

Messenger

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



Vol. IX No. 3

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January 2001

EATON RAPIDS GAR HALL FOUND

by James T. Lyons, PDC



MISSING: One G. A. R. Hall. Last seen somewhere on Main Street. May be in disguise. Last heard from nearly eighty years ago.

The *Eaton Rapids Journal* of August 27, 1886 states, "J. B. Brainerd Post 111 will begin construction of a new hall as soon as preliminaries are arranged. ... Adj. Melbourne tells us the lot just north of C. T. Hartson's furniture store meets with general approval." The same source tells us, on September 14, "Ground was broken Monday just north of C. T. Haon store for the new G.A.R. Hall..."

Unfortunately, no address is provided for either location and these once well known landmarks are no longer in place and their memory has faded. This was the situation brought to me by Brother Bob Hoffman, an Eaton Rapids resident and Commander of Austin Blair Camp 7.

(Continued on page 14)

The GAR Hall building in Eaton Rapids — 224 South Main Street. Note the side entry for the second floor where the meeting room was located.

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Commander's Group Rep.

Gregory Hayes

2001 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:00 - 1:30 pm | Opening remarks, report of Department Commander, Secretary and Treasurer |
| 1:30 - 2:00 pm | Reports of Department Council, Civil War Memorials Committee and Ceremony of Remembrance Committee |
| 2:00 - 2:30 pm | Report of Communications and Technology Committee, GAR Records Committee |
| 2:30 - 3:00 pm | Break |
| 3:00 - 3:30 pm | Report of the Graves Registration Committee, GAR Records Committee and special Committees |
| 3:30 - 4:00 pm | All other Reports |
| 3:45 - 4:00 pm | Break |
| 4:00 - 5:00 pm | Camp Officer Orientation |
| 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Washington - Lincoln Dinner |
| 8:00 | Program |

Michigan's Messenger

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS

*DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 4**SERIES 2000 ~ 2001**Department Headquarters—Linden, Michigan**December 14, 2000*

1. In remembrance of our esteemed Brother Kenneth K. Smith of Austin Blair Camp 7, I request that all Camp Charters be draped for 30 days.

2. I request all Department Officers, the Department Council of Administration and all committee Chairs to prepare a report for presentation at the Department Mid-Winter Conference. This report should detail your activities and projects. The format for the conference has been changed to allow the work of the Department to be shared with all the participants. We will also have time for new Camp Officer orientation and support.

3. A special Committee, to be known as the Department Guard Committee is hereby formed. The Chairman shall be James Lyons, PDC with Brothers Bruce Butgereit and Rick Greene as members of the committee. The committee will be charged with the task of recommending to the Department Encampment suggestions for the formation of a ceremonial component for Department and Camp functions.

4. This Office commends Brother David F. Wallace, PDC, for his continuing work on the Department Website. A recent addition to the site is the *Camp Events* page. I urge every Camp to send notice of upcoming meetings and events to Brother Wallace for posting. By having this information available, I hope Brothers will take the opportunity to attend programs of other Camps. Submissions should be directed to: *dfwsuvcw@aol.com*.

5. The following Brothers are named to the By-laws Committee: Kent Armstrong, PDC and Robert Hoffman.

6. Our charge, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to perpetuate the memory of the

Grand Army of the Republic. To this end, I think would like to see us pay tribute to the two Michigan men that held the office of Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R., Russell Alger and Washington Gardner during Memorial Day. At the Mid-Winter conference, I would like Brothers to suggest ideas for accomplishing this.

7. I wish to thank all the Brothers of the Department that participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gettysburg. The Department appreciates the effort of those who attended to honor the memory of our Michigan boys and all who fought to save our Union.

By the Order of:

*Gregory Hayes**Commander, Department of Michigan*

Attest:

*Richard Lee**Secretary, Department of Michigan***Deadline Change**

The deadline for the April issue of Michigan's Messenger will be one week earlier than normal,

March 8th

This will help to ensure that the April issue is received by all members prior to the Department Encampment on April 21st.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**Neal F. Breaugh*

A great deal of interest and attention is often placed in the Eastern Section of the Civil War. A particular emphasis in our organization is centered around Gettysburg with Remembrance Day in November and Lincoln's Birthday in February, and justifiably so. With that established, I would like to call your attention to another Gettysburg — The Gettysburg of the West, or as it is commonly referred to, the Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico. This battle, which took place from March 26-28, 1862, is not compared to the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg because of the number of combatants involved, but because of the tremendous consequences of the results. Basically, the Union victory at Glorieta Pass guaranteed that the Far West would remain in Union hands, and it is that sense that it bears a significant similarity to Gettysburg.

This entire area is well worth a visit and battlefield tour. The Glorieta Pass Battlefield area is under the supervision of the Pecos National Historical Park. It also includes the ancient pueblo of Pecos, two Spanish Colonial Missions, Santa Fe Trail Sites. Since much of the Battlefield is still in private ownership, I would strongly suggest that you call ahead and reserve a private tour with one of the Park Rangers. They conduct these once a week during most of the year. We did that with our Ranger friend Jerry Maygor and it was well worth it. He took us to places that we would have been hard pressed to find on our own, as well as offering a great deal of interesting information. The Park address is: PO Box 418, Pecos, NM. 87552. However I called the Park directly to schedule my tour. That number is 505-757-6032. While in this area, I would also suggest that you visit the ruins of Fort Craig near Socorro New Mexico. It was near here that the day long battle of Valverde was fought on February 21, 1862. This was a decisive Confederate victory as General Sibley's Northwest invasion proceeded toward Santa Fe. This beautiful city rich in history is always worth a visit. A great place to stop for the evening is at the historic Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, NM which is near to the well preserved Fort Union Monument which is located on the Santa Fe Trail.

Two excellent references on this part of our history are the easy reading, short (139 pages), but well researched, "Civil War in Texas and New Mexico Territory" by Steve Cottrell, and the longer (385 pages), more comprehensive and extremely well documented, "The Civil War In The American West" by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. I hope some of you will get the opportunity to visit this area rich in American and Civil War history.

*CHAPLAIN**William McAfee*

Tonight, while wrestling my 22 year-old, 20 inch Toro snow thrower around to try to clean out my driveway before it gets wet and turns into a skating rink, I became upset with myself for not getting the blade on my yard tractor soon enough to be using it, instead. I couldn't help but reflect on what it must have been like for my great-great grandfather one hundred and forty years ago. Not only would he not have had a gasoline-powered implement for removing snow, he wouldn't have had a cement and asphalt driveway on which the snow would accumulate. He had no internal combustion driven vehicle with pneumatic tires to drive over such a driveway. Nor did he have electric lights to flick on so he could see to do it after the sun went down. THEN, he left his wife and family to go fight in a war to keep the southern states in the Union and to free slaves. It is hard, no, nearly impossible for us to realize that, to him, he was living at the high point of culture and technology. If you think about it, the people of every era in the history of mankind, except for a few dreamers and visionaries, consider themselves to be at the apex of civilization. We have been told that the head of the U. S. Patent Office in the late 19th Century recommended it be closed down because all that could ever possibly be invented was already patented. Yet there is one thing that has remained constant for the Civil War private, for his daughter, for her son, my grandfather, for my dad and for me, as well as for everyone over the past two thousand years. That is the love of God and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Heb. 13:8) We pray for a blessed year 2001 for you and yours. Just remember, even as technology zooms ahead of us and our civilization and culture continue to advance beyond our wildest imaginations, we have a "constant" we can grasp. It's in "The Book"!

Correction

to the National Encampment Committee Report, page 11, in the October issue of Michigan's Messenger. The Total Expenses listing of \$10,837.45 is incorrect. It should read \$9,890.60. The Net Difference of \$250.40 is correct. I had originally listed some expenses that were taken care of by other parties, then deleted them, but forgot to correct the total.

Dick Williams

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman

On October 21st, I had the privilege of attending a rededication of the Soldier's Monument in Allegan. The monument, originally dedicated on Memorial Day in 1904, is a statue of a soldier with saber drawn holding a flag. The statue is made of cast white bronze and stands atop a granite base. The monument stands approximately 18 ft. tall and is set on the lawn of the Allegan County Courthouse. The highlight of the rededication was the unveiling of the restored monument with the addition of a new stainless steel saber, which had been missing for some time.

I'd like to thank the members of the Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 for their dedication in seeing to the deserved restoration of this monument and it's proper rededication. I also thank the Brothers of Camp 20 for their invitation to this very fitting tribute to one of the many monuments erected in honor of the men in which we honor.

The committee has recently been contacted, through our department's website, for further information regarding Civil War Monuments and Memorials within Michigan. The first was an inquiry by a historian researching monuments in Kentucky. She had seen the pictures on our website that are categorized by the county in which they are located and noticed a similarity to one located in Morgantown, KY. The second inquiry came from a student's mother in Cadillac, Michigan whose daughter was doing a project on the Civil War for school. She had also seen our listing of monuments and memorials on the webpage and requested information about any monuments or memorials in Wexford County. This committee urges the Department Signals Officer to continue posting the photos and their descriptions that are sent to his office, on the Department's Memorials Webpage.

These two inquiries are one of the reasons why the Civil War Monuments and Memorials Assessment Project is so important. Every Camp's participation is necessary and essential to the success of this project. The committee thanks all those Camps who have continued to fill out and send in assessment forms this year. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated. I urge all Camps to initiate a program to assess all Civil War Monuments and Memori-

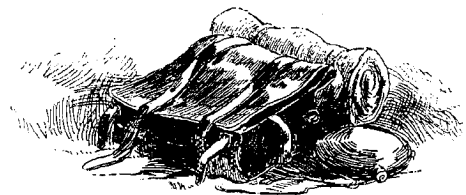
HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

Brothers Charles Harthy, Charles Langworthy, Howard Streeter and I met at the Marshall GAR Hall in September. We reviewed the Department's archival storage arrangements and considered possible improvements.

A metal storage cabinet in the attic holds a variety of SUVCW historical records. There are volumes of correspondence of Past Department Commanders, for example, and a file of cards with information about former members. We found boxes of other records near the cabinet and put them in it to protect them better.

The need for fire-resistant storage facilities for valuable documents has been discussed in the Department previously and again was evident. A fire-resistant four-drawer filing cabinet, as suggested in the past, seems to be the best solution. When obtained, it should be set in the first floor room at the foot of the attic stairs to be in a heat- and humidity-controlled atmosphere. The Department Council is encouraged to consider means for funding such a cabinet. A budget item for purchase of other materials and supplies for organizing and storing historical materials also would be advisable.



als in their assigned areas. All newly elected Camp Officers are encouraged to share the Assessment Project information that was sent to their Camp for review. For those Camps with an ongoing assessment program, please have the Camp Civil War Memorials Officer send a progress report to this office. Please contact me with any questions you may have about the assessment project or filling out of the forms.

The committee would also like to welcome Brother Bruce Butgereit as its newest member. His work to raise money for the restoration of the Grand Rapids Soldier's and Sailor's Monument has shown him to have a dedicated character to the cause. He will make a great addition to this committee.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

GRAVES REGISTRATION

Rick Danes

Greetings, Brothers!

I hope that this report finds you and yours in good health and spirit. If not, our prayers are with you.

I would like to tell you about some of the good work that your Graves Registration Committee has done in the past quarter. A meeting was held on December 2, and several issues were resolved that might have caused the non-participation of some Camps. The highlights of that meeting are:

- The following Camps were represented by, and this progress was reported:

- Camp 1 Bro. Bruce Butgereit
No report
- Camp 7 Bros. Bill Lowe & Max Miller
Jackson County 100% surveyed, 1600 proven records received, 1800 records to come.
- Camp 17 Bro. James Lyons
Ingham and Eaton 100% surveyed, Barry starting. All verification in progress.
- Camp 22 Bro. John Lohrsdorfer
Calhoun 100% and turned in. Branch 100% surveyed, not turned in.
- Camp 58 Bro. Ken Coin
Clinton 100% and turned in. Gratiot and Ionia not started.
- Camp 120 Bro. Dick Hutchins
Livingston 100% and half turned in. Oakland 10% surveyed.
- Camp 147 Bro. Charles LaBar
No report.
- Camp 180 Bro. Michael VanWasshnova
Turned in records. No report.
- Camp 250 Bro. Robert Grove
Clare, Isabella, Midland 100% surveyed, not proven or turned in.
- Camp 266 Bro. John Gorto
(by email) Marquette 100% surveyed, 50% turned in. Alger, Houghton, Keweenaw, Menominee being surveyed.
- Camp 427 Bro. Rick Danes
Macomb and Wayne (outside Detroit) 100% surveyed and turned in.

Within the week surrounding the meeting I received over 2500 new registrations, all proven and ready for input.

- We gained consensus from all present on a Committee Procedure on what information will be shared with the public on the Department Website. The procedure will be that only the soldier's name, unit, birth and death dates, and submitting Camp contact will be published. All other information will be available from a Camp contact. Appropriate language will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference to make this a Department Guideline.
- We consented to eliminate the submitter's information from the Department record. Only the submitting Camp contact will be sent. Those records accumulated by the Department GRO will be noted as MI-DGRO for more information.
- We decided that the Camp Committees will decide what information will be shared from the records collected by that Camp (i.e. given to libraries, etc.).
- The Department database will not be copied and distributed, bartered, or sold.

Year 2001 meetings will be held on March 3, June 2, September 8, and December 1. All will be at the State Library in Lansing, all starting at 1:00 pm.

With attendance this quarter, and Camps 20, 76, and 145 at our last meeting, we hope to see a representative from Camps 3, 9, 14, 28, 43, 67, 85, 101, 160, 259, and 462 get involved.

I will now start a small honor roll, similar to that used by Bro. Lee in his Quarterly Report to report Camp successes. This will reflect those Camps who sent in records, had representation at the quarterly meeting, or otherwise reported during the past quarter. An asterisk will indicate how many consecutive quarters the Camp has responded.

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Camp 1** | Camp 7** | Camp 22** |
| Camp 58** | Camp 120** | Camp 147** |
| Camp 180** | Camp 250** | Camp 266** |
| | Camp 427** | |

Thanks to all for their continued support.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

GAR RECORDS COMMITTEE*James T. Lyons, PDC*

The GAR Records Committee was established several years ago for the purpose of searching out surviving Post Records, wherever they may be. The original plan of the Grand Army was to have the Posts turn in all their materials, to the Department Headquarters, when they disbanded. More often than not, the plan didn't work as designed and the majority of this material never found its way to Lansing.

Things have been found in a wide variety of places including libraries, museums, courthouses and other government buildings as well as with DAR Chapters, American Legion and VFW Posts and in private hands. To date we have reports of some records found for about fifty Posts. Unfortunately, most of these reports do not indicate the type of records found.

Additional tasks involve securing an inventory of the material located. The type and quantity varies widely from one place to the next. Some have suggested that a form be developed to gather the needed information. It seems that there would be considerably more blank spaces on a form listing all the things that could be found than those that could be filled.

We have asked that those reporting a "find" simply list the items found, a Memorial book, or the minutes of Post meetings, or a Descriptive Book, or member applications. A simple inventory would be of the greatest help. This information could then be posted to a larger chart recording all findings.

The next step would be to make arrangements, if possible, to produce copies of the materials located. Many of these things are "one of a kind" in the life of each Post because no copies were filed with the Department or anywhere else. Applications, Descriptive Books, Memorial Books and Meeting Minutes were kept only by the Post. In the case of the Memorial Book, information may be found there that is not recorded anywhere else.

The means by which the copying can be accomplished will vary from one place to the next depending on policies of those holding the records and the condition of the records. A variety of methods and techniques are being explored to deal with a wide range of situations.

Soon a detailed plan for doing a systematic, county by county search of the state will be put in place. A key to this approach will be to assure that all possible repositories will be checked and will eliminate duplication of effort and needless backtracking.

The assistance of many will be necessary to bring this "long term" project to a successful outcome. Anyone knowing the location of Post Records is asked to share that information with the Committee.

Please send your information to James T. Lyons, PDC, Chairman, at 14650 Willowbrook Drive, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-8491. Phone (616) 374-7847 or E-mail jtlcof@voyager.net.

112TH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

OF THE

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SUVCW*****SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST***

AT THE
RADISSON HOTEL
37529 GRAND RIVER AVE.
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI

**MORE INFORMATION IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF
MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER AND ON THE
DEPARTMENT WEB SITE AT:
[HTTP://SUVCW.ORG/MI/DEPTMI.HTM](http://suvchw.org/mi/deptmi.htm)**

CAMP NEWS

JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1

by Bruce Butgereit

In November, as Patriotic Instructor, I sent a letter to each of the Brothers in our Camp addressing concerns I had about a number of issues, i.e. attendance, attitude, desire, etc., all issues that at one time or another have probably affected all Camps. The letter began as follows:

It is with regret that I am obliged to bring this matter before you, and when I say obliged, I firmly believe that our ancestors would demand that I do. Bringing this before you has no personal gain for me, but as your Patriotic Instructor, I feel that the entire Camp can benefit from a reminder of what our organization is, what it represents, and most of all, what it takes to be a Son.

We have grown complacent over time, accepting the status quo. We have placed aside following the original intent of the Order, while placing a time limit on our meetings. We have allowed other interests to steal time spent with Brothers. We have forgotten the pride in which the soldier in the Union Army served under the sometimes-tattered banner of his State and Country and then under the title of the GAR. We have forgotten the meaning of the words... Faith, Charity, and Loyalty.

With this letter was also a *resolution*, a resolution that was unanimously accepted as the direction in which Camp 1 would live. To date, over half our Brothers have signed this resolution. It reads:

Resolution of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

We, each, Brothers in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), do hereby resolve that as members of the Gen. John A. Logan, Camp 1, we will immediately rededicate ourselves to the purposes and goals set forth by our ancestors for this patriotic organization. We clearly understand that we are only a continuation of what our ancestors envisioned and that they gave guidance, not only by simple vote, but also by living example, to the rules and regulations with which to lead and govern ourselves.

We also hereby resolve that we will rededicate ourselves to the sworn oath we took when we joined the SUVCW, that we would obey and support, in full, the National and Department of Michigan Constitution & Regulations as well as the National, Department of Michigan, and Camp 1 By-laws.

We each resolve to be as faithful as reasonably possible in attendance and place a standard upon ourselves that will reflect the effort and sacrifices of that given by the Union soldier in the Civil War. They left their home and family to serve our Nation, many for four years: all we are asked to give is a monthly meeting and several memorial services a year.

We further resolve to rededicate the manner in which we present ourselves to the Camp and each other, using the moral characteristics necessary to be considered a member of the SUVCW (National Regulations/Camp/Article II).

We further resolve that any violation of the aforesaid articles of obligation, or the doing of anything tending to injure a veteran or Brother, or the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will be dealt with in the manner as prescribed by the SUVCW (National Regulations/General Regulations/Article VI/2 and Camp 1 By-laws/Article XI/B). Offenses recognizable by the SUVCW (National C&R/Amended 1999/Chapter V/1) include:

Sec. 1

First: ...any other violation of any pledge given at the time of election into the Order, or violation of any obligation given at the time of assuming any office in the Order,

Second: Disobedience of the Constitution, By-laws, Rules, Regulations, Policies or other lawful orders of the SUVCW...,

Fourth: Conduct unbecoming a member in relation to the Order, **and**

Fifth: Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

I, _____

a Brother of the Gen. John A. Logan, Camp 1
do hereby pledge my support for this
Resolution of Faith, Charity, and Loyalty

Date: _____

In November, we also voted upon our officers for 2001. They are:

Commander: Bruce B. Butgereit
Senior Vice-Commander: Comer Skinner
Junior Vice-Commander: David Wrightsman
Secretary: Bruce B. Butgereit, II
Treasurer: Cleon Duryea

Council: Lee Stroschine / Doug Colley / Edward Blakely

Our meetings, as well as the DUVCW, Eva Gray, Tent 2, are held on the same night at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. In November, another Allied Order, the Champlin Corps, 41, of the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), joined us after not having any meetings for several years. This Corps has been in continual existence since 1887 and had Mary Champlin, the widow of fallen hero Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Champlin, as one of the founding members.

I have been working diligently these past several months on ways to have our Camp and the Daughters Tent work together on various projects as well as share fellowship. Tent 2 President Lorie Gladyness has proven to be an active leader and her and

CAMP NEWS

the other Sisters have welcomed the opportunity to share together. (Besides, the ladies do a better job at baking the brownies and cookies that are shared during the social break than we.)

To welcome the WRC and celebrate true-son Edward Blakely's 97th birthday, all three Allied Orders shared a joint social break with cake, coffee, and Brother Blakely's usual good-natured joking. We are looking forward to together honoring the Union soldier, working on projects, and enjoying each other's company.

On January 20, 2001, we will have our First Annual Allied Orders Winter Banquet followed by a brief presentation from the Daughters and the WRC on some of the goals they will have for the New Year and the installation of officers with Commander Greg Hayes and Past C-in-C Keith Harrison.

The rewards of working together with our Sisters and the ladies of the WRC have been manifested in the efforts we have undertaken in locating, recording, and assessing the Civil War Memorials in Kent, Ottawa, and Montcalm Counties. To date, we have over 30 such memorials located. The work will not be submitted to the Department until all research is done on the history of these memorials. It is has been quite an experience in tracking these memorials down. Local historians and historical societies have been very helpful in the research. The goal is to have this work completed by the Dept. of Michigan Mid-Winter SUVCW Conference.

Our own Monument Restoration Project for the Grand Rapids Civil War monument/fountain is still underway. We have pledges now from three local foundations, which will assist us once we have reached \$135,000 of our \$210,000 goal. Due to the holiday season, our efforts have been somewhat on hold so as to not compete for monies going to other charities. We also participated in the rededication of the Allegan Civil War monument with our Brothers from the Pritchard Camp 20.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Bob Hoffman, CC

Along with many other Camps Austin Blair Camp 7 elected their officers at the November meeting. Brother Ken Strickler was elected to serve as Camp Commander for the year 2001. Ken will be assisted in his duties by Senior Vice Commander Mark Heath, Junior Vice Commander Mike Maillard and Secretary Ron Tyrl. Once again Brother Bud Tallman will hold the office of Treasurer.

It was my privilege as Camp Commander to present to Brother Bill Lowe Camp 7's Thayne C. Labanta Award. This Award is presented to Brothers who by words, actions, or deeds exhibit exemplary dedication and service to the Camp or Order. Under Bill's leadership the Camp has finished its graves registration

project in Jackson County and restored many Veteran's Graves. Great job Bill!

Plans continue to be made for Camp 7's re-interment of Pvt. Daniel Pine of the 122nd New York Infantry. As you may recall this Veteran lay buried in an abandoned cemetery until his grave was discovered during the Camp's graves registration project. We had hoped to have Private Pine re-interred in a place of honor in a modern cemetery this fall, but ran into some legal complications. These legal problems have been cleared up thanks to diligent work by the Camp's Pvt. Pine Committee and plans are now being made for the re-interment to take place Saturday, May 12, 2001. From what I gather from our Camp discussions, this promises to be a very dignified affair. We hope to have a horse drawn hearse, a G.A.R. Color Guard to escort the coffin to the grave and a G.A.R. Burial Ceremony will be performed at the graveside. There will no doubt be more on this made available to you as plans are finalized.

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

by James T. Lyons, PDC

This final year of the Twentieth Century concluded much as it began. A full slate of activities and programs filled the calendar in a wide variety of forms and places.

Camp Sigel Monument Rededicated. On September 9th the boulder monument marking the location of Camp Sigel was rededicated at Fred Green Park on the bank of Prairie Creek in Ionia. The 21st Michigan Infantry Regiment was mustered here and departed from this location during the Civil War.

Fifty years later, on September 12, 1912 the survivors of the Regiment dedicated this monument to commemorate their departure for the war at the site of their old camp.

Brother Charles Brown and John Deitrick of the Ionia County Historical Society worked for nearly two years on the project of moving the boulder from its original location (in an extension of the right of way for Second Street) to the Park. The 1073 Maintenance Company of the Michigan National Guard provided the heavy equipment needed for this historic move.

The Monument was unveiled by Mike Heffron, a descendant of James A. Heffron who served with the 21st. He was assisted by Brother Jeffrey Adams and John Deitrick. Lowell White of the 21st Michigan reenactment group presented a history of the regiment's activities during the war.

The program concluded with a salute fired by the 21st Michigan and the 9th Kentucky. A living history encampment was provided for the full weekend by both reenactment groups.

G.A.R. Recognition Day in Eaton Rapids. Island Park in Eaton Rapids, the site of many encampments of the Eaton

CAMP NEWS

Battalion, and for many years known as G.A.R. Park, was alive with memories of the Boys in Blue on September 16.

Brother Jeffrey Adams and Bob Hoffman, Commander of Austin Blair Camp 7 planned this commemorative program. Both are residents of Eaton Rapids. The Program started promptly at 1:00 p.m. with a salute fired by the 5th Michigan Battery. The Color Guard, under the command of PCinC Keith Harrison, moved into position to music provided by the Camp 17 Fife and Drum. Rev. Steve Klink offered an opening prayer. Greetings were extended by Eaton Rapids Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Brown and an address was presented by Commander James T. Lyons.



The days activities concluded with the ceremonial planting of a replacement for the GAR Tree. Brothers Harrison, Adams and Hoffman each took a turn with the spade. The original tree, planted by James B. Brainerd Post 111 in October of 1911 had fallen victim to Dutch Elm disease a number of years ago. A boulder monument, with plaque, had remained to mark the location.

A display of photos and other memorabilia concerning local veterans and the GAR were displayed by residents. A Living History Camp was provided by the 3rd Michigan reenactment group based in Grand Rapids.

Bowens Mills Flag Adoption Ceremony. The Camp provided the Color Guard as the Barry County Historical Society adopted its fifth and sixth Civil War Battle Flags. The occasion was the Civil War weekend program at Historic Bowens Mills.

Commander Lyons joined other speakers including Kerry Chartkoff of the *Save The Flags* program and State Senator Joan Emmons. Mike Hook, President of the Barry County Historical Society presented a check for \$2000.00 to preserve the flags of the 3rd and 30th Michigan Infantry Regiments. Members of several other Camps were present for this cold, snowy program.

Other activities included participation in the Lansing Veterans Day parade on November 11th. Several Eagle Scout recognition certificates have been presented. New Members inducted included Keith Krinn, David Coons, Robert Aumaugher, and Junior Kyle Emmerick, son of Tom Emmerick.

At the November meeting Department Commander Greg Hayes was present to install the new officers of the Camp. Retained in their positions were Commander Lyons, Treasurer Richard Williams and the Camp Council of Laverne Aves, Charles Brown and Dale Calder. Tom Emmerick returned to the post of Secretary. Assuming new positions were George Roux, moving from JVC to the Senior Vice Commander's spot and David Neese as Junior Vice Commander.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22

by Chris Czopek

Every year on November 11, certain members of the Camp put on army uniforms and answer the call of duty. The event is the VETERANS DAY memorial service at Fort Custer National Cemetery (near Battle Creek). Brothers John Hughes, Sam Odom, and Blaine Valentine are members of 3rd Battery, a Civil War reenacting unit. Dressed in Civil War uniforms and standing at attention beside their cannons, they make a colorful addition to the program. But the guns are not just for show - at the end of the program they are loaded and fired! This salute by the Civil War artillery is a unique feature of the annual Veterans Day program at Fort Custer.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Douglas Armstrong, CC

At 11 am on Veterans' Day, Members of Camp 58 conducted a headstone dedication ceremony at the grave of James Frazee in the North Eagle Cemetery. The ceremony was similar to that which the G.A.R. used for one of their fallen comrades. Brother Bruce Fech served as Chaplain for the day. Brothers Bob Knowles and Tom Dingler posted the symbol of the army; a musket with fixed bayonet, canteen, haversack and knapsack, at

CAMP NEWS

the grave and stood guard over it. Brother's Gordon McGarey, David Thompson, and Kim Altvater placed on the grave an evergreen wreath, symbol of undying love, a rose, symbol of purity and a laurel wreath, symbol of victory. As Commander, I had the privilege of placing the American Flag upon the grave. An Honor Guard, consisting of Brothers Eric Martens, Mark Pangburn, headstone. Clark Tinney is one of our newest Brotand Dan Miller, then fired a musket salute. Following the *crisp* volley, a bugler from local Boy Scout Troop 111 provided Taps and was echoed by a member of the DeWitt Community Band. Also in attendance were Brothers Claude Vail, Dennis Felton, and Kent Armstrong. Local friends of Brother Clark Tinney, descendant of James Frazee and members of the Clinton County Historical Society and of the North Eagle Cemetery Association along with staff reporters from the Clinton County News and Grand Ledge Independent also attended the ceremony.



James Frazee was born in Putnam County, Ohio in 1844. On August 18, 1862, at the age of 18 he enlisted in Co. H of the 118th Ohio Infantry at Camp Lima for a period of 3 years. At enlistment, he is described as being 5 ft. 2 in. tall, having a light complexion with blue eyes and light hair. James listed "Farmer" as his occupation. He joined his regiment on September 13, 1862 at Cincinnati, Ohio. Before being discharged at Salisbury, N.C. on June 24, 1865, James served with his regiment in the battles of Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, Rome, and the Siege of Atlanta, Georgia, as well as the battles of Columbia, Franklin, and Nashville, Tennessee.

After the war, James moved with his family to Michigan and

built a homestead near Portland. In July, 1883, James became Charter Member No. 34 of the John Megarah G. A. R. Post No. 132 in Portland. James was active in the Post, serving as Junior-Vice-Commander in 1917 and becoming Commander of the Post in 1918. His name also appears on some of the last records sent to the Department of Michigan in 1921, about the same time the Post became inactive. In 1928, James died at the age of 84 and was buried in the North Eagle Cemetery. His grave had laid unmarked for 72 years until, in the summer of 1999, a gentleman by the name of Clark Tinney, a descendent of James Frazee, contacted us about having the grave marked with a government headstone. This summer, with the help of Mr. Tinney, we located the grave and sent an order to the Veterans' Administration in Washington for a proper hers to join our Camp. Although he now resides in Tucson, Arizona, Brother Tinney wishes to honor his ancestor in Clinton County.

Camp Officers were elected at our recent meeting in November. Camp 58's Elected Officers for the upcoming year are as follows: Commander, Doug Armstrong; Senior Vice Commander, Kim Altvater; Junior Vice Commander, David Thompson; Camp Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Pangburn; Delegate, Kim Altvater; Camp Council, Bruce Fech, David Thompson, and Bob Knowles. Appointments will be made at our January meeting. Camp 58 thanks Department Commander Hayes for his appointment of our Brother Kent Armstrong to act as Installing Officer.

CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180

by W.B. McAfee, CC

We held elections at our November meeting. New officers for 2001 are: Edward D. Hall, Commander, William R. Hart, SVC, Theodore G. Huff, JVC, Michael E. VanWasshnova, Secretary, and William C. Eaton, Treasurer. Gary and David Speer and Bill McAfee will serve on the Camp Council. Department Commander Hayes is scheduled to install the officers at our meeting January 29, 2001. It will be held at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor.

At our November meeting, we initiated two men new to our Order. Charles P. Allen III joined by virtue of his descent from Pvt. William F. ALLEN, Co. A, 3rd New Jersey Vol. Infantry. Chuck came to us through the national website. Mark A. St. John is joining as an Associate while he nails down his ancestor's records. We've known Mark for the past few years from his activities as a Civil War student and re-enactor.

We are pleased that the University of Michigan has restored two historic plaques to the walls of the Museum of Art. This building was formerly the Alumni Hall, erected by donations from the alumni and dedicated to those alumni who served in the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. We want to continue to encourage the administration of "The U" to additionally restore to an appropriate place of honor

CAMP NEWS

COMING EVENTS

the plaques dedicated respectively to the 20th Michigan Infantry and to Brevet Brigadier General Spaulding of the 23rd Michigan Infantry. We thank those brothers who have helped in any way to bring these moves to fruition.

We wish good health to Brother Byron Weed who has recovered from surgery for liver cancer in November. He faces more procedures to correct an aneurysm in the near future.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY ~ CAMP 427

by Rick Danes

Greetings Brothers and friends! We here at Camp 427 hope that all of you are well and had a great holiday.

The New Year finds us with a new motto for our Camp...we call it "doing more with less" or "quality, not quantity". We continue to persevere in spite of suffering what seems to be a cyclical decrease in interest from our current members, and a very slight response to our quest for new members. We are also standing by to support our ailing Brother and past CC in his recurring battle with cancer.

On a more positive note, Camp 427 continues to participate in all activities that favor a small group, i.e. supporting our local historical society and museum programs, sustaining a bi-monthly meeting schedule, and spreading "the word" whenever we get the chance. During the past several months, we have served as a uniformed guard and interpretive resource at various functions at the Dearbornville Arsenal (Commandant's Headquarters), serving as escorts at the Dearborn Museum Guild Victorian Tea, and conducting an SUV open house. December 8 will mark the 4th annual Christmas Dinner and meeting for the Camp.

The elected officers for 2001 will be:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Jerry Olson | Commander |
| Rick Danes | Sr. Vice Commander |
| Jeffrey Montminy | Jr. Vice Commander |
| Rick Danes | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Rick Carden | Camp Council Chairman |
| Aaron Schrader | Camp Council |
| Gerry Olson | Camp Council |

Camp 427 will meet bi-monthly at 2:00 pm, at either the Commandant's HQ, Mason at Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, at the Ross-McFadden House, Brady Street north of Michigan Avenue, or at an appropriate site chosen for a special subject. The dates of those meetings are: January 28, March 25, May 27, July 29, September 30 and November 18.

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.

MARCH

8th — Thursday **Messenger Deadline**
All articles, reports and photos need to be in the editor's hands by this date for inclusion in the April issue of Michigan's Messenger.

APRIL

10th — Tuesday **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!*

21st — Saturday **Farmington Hills**
Department Encampment hosted by the D.U.V.C.W. at the Radisson Hotel. More information forthcoming in the April issue of Michigan's Messenger, or on the Department's web site at: <http://suvchw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

MAY

5th & 6th — Saturday & Sunday **Mansfield, OH**
Civil War Show at the Richland County Fairgrounds, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Three buildings of dealers occupying over 500 tables. If you are looking for almost anything related to the Civil War or the Civil War veteran, this is the place to find it. This is the largest show of its kind in the mid-west. The many display tables of artifacts and memorabilia alone are worth the trip.

12th — Saturday **Jackson**
The re-interment of Private Daniel Pine, 122nd New York Infantry, will take place at 1:30 pm in Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery, 1425 Elm Road, (1/4 mile south of I-94 exit 141) in Jackson, Michigan. More information may be found on Austin Blair Camp 7's web site at:

<http://dancee.home.mindspring.com/pineprojecta.htm>

 "THE GREATEST GENERATION"

WWII VETERANS MEMORIAL

by Rick Greene

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2000 ground was broken for the long awaited World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. At an estimated cost of \$140 million dollars, it will be a lasting monument to the contributions of over 16 million American men and women who served our country during her 4 ½ year conflict with the Axis powers. For good reason, this has been often referred to as "The Greatest Generation"; some would say a high point in our history. Born in the aftermath of a great world war and raised in the Great Depression, they came of age just in time to join together, in a level of solidarity that America has never known before or since, to throw back Axis tyranny. After they had accomplished their mission those that came home built the United States into a technological, economic and military giant. These, Brothers, are our fathers, grandfathers and, in some cases, ourselves. And now at a rate of over 7000 per month these old veterans are marching off to "sit under the apple tree" with their already departed pards. It is not at all unlike the Old Boys In Blue at the close of the 19th century.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we have pledged ourselves to doing all in our power to insure that the deeds of our forefathers who took up arms on America's behalf are never forgotten. Revolutionary War, Civil War, the World Wars, Korea or Viet Nam, they are alike and must forever be remembered for their sacrifice.

The Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp 145 take this premise seriously. At the November meeting of the Camp resolutions of support for the Memorial project were made and the ground work was laid for a fund into which Camp Brothers may donate contributions for the construction of the W.W.II Memorial. It was in this discussion that it was learned that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sponsor a \$7.5 million program which will match all donations to the Memorial. So now each dollar given effectively becomes a two dollar contribution to construct this Memorial. At the Department Encampment in May, 2001 a motion will arise from the floor asking that the Department of Michigan consider making a generous donation to the WWII Memorial Fund. In the mean time, will each Camp in the Department follow Camp 145's lead and establish a mechanism of their

choice by which Brothers may convey their help to this worthy cause? Will each Camp's Patriotic Instructor call for resolution(s) from his Camp in support of this project, encouraging Brothers to contribute generously to the Camp's W.W.II Memorial fund. Flushing (Michigan) VFW Post 5666 Michigan has volunteered to be the portal through which funding may be offered in the names of individual Camps. In this way the donations will qualify for matching funds from the VFW. For contact information or if you need additional information or clarification, please feel to call (517) 843-5967 or e-mail: rgreene@tds.net

Brothers, inherently we stand for the creation and preservation of all lasting memorials, monuments and mementoes, to our nations defenders. By doing so we insure that we will never, in time to come, forget their precious gift of freedom. Annually millions of people come from around the country to visit our nation's capitol. With each of us helping out just a little bit these visitors will see our nation paying homage and simply saying "thank you" to the men and women of W.W.II. That, my Brothers, is something that they won't forget.

Thank You

Sincere thanks to the many SUVCW Brothers who expressed concern and best wishes on the occasion of my recent surgery. Your care and support are appreciated greatly. I am pleased to report that my open-heart surgery went well and that recuperation is progressing very satisfactorily.

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

EATON RAPIDS GAR HALL

(Continued from page 1)

The logical place to start seemed to be a search of the Grantor - Grantee index at the Eaton County Court House in Charlotte. This search did not turn up any property in the name of the Post, the GAR or a variety of variations of these names. There was also no record of a store property owned by C. T. Hartson in Eaton Rapids.

In discussing the search with Charles Cusack at the State Archives, he suggested checking the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps on microfilm at the State Library. The first map from Eaton Rapids was dated 1886. In Block 5, there was a furniture store with a vacant lot immediately to its north. Although the maps did not identify the store by name, it fit the description.

This piece of property, described as the north 1/2 of the south 2/3 of Lot 5, Block 5 of the Original Plat of the City of Eaton Rapids. A further review of records at the Court House show the property was owned by a Wesley Vaughn. In 1890 title moved to the Eaton Rapids Building Co. A check of the handwritten tax records, now housed at the State Archives, show that the Eaton Rapids Building Co started to pay taxes on this parcel in 1887, the year that the construction was completed. The clincher came with the 1890 tax notation which included the statement, "Excluding the premises occupied by the GAR." This structure is now designated as 224 South Main Street and is the Island Dance Centre.

We had one answer, but also had a new question. Who or what was the Eaton Rapids Building Co.?

Searching records at the Court House, the instruments transferring title to the land told us who some of the key officers were and that the company was incorporated. A check with the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Service, Corporation, Securities and Land Development Bureau, showed that the Articles of Incorporation and Dissolution were still on file. Copies were requested.

Copies of their Annual Reports, found on microfilm at the Archives, listed the officers of the Corporation

and their stockholders. They also indicated under the heading, "The Character of the business in which the corporation has been engaged during the year is; 'Renting their store and hall.' "

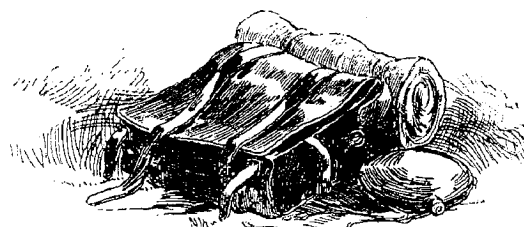
The Articles of Incorporation runs parallel with the roster of the Post. It appears that they formed this corporation for the express purpose of building their hall, a store front building on Main Street. This may have provided a better "legal" entity for the purpose, than doing this under the name of the Post.

The first name on the list of stock holders was C. T. Hartson with 36 shares at \$25.00 per share. Most of the Post members came on board with four shares or a \$100.00 investment. The Corporation was established for a thirty year term and was dissolved in 1916.

In January 1918 the Company sold the building to Charles A. Howe for \$1940.00. He turned around and sold it in March to the Grange for \$2500.00, turning a tidy profit for the time. The Grange held the property until 1947 when it went into an estate. The present owners have held the property since 1967 and operate the dance studio there.

The Post appears to have continued meeting there until 1922. In the last few years before the Post was disbanded in 1928 they met at the American Legion and VFW Posts.

Brother Hoffman is a personal friend of the owners and he made arrangements for us to view the meeting room, on the second floor, at the time of the Island Park program. It remains much as it was originally, with a two step raised platform at the west end of the room. If the walls could only speak.



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



WASHINGTON - LINCOLN
Commemorative Dinner



The 15th Annual George Washington - Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner will be held on February 17th following the Department's Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Hotel in Lansing. This event is sponsored jointly by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan for the pleasure of the members and guests of both organizations.

The 2001 dinner meeting will be hosted by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, and the program will begin at 7:00 pm. The speaker will be announced.

The cost is \$22.00 per person. The dinner entree will be Michigan Chicken Breast. Please use the form below, or a photocopy thereof, for your reservation. The deadline for receipt of reservations is **February 10**.

Name: _____ Camp No. _____

No. of reservations at \$22.00 each: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make the check payable to: **Sons of the Revolution - Michigan Soc.**

Mail the check and form to: Gary Gibson
2339 Harmon Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1527

Reservations must be received by February 10!

INVITATION

PVT. DANIEL PINE RE-INTERMENT

On December 4th the SUVCW, Austin Blair Camp held a meeting to work out the details of the re-interment of Pvt. Pine. The meeting was attended by a committee appointed to follow through all steps, to get this task done. The date for the re-interment was set for May 12th, 2001 at 1:30 pm., at the Hillcrest Cemetery, 1425 Elm Road, Jackson, MI. We are attempting to obtain the use of a horse drawn hearse, but at the present time have been unable to obtain the use of one. There will be a few speeches, plain and simple, there will be a Honor Guard, a bugler and drummer for the burial march.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite any other SUV Camps or individual members to come and join with us on this solemn occasion. The re-interment will be from the ritual book of the GAR. As would have been the case with a GAR funeral in the 1890's, we do not plan to wear military uniforms. Further clarification regarding attire for the SUCVW will be in the next issue of *Michigan's Messenger*.

If you are planning on attending or have any questions, please let us know by letter, phone or e-mail.

Bill Lowe, *Chairman*
Pvt. Pine Re-interment Committee
3916 Allston Drive, Jackson, MI 49201
dorbil@prodigy.net
(517) 750-9138

Mark Heath
428 Adams Street, Jackson, MI 49202
peace525@aol.com
(517) 782-4711

You may also review updated information on our Camp web page at: <http://dancee.home.mindspring.com/pineprojecta.htm>

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

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