



Michigan's Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Michigan Department
Department Orders #2
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William Brennen
Department Commander

Headquarters
3289 Babylon Road RR5
Allegan, MI 49010-9212

1. It is with deep sorrow that I must once again ask that all Camp Charters and the Department Charter be draped in black for a period of 30 days, due to the untimely deaths of Brothers Phillip Johnston and Dudley Pritchard, both of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20. Bro. Johnston, who had been a member for 5 years and served as the Camp secretary, passed away at his home on October 15th, due to a heart attack. He was 46 years old. Our condolences go out to his wife Lynda, his sons, Jeremy and Chris and to the rest of the family. Bro. Pritchard passed away October 18th, two days prior to his 97th birthday, at the Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids. He was a grandson of the Camp's namesake, Gen. Benjamin Dudley Pritchard, commander of the 4th Michigan Cavalry. A veteran of WWI, Dudley was a charter member of Oscar Briggs Post No. 89, American Legion. He was also a charter member of Camp 20. Our hearts go out to his wife Ada, daughter Alice Pritchard Proctor and grandsons, Richard and Rob Proctor. Bro. Pritchard was buried in the family plot near his grandfather.

2. I must say WOW! Wasn't that some National Encampment that we had. You can forget cloud nine, I was on cloud eleven! Keeping alive the memory of our ancestors along with having a good time is what it's all about. We have a great Heritage, one that we can all be proud to be a part of.

3. The 1994 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the GAR held at Lansing during August 10 - 14 was very well received by those in attendance. Comments like "When can you do another one?", and "If you think the 1988 National in Lansing raised the Michigan Department up, this one put you off the chart!" were heard. This was only due to the excellent total team effort that our Michigan Brothers came through with. Great planning and execution!

4. I would like to extend my appreciation to Bro. J. Douglas Park, PDC, Chairman of the National Encampment and his planning committee. The committee consisted of Bros. Keith Harrison, James Lyons, Gary Gibson, David Wallace, David Downing, Richard Williams, Terry McKinch and William Brennan. Thank you ever so much gentlemen.

5. We also recognize the following Brothers who volunteered so much of their time to help out at the information/registration desk. They are Bill Warren, Vern Aves, Dick Williams, Doug Park, Paul Hodges, Jim Pahl, Vaughn Rawson, John Nash, Doug Cooley, John Mann, Bill Lowe, Max Miller, Don Workman, Chuck Langworthy, Ron Bellenger, Herb Gage, Dean Lamphere Jr., Gene Taylor, Jim Neal, Brian Shumway, Dave Downing, Todd Rakestraw, Rick Greene, Dave Wallace, Dave Rehkoph, Bill Brennan and Gary Gibson. You will notice that many Brothers from different Camps worked to make this possible.

6. The Civil War display room was a huge success, as many fine relics of the war, GAR and SUCVW were brought in for all to enjoy. It really added a nice touch to the Encampment. At this time I would like to acknowledge those Brothers who shared their collections with us. They are Al Pifer, Don Workman, Ron Bellenger, Gary Gibson, Howard Streeter, Chuck Langworthy and Bill Brennan. I would also like to acknowledge the fine displays by Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7, Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 and Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145. Also from the Adopt the Flags task force was a display by Linda Rosenthal Dean of the DUVCW.

7. The following Brothers of Michigan's SVR Color Guard should be recognized for the many hours they spent on security of the Civil War display room at

the National Encampment. They were Sgt. Terry McKinch (who directed the security), Kurt Schulze, Ed Dowd, Kim Shaw, Rick Greene, Dan Graves, Dean Lamphere Jr., Don Workman, Chuck Langworthy, Dave Downing, Keith Harrison, Al Pifer, Ron Bellenger, Gary Gibson and Bill Brennan.

8. The following Brothers from the Department of Michigan were elected to serve on the National level, for the term of office 1994-1995. Keith G. Harrison, Commander-in-Chief, who is only the 4th Commander-in-Chief to hail from our Department since its organization in 1881. At the office of National Secretary, we have David (Chumley) Wallace. Gary L. Gibson is the new National Historian, Dean Lamphere Jr. is the Membership-at-Large coordinator and Rus Gregory is the editor of the Banner.

9. Congratulations to Brother Terry McKinch, the winner of the General Custer print, "Bravado". The drawing took place Saturday night, August 13, 1994 at the 113th National Encampment.

10. Boy, I'll tell you, things went so well for us at the National Encampment that for the first time in over fifteen years, our small Michigan Department Auxiliary to the SUCVW made it to the National. I had the honor of escorting 86 years young Miss Isla Dow, Department Secretary/Treasurer from Pullman, Michigan. We had spoken to each other earlier in the week and I'd asked her if she could attend with Margaret Underwood, Department President from South Haven, and they both made it! Isla was the big talk at the Auxiliary Convention, as she has served since 1935 in the Order. Her grandfather, Henry C. Dow and my great grandfather, Henry P. Gillespie organized the Soldiers/Sailors reunions of Allegan/Van Buren Counties that ran from 1893 to 1936.

(continued on page 2)

Organized 1881 - the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic.

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Department Orders *(cont.)*

11. After several years of trying, we finally got our Junior Sons Corps approved at the National Encampment. Bro. Keith Harrison played a very big roll in getting this through. The age ranges from 8 through 13 years. Each Camp has a choice of whether they want a Junior Corps or not. They can't hold office or vote, but hold the same rights other than that. Remember, the key here is to get them molded while they are young and leave them with a lasting impression.

12. On August 27, 1994, at the Jackson, Michigan Civil War Muster, National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison initiated three boys into the Junior Sons Corps. They are as follows: Josh Miller, age 8, grandson of Max Miller of Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7, Jackson; Patrick David Wallace, age 13, son of David (Chumley) Wallace of Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145, Flint; and Brandon Scott Brennan, age 12, son of William Brennan of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, Kalamazoo. Congratulations, gentlemen! Welcome to the Junior Sons Corps.

13. At the 104th National Convention of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War which took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing, I had the opportunity to extend greetings from the Michigan Department. We were really very well received, as the Daughters had our support to keep alive the memory of the Boys who wore the Union Blue. Michigan SUV Brothers who served as Color Guard from the SVR were Terry McKinch, Vern Aves and Gary Gibson and were assisted by John Mann. Maryland Department Commander, Clyde Hayner, also extended greetings. We really had a good time there. I'd like to thank Carol Santani, President of the Michigan Department, DUVCW for the invitation and the hospitality we received.

14. As Many of you know, we are in dire need of a new Department recruiting tent, for the one we presently have has seen better days. After being sewn together many times over the years due to rips from high winds and age, it is beginning to get the ole dry rot look to it. So, with that in mind, at the last Department Encampment, Brother Jack Patch, Commander of Austin Blair Camp No. 7,

issued a challenge to the other Camps by presenting a check for \$80.00 towards getting a new tent. The amount represents Camp Austin Blair's 80 years in the Order. If we are to purchase a wall tent and fly, we're looking at a price range of \$200.00 to \$300.00. Tea Cups and Lace Sutlery offers a wall tent for \$200.00 and a fly for \$86.00.

15. Congratulations to Brother Don Pace on his 100th Birthday! On September 1, 1994, Colegrove/Woodruff Camp No. 22 in Marshall gave a birthday party in honor of Brother Pace. Don was born in Baldwin, Michigan on August 9, 1894. He said that he started school in 1899, enrolling in Kindergarten. Later, he would with his family to Marshall, in 1912. In 1922, he became a member of the SUVCW. This means he has been a member of the Order for over 72 years! Can anyone try to beat that record? National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison pinned on Don a 50 year plus Member Badge. Don received some nice gifts and a big 100th birthday cake with the SUV Member Badge made out of frosting. I was very impressed how sharp Brother Pace is for a man of 100 years. He stays very active and walks the four blocks every month to his Camp's meetings. I might mention also that he's the last surviving World War I Veteran from the City of Marshall, having served in the U. S. Navy in France.

16. D. Pelton of Lansing, Michigan is the lucky winner of the framed print "Men of Iron" by Dale Gallon, a painting of the 24th Michigan Infantry at Gettysburg on the 1st day of July, 1863. The drawing took place at Department Secretary/Treasurer Dick Williams house in Lansing on October 9th. This was a real good fund raiser for the Department, helping to defray the cost of the "Iron Brigade Memorial Highway" marker.

17. On October 9, 1994 a dedication was held in the New Buffalo area in Berrien County in honor of the Iron Brigade and 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. A large sign at the U. S. 12/ Eastbound I 94 rest stop was unveiled in their honor. Brother Kent Armstrong, President of the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Inc. gave the welcome and introduction. With Civil War author Lance Herdegen, who addressed us with a history of the Iron Brigade, Brother Michael Nye, State Representative, presented a plaque to the Michigan Department SUVCW on rec-

ognizing U. S. 12 as the "Iron Brigade Memorial Highway", by Michigan House Concurrent Resolution No. 626. National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, Department Commander William Brennan and 24th Michigan President Kent Armstrong gave remarks at the ceremony in support of the project and keeping alive the memory of the Men who wore the Union Blue. The marker unveiling was performed by Iron Brigade descendants Brian Coleman and Kent Armstrong. A military salute of a musket volleys was fired by the Department SVR, the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and the 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Taps was played by Brother Brian Coleman on his bugle.

18. On Friday, November 11, 1994 Fort Custer National Cemetery will hold its Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony in Battle Creek. If you're planning on attending, be ready, as the parade steps off at 10:30 am. The cemetery is located West of Battle Creek on M 96. Just look for the Avenue of Flags on the North side of the road. Hope to see you there!

19. Our Congratulations to Brother Thayne LaBanta, PDC, on his 90th birthday! On Monday, October 9, 1994 Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7 in Jackson surprised Brother LaBanta with a birthday party in his honor. He is a true Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War. His father, Derrick LaBanta, served in the 76th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company F. Derrick was born in 1844 and died in 1931 at the age of 87. This ole veteran served the GAR for many long years and I'm sure that he would be proud of the way his son Thayne has served the Order of the SUVCW for over 65 years.

20. The 3rd annual Mid Winter Conference will be held on Saturday, February 18, 1995 at the Mid Way Motor Lodge. The address is 7711 West Saginaw Highway (M 43) Lansing, Michigan. Our meeting will take place in the Capitol Suite from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. I'll have more details in the next issue of the Michigan's Messenger.

By Order of:

William A. Brennan
Department Commander

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Sage Sayings of the Senior Vice Commander

Juniors Program —

All Camps should take the time to review and update their Bylaws to include the "Juniors" program. Issues to be addressed are whether the Camp wants to include the Juniors category and, if so, how to handle their entry into the Camp.

Remember, latitude has been given to the Camps on this program as Juniors do not pay a Per Capita Tax at the National or Department level.



If your Camp decides to include the Juniors program, here are some suggestions from other Camps within the Department:

1) Several Camps have established a "Sponsor" requirement for Juniors, that is, a member of the Camp who will be responsible for the Junior at Camp meetings and will make sure that the Junior is aware of Camp and Department activities. Most likely, this person will be the father of the Junior. However, there will be those who may apply without their father being a member of the Camp (e.g., I am sponsoring my nephew in my Camp).

2) A couple of Camps have specifically spelled out what activities a Junior may participate in.

3) Dues and fee structures should be addressed. Remember, that the Camp does not have to pay Per Capita Tax on Juniors. My Camp decided to prorate the annual dues for Juniors as we would for Members and Associates. We are also assessing the full amount of the Application Fee to Juniors including the \$5.00 assessment to the National. As the idea of the program is to introduce the Order to these youngsters and to encourage them to continue on as Members, my

Camp feels that by assessing the same Application Fee for all Applicant categories up front, the transition of a Junior to Member status will be smoother and will only involve updating his Application.

These are the items that I have had the opportunity to discuss with other Camp Commanders and Brothers. Obviously, there are other issues that need to be addressed, such as participation in the Camp Guard, activities, etc. Please share your ideas amongst yourselves. This is a new and important program for our Order. The more we work together in implementing this program by sharing our thoughts and ideas about it, the easier and more successful it will be. Remember that the Union Army was successful when its armies worked in unison to achieve the objectives that President Lincoln had set. We need to keep that example of cooperation in mind as we work together to achieve the objectives of our Order - to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and that of the Union Soldiers and Sailors whose valor helped to preserve our Nation, to maintain their ideals and principles, and to carry on the important work of Memorial Day!

Please remember that, once Bylaws changes have been adopted by your Camp, they need to be reviewed and approved by the Department Commander.

Respectfully submitted,
in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

David F. Wallace
Department Senior Vice Commander



Secretary/Treasurer Williams
Working on his Quarterly Report

Secretary-Treasurer's Quarterly Report

During the last quarter we hosted the National Encampment for the SUVCW. Several fund raisers were started earlier in the year to help offset the cost for the National Encampment. We received \$400 each from the Auxiliary, Ladies of the GAR and the National Organization SUVCW. Ed Bearrs, Historian for the National Park Service, was the guest speaker and asked we donate what we would normally pay him to the Preservation of Civil War Battle Fields. Our expenditures totaled \$1,692.64. The three Allied Orders of the GAR organizations donated a total of \$1,200 leaving a balance of \$492.64 which the Michigan Department picked up.

For the quarter ending 9/30/94 we had \$5,173.61 in all funds. Of that we have a liability of \$2,350.70 leaving us with a balance of \$2,822.91 in available funds. The money received from fund raisers contribute to the balance on hand.

Current balance	\$2,822.91
Fund raisers:	
Cap Marks	\$632.00
Coat-of Arms	\$232.26*
Custer Print	\$347.00
Hat Badges	-\$314.25*
Insignia	\$1,032.80
Men of Iron	<u>\$501.45</u>
Total Fund Raisers	<u>\$2,431.26</u>
Difference	\$391.65
(income from other sources)	

* Supplies are still in stock, so there will be additional income from the sales of these items.

Remember to mark on your calendar and be sure to attend the mid-winter meeting. I will have additional documentation for Camp Secretaries and Treasurers to help them in the performance of their duties. This is a good time to help each other feel comfortable in the performance of your assigned duties.

The next quarterly per capita taxes are due in early January. Form 22's (election of Camp officers) are also due by the end of January.

In F., C. and L.,

Richard Williams
Department Secretary/Treasurer

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Commanders Corner

To give everyone an update on the condition of Grant's Tomb in New York City, the following is a letter I sent to the National Park Service, the Federal Bureau having control over the Tomb:

July 25, 1994

Ms. Georgette Nelms, Superintendent
Manhattan Sites, National Park Service
26 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005

Dear Ms. Helms

I just wanted to let you know that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War really do appreciate the efforts that are now being undertaken to restore President Graant's Tomb. My great-grandfather George Brennan, of the 11th U. S. Infantry, Company B, once served as General Grant's Orderly for a brief time and took care of his horse, Cincinnati. This was during the Civil War at Camp Grant in Virginia. I'm sure that if he were alive today that he also would want to see the tomb of the General (and one of our presidents too!) who save the Union get the much needed attention to put it back to the luster it once so proudly carried to those who visited it.

As a member of the SUVCW, it is our duty to see that the men who fought to preserve the Union are not forgotten and that any Civil War Memorials unkept be brought to the attention of the proper authorities. From the reports that I've received from Past Department of Michigan Commander J. Douglas Park, I believe that we are seeing a very dramatic turn-around for the better. This is why the Grand Army of the Republic chose us to carry on their memory, and to keep sacred Memorial Day, which was started by General John A. Logan's General Order #11 on May 30, 1868 as Decoration Day, in which to remember all of their departed comrades.

Keep up the good work and hang onto the bull by the horns and when the work is finished, Grant's Tomb will once again be a proud American attraction for all to appreciate.

Yours Truly,

William A. Brennan, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW



Reading the Messenger on the home front

This is the encouraging reply I received in response from the National Park Service:

August 4, 1994

William A. Brennan, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW
3289 Babylon Road, RR5
Allegan, Michigan 49010-9212

Dear Mr. Brennan

Thank you for your encouraging letter regarding the improved condition of General Grant National Memorial.

Through the support of the National Park Service North Atlantic Region, we have received some additional funding for Grant's Tomb. The result has been an increase in maintenance and interpretive staff, opening the site to the public every day of the week, and security protection around the clock.

Furthermore, studies have been done which will permit us to develop specifications for major restoration projects. There is also a planning effort underway which will guide future development of this historic site.

It is most gratifying to see these improvements taking place at Grant's tomb, a site of National significance. I especially appreciate your interest in the progress being made now, and join you in the expectation that, when the work is finished, Grant's Tomb will again be an attraction that all will appreciate.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Avery
Supertendent



Reading the Messenger in the field

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Sons of Veterans Reserve

The Michigan Department Color Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve, congratulates our Commander, Major Keith G. Harrison, upon his election to the office of Commander-in-Chief.

The SVR was very active during the 113th National Encampment held August 11th through the 14th in Lansing.

On Thursday night, August 11th, a contingent of the reserves, with assistance from Bro. John Mann of Austin Blair Camp No. 7, provided a Color Guard for the opening ceremony of the National Convention of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Daughters were very pleased that we were able to attend and provide this service for them.

The following night was the Campfire program. Ten members of the Department Color Guard were on duty to present the Colors of not only the Michigan Department, but the Commandery-in-Chief as well, at the opening of the



program. At the conclusion of the program, the Colors were retired. Other organizations' Color Guards taking part in the ceremony were the Michigan Department Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League. Our thanks to these organizations for their support. It is my understanding that SVR will be asked to reciprocate in the future.

After the Campfire program, I was approached by Brig. General Charles Corfman, Commanding Officer, SVR. He said he was very impressed by the professionalism of the Michigan SVR and the skill in which the Colors were

presented. The next morning at the SVR breakfast, Lt. Colonel Richard Greenwalt, Commander of the 3rd Military District, of which Michigan is a part, paid us a glowing compliment in front of the assembly. As you can see, your Department Color Guard is an asset to the Order.

November 11th is Veterans Day. The SVR will participate in the Parade of Color Guards at Fort Custer National Cemetery. We hope to have a large turnout of SVR members for this parade and the ensuing ceremony honoring all of our country's veterans.

On November 19th, the SVR will take part in the annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, PA. We will have the First position in line, behind the Colors of the Commandery-in-Chief. This is quite an honor for the Michigan Department SVR.

Submitted in F., C. and L.,

*Lt. Gary L. Gibson, Adjutant
Michigan Department, SVR*

U. S. Mint to offer Civil War Commerative Coins

The U. S. Mint will offer three commorative coins, a half dollar, a silver dollar and a five dollar gold piece, for sale next year. Profits from the sale of the coins will be used for preservation of Civil War Battlefields. Sales of the coins is expected to began sometime in March and continue through December 31, 1995, at which time any unsold coins will be destroyed.

All obverse of all three coins was designed by well known Civil War artist Don Troiani. The reverse of the three coins were all designed by Mint artists. The three obverse designs were chosen from more than 60 that were submitted to the mint.

The obverse of the "clad" (silver and copper sandwich) half dollar features a bugler and on the reverse is an eagle. The half dollar is expected to sell for \$10.00 to \$12.00 and will have a mintage of two million pieces.

The \$1.00 silver coin has a scene depicting a soldier with a canteen giving



The obverse of the five dollar gold piece

a drink to another soldier on the obverse. On the reverse is a quote from Joshua Chamberlain. There will be one million silver dollars struck and they will sell for \$28.00 to \$30.00 each.

The five dollar gold piece will feature a drummer boy on the front and a cannon on the back. Only three hundred

thousand of the five dollar gold pieces will be minted and the price is expected to be from \$175.00 to \$200.00 each.

The mint will also offer proof sets of all three coins at a slightly higher price. Apparently, individual proof coins will not be offered.

It is not expected that all of the coins will be sold. However, if all were to be sold, approximately \$21.5 million would be raised for preservation work. The money will be turned over to the nonprofit Civil War Trust for distribution to preservation projects.

Those wishing to be placed on a Mint mailing list to receive ordering information (there will be a pre-issue discount) may contact the trust at:

1-800-CWTRUST

or write:

Civil War Coin Program
United States Mint
10001 Aerospace Road
Lanham, MD 20706-9955

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Ancestor Vignettes

Norton Townsend Worchester
Private
41st Ohio Infantry
Company H

Great Uncle
of
Dale M. Worchester
U. S. Grant Camp 101

Norton was born October 10, 1848, in Pittsfield, Ohio and along with four younger brothers farmed the land of their parents, James McRoberts Worchester and Sarah Adeline Hill.

Norton's father was a well known farmer in the Oberlin-Pittsfield area. Prior to the Civil War he was an active abolitionist, helping in the running of the underground railroad effort in Oberlin.

Young Norton (18) was described as having gray eyes, brown hair, a light complexion and being 5' 8" tall when he enlisted at Cleveland on the 29th day of February 1864, when he enlisted for a three year term of service. After a brief furlough, Norton reported to his regiment on the 5th of March, 1864.

During 1864, Norton's regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland in the Atlanta Campaign. Norton fought in nine actions which included the battles at Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Franklin and Nashville.

In early June of 1865, Norton's regiment was ordered moved from Nashville to New Orleans to join the Department of Texas. The steamer his unit was on was involved in a collision with a Navy Gunboat near Cairo, Illinois. The steamer sank with no loss of life.

Norton took sick following the sinking of the steamer and was admitted to the Army Post Hospital at Cairo, while the rest of his regiment continued on to New Orleans. On November 22, 1865, Norton died of chronic diarrhea. His father claimed his effects and had his body shipped home.

Norton had 15 cousins that served in various Ohio cavalry, infantry and artillery regiments and 1 cousin in an Indiana regiment during the war.

Dale M. Worchester

Levi Butts Wightman
2nd Lieutenant
2nd Illinois Light Artillery
Battery L

Great Grandfather
of
Thomas Wightman, JVC
U. S. Grant Camp No. 101

Levi Butts Wightman was born on October 22, 1840 in Wheatland Township, Will County, Illinois. His middle name was in honor of his great-grandfather, Gideon Butts, a Revolutionary War veteran.

Levi was an Illinois farmer before the Civil War. On April 19, 1861 he signed up as a private in Co. K, 10th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry for a three month enlistment and was discharged as a corporal on July 29, 1861 at Vicksburg. He eventually re-enlisted as a private on June 12, 1863 in Co. L, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, serving again at Vicksburg. The artilleryman developed impaired hearing which remained with him the rest of his life. He was Honorably Discharged on August 9, 1865 at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

After the war he worked in the lumber industry of western Michigan. At one time he served as a Justice of the Peace for Blue Lake Twp. in Muskegon County. Levi abandoned his family about 1886, at least in part because of religious difficulties resulting from his being a Baptist and his wife a Catholic. After that he traveled the country working as a millwright. On a military pension questionnaire he stated that he had married only once because "one wife is enough!" He died in Plainfield, Illinois near his birthplace. His tombstone in the Wheatland, Illinois Cemetery bears the inscription "First White Boy Born in Wheatland."

Thomas Wightman

Jackson County had GAR Posts in the towns of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Jackson, Napoleon, Parma and Springport, a total of eight Posts. Yet the county has only ever had one SUVCW Camp, Austin Blair No. 7, in the town of Jackson.

Milton Hatridge
Private
47th Missouri Infantry
Company E

Great Great Grandfather
of
Thomas Wightman, JVC
U. S. Grant Camp No. 101

Milton Hatridge was born on May 4, 1838 in Reynolds County, Missouri. Milton enlisted along with his brothers, Jesse and George, as a private in Co. E, 47th Missouri Volunteer Infantry on August 28, 1864 at Ironton, Missouri. The unit was soon engaged in the battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri in September 1864. The 47th was mustered out on March 28, 1865. Prior to joining the Union Army, Milton, George and Jesse had all been members of the Confederate Army. Milton, a private in the 7th Missouri State Guard, had been captured on April 2, 1862 at Ironton, Missouri, charged as a guerrilla and held at the Alton Military Prison. He was exchanged in December 1862. Why the brothers changed sides near the end of the war is not at all clear; although this appears to have occurred quite often in Missouri. The war inside Missouri had been exceptionally brutal and many "secesh" citizens changed sides when it became clear that the Union would win the war and reprisals would likely be in store for the losers. The prospect of a pension from the winning side may also have been a factor. The family tradition is that Milton remained a Confederate throughout his life, but to add to the confusion there is a newspaper photo of him at the dedication of a Grand Army of the Republic Memorial statue in 1906.

Thomas Wightman

The campaign against Petersburg, the longest sustained operation of the war, began in the summer of 1864 and lasted for 10 months, until the spring of 1865. The fighting covered an area of more than 170 square miles, with 35 miles of trenches and fortifications stretching from Richmond to the Southwest of Petersburg. During September, 1864, nearly 175 field and siege guns poured forth a daily average of 7.8 tons of iron on the Confederate works.

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Secretary's Report

Yes, there is an Auxiliary to the SUVCW in Michigan. Currently, there is one local Auxiliary and the Department, and both remain in good standing with the National Auxiliary. Any member with a paid up Membership Card may attend any Auxiliary, Department or National meeting by showing this card.

Auxiliary No. 1 of South Haven was down to three members a few years ago, but now has six members. Small in number, but it still does patriotic work and has never missed putting on the Memorial service at three local cemeteries each year, plus donating items, services and time for various things.

This Auxiliary was the first one in Michigan and was organized in the early 1920's by Emma Finch of Indiana. She became National President and was known as the mother of the Michigan Department.

When I was Department President of the Auxiliary in 1941-1942, there were eleven Auxiliaries in the Department — South Haven, Kalamazoo, Marshall, Lansing, Hadley, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Ledge and Allegan. Two new Auxiliaries were



Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

organized that year, Jackson and Dearborn. The Jackson Auxiliary No. 7 was organized with a Charter of 35 members and was instituted on October 11, 1941. This was the largest number of Charter memberships of any Auxiliary in the state. Dearborn Auxiliary No. 18 was instituted in November or December.

This Auxiliary was instituted in a meeting room of Dr. Keyes Hospital and was remembered as an "Infant Auxiliary", born in a hospital. The Michigan Auxiliaries were very active at this time and were a big help to the Sons in their work.

The Auxiliary has the same purpose as the SUVCW. Its rules and Regulations follow the SUVCW very closely. Membership is open to any female who has attained the age of 12, has lineage to an honorably discharged Union Civil War veteran. Membership is also open to the wife, daughter or mother of a Member of the SUVCW. Associates are also accepted, up to one-third of the local Auxiliary membership.

Any eligible woman interested in this organization can contact me for further information:

Isla M. Dow, PDP
Mich. Dept. Secretary/Treasurer
Auxiliary to the SUVCW
991 62nd Street
Pullman, MI 49450

In fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Isla M. Dow
Aux. Secretary/Treasurer
Department of Michigan

— . . . —

Herrick Hodges
First Sergeant
17th Michigan Infantry
Company I

Grandfather
of
Paul D. Hodges
Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17

Herrick Hodges was born on October 17, 1838 at Spring Arbor, Michigan, to Eliza (Meagher) and Drusus Hodges, Jr. As a young man, Herrick farmed with his brother Oren at Lawrence, Michigan.

On April 29, 1861, Herrick enlisted at Paw Paw and on June 21st he was mustered at Camp Scott, Staten Island, as a Corporal in Company C, First Regiment, of the Excelsior Brigade,

Ancestor Vignette

— . . . —

New York Infantry. However, he was discharged on October 24th for medical reasons.

Back in Lawrence, Herrick and Oren enlisted on May 29, 1862 in Company I, 17th Michigan Infantry. Herrick became First Sergeant and Oren a Corporal. They were mustered at Detroit Barracks on August 16th. Oren was wounded on September 14th at the Battle of South Mountain

In the Battle of Antietam on September 17th, Herrick was shot in the left leg and a lung. A bullet lodged so close to his heart that the surgeons dared not to operate to remove it. He convalesced at Frederick, Maryland and served in Kentucky before being discharged at Detroit on June 1, 1863 with a $\frac{3}{4}$ disability.

Herrick joined his family at Deca-

tur, Michigan and soon after moved to South Haven. There he was married and fathered three sons and two daughters.

He helped start the Zach Chandler Post No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, serving two terms as its first Commander and he assisted in forming the Zach Chandler Relief Corps No. 1. Herrick also was an organizer of the Sons of Veterans, starting one of the first Camps in Michigan and serving as the first Commander of the Department of Michigan. In addition, he was secretary of the Soldier's Relief Commission of Van Buren County.

Herrick died in South Haven on November 6, 1913. He had carried the battlefield missile in his chest for 51 years.

Paul D. Hodges

Organized 1881 - the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Camp News

Camp No. 3 Henry E. Plant

Fruitport —
Sons of Union Veterans
to Dedicate Memorial Marker

by Commander Max J. Rieske,
Camp No. 3

The Sons of Union Veterans of the American Civil War, Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3, will formally dedicate a bronze United States Government marker for Sergeant Henry E. Plant at 9:15 am, Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 1994, at Nunica Cemetery, located one-quarter mile West of I-96. The \$20.00 needed for the placement of the marker was donated by Fruitport VFW Post 7803 and its Ladies Auxiliary out of their Welfare (Poppy) Fund.

Henry E. Plant was a Sergeant in the 14th Michigan Infantry and received the Congressional Medal of Honor, because he "rushed into the midst of the enemy and rescued the Colors, the bearer having fallen mortally wounded." This was in March of 1865. Mr. Plant died April 16, 1925 and now rests in peace in the Nunica Cemetery, Nunica, Michigan.

All area citizens, including veterans, as well as veterans' organizations, are welcome to attend the dedication. Veterans' organizations are encouraged to bring their Colors and rifles for the final salute.

The preceding article, appeared in the Fruitport Area News of 5/21/94. This was followed by an article in the Grand Rapids Press of May 26, 1994, by reporter Joe Lucas. The article was on the front page of section L, accompanied by a large color picture of the bronze Medal of Honor marker for Sergeant Plant. In the picture are three of Plant's descendants, Candy Busman, Marvel Hansen and Marjorie Plant, along with Commander Rieske.

The article stated that Sergeant Plant's grave was marked only with a headstone inscribed "Father" and through the efforts of Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3, SUVCW the grave will now have a proper marker befitting a Medal of Honor recipient. And, that the formal dedication of the marker would

take place on Memorial Day, with a special ceremony. It told of Sergeant Plant's heroic action in rescuing the Colors of the 14th Michigan Infantry during the fighting at Bentonville, N. C. on March 19, 1865, that earned him the Medal of Honor. Also mentioned in the article was a some background information on Camp No. 3 and the SUVCW.

Max J. Rieske

Camp No. 7 Gov. Austin Blair

Jackson — Camp 7 hosted the SUVCW recruiting tent at the Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster August 27 and 28. Members staffing the tent took the names of several persons interested in joining the Order. Quite a few tickets for the "Men of Iron" fund raising raffle were also sold during the event. On Saturday evening, Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison initiated three Juniors and one Member into the Order at the tent during a special meeting.

On Monday, October 9th, the Camp hosted a pot luck dinner for members and prospects. The dinner was also an excuse for a surprise birthday party for Br. Thayne LaBanta. Thayne is a True Son of a Union Veteran and was 90 years young on the 10th of October.

Happy Birthday, Thayne!

Following the pot luck dinner, a birthday cake was presented to Thayne, upon which was a kepi, a birthday present from the Camp. Needless to say, Brother LaBanta was very pleasantly surprised, both with the party in his honor and with the kepi.

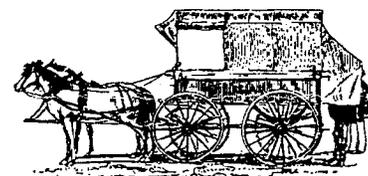
After the dinner and dessert, Thayne's wife, Mary, spoke on the Auxiliary to the SUVCW. There seemed to be a fair amount of interest shown in the Auxiliary, by the ladies present. (Mary is in the process of reactivating the charter of Auxiliary No. 7 in Jackson.) Following her presentation, Brother McGarey gave a short talk and played a video on the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Gordon McGarey

From your editor

I have had a few complaints from Brothers that have sent me articles for the Messenger, but haven't seen their articles in print. Unfortunately, I never received the articles. The Post Office has been notified that I am not receiving some of my mail. Hopefully in the future, things will improve with the mails. As of this writing, I have printed everything I have received from Michigan Department Brothers, with the exception of some ancestor vignettes and they will appear in February's Messenger. If anyone has sent in anything to be printed and it has not been yet, please resubmit it with a note that this is the second time around. I will then give it priority in print and have a record of the non delivery to show the Post Office.

John Mann



Mail delivery at the editor's home

Michigan's Messenger is a quarterly publication of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

All SUVCW Members and Associates of a Camp within the Department of Michigan receive this publication at no additional charge. Non-members of the SUVCW may receive this publication for an annual subscription fee of \$5.00. All subscriptions expire on December 31. Please be sure to include your zip code.

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The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Council News

The Department Council met on October 22, 1994 to discuss the financial status of the Department and the funding of future projects. Present were Council Chairman John Mann and Council member Paul Hodges. Department Officers also in attendance were Senior Vice Commander David Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer Richard Williams and Past Department Commanders Gary Gibson and J. Douglas Park.

As of this point, the Department is financially quite stable, due to the several fund raisers instituted by immediate Past Department Commander Park. These fund raisers were to cover expenses incurred from hosting the National Encampment and the "Iron Brigade Memorial Highway" marker project. Income from these fund raisers was greater than expected and more than offset expenses, leaving the Department with a comfortable financial cushion.

Informally discussed was the funding of future projects by the Department. It was conceded that the Department needs a steady source of income, over and above what it gets from the Camps from per capita taxes, if it is to fund these projects. No specific projects have been adopted by the Department at this time.

In the past, the Department has taken on projects without having the money up front to cover the costs, relying on fund raisers of different sorts to raise the money. Sometimes the fund raisers were successful and sometimes they were not and the Department had to rely on donations (slow in coming) to make up the difference. In essence, the Department has in the past, operated on a shoestring budget.

To avoid this in the future, a proposal was made by Council Chairman John Mann, that the Department continue holding an annual raffle to raise money for future projects. To give an incentive to Camps and individuals to help in the fund raiser, it was proposed that the proceeds from each raffle ticket sold be split 50/50 with the Camp that sold the ticket. No Camp would be required to participate in selling the tickets. The proposal is presented below with the prelude to it analyzing the two raffles held by the Department.

1994 Department Fund Raising Raffles

During 1994, the Department conducted two raffles. The first (the Custer print) was to help offset the costs of the National Encampment. This raffle was announced in the Messenger. No tickets were sent out to or assigned to be sold by either Camps or individuals and only one individual volunteered to take any tickets and sell them on his own. Some tickets were sold at the Charlton Park reenactment and a few more at the National Encampment. After ticket printing costs were deducted from the gross proceeds, the Department netted approximately \$325.00 on the sale of about 75 tickets from this raffle. Had the Department needed to rely upon proceeds from this sale to cover costs of the National Encampment and/or if we had to purchase the print, the raffle would have been a failure for the purpose intended.

The second raffle (the Men of Iron print) was more successful. It too was announced in the Messenger. And again, no tickets were sent out or assigned to Camps or individuals to sell. Other than those sold at reenactments and the National Encampment, only four persons volunteered to sell tickets on their own and two of these were not SUVCW members! A total of 457 tickets were sold, grossing \$2285.00. One individual sold 5, the second sold 10, the third sold approximately 125 and the fourth sold 207. This left only a little over 100 tickets that were sold by the remaining Department membership of 290+ individuals. For that matter, very few tickets were even purchased by individuals in this Department. Here is a breakdown of sales:

- 13 were bought by out-of-state non-members.
- 346 were bought by in-state non-members.
- 33 were bought by out-of-state members (all sold at the National Encampment).
- 65 were bought by state members (only 41 state members purchased tickets).
- 43 were not sold.

Had a few more individuals got involved and sold tickets, the first raffle could have been more of a success than it was and the second could have easily been a sellout.

As I see it, there were two primary reasons that resulted in lackluster ticket sales:

- 1.) There was a failure at the Department level to actively promote the sales of tickets by and to members of this Department. Each raffle was announced once in the Messenger and matters were let go at that, with the hope that individuals would ask for tickets to sell. It didn't work!
- 2.) There was no incentive for individuals or Camps to get involved in the selling of the tickets, other than they were working for the "Good of the Order".

Secondary reasons were noted from comments from the people approached as prospective ticket buyers:

- 1.) The ticket price was too high at \$5.00.
- 2.) There was only one prize being offered.
- 3.) In the case of the Custer Print, many persons weren't interested because of the subject.

Proposal for the Future

As Chairman of the Department Council, I am proposing that the Department continue holding fund raising raffles on an annual basis. This Department has scrimped along for years on a shoestring budget, unable to adequately fund much of anything without pleading for donations. A good example of this is the plaque that was installed in the Capitol building.

To Counteract the above raffle sales drawbacks I propose that:

- 1.) The tickets would be sold only through individual Camps. The Department would not sell tickets directly. Any Department officer that did sell tickets would be selling them through his Camp. No Camp or individual would be required to sell any tickets.

- 2.) To give Department members and Camps an incentive to go out and sell tickets for the fund raiser, I propose that we split the net profits from the sale of the tickets 50/50 with the Camps. The Department would put up the money for the raffle prizes, registration and the ticket printing costs. At the end of the raffle sales period, all unsold tickets, stubs for sold tickets (cont. on page 10)

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Dept. Council News (cont.)

and the full amount of ticket sales be returned to the Department. The drawing would then be held and the prizes shipped to the winners, with the Department paying the shipping costs. The costs of the raffle would then be totaled and subtracted from the gross proceeds. The Department would keep half of the net proceeds and the other half would then be divided by the total number of tickets sold. Each Camp that sold tickets would then be reimbursed by this amount for the total number of tickets sold by members of that Camp. The Camps would then be free to use their share money as they see fit for Camp projects and operations funding.

3.) Set the price of the tickets at a more reasonable \$2.00 each. \$1.00 each would be too low and a bargain price of 3 for \$5.00 would be too much of an accounting headache.

4.) More than one prize be offered. A minimum of three prizes and up to five prizes be offered. For what little more it would cost, I would recommend 5 place prizes. The more chances there are to win, the more tickets we would likely be able to sell.

5.) Offer alternatives to each prize that would appeal to a broad spectrum of the public, not just Civil War buffs. Some examples would be:

- 1st Prize - Choice of a Musket or an Art Print or \$250.00 cash
- 2nd Prize - Choice of a Revolver or a Great Coat or \$125.00 cash
- 3rd Prize - Choice of a Sword or Pair of Brogans or \$75.00 cash
- 4th Prize - Choice of C. W. Books or C. W. Trousers or \$50.00 cash
- 5th Prize - Choice of a Kepi or C. W. Mag. Subscription or \$25.00 cash

I feel that most of the items mentioned as prizes could be obtained from various sutlers at or below cost and some might even be donated outright. Also, there is the possibility that the sutlers might let us have the items on "consignment" for display if we were to advertise who is offering the prizes. We then wouldn't need to pay for the items until they were actually given as prizes and the prizes not chosen would then be returned to the sutlers. The retail value of the prizes offered should exceed the amount of the cash offered in lieu of the

prize. Our actual cost or the wholesale cost of the items should about equal the cash alternative.

The five prize places examples above total only \$525.00. Ticket printing costs would be \$100.00 or less, raffle registration with the state would be \$15.00 and shipping costs would be \$60.00 at most. This would give us a total cost of about \$700.00 for the raffle.

A realistic amount of tickets to print would be 8 per person in the Department, rounded to the nearest 500. Right now the Department has about 300 members at 8 tickets each equals 2,400 tickets rounded to the nearest 500 equals 2,500 tickets.

Sales of the tickets could begin May 1st, to enable us to sell at any early Spring reenactments and end September 30, to cover most of the fall reenactments. These dates are just suggestions and could be lengthened or shortened as seen fit. Some sort of meeting could be set up for the drawing at a convenient date shortly after the end of the ticket sales. Following this, the costs would be tallied and the Department would mail the Camps' shares to the respective Camp Treasurers by the end of November. The results of the raffle, both winners and financial details could be published in the November issue of the Messenger.

Examples of possible profits to Camps and the Department:

- 1.) 2,500 tickets printed and only 1,000 sold @ \$2.00 ea. = total sales of \$2,000.00.

Cost of prizes, ticket printing, etc. (high estimate) \$1,000.00.

Resulting in a net profit of \$1,000.00

Department share = \$500.00

Camps share = \$500.00

Camps share divided by 1,000 tickets = \$.50 per ticket

Camp A sold 300 tickets x \$.50 ea. = \$150.00

Camp B sold 500 tickets x \$.50 ea. = \$250.00

Camp C sold 150 tickets x \$.50 ea. = \$75.00

Camp D sold 50 tickets x \$.50 ea. = \$25.00

- 2.) 2,500 tickets printed and all sold @ \$2.00 ea. = \$5,000.00 total sales

Cost of prizes, ticket printing, etc. (realistic estimate) \$700.00

Resulting in a net profit of:

Department share = \$2,150.00

Camps share = \$2,150.00

Camps share divided by 2,500 tickets = \$.86 per ticket

Camp A sold 300 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$258.00

Camp B sold 500 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$430.00

Camp C sold 150 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$129.00

Camp D sold 50 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$43.00

Camp E sold 800 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$688.00

Camp F sold 700 tickets x \$.86 ea. = \$602.00

The profits from the annual raffle would allow the Camps and the Department to become financially solvent and be then able adequately fund various projects without having to beg for money. It would also help to keep membership dues from rising in the future due to inflation. More services could be offered to the Camps by the Department.

That was the proposal. The Council and those present tentatively agreed to look into the feasibility of obtaining suitable prizes with a maximum projected cost to the Department of \$750.00, including prizes, ticket printing cost, registration, etc. Another meeting will be held in early December on the matter.

The finalized details of the proposal will be submitted at the Department Mid Winter meeting in February. The Council would like your opinions on the proposal, either in writing or in person at the Mid Winter meeting.

I would like to emphasize the Department officers were very busy with the planning and execution of the National Encampment and should not be faulted for not getting involved in the sales of the raffle tickets. Had the raffle be held in another year without the National Encampment taking up everyone's time, the sales would have undoubtedly turned out differently and been more successful.

Submitted,
in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John R. Mann, Chairman
Michigan Department Council

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Calendar Of Events

November

3rd — Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 - Marshall
Meeting - 7:30 pm at the GAR Hall, 402 East Michigan Avenue, Marshall.

3rd — Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 53 - Mt. Pleasant
Meeting - 7:00 pm, Sheperd Museum, 1st and Maple Streets, Sheperd.

8th — Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43 - Blissfield
Meeting - 7:00 pm American Legion Hall, 451 High Street, Blissfield.

11th — Veterans Day - Battle Creek
Camp Custer National Cemetery Memorial Services

14th — Austin Blair Camp No. 7 - Jackson
Meeting - 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall, 3200 Lansing Avenue, Jackson.

16th — Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 - Flint
Meeting - 7:30 pm, Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley, Flint.

22nd — Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 - Kalamazoo
Meeting - 7:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 431 East South Street, Kalamazoo.

29th — Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 - Sunfield
Meeting - 7:00 pm, GAR Hall, Main Street, Sunfield.

December

1st — Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 - Marshall
Meeting - 7:30 pm at the GAR Hall, 402 East Michigan Avenue, Marshall.

21st — Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 - Flint
Meeting - 7:30 pm, Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley, Flint.

27th — Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 - Kalamazoo
Meeting - 7:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 431 East South Street, Kalamazoo.

January

5th — Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 - Marshall
Meeting - 7:30 pm at the GAR Hall, 402 East Michigan Avenue, Marshall.

5th — Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 53 - Mt. Pleasant
Meeting - 7:00 pm, Sheperd Museum, Corner of 1st and Maple Streets, Sheperd.

9th — Austin Blair Camp No. 7 - Jackson
Meeting - 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall, 3200 Lansing Avenue, Jackson.

10th — Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43 - Blissfield
Meeting - 7:00 pm American Legion Hall, 451 High Street, Blissfield.

18th — Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 - Flint
Meeting - 7:30 pm, Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley, Flint.

24th — Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 - Kalamazoo
Meeting - 7:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 431 East South Street, Kalamazoo.

28th — Ulysses S. Grant Camp No. 101 - Detroit
Meeting - 2:00 pm, Elmwood Cemetery, 1200 Elmwood Avenue, Detroit.

31st — Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 - Sunfield
Meeting - 7:00 pm, GAR Hall, Main Street, Sunfield.

February

2nd — Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 - Marshall
Meeting - 7:30 pm at the GAR Hall, 402 East Michigan Avenue, Marshall.

18th — Department Mid-Winter Conference
Meeting - 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Midway Motor Lodge, 7711 West Saginaw, Lansing.
All Camp officers are encouraged to attend this workshop to exchange ideas on the running of Camps and recruiting procedures to increase membership.
The Annual Washington-Lincoln Dinner follows (optional), at 6:00 pm. Dinner reservations are required. Contact Department Secretary Richard Williams for dinner tickets.

15th — Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 - Flint
Meeting - 7:30 pm, Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley, Flint.

28th — Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 - Kalamazoo
Meeting - 7:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 431 East South Street, Kalamazoo.

Information was not available for meeting times, dates and places for the following Camps:
Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 - Grand Rapids
Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3 - Fruitport
George W. Howe Camp No. 9 - Port Huron
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 - Traverse City
Gilluly-Kingsley Camp No. 120 - Howell

January 15

is the deadline for the next issue of the Messenger.

Copy must be received by the editor by this date to insure its inclusion in the February issue.
All Brothers are welcome to submit articles for print.

Send submissions to:
John Mann, Editor
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Vol. 3 No. 2

Michigan's Messenger

November 1994

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Winner of the SUVCW Raffle

“Men of Iron”

Framed Print
by Dale Gallon

is

D. Pelton

6815 Mill Wheel Drive
Lansing, Michigan

Congratulations, Mr. Pelton!