



MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER

2025 SUVCW NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT – HOUSTON, TX

PDC ROBERT PAYNE ELECTED JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND PDC GARY GIBSON ELECTED TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Brothers from all over the country including the Department of Michigan descended on Houston, Texas for the 2025 SUVCW National Encampment held 07 – 10 August 2025. The Brothers witnessed the final official duties of outgoing now Past Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin, and the election of Kevin Tucker as the Commander-in-Chief for the 2025-2026 term. The elections also saw two Brothers of the Department of Michigan elected to National Office.

Brother Robert Payne, PDC of Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 was elected to the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Brother Payne formerly served on the National Council of Administration.

Brother Gary Gibson, PDC of General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 was elected to the National Council of Administration. Brother Gibson serves as National Historian, and previously served on the National

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GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 BESTOWED THREE NATIONAL AWARDS INCLUDING BEST CAMP IN SUVCW

At the 2025 SUVCW National Encampment, General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 headquartered in Cadillac received incredible news. In less than 4 years since their chartering in November of 2021, Camp 444 was bestowed three National Awards including the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award for the Best Camp in the SUVCW. Additionally, Camp 444 was awarded the Marshall Hope Award for the Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter in the Order for *The Engineer & Mechanic*. Finally, Camp 444 was presented

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“TO HER MARTYRS &
HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN
DEFENCE OF LIBERTY AND
UNION”

TUEBOR



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE I
AUTUMN 2025

FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Submitted by Department Chaplain Charlie Buckhahn, PCC

Union Chaplains in the Civil War were a diverse lot. Some were respected and honored by the soldiers they served. Others were not. One soldier, quoted by Warren B. Armstrong in his book, *For Courageous Fighting and Confident Dying: Union Chaplains in the Civil War*, laid out four ways soldiers judged their chaplain. First, was he religiously fit to serve as chaplain. Most chaplains were ordained or certified clergy of a Christian denomination. Second, was he physically fit, able to care for himself. The chaplain would endure the same hardships as did the soldiers. Many suffered the same illnesses as did the men. Third, was he “acquainted with the animal ‘man’”. To preach or counsel effectively, the chaplain had to know the human condition, the human nature. Finally, did the chaplain possess honest “horse sense”?

This soldier (Benjamin F. Taylor, writing in his memoir, *Pictures of Life in Camp and Field*) continued by describing four different chaplains. Chaplain A was a good man, but he lacked tact, especially when trying to correct things around the camp, like cursing. Chaplain B was lazy. After Sunday service, he was not seen in camp until next Sunday. Chaplain C was too conscious of his rank and thus was aloof and cool. “Of the three, the boys hated the first, despised the second, and d_n the third.” Then there was Chaplain D. Despite a poor beginning and being the brunt of many jokes, he displayed his concern for the men by being with them in battle, carrying water to them in the midst of battle. His ministry among them became deeply appreciated. Ministry is done both with words and in deeds; deeds which show love and concern.

For more on the Civil War Union Chaplains, I recommend Armstrong’s book mentioned above.

Chaplain Charlie Buckhahn

FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF

Submitted by Department Chief of Staff David Smith, LM, PDC

Camp Commanders and Camp Secretaries,

It is now time to begin scheduling officer installations for your Camps for the 2025-2026 administrative term.

Please contact me as soon as practicable with the requested date of your officer installation, so that the Department Commander or his representative can be secured for the date. Please email me, and copy Department Commander Kimble and Department Secretary Denney with your requested date.

You may email me at: david.smith@suvcwmi.org

You may copy Commander Kimbe at: david.kimble@suvcwmi.org

You may copy Secretary Denney at: secretary@suvcwmi.org

If your Camp plans on retaining the same slate of officers and do not require an installation, please let us know this as well. In that case, you will still need to send in the Form 22, Form 22MI, and provide a short letter indicating that you are retaining your officers for the upcoming year and do not require an installation.

In the case where only an officer or two need installation, please let us know that as well. Special arrangements can be made to install only those members.



IN MEMORIAM: BROTHER RUSS GORDON, PCC

Submitted by March to the Sea Camp 135 & Dept. of Michigan

Brothers,

It is my sad duty to inform the Department and the Camps of the passing of a Brother. Brother Russell Gordon of the March to the Sea Camp No. 135 passed on Friday, August 1st, at the age of 66. He joined the Sons by virtue of his Great Great Grandfather, Warren M. Edinger, who served as a private in Company E of the 2nd Michigan Infantry Regiment. His obituary is given below. Please note the date and time of his funeral: Rosenberg Chapel of Hackman Family Funeral Homes, 807 E. Chicago Rd. Sturgis MI on August 8, 2025, from 5 – 7 p.m. with a Memorial Service to immediately follow. The memorial ceremony will be provided by Meridian Sun-Eagle Lodge #49 F&AM and the Camp 135, Sons of Union Veterans.

Please keep the Gordon family and Camp 135 in your thoughts and prayers. We pray; Our Father, who art in Heaven, the Father of our Lord Jesus, and the Father of us all, we pray for for Your blessing to abide upon this humble service. Bless the memory of our departed Brother, Russell. Bless and comfort those near and dear to him (them) by the ties of the flesh and fraternity. Help us, each one, to appreciate more and more the blessings we receive, daily, from Your great heart of love, and help us to prove our gratitude for all these good gifts, by our lives of usefulness and integrity. Bless our friends and Brothers everywhere, and may we be worthy of them and of You. Lead us graciously by Your strong right hand, and make us all to be the citizens we are privileged to be in this goodly land which You have given to us. We ask in the name of our Savior. Amen.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC
Department Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

OBITUARY – RUSSELL H. GORDON

Russell H Gordon, 66, of Sturgis MI, passed away peacefully at home on August 1, 2025.

Russell was a Free Mason, and Member of the March to the Sea Camp 135 Sons of Union Veterans. He retired in 2021 from Lozier Corporation (formerly Syndicate Systems) of Middlebury, Indiana, after many years in shipping, receiving, and quality control.

He was the son of the late Robert John Gordon, Sr. and late Verna Ellen (Powers) Gordon of Hillsdale MI.



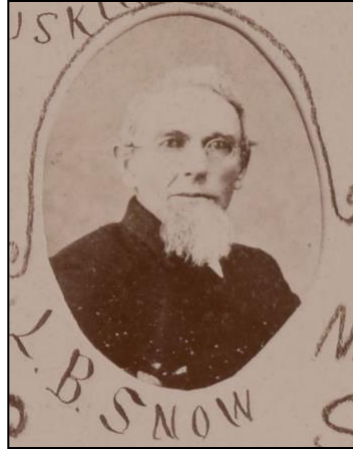
Russell enjoyed his hobbies, from reading, fly fishing, to biking, to touring civil war battle sites. He was also a collector of rare coins and post cards among other things. But his biggest passion was collecting military memorabilia. He was quite the historian The Civil War. WWII and Naval battleships and their history were his favorite.

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CPL. LYMAN B. SNOW CEREMONY HELD IN TRAVERSE CITY

On Monday, 14 July 2025 the community of Traverse City came together to honor Corporal Lyman Snow, a Mexican-American War and Civil War Veteran. Since his death in 1913, Mr. Snow's grave was unmarked. Mr. Scott Schwander and Brother Eric Boals (a Past Commander of Camp 14) sought to remedy this wrong and procured a headstone from the VA. Additionally, to honor Mr. Snow, the two men planned and coordinated a grave dedication service including many organizations and entities participating, but not limited to: Cherryland VFW Post 2780, American Legion Post 35, USCG Air Station Traverse City, City of Traverse City and Oakwood Cemetery, TCAPS Band, Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 (ASUVCW), Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry – Sons of Veterans Reserve, Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, Traverse City Honor Guard, and Michigan State Senator John Damoose.



ABOVE LEFT: Ceremony Chaplain, FF#9 President Lorriane Aurand providing prayer with Master of Ceremonies Eric Boals.

ABOVE CENTER: State Senator John Damoose gives the keynote speech at the ceremony.

ABOVE RIGHT: Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 and Ceremony Participants (L-R) Sister Dorothy Rongey, PAP, Sister Lisa Smith, PAP, Mrs. Angel Sible, and Sister Lorraine Aurand, AP.



ABOVE LEFT; Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry "Irish Rifle" Sons of Veterans Reserve fires a volley.

ABOVE RIGHT: Brother Jim Ribby recites a poem .



EDUCATION: GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3 – PROPER WEAR OF BADGES

Below is an exemplar of the proper wearing of SUVCW badges. This was presented along with General Orders No. 3, Series 2025-2026 as issued by Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker.

PROPER WEARING and ORDER OF BADGES



1. (Group A) - Membership Badge (or Associate, Junior, Junior Associate or Honorary Member badge); **Commander-in-Chief badge; Department Commander badge; Camp Commander badge; National Officer badge; Department Officer badge.** The Membership badge is appropriate for wear on all occasions where identification or recognition of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is fitting. May be worn alone. **Brothers may not wear more than one badge from this group at any one time.**



2. (Group B) - Past honors badge - Past Commander-in-Chief badge; Past Department Commander badge; Past Camp Commander badge. A Brother may choose to wear both a Group A badge and a Group B badge at the same time, or only a Group B badge, without wearing at the same time a Group A badge.



3. Group C - War Medal; Military Service Medal. Cannot be worn alone. **When worn, the War Medal or Military Service Medal must be accompanied by a Group A or Group B Badge of the Order.**



4. Group D Sons of Veterans Reserve Badges, Encampment/Temporary Badges. Cannot be worn alone. **Must be accompanied by a Group A or Group B Badge of the Order.** With the exception of SVR badges, Group D badges should be worn on the right breast during the proceedings of a National or Department Encampment. Following adjournment of the Encampment, the badge should be moved to the left breast and worn in the Group D badge position.

Badges, ribbons and medals of the Grand Army of the Republic **may not be worn** by a Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Miniature badges are allowed only for formal wear. The **mixing of regular and miniature badges is not allowed.**



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION FROM THE NATIONAL PI

Submitted by Dept. Patriotic Instructor Terry McKinch, PDC

National Patriotic Instruction Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

July 2025

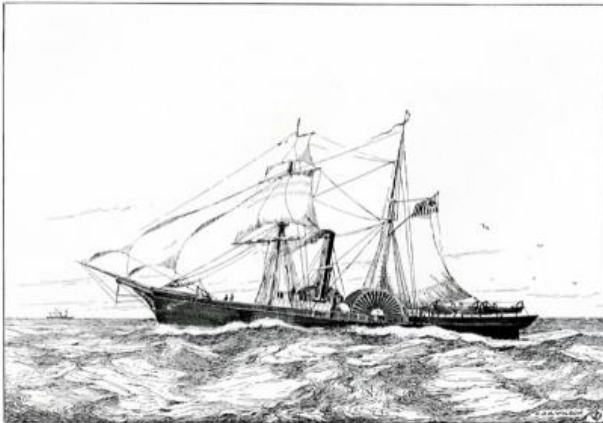


REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE

Among the ancestors that qualify one for hereditary membership in the SUVCW, are those that served in the Revenue Cutter Service. This oft-forgotten branch of the military served an important role during the Civil War. The following information comes from articles by William H. Thiesen, PhD, Atlantic Area Historian, United States Coast Guard:

The Revenue Cutter Service was established by Congress on August 4, 1790 as the Revenue-Marine. It was initially created to serve as an armed customs enforcement service. Over time, however, the service gradually gained missions either voluntarily or by legislation, including those of a military nature. It was generally referred to as the Revenue-Marine until July 31, 1894, when it was officially renamed the Revenue Cutter Service. On January 28, 1915, the service was merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form the U.S. Coast Guard.

Similar to the Navy, the Revenue Cutter Service's fleet greatly expanded during the war and changed from sailing ships to primarily steam-powered vessels. In 1865, the fleet included 35 ships stationed in ports throughout the Great Lakes and along the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf Coast and two cutters in the Pacific. In that year, two-thirds of the cutters were powered by steam, compared to the 1861 wartime low of 18 cutters, only one of which had steam power.



"HARRIET LANE"

On April 12th, 1861, the Revenue Cutter Service made history in what turned out to be the Civil War's first naval combat mission. The Service's finest revenue cutter was paired with the Service's most distinguished captain. Named for the niece of unmarried President James Buchanan, Harriet Lane, who served as First Lady, cutter *Harriet Lane* represented one of the most technologically advanced steamships in Federal service. The cutter's captain, John Faunce, had served as an officer since 1841 and served as a captain since 1855.

Faunce had won national acclaim serving as a member of the U.S. Navy's 1858 South American expedition against the military regime in Paraguay.

In April 1861 President Abraham Lincoln authorized a Federal expedition to relieve Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina. The expedition consisted of transports with 500 troops and an armed escort including *Harriet Lane*. During the voyage south, a severe storm separated the cutter from the convoy, so she arrived on April 11th, before the other ships. News of the cutter's arrival spread quickly in Charleston. In the early morning of April 12th, Confederate cannons at Fort Moultrie opened fire on Fort Sumter to prevent the fortress' reinforcement with Federal troops. These were the first artillery shots fired in the Civil War.

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PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION FROM THE NATIONAL PI CONT'D

SUVCW National Patriotic Instruction - July 2025

Later that morning, elements of the expedition found *Harriet Lane* at a pre-arranged rendezvous point and the revenue cutter tried to escort them to beleaguered Fort Sumter. As the ships neared the fort, artillery fire grew so heavy that the expedition had to turn back. *Harriet Lane* returned to her station guarding the harbor entrance and, later that morning, the cutter observed the approach of a steamer flying no colors. The cutter ordered the vessel to heave to and show her colors. The unidentified vessel ignored these signals and steamed on toward Charleston. Faunce ordered a 32-pound cannon shot fired across the ship's bow, which turned out to be the South Carolina steamship *Nashville*. Historians consider the shot across *Nashville's* bow the first naval shot of the Civil War. *Nashville* finally raised an American flag and Faunce allowed her to pass into Charleston Harbor; however, the *Nashville* later served as an infamous blockade-runner and Confederate cruiser.



Capt. John Faunce

With a fusillade of cannon fire raining down on Fort Sumter, and no protection for the Federal ships, further relief efforts appeared futile. Federal forces within the fort finally raised a flag of truce and the relief expedition evacuated the garrison from the fort. *Harriet Lane* escorted the ships back to New York and continued to serve a vital role in Union naval operations until her capture in 1863 by an overwhelming Confederate force at Galveston, Texas.

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After she served under the Confederate Marine Department of Texas, she was converted into a blockade runner and renamed *Lavinia*. She departed Galveston on April 30th, 1864 and sailed to Havana, where Cuban authorities interned her. In 1867, the cutter and former captain were reunited when Captain Faunce and a crew traveled to Havana to return *Lavinia* (ex-*Harriet Lane*) to the United States. The cutter was then converted to a bark rig, sold off to private owners and renamed *Elliott Richie*. In May 1884, after nearly thirty-five years of government and commercial service, she was finally abandoned in the waters off Pernambuco, Brazil.



The current U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Harriet Lane* (WMEC-903) has been commissioned since 1984. Among other duties, she was involved in the search and recovery of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island and responded to the *Deepwater Horizon* offshore drilling rig disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. She is currently based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Remember the Revenue Cutter Service — *Semper Paratus!*

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Patriotic Instructor



CAMP 427 BROTHER IS HISTORICAL FICTION AUTHOR, PT. 2

Submitted by Brother J. Michael Joslin – Sgt. John S. Cosbey Camp 427

Brother Joslin of Sgt. John S. Cosbey, Camp 427, who in the last *Michigan's Messenger*, talked about his three historical novels, *Thank God for Michigan*, *Jacob's Ladder of Vengeance*, and *I Fear We Shall Never See Home Again*, was so excited to see the article about his books, he completely overlooked the article, *Summer 1965: Going Home*, by PCC Mark Hoffman. He offers his apology to Mark. A short time later, he decided to print out the article about his books to place in a binder. He said he leafed through that issue of the *Michigan's Messenger* and realized Mark's article was about the 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment, something he know a lot about. His great-great-grandfather, Ralph Goweth Terry, enlisted in Company C of the 24th Michigan, along with many other local men of the community of Plymouth, Michigan. The enlisted ceremony took place in Kellogg Park in the center of downtown Plymouth. The park still exists and many community events take place there. Brother Mike has a lot of historical attachment to Plymouth. His father was first cousins with Hal Young, led the honor guard and his drill team for most of the Plymouth parades. His daughter Janet, and he, informed Michael of Ralph Terry and they sent him a binder containing a lot of information about Ralph Terry, and the 24th Michigan. It was Janet who convinced him to try to write a historical novel with Ralph Terry as the protagonist. *Thank God for Michigan* was Michael's very first novel, and he freely admits that he was very much an amateur, but with each subsequent novel he feels he improved, to the point that he is proud of his third novel, *I Fear We Shall Never See Home Again*, was far more professionally written. That said, Michael found it difficult to sell copies of each of his books. Upon reflection, realized that when American Civil War buffs want to read more about the Civil War and many of the events that took place during that time, that readers tend to be a bit resistant to buy novels as opposed to non-fiction, as they think that the entire book would be completely made up, rather than about factual events. Michael wanted to find a comprehensive definition of historical fiction, and he found the following:

"I am an author of historical novels or historical fiction. I have discovered that people who prefer non-fiction when reading about historical events, sometimes shy away from any books that have the words fiction or novel as the genre, and may not purchase the book because of it, thinking that the entire book contains entirely made-up events. Frustrated by that possibility, I searched for an explanation that could possibly convince the doubters that historical novels are worth reading. What I found is the following:

Historical Fiction is one of those sub-genres of literature that takes many forms. Its most important feature, though, is that it's set in the past, with every element of the story conforming to the norms of the day. Here's how we define Historical Fiction, a look at its origins, and some popular types."

"Historical Fiction" Definition from Celadon Books: "Historical Fiction is a story that takes readers to a time and place in the past. How far back in time does an author have to go for their work to be considered Historical Fiction? A good rule of thumb is a minimum of 50 years. The idea is to take readers out of the events of their lifetime. Most book lovers agree that Historical Fiction is the closest we'll get to actual time travel.

What makes a historical novel believable is its setting. Historical Fiction is set in a real place, during a culturally recognizable time. The details and the action in the story can be a mix of actual events and ones from the author's imagination as they fill in the gaps. Characters can be pure fiction or based on real people (often, it's both). But everything about them — their attitudes and looks, the way they speak, and the problems they face — should match the era. Of course, the key to an author getting all of this right is research. Authors are always allowed artistic license, but the most satisfying works of Historical Fiction have been researched down to every scent, button, turn of phrase, and cloud in the sky."

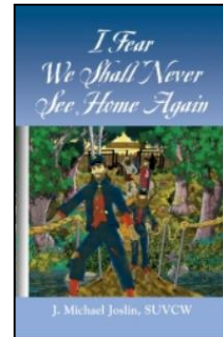
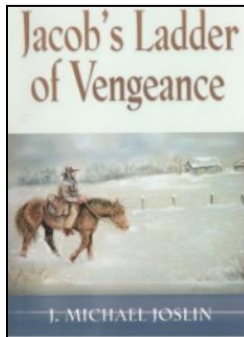


CAMP 427 HISTORICAL FICTION AUTHOR CONT'D

As Michael is a stickler for facts, he researched each of his books for several years before he began to write. Michael sent his completed manuscript for *I Fear We Shall Never See Home Again*, to author Gene Eric Salecker, who wrote *Destruction of the Steamboat Sultana: The Worst Maritime Disaster in American History: The Sultana Explosion, April 27, 1865*, who Michael considers to be the foremost authority on the Sultana tragedy. Michael also considers Gene to be his mentor. He requested that Gene do a thorough reading of his novel and tell what is wrong, what is right, what did he miss, or what should he remove. "You've no doubt heard the expression 'Be careful what you ask for' as you will probably get it. Knowing how important being factual is to Michael, Gene did not hold anything back, he did what Michael asked for, and he got it. In the end, Gene approved of what Michael had written.

Thank God for Michigan, as well as *I Fear We Shall Never See Home Again*, and *Jacob's Ladder of Vengeance*, can be purchased through Amazon.com and numerous other online bookstores, or if you wish to have a signed copy, go to his website www.jmichaeljoslin.com. Be sure to request that he sign the book. He knows that Amazon sells his books for less than he does, on his website, or in person, but please understand that Amazon only gives a small "commission" that is not helpful to authors. If you purchase through his website, he does not charge for shipping and receiving. Although it would require a check, you can purchase through his email site, mjoslinjm@aol.com. Or, you can make a purchase by sending a check, specify which book you prefer (or all of them) to J. Michael Joslin at 465 W Office Street, Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330.

If you are interested in old historic places, take a trip to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, the oldest community in Kentucky, established prior to the Revolutionary War. You will want to tour Old Fort Harrod. <https://parks.ky.gov/explore/old-fort-harrod-state-park-7823>.



CAMP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS – J. RICHARD GREENE AWARD

Calling on all Camps that would like to be considered for the J. Richard Greene Award for the Most Outstanding Newsletter in the Department to submit them upon each publication to the J. Richard Greene Award Committee comprised of the Department Newsletter Editor (Chairman), Department Chaplain, and the Department Secretary. The e-mail addresses for those officers are as follows:

editor@suvcwmi.org
chaplain@suvcwmi.org
secretary@suvcwmi.org

All Camp newsletters will be collected and reviewed during the prescribed period before the Department Encampment.



2025 SUVCW NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT CONT'D



Brothers of the Department of Michigan at the National Encampment (L-R): PCinC James Pahl, National CoA Gibson, PDC Chuck Worley, PCC Lloyd Lamphere, JVDC Ron Shull, DC David Kimble, PCinC Bruce Frail, CinC Kevin Martin, NQM Daryl VerStreate, JVCinC Rob Payne, Br. Kim Horning, and PDC Dean Lamphere.

PAYNE AND GIBSON ELECTED CONT'D

Council of Administration.

The Department of Michigan is very proud to have such important representation in the SUVCW National Organization. Congratulations Brothers Payne and Gibson you will do the Department proud!

CAMP 444 NATIONAL AWARDS CONT'D

with the Horace Greeley Award for the Most Outstanding Website in the Order.

To win a National Award is a major honor. To win two National Awards in the same year is an extremely rare event. To win three National Awards is beyond extraordinary, especially among so many talented Camps across the Order. Congratulations to the Brothers of General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 for such high honors.



IN MEMORIAM: BROTHER RUSS GORDON, PCC CONT'D

He also enjoyed watching sports. He was a Detroit Tigers fan, and a Detroit Lions fan and loved to watch the Tour De France and always looked forward to the college basketball playoffs in the spring.

Russell's greatest love was for his family, his daughter Cathrine (Katie), granddaughters Erin and Harley, and his four great grandchildren. He enjoyed spending time with them and taking them on extravagant vacations.

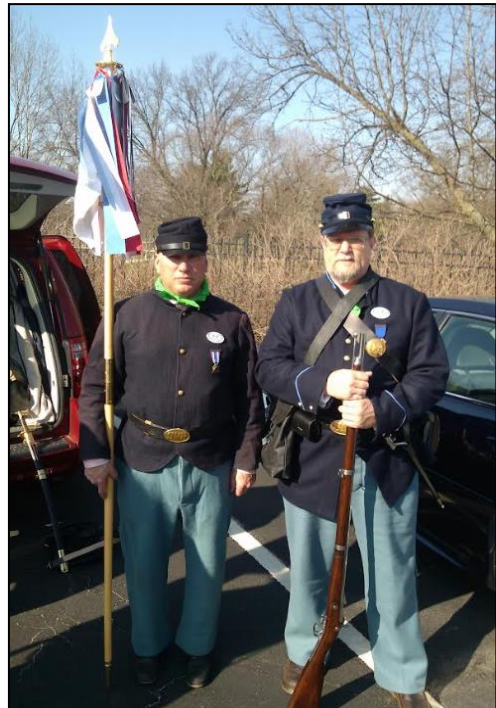
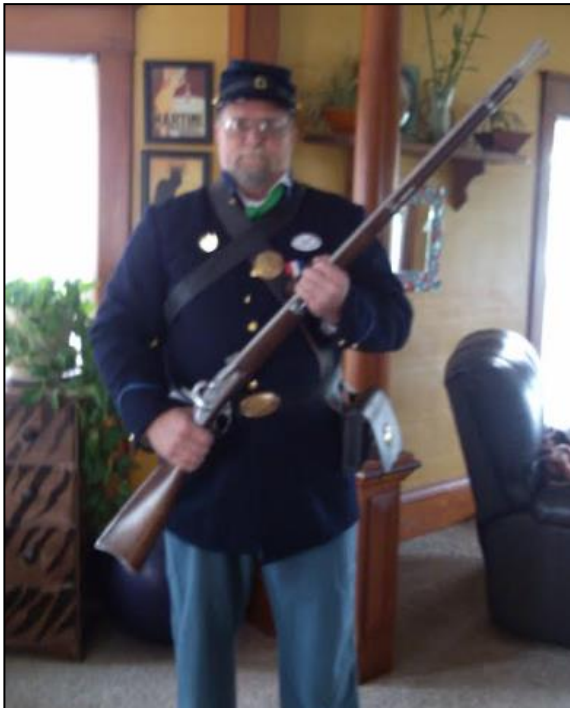
Russell was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

He is survived by his stepmother Eve Bowditch; sisters, Jackie (Bruce) Yeagley, Sue Betzer, and Sheri Wiesman, his brother Robert (Janet) Gordon, his daughter Cathrine Youga Cotterman, his granddaughters Erin Joy Grimes and Harley Michelle Grimes, and his four great grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was also survived by Cathrine's mother, his ex-wife and dear friend Phyllis Youga.

Visitation will be at Rosenberg Chapel of Hackman Family Funeral Homes, 807 E. Chicago Rd. Sturgis MI on August 8, 2025, from 5 – 7 p.m. with a Memorial Service to immediately follow. The memorial ceremony will be provided by Meridian Sun-Eagle Lodge #49 F&AM and the Camp 135, Sons of Union Veterans. There will be an opportunity to share stories and memories of Russell's life after the ceremony.

Family will hold a private interment of his ashes the following day, August 9, at Oak Grove Cemetery in Morenci, MI.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the March to the Sea Camp 135 Sons of Union Veterans, SUVCW 30090 Orla Engle Road Colon, MI 49040, or Ark Animal Sanctuary/Ark Animal Rescue, 530 E 300 S, LaGrange, IN, 46761.



IN MEMORIAM: CAMP 20 BROTHERS LEEPER & CONKLIN

Brothers,

It is my sad duty to inform the Department and the Camps of the passing of Brothers Glenn V. Leeper, Jr. and David L. Conklin, Sr. of General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20. Brother Leeper passed away on December 30, 2023. Brother Conklin passed away on August 2, 2025. Their obituaries are given below. Please keep the Leeper and Conklin families and the brothers of Camp 20 in your thoughts and prayers.

We pray; Our Father, who art in Heaven, the Father of our Lord Jesus, and the Father of us all, we pray for Your blessing upon us. Bless the memory of our departed Brothers, Glenn and David. Bless and comfort those near and dear to them by the ties of the flesh and fraternity. Help us, each one, to appreciate more and more the blessings we receive, daily, from Your great heart of love, and help us to prove our gratitude for all these good gifts, by our lives of usefulness and integrity. Bless our friends and Brothers everywhere, and may we be worthy of them and of You. Lead us graciously by Your strong right hand, and make us all to be the citizens we are privileged to be in this goodly land which You have given to us. We ask in the name of our Savior. Amen.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC
Department Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

Brother Glenn Leeper, Jr.

Glenn Valentine Leeper Jr., age 77, of Battle Creek sadly passed away surrounded by his loving family on Saturday afternoon, December 30, 2023 at Bronson Battle Creek. He was born in Kalamazoo on September 11, 1946, the son of Glenn V. and Evangeline M. (Wright) Leeper Sr. and graduated from Delton-Kellogg High School. Glenn retired from the Battle Creek Federal Center after nearly 30 years and previously worked at Eaton's, General Motors and the National Water Lift Company.

Glenn married the "Love of His Life, Marlene V. VanOrman at the Birchwood United Methodist Church, Battle Creek on February 23, 1974; she survives. He is also survived by his sons, Glenn (Sherri) Leeper III and Jeffrey (Maggie) Leeper; his grandsons, Glenn (Cheyenne) Leeper IV and Travis (Amy) Leeper; great-grandsons, Coltin Harris and Glenn Leeper V; his brother, Leighton (Ellen) Leeper; his dog, Gracie; and his parrots, Teddy & Ozzy.

Glenn had a great love for cars and enjoyed traveling to many car shows, showing off his 1970 GTO Judge and 1957 T-Bird. He was also very active in the Masonic community and served as the Grand Commander for the Knights Templar State of Michigan in 2007. Glenn was also a life member of the Bedford Lodge#207 F&AM, Battle Creek Commandery#33, Marshall Commandery#17, Battle Creek Chapter#19 RAM, Zabud Council#9 RSM, Bedford Council#91 RSM, York Rite College#3, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests, Kalamazoo Valley Council#437, Angola Preceptory#2 Yeomen of York, Sons of Union Veterans, and many other Masonic organizations over the years.

Brother David Conklin, Sr.

With profound sadness, we say goodbye to David Lee Conklin Sr. of Battle Creek, Michigan, whose vibrant spirit touched the lives of many. David Lee left this world on August 2, 2025 at the age of 77, leaving a void in the lives of so many people. You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family.

He was predeceased by: his parents, Everett Conklin and Mabel Conklin; his brother Kerry Conklin; and his sister-in-law Zadie Conklin. He is survived by: his wife Kathy Conklin; his children, David Conklin Jr., Charlie Conklin (Lynette), Cindy Bush (Bob), Joe Conklin (Heather) and Christina Vanderweele (Mike); his siblings, Mary York and Thomas Conklin; and his sister-in-law Kathleen Conklin. He is also survived by nieces and nephews.



CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP No. 17

Submitted by Robert Payne, PDC, JVCinC



LAST SOLDIERS

Curtenius Guard Camp 17 spent some time investigating our Last Soldiers. Located in Hastings, Barry County Last Soldier, Truman Webber. Born 14 Apr 1848, died 8 Sept 1941 in Hastings. Served in Company F, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, 6 May 1864 – 19 Jul 1865. Later served in the Regular Army on the Plains, Co. B, 7th U.S. Infantry from 15 Jun 1866 to 15 Jun 1869. Located in Onondaga, Ingham County Last Soldier, Holden Albrow. Born 4 Mar 1846, died 12 Mar 1946 in Leslie (date per death certificate and newspaper accounts; stone is incorrect with date of death as 12 Apr 1946). Served in Company G, 11th Michigan Infantry (reorganized), 20 Feb 1865 – 16 Sep 1865. Located in Olivet, Eaton County Last Soldier, Lester Taggart. Born 26 Jun 1844, died 19 Feb 1940 in Charlotte. Served in 189th Ohio Infantry, 9 Feb 1865 to 28 Sept 1865. Camp 17 will be holding a Last Soldier ceremony for each of these brothers when they can be scheduled.



ABOVE: PCinC James B. Pahl, Curtenius Guard Camp 17, assisting Austin Blair Camp 7 with recruiting, at the Jackson Civil War Muster.



ROBERT FINCH CAMP No. 14

Submitted by Brother Kenny Jones, LM – Camp No. 14 Council & CWMO

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 continues work the Last Union Veteran Project by honoring PVT William Daniel Green buried at Elmwood Cemetery, Grayling, Crawford County on 21 Jun and PVT Charles Collins Clover, Company C, 10th Michigan Infantry, buried at Mentor Twp. Cemetery, Mio, Oscoda County on 6 Jun. This leaves four more of the sixteen counties that encompass the Camp No. 14 area of responsibilities.



21 June 2025, Elmwood Cemetery, Grayling, Crawford County, Last Union Veteran Project.

LEFT: 2025-06-21, Kenny Jones MO, standing guard

RIGHT: 2025-06-21, Group photo, Left to right, Brothers: Theodore Mattis PCC, Sec/Tre; Matt Frye SVC; Dr. Stephen Siciliano Commander; Kenny Jones MO & John Sawyer, GRO



7 July 2025, Headstone reset, PVT Daniel Page: and Cleaning of Manrod Buchler's Headstone

LEFT: 2025-07-07, Brother Matt Frye SVC & John Sawyer, GRO (not shown) resetting and cleaning Headstone reset for PVT Daniel Page, Company B, 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery at Linwood Cemetery, Long Lake Twp., Grand Traverse County

CENTER: Before Cleaning of Headstone, Manrod Buchler, Co. A, 26th Michigan Infantry

RIGHT: After Cleaning of Headstone, Manrod Buchler, Co. A, 26th Michigan Infantry



19 July 2025 Mentor Twp. Cemetery, Mio, Oscoda County, Last Union Veteran Project.

LEFT: 2025-07-19, Group photo: Left to right, Brothers John Sawyer GRO.; Jim Ribby Chaplin; Theodore Mattis, PCC; Sec/Tre, Matt Frye SVC;

Dr. Stephen Siciliano Commander & Eric Boals, PCC.

RIGHT: 2025-07-19, PVT Clover, headstone,



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444

Submitted by David S. Smith, LM, PDC – Camp 444 Commander

THOMAS HYSLOP GRAVESTONE DEDICATION– Camp 444 was joined by members of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, JVDC Ron Shull, Roscommon VFW Post 4159 and VFW Auxiliary, Roscommon Area Public Schools Band, attendees from village and across the state, and the Hyslop Family to honor Thomas Hyslop of Company G, 1st Michigan Infantry, buried in Roscommon. Mr. Hyslop and his brother William served together in the 1st Michigan Infantry, with William becoming MIA at the Battle of the Wilderness.

The Hyslop family made the very long journey to Roscommon from Alaska to attend the event. Two of the Hyslop family that attended are Vietnam Veterans, and the event had a special meaning to them. More coverage on the event will be in the next issue of *The Engineer & Mechanic* (genompocamp444.org/newsletters)



ABOVE LEFT: Camp 444 Honor Guard fires a volley.

ABOVE RIGHT: The descendants of Thomas Hyslop at his gravesite.

LEFT: Chaplain Lorraine Aurand, AP of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 providing prayer as members of the Camp 444 Honor Guard and Commander Smith bow their heads in silent reflection.

Above photos courtesy of Cathy Jackson

BELOW LEFT: An A-10 of the 107th FS/127th WG at Selfridge ANGB coming off from a strafing run with its GE 30mm GAU-8 Avenger cannon.

GRAYLING AIR GUNNERY RANGE VISIT & TOUR – On Tuesday 15 July 2025, Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center hosted Brothers of Camp 444 and guests at the Grayling Air Gunnery Range. Everyone was



treated to an exciting display of air to ground training provided by A-10Cs from the 107th Fighter Squadron “Red Devils” of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mt. Clemens. The A-10s dropped BDU-33 practice munitions, as well as used everyone’s favorite 30mm Gatling gun the General Electric 30mm GAU-8 Avenger at various targets. A huge thank you to Jenni Caverson of Camp Grayling JMTC and MIANG SMSgt. Green of the Air Gunnery Range for hosting! More in the upcoming *The E&M*.



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2025 – 2026

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