sleep in good beds, and we have to live or die. Lafe, write soon. Tell Jo I should like to see her. Tell Ira to drink one for me, and when I get a chance, I will do the same. Guess we will get a chance to fight soon. Health is all that is wanted So good-bye to you.

Simeon Mallison

The letter was written to his brother Lafayette Mallison, whom he refers to as Lafe. Lafayette's descendants continue to live in the Pierport area to this day. Lafayette's grandson was my principal at Onekama School for 13 years. His great, great grandson belongs to the Boy Scout troop that I am active in to this day. The George he refers to is his brother-in-law George Hewes. He died of disease February 13, 1863 near Lexington, KY and is buried there. Most of the letters were written in 1862 and 1863. Simeon was listed as missing in action at Athens, AL on September 24, 1864. In researching his unit, I discovered that they were captured by Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry and imprisoned in northern Georgia. The last letter is as follows, note the date!

Parole Camp, Vicksburg, MS - April 14, 1865

Dear Sister,

Your most welcome letter reached this destination last evening bearing the date of April 5 which found me well and enjoying a soldier's life first rate. I was very happy indeed to hear from you and hear that you were all well. Sorry to hear that Lafe had been so unfortunate to be sick. I hope this will find him on the mend Jo, I cannot write you much, have nothing worth writing only that I am well, have plenty to eat and drink. I have not written to your mother yet, would like to hear from her very much. Well Jo, them rebels did not quite starve me. Many a night I have layed me down many a night hungry as a bear, have thought of your old mother's butter many a time. Thank God we are now in a land of plenty once more. Be of good cheer, this war has just about played out. Thank you, Josephine for writing. I was very happy indeed to hear from you. I close hoping to hear from you soon.

*From your brother,
Simeon Mallison*

On April 24, Simeon boarded the steamer Sultana, for the much anticipated trip home. Near Memphis on April 27, the boilers on the overcrowded ship exploded killing nearly 1800 men including Simeon Mallison. It was a tragic end for a soldier who had served his country almost three years only to lose his life on his way home. G.A.R. Post 298 in Pierport was named in his honor.

G.A.R. HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

by Roger L. Heiple

The first link of the Grand Army of the Republic to Michigan took place in Pittsburgh, September 25th, 1866, at the Soldiers and Sailors Republican Convention. It was there that Gen. Russell A. Alger was mustered into the Grand Army and asked to become the contact person for the Department of Michigan.

The first National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic took place two months later in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 20, 1866. The records of the National Encampment show the following attendance of representatives: District of Columbia, 1; Illinois, 34; Indiana, 148; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 3; Missouri, 9; New York, 1; Ohio, 15; Pennsylvania, 3; Wisconsin, 7; for a total of 228. Michigan was not represented at this Encampment, but at the next Encampment in Philadelphia on January 15, 1868, Michigan had two representatives present. One of those present, William Phelps, was appointed to the Council of Administration, the operating body of the G.A.R. The other Michigan representative was W. I. Handy.

During 1867, on the front pages of the Official Nation Organ of the Grand Army, *The Great Republic*, Russell A. Alger was printed as the contact for soldiers in Michigan. He was listed as: Michigan—R. A. Alger, *Boys in Blue*. The use of the term *Boys in Blue*, is interesting, in that it was a veteran political organization with a definite Republican leaning. It has been described by Robert Beath in his *History of the Grand Army of the Republic*, that this organization was one of the veteran political clubs formed during the elections of 1866 to promote the veteran vote in 1868. Many of these clubs were the foundations of G.A.R. Posts. This is certainly true in Michigan, as Russell A. Alger and his *Boys in Blue* became the core of the early Department of Michigan and Post No. 1 in Detroit.

The most informative report, in the "Proceedings of the Grand Army of the Republic, at the Grand Encampment of Michigan", dated May 6, 1868, Williams Phelps writes Gen. Russell A. Alger on his Grand Army activities;

Sir: In obedience to orders issued by you as Grand Commandant of this Department, of the 19th day of September last [1867], I repaired to Indianapolis, Ind., for the purpose of being mustered into and procuring the work for establishing this Department and forming Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in this state. On the 20th day of September, through the courtesy of Gen. Kimball, and Major Wilson and others, I was mustered into the Army, and procured the necessary Rituals, Rules, and Regulations, and the unwritten work of the Order, also the necessary blanks and forms for our

work, and the authority to proceed with this organization of this Department.

The next event important to the formation of the Department of Michigan was a convention of the Michigan Soldier's and Sailor's Union in May, 1867. The Union saw the advantages of joining the Grand Army and moved to bond the two organizations in Michigan. Provisional officers were elected: Gen. R. A. Alger, of Detroit, Commander; Col. William A. Phelps, of Detroit, Adjutant General; G. A. Flanders, of Saginaw, Assistant Adjutant General; Col. S. P. Brookway, of Albion, Quartermaster General; and Chaplain George Taylor, Grand Chaplain. It was during the following year that 34 Posts were established in Michigan.

Post 1	Detroit	Oct., 1867
Post 2	Ann Arbor	Dec. 7, 1867
Post 3	St. Johns	Dec. 14, 1867
Post 4	Kalamazoo	Dec. 18, 1867
Post 5	Albion	Dec. 19, 1867
Post 6	Allegan	Dec. 28, 1867
Post 7	Duplain	Feb. 5, 1868
Post 8	Marshall	Feb. 6, 1868
Post 9	Manistee	Feb. 15, 1868
Post 10	Howell	Feb. 28, 1868
Post 11	Adrian	Feb. 28, 1868
Post 12	Niles	Feb. 28, 1868
Post 13	Ovid	Mar. 4, 1868
Post 14	Hudson	Mar. 7, 1868
Post 15	Homer	Mar. 7, 1868
Post 16	Tuscola	Mar. 18, 1868
Post 17	St. Clair	Mar. 18, 1868
Post 18	Sturgis	Mar. 18, 1868
Post 19	East Saginaw	no date given
Post 20	Berrien	Mar. 18, 1868
Post 21	Ionia	Mar. 23, 1868
Post 22	Monroe	Mar. 25, 1868
Post 23	Charlotte	Mar. 26, 1868
Post 24	Cassapolis	Mar. 26, 1868
Post 25	Three Rivers	Mar. 28, 1868
Post 26	Decatur	Mar. 28, 1868
Post 27	not given (possibly Dundee)	no date given
Post 28	Hillsdale	April 5, 1868
Post 29	St. Joseph	Apr. 3, 1868
Post 30	Morenci	Apr. 3, 1868
Post 31	not given (possibly Hastings)	no date given
Post 32	Lansing	Apr. 24, 1868
Post 33	Flint	Apr. 15, 1868
Post 34	Bedford	Apr. 8, 1868

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G.A.R. HISTORY

(Continued from page 19)

Posts were established in Dundee, May 5, 1868; and Hastings, May 7, 1868, but Post numbers were not associated with these Posts in the 1868 report. A Post also had been formed in Battle Creek, chartered and reporting to the Department of Illinois.

The next recorded list of the Department of Michigan was in the *Manual of the Grand Army of the Republic, containing its Principles and Objects, Together with Memorial Day in the Department of Michigan, May 1869*. By Comrade I. M. Cravat, published in Lansing, Michigan. It shows a number of Posts had become inactive and for some reason, the Posts were renumbered.

Post 2	Battle Creek
Post 4	St. Johns
Post 5	Kalamazoo
Post 8	Duplain
Post 12, Woodbury	Adrian
Post 13	Ovid
Post 14	Hudson
Post 16	Sturgis
Post 18, Ed Hurson	Berrien Springs
Post 19	Ionia
Post 21	Charlotte
Post 23, Lumbard	Hillsdale
Post 28, Greene	Lansing
Post 30, Turell	Lapeer
Post 31	Edwardsburgh
Post 32	Hastings
Post 34, Van Pelt	Coldwater
Post 39	Fairfield
Post 42, Lewis Beagle	Blissfield
Post 43, Slater	no city given
Post 44, Prutzman	Three Rivers
Post 45, Eaton	Otsego
Post 46, Dick Richardson	Detroit
Post 47	Tecumseh
Post 48, Wyker	Owosso
Post 49	Grand Rapids

The next ten years, the Department of Michigan withered. So, in 1878, the Department again became a Provisional Department. It was reported that four Posts were still on the rolls, but in reality there were only two Posts. Comrade C. V. R. Pond, of Post 2, Quincy, was appointed the Provisional Commander of the Department and his report showed the following activity in Michigan:

The Van Pelt Post No. 1, Coldwater, claim 50 members, hold no meeting; C. O. Loomis Post No. 2, Quincy, 26 members, meeting regularly; Clark Post No. 3, Union City, dead; Maj. N. H. Ferry Post No. 4, Montague, about 50 members, actively at work; Parker Post No. 5, Petersburg, claims 5 members with no meetings.

This report reflects yet another renumbering of the Posts of the Department of Michigan. Two more Posts were organized as of June 30, 1879.

Post No. 6, Nunica, failed to muster.

Post No. 7, Reading, 22 members, prospects good.

During the next quarter both Posts 5 and 6 were dropped and a Post was organized at Grand Rapids and given the number 6. In December, Michigan requested permission for the organization of a permanent Department. In General Orders No. 4, dated January 8, 1879, a State Encampment was announced, to be held in Grand Rapids at the Custer Post Hall. During this first Encampment of the reorganized Department, a proposal was made to renumber the Posts again according to the dates of their muster. The Michigan Posts were designated as follows:

Post 1	Coldwater
Post 2	Quincy
Post 3	Montague
Post 4	Reading
Post 5	Grand Rapids

The final reordering of the Posts established the John Logan Post 1, in Grand Rapids (the Michigan Soldier's Home) replacing Van Pelt Post 1, which ceased to exist. From this point the Department continued to grow to a total of over 450 Posts. The highest number issued by the Department was Post 463 in Mesick. As in other Departments, some Posts would close for a period of time, then open again with a new number, so the highest number would not indicate the actual number of Posts.

The Department of Michigan reflects the national pattern of initial growth, decline during the early 1870's, and then regeneration to the height of membership in 1892. The many changes in Post numbering shows the difficulty of holding the Grand Army together in these years when the veterans were busy providing for their families. Most early Departments were organized and run by previous officers of the Union Army. As the years passed the veterans that filled the ranks matured and added new energy to the Grand Army. The Department of Michigan prospered, following the 1879 Encampment, and a number of men from Michigan filled the National Encampment offices. Two men from Michigan became the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. R. A. Alger and Washington Gardner. Six National Encampments were held in Michigan, Detroit 1891 and 1914, and Grand Rapids 1925, 1927, 1935 and 1948.

*Brother Heiple is a Member of Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22 in Marshall and is a nationally known authority on the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been collecting G.A.R. documents and memorabilia for over 40 years and has one of only three known complete collections of G.A.R. National Encampment Delegate (Representative) Badges. He has several web pages devoted to the G.A.R., including the membership badges, Post ribbons and badges, officers badges, G.A.R. Halls, uniforms, and several other related pages of information. You can log on Brother Heiple's **Grand Army of the Republic Homepage** at:*

<http://pages.prodigy.com/CGBD86A/garhp.htm>

PAGES FROM HISTORY

THE VETERAN RESERVE CORPS THOSE WHO SERVED AT THE ARSENAL

by Richard E. Carden

edited by Rick Danes

(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the Dearborn Historian, Volume 35, No. 1, Winter 1995, pp. 21-24, and was written by Richard E. Carden. Rick is past Commander, and current Chaplin in Camp 427, and local historical researcher in the Downriver area of Wayne County. The "Arsenal" referred to in the piece is the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville 1833-1878).

During the time frame of the American Civil War, the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville was indeed a very busy place. The Arsenal, under the authority of the Ordnance Department of the Army of the United States, distributed ordnance supplies to various regiments of troops as they made their way through Dearborn to the south and east to fight for the "preservation of the Union". Upon occasion, detachments of men would deliver supplies, via wagon trains, from the Arsenal to troop already in the field.

The ordnance supplies, kept at Dearbornville and distributed to the Union troops, were of vast numbers and varied in items. It was the responsibility of the Ordnance Department to supply to all of the troops all types of weaponry and accouterments directly associated with weaponry that they would need to do battle. Some of the items kept in the Arsenal consisted of muskets (smoothbore and rifled), pistols, swords, ammunition, cartridge boxes and belts, bayonets, scabbards, etc. In addition to small arms, the Arsenal contained a number of cannon, mortars, and ammunition for the same.

Another job of the Arsenal was to repair weapons it had received that were "serviceable" but in desperate need of attention. Occasionally, some weapons were discarded but by large most were serviced and returned to action.

It is important to understand that the Arsenal, being rather large with 11 buildings, was not an "Army base" in the sense that we now relate military installations as being. Many of the buildings within the grounds were not occupied and in most cases the Arsenal rarely housed more than a dozen troops. Upon occasion and certainly during the Civil War years, the Arsenal housed hundreds of troops at one time waiting to be supplied but these large numbers of troops would then go on their way

leaving the Arsenal with just the dozen or so ordnance troops to maintain the post.

As the Civil War dragged on, it was apparent that the War would not be a short one as was once thought by both the Union and the Confederacy. As the Union struggled to maintain its supply of troops in the field, sickness and demoralization swept through the ranks. According to Captain James W. De Forest of the 13th Connecticut Infantry:

There is a constant drain on the troops in the field, much heavier than a civilian would suppose. Something like one-fifth of the men who enlist are not tough enough nor brave enough to be soldiers. A regiment reaches its station a thousand strong; but in six months it can muster only seven hundred men for marching and fighting; the rest having vanished in various ways.

Desertions during the Civil War were alarmingly high and the Army really didn't have the manpower to "hunt down" deserters. As a result if you deserted, you had a pretty good chance of getting away with it.

To make up for the problems of securing more men for the battle lines, men who had been in service as guards for arsenals, posts, and hospitals were sent to the front for active service, leaving these military installations virtually undefended and unguarded. Although many of these posts were well inside the "Union lines", such as the case of the Detroit Arsenal, civil unrest was mounting due to the War and the need for a draft of men. As a result, these unguarded military areas were often targets of angry citizens.

The Army had hardly enough men to field for battle, let alone to serve as guards, cooks, hospital attendants, and other "non combative" duties needed to the requirements of a "modern army". However, looking back into history, the government soon found that this problem wasn't unique to this time period alone.

During the time of the American Revolution, on April 22, 1777, the Board of War of the Congressional Congress

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PAGES FROM HISTORY

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established a "Corps of Invalids" for garrison and recruiting duties. This "Invalid Corps" consisted of men who were in part disabled from participating in the War from natural causes, but were still able to serve as guards in magazines or arsenals or to serve as "trainers for young military gentlemen".

Taking that precedent into consideration, in November of 1862, General Order Number 36 authorized the chief medical officer of each city to "employ as cooks, nurses, and attendants any convalescent, wounded or feeble man who could perform such duties instead of discharging him".

In March of 1863, General Order 69 expanded upon the previous order and now allowed the "invalids" to be organized into regiments and to be assigned to military commanders to serve as clerks, post guards, provosts, and other duties not considered "front line" service. In March of 1864, the name of "Invalid Corps" was changed to "Veteran Reserve Corps", much to the delight of the men who did not like to be referred to as "invalids".

The uniform of the Veteran Reserve Corps differed from that of the regular Army. The coat was cut in the cavalry fashion and was of sky blue kersey material and dark blue trimmings. Officers at first were dressed in sky blue officer frock coats but were eventually allowed to wear the standard dark blue coat of the regulars. The trousers for both officers and enlisted men were sky blue, the officer's pants having two ½" dark blue stripes down the outer seam.

On August 20, 1864 Lt. Colonel B. H. Hill, Military Commander of Detroit, ordered Captain George C. Davenport and Company F of the 2nd Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps to the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville to provide "the necessary protection of the Arsenal". Davenport and his men arrived from the Arsenal from Detroit on that same day and began their duties as sentinels and guardians of the post. Eighty men comprised the Company, adding relief to the eight men of the Ordnance Department who were stationed there. Although some problems of "rank" were evident early on between Davenport and Lieutenant Michaelis, the post commander and rightful "commandant", these differences were soon resolved and the men became good friends.

Records show that the enlisted men of the Veteran Reserve Corps occupied the barracks of the Arsenal while

the officers stayed in the Surgeon's Quarters. Lieutenant Michaelis occupied the Commandant's Quarters, his rightful residence.

The Veteran Reserves assisted the Ordnance Regulars in more than guard duty while at the Arsenal. They assisted in weapons issuing and repairing, and by accompanying detachments to field locations.

In March of 1865, the Veterans Reserve Corps left the Detroit Arsenal, journeyed to Jackson, Michigan, and then disbanded at Detroit on November 8, 1865.

Although the original records of the Arsenal are difficult to locate, listed here are some of the names of soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment, Company F who, for a short time manned the gates of the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville.

Anfinson, Ole	Private	Age 24
Beck, John	Private	Age 27
Cole, William C.	Corporal	Age 24
Davis, John	Private	Age 44
Farley, Patrick	Private	Age 43
Fisher, John	Private	Age 46
Fox, Amos M.	Private	Age 19
Hein, Max W.	Private	Age 53
Holcomb, John	Private	Age 21
Hurshmann, Martin	Private	Age 43
Lindsay, James	Drummer	Age 17
Mott, Thomas	Sergeant	Age 27
O'Shea, Daniel	Private	Age 57
Werner, Charles	Private	Age 43

References:

Adjutant General's Office. July 16, 1867. *Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army*.

The Company of Military Historians. 1982. *Military Uniforms in America, 1852-1867, Volume III.*, Presidio Press.

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Official United States Army records of the Detroit Arsenal at Dearbornville. National Archives. Copy at the

PAGES FROM HISTORY

COMING EVENTS

*UNION DEFENDER'S DAY II**contributed by James T. Lyons, PDC*

The other day, while sorting through some back issues of The BANNER, the following front page item caught my eye. From Volume 88, No. 1, January 1983.

Union Defender's Program

At the Eighth National Encampment of the Sons held in 1889, the Sons established & adopted as a National program, Union Defender's Day, February 12th, to commemorate the birthday of President Lincoln and to honor the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1901, National Chaplain Howard Ennis wrote, "It is the custom of our beloved Order once a year, on Union Defender's Day, to scan the work not only of our own, but of past generations It is our privilege year by year to add our tributes of appreciation and admiration, made not more sincere, but more intelligent as broadening minds grasp more fully today than yesterday the gigantic proportions of the great Lincoln's vision of hope for our land."

Most Camps will renew this living tradition the first week in February with luncheons, dinners, roundtable discussions, speakers and cover dish dinners.

We urge every Brother and Sister to participate in this special day of fellowship and memorial tribute to our fathers, their comrades and President Lincoln.

To our Camp Commanders & Secretaries, it is the duty of your Camp to hold proper observance of Union Defender's Day! The fellowship of a simple cover dish dinner will surprise you and your Camp needs activities if it is to survive. National Members-at-Large are urged to contact the Department Secretary. listed in the October Banner for details on the nearest Lincoln Birthday observance. Become as active as possible.

Robert J. Wolz was Editor of the Banner then, living in East Palestine, Ohio.

*NOVEMBER***11th — Sunday****Veteran's Day**

A day set aside by our nation to honor the veterans of all branches of service of the United States Armed Forces.

18th — Saturday**Gettysburg, PA**

Remembrance Day Parade and Military Ball. The parade steps off at 1:00 pm. For further information please contact Anthony Waskie: dr1awaskie@aol.com The ball starts at 9:00 pm at the Eisenhower Inn. The ticket cost for the ball is \$10.00 per person, with proceeds going to National Military Park for monument preservation. For further information please contact Bud Atkinson: BudQMSons@aol.com

19th — Sunday**Remembrance Day**

A day set aside by the GAR to mark the anniversary of President Lincoln's dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg and to remember all Union Soldiers and Sailors who gave their lives during the War of the Rebellion.

*DECEMBER***2nd — Saturday****Lansing**

Department Graves Registration Committee meeting at the Library of Michigan, Lansing. All Camp Graves Registration Officers should try to make this meeting. It is also open to all interested SUVCW members.

15th — Friday**Messenger Deadline**

All copy should be in the editor's hands by this date for publication in the January, 2001 issue.

*JANUARY***10th — Wednesday****Quarterly Reports Due**

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

*FEBRUARY***12th — Monday****Lincoln's Birthday**

Union Defender's Day

17th — Saturday**Lansing**

Michigan Department Midwinter Conference and George Washington-Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner at the Best Western Midway Motor Lodge, Lansing.

*APRIL***21st — Saturday****Farmington Hills**

Department Encampment hosted by the D.U.V.C.W. at the Radisson Hotel.

TRUE SONS



*Flanking Commander-in-Chief Danny Wheeler are True Sons Edward Blakely (left), a Member of Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1 and Adin Shank (right), a Member of Curtenius Guard Camp 17.
Photo by Bro. Bruce Butgereit.*

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

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