

# Michigan's Messenger



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

Vol. VIII No. 4

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## MICHIGAN'S SECOND "LAST" CIVIL WAR VETERAN

By James T. Lyons, PDC  
Curtenius Guard Camp 17

Following the death of Orlando LeValley in April of 1948, Michigan went for almost five months without a living Civil War veteran or G.A.R. member in the state.

That situation changed when, in September 1948, Joseph Clovese moved to Pontiac to live with friends. He was 104 years of age at the time of this move from his native Louisiana. He was born, a slave, on a plantation on January 30, 1844 in St. Bernard Parish. Though born a slave, he received a good education as a favorite house boy of his master. At age 17 he ran away to join nearby Union soldiers.

He became a drummer boy during the siege of Vicksburg and later was enrolled in a regiment of "colored troops".

Following the war he worked on Mississippi river steamboats. He later worked on the crew stringing the first telegraph wires between New Orleans and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Clovese's move to Pontiac went unnoticed until he called the Pontiac Press two months later to find the location of the nearest G.A.R. Post. Because the Michigan Department had been disbanded following the death of Commander LeValley there was no Post for him to join.

His transfer card from Post 4, of New Orleans, was deposited with the National Organization and he became a member-at-large. He attended the last National Encampment of the G.A.R. in Indianapolis in 1949, one of only six Comrades to do so. Six others were too ill or feeble to make the trip.

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## MICHIGAN'S SECOND "LAST" CIVIL WAR VETERAN

*(Continued from page 1)*

Once "Uncle Joe's" presence was known, the community of Pontiac embraced him. Large gatherings were organized for his 105<sup>th</sup>, 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Joseph Clovese died at Dearborn Veterans hospital on July 13, 1951. More than 300 people were packed into the small Newman A.M.E. Church for the service. Hundreds more gathered at the grave site in Perry Mount Park cemetery. Oakland County Council of Veterans members served as pall bearers. A firing squad from Selfridge Air Force Base fired the final salute and taps was sounded over the cemetery.

Thus Michigan had a second "last" Civil War veteran. A man who styles himself as Ex-Lieut. C. Stewart Peterson, M.A. published a book titled *Last Civil War Veteran in Each State*. His book, published in April 1951, makes no mention of Orlando LeValley although he does note that all the G.A.R. Posts in Michigan had been disbanded. If he had done a bit of research to find out why the Posts were disbanded, he might have made a different entry.

In any event, he indicates that Joseph Clovese, still living at the time, was Michigan's last Civil War veteran. My contention would be that both men should be honored equally. Both were good men who served the Grand Army well, both during and after the war.

### *Michigan's Messenger*

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## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 4

## SERIES 1999 ~ 2000

1. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Lowell E. Spry**, great, great nephew of Private Thomas Spry (Company H, 71<sup>st</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment). Brother Spry was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and also as a Military Policeman. Lowell supported our organization as a Member of *George W. Anderson Camp 58*, after his transfer from *Curtenius Guard Camp 17*. Brother Spry's passing occurred just after submissions were made for the January issue of the *Messenger*. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of January.

2. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Kenneth Farris**, great, great nephew of Private Harvey P. Bordner (Company H, 103<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment). Brother Farris was a Life Member of the SUVCW, via *Curtenius Guard Camp 17*. All Camps are directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of April 2000.

3. We are pleased to announce that the Department of Michigan's membership now tops 500! Our Department's official report for the Quarter Ending 31 December 1999 lists **512 Brothers in Good Standing**. We can all be proud of this accomplishment. Just think how easy it would be to **double** this number – if each of us were to bring in just one new *Member, Associate, or Junior* this year.

Those who recommend at least 3 men (who actually become new Brothers of the Order) are entitled to a ribbon of "national color" to be placed **behind** their Member or Associate Badge. Those who recruit 5 or more new Brothers will receive a *Certificate of Merit* from our Commander-In-Chief. These accomplishments must be reported to the Department Secretary and forwarded in his report to the National Secretary.

4. Congratulations are extended to all new officers in our 24 local chapters (Camps), eight of which elected new Commanders. As stated before, we need the help of all Commanders and Secretaries to assure that Camp Quarterly reports and per capita payments are sent in on time – pursuant to the charge accepted with *Installation*.

Last year at this time, I respectfully reminded all Camp Officers to maintain a special notebook, file, or folder (or a series thereof) with everything related to their position, kept therein. This material can then be readily passed on to an officer's successor and thus help maintain a continuity of effort and service to the organization.

We are all volunteers but it must be remembered that each officer position has its own special responsibilities and these can be

demanding on our time. When other things in our busy lifestyles make it difficult to carry out our SUVCW duties, please do not hesitate to ask for help.

Another respectful reminder is that the answers for most "frequently asked questions" can be found in our Order's *Constitution and Regulations* (C&R). Officers are strongly encouraged to also familiarize themselves with the organization's *Job Descriptions, Rituals & Ceremonials*, and *Bylaws* of the Department and your Camp.

5. The National Quartermaster has announced that all future purchases of the *Ritual & Ceremonials* (Item #302) will be filled by the updated version, approved at the 1999 National Encampment.

6. It has come to our attention that the Bylaws of some of our Camps refer to the **Woman's Relief Corps** (W.R.C.) incorrectly – spelling this Allied Order as the "Women's Relief Corps." This reference should be corrected, if necessary, the next time that those Camps' Bylaws are amended.

7. In regard to our Department Bylaws, please be advised that the document that was adopted May 1, 1999 (our last Department Encampment) will stand valid throughout the 2000 – 2001 administrative year as well. Certainly, we should not expect to have changes made to the Bylaws of a Camp or our Department on an annual basis. Sometimes, amendments are necessary but these documents should be able to stand unaffected over a greater period of time.

Michigan's Department Bylaws (see Article XIV, Section 2) stipulate that any proposed amendment, alteration or addition "shall be printed or typewritten and a copy sent to the Commander of each Camp for review, at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Department Encampment. All Camps shall take action on same and instruct their delegates accordingly." Unfortunately, this requirement could not be met this year, due to the resignation of Department SVC William Morris.

8. Please be advised that per Article III, Section 4, of our Department Bylaws, the Council has convened and elected Brother Gregory D. Hayes (Commander of *Gilluly – Kingsley Camp 120* and Department Patriotic Instructor) to serve out the 1999 – 2000 administrative year as our Senior Vice Department Commander. Please join me in welcoming Brother Hayes to his new responsibilities, and also thank him for his willingness to accept this challenge.

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

**9.** Brother Hayes is to be commended for the outstanding article on the 48<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (held at Detroit in 1914) and his excellent reference to the "Allied Orders of the G.A.R." that he submitted to Michigan History Magazine (MHM). Brothers Patrick Wallace and PDC David F. Wallace are also worthy of our praise for their assistance in gathering material for this multi-page tribute to those whom we honor!

This is something for *all* of us to be very proud of and I encourage all Brothers to obtain a copy of the January/February 2000 issue of MHM as a special keepsake. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Brother Hayes and our Brothers Wallace for this outstanding tribute.

**10.** The new role for Bro. Hayes created the need for a new Department Patriotic Instructor and I am pleased to announce that Brother Kim R. Altvater (SVC of *George W. Anderson Camp 58*) has accepted appointment for the rest of this administrative year.

**11.** With February 12 occurring on a Saturday this year, we were able to conduct our Department Midwinter Conference on the 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. Nearly 50 Brothers from across Michigan attended and took part in the afternoon's program. Special Thanks go out to Brothers Bill Lowe and Doug Armstrong for their help with setting up.

Another special milestone that coincided with this part of February, was the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (1910 – 2000). In support of National Boy Scouts Week, I again distributed a roster of all Boy Scout Councils in Michigan and encouraged Camps to present the National SUVCW Eagle Scout Commendation certificate to the deserving scouts in their area of our state. Please be advised that the cost of these certificates has increased to 35 Cents each and they are now available *only* through the National Quartermaster (Item #115).

The conference also allowed the opportunity to share that Brother Dale Tuckey of Austin Blair Camp 7 has given the Department an edited videotape of the 1999 Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. Our thanks to Bro. Tuckey for his thoughtfulness. The tape has been conveyed to the Department Archives by Department Council Vice Chair Howard Streeter. Those interested may make arrangements to borrow the tape by telephoning Bro. Streeter at (517) 741-7161.

As in the past, I prepared an envelope containing "helpful handouts" for each Camp. One of these handouts was a new form that was recently developed by our Department Chaplain (Bill McAfee) for the proper reporting of information that is recorded when a Brother passes away. [Our talented and dedicated Signals Officer, PDC David F. Wallace, has created an "online" version of this form for submitting the info via our Department website.]

Due to some Camps not returning the special questionnaire that was generated by our publications-chief, Bro. John Mann, the Department was not able to prepare a fully updated *Recruiting Brochure* for distribution at this year's conference. Therefore, this may as well wait until after the Department Encampment so that the name and address of our incoming Junior Vice Department Commander can be printed in the brochure.

PDC Jim Pahl briefly touched on the possibility of a special automobile license plate being available in Michigan, with the SUVCW Emblem on it (the Secretary of State makes these available to certain nonprofit service organizations). Brother Pahl was asked to present more information in a small article for all readers of the *Messenger*, with a request for those interested contact Department Secretary Lee prior to the Department Encampment.

We also mentioned the possibility of *Ground Penetrating Radar* being used to determine if unmarked spaces within G.A.R. cemetery plots are **unused** or not. I have been talking with the City of DeWitt about this being done and PCC Bill Lowe of *Austin Blair Camp 7* will soon put this science to a test that he'll be reporting on.

For more references to the conference, please see the separate article on the Department of Michigan's tribute to President Lincoln, elsewhere in the *Messenger*.

**12.** We have learned the very good news that Cancer therapy is working well for Brother **Richard Carden** (PCC of *Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427*). Brother Carden thanks all who have written, and kept him and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

**13.** Brothers recovering from surgery include: **Jerry Olson** (quintuple heart bypass), Commander of *Camp 427*; **Thomas Elegeert** (kidney transplant) of *Albert & James Lyon Camp 266* and Department Legislative Committee Chair; PDC **James Lyons** ("new hinges" – knees) Commander of *Curtenius Guard Camp 17* and Department G.A.R. Records Officer.

We've also learned that PCC **Don Workman** of *Wa-Bu-No Camp 53* is battling a case of pneumonia and Bro. **Bill Costello**, Commander of *Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20*, is facing undisclosed health problems. Let us keep these Brothers and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

**14.** Department Officers, Committee Chairmen, and others who may have receipts for reimbursement are hereby respectfully reminded to submit such, to Brother Richard A. Williams (Department Council Chair), by April 15<sup>th</sup> for processing. Thank you.

**15.** With "Tax-Time" close-at-hand, please keep in mind that the SUVCW is recognized as a **501 (c)(4)**

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## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**Gregory Hayes*

Brothers,

I send my fraternal greetings to you all. As you have noticed from the Orders of the Commander, I have been appointed by the Department Council to fill out the remainder of the term of Senior Vice Commander. My best wishes go to Brother Bill Morris with appreciation for his recommendation to my appointment to this post.

After meeting with the Bylaws Committee and consultation with a number of Brothers in the Department, it has been agreed that no changes for the Bylaws will be offered by this office or the committee for the Department Encampment. Several Camps may have received from me an email of proposed changes. These have been withdrawn and will not be used. With the National Encampment in Lansing this year we can expect changes to the Constitution resulting in perhaps some necessary changes next year to our own Bylaws.

I would urge all Brothers to consider serving at a Department level during the upcoming term. Many positions will need to be filled and new faces and new ideas are welcomed. As busy as we can be with families and careers, it is easy to forgo the volunteer activities. However, many of our ancestors volunteered to fight for the Union. Are we so busy that we cannot devote a few minutes to honoring their memory and preserving their causes? The Camps and Departments need us to give them those few minutes. Let the grass in the yard get ½ inch higher for one weekend and go scout a cemetery. Turn off the television and call a prospective member. And come to Kalamazoo in May and help the Department remain a vital force for the memory of the G.A.R.

In conclusion, let me thank all of you that have assisted during this transition. I have been quite touched by the offers of help and advice. The spirit of the Department is alive and well.

## *DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT*

Delegates will be elected at our Department Encampment to represent Michigan at the National Encampment in August. At this point, with 512 members, Michigan is allowed 21 elected Delegates. Additionally, we are allowed one each for our current Department Commander, Past Department Commanders and Past National Commander. In total, if all are present, Michigan could seat 32 Delegates.

*SECRETARY**Richard Lee*

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Per Capita Reports (October—December 1999) were received by the due date, 10 January 2000, from 20 of the 25 Camps in the Department.

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

\*indicates those Camps that reported on time for all 4 quarters in 1999. This is the best response to date and it is much appreciated by the Department.

Camps 20 and 427 were on time for three quarters of 1999 and Camps 1, 9, 14 and 28 submitted their reports on time for two quarters of the year.

*COUNCIL**Dick Williams, Chairman*

This will be the last report from the Council for the 1999-2000 term of office. I would personally like to thank Howard Streeter and Richard Greene for their dedicated work on the Council during the last two years. I hope you all have a chance to work with either of them at some time in the future. It has been a good balance of ideas and concerns in running the finances of the Department during the last two years.

We as a Council have authorized during the last quarter the preservation of the Department Encampment registration book, expenditures for additional pocket patches and hat badges which are money makers for the Department, authorized expenditures for a Department Encampment Medallion and National Encampment Medallion with extras being sold by the Department to pay for the cost of the Medallions, disbursement of \$500 from the memorial fund to the George W. Anderson Camp 58 for their memorial projects, and expenditures on supplies and items for the National Encampment which we will host in August in Lansing.

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 4)

*non-profit organization.* Therefore, any of your 1999 contributions made to the SUVCW (dues not included) *are deductible in computing your taxable income.* I encourage you to consider making a donation again this year, to either your Camp, our Department, or the National Organization (see various National Funds in *The Banner*).

**16.** Camp Commanders and Secretaries are respectfully reminded that the organization's 501 (c)(4) status also allows us to be exempt from State of Michigan *sales tax* on items purchased for the business of the organization. Department Chief of Staff Mark Pangburn has prepared and distributed the necessary form to each Camp, with instructions. The *Certificate of Exemption* has a few blanks to fill-in on one side, with a copy of the SUVCW's "Federal exemption letter" on the other.

If your Camp receives a Form 990-EZ from the IRS, please follow the instructions prepared and distributed to each Camp by Department Council Chairman Richard Williams.

**17.** I am honored that some of you have asked me to consider serving a third term as Department Commander but I have recently been assigned to some additional tasks by our Commander-in-Chief and am compelled to *pass the torch* to another able Brother. Likewise, the multiple tasks being performed by Brother Richard Williams at the Camp, Department, and National levels will prompt him to forego returning to the Department Council. As I announced at the Mid-winter Conference, Department Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lee wishes to have a change-of-pace and will not be returning to either of these roles.

Therefore, we will be having several of our *elected* officer positions open and in need for Brothers of our Department to step forward and take a turn at. I sincerely hope that many of you will be willing to do so. Departments exist to serve their Camps as a liaison with the National Organization and I feel that all of us who have been able to help with duties at the Camp level should also consider a tour-of-duty with the Department.

Brother Mark Pangburn, Chairman of the Department Nominating Committee, has solicited nominations from each Camp, for the 2000-2001 *elected* Department Officers. Working with the returned responses, the committee will assure that each candidate is fully aware of the duties and responsibilities of the position he is interested in, and then present a full slate of candidates at the Department Encampment.

**18.** Our 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment will take place on Saturday, May 6, at the **Clarion Hotel**, 3600 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo. A map and directions are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Registration will take place from 8:00 to 9:15 am in the hall, outside the Normandy-A Room. You may pre-register for \$5 (see form elsewhere) or pay \$8 on site. For the benefit of first-

time delegates, you need to report to the registration desk and present your *Credential Card* (issued to you by your Camp Secretary) whether you pre-registered or not. You will then be recorded as a qualified voter and receive your nametag and Encampment Ribbon.

Please note that per the National Constitution & Regulations (C&R), "*A Camp which fails to pay its per capita tax or other indebtedness or fails to make reports, shall not be entitled to representation in Department Encampments.*"

"Membership of the Department Encampment" is defined in the Constitution and Regulations – Regulations, Chapter II (Departments), Article II (Membership), Section 1. In addition to Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Department Commanders, the Current Department Commander, and Past Camp Commanders, a Camp is allowed to be represented by its current Camp Commander and an automatic delegate – plus "*one additional delegate for every ten members, or major fraction thereof, based upon the report for the quarter next preceding the Encampment.*"

We'll be meeting in the "Normandy – A" room. The Opening Ceremony will start at 9:30 am. I look forward to your company and assistance with moving our Department forward.

For those who will not be able to attend the National Encampment, this will be an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with our Commander-in-Chief, Danny L. Wheeler.

**19.** Camp delegations are encouraged to bring their Camp Flag (and stand) for honorable display of "Camp Colors" during the Department Encampment and the Dinner that follows.

**20.** All Brothers (and guests) are encouraged to attend the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Dinner, hosted by the Woman's Relief Corps, following the Encampment. A combined G.A.R. Memorial Service begins in the Banquet Room ("Normandy – C and Brittany – C") at 6:00 pm, with the meal served at approximately 6:30 pm. The Guest Speaker's topic will be the *Sultana Disaster*.

Required reservations for the Lunch and Dinner Buffets are available by *advance sales only* (see form elsewhere).

**21.** National Encampment Delegates from Michigan will also be elected at our Annual Department Encampment. As Michigan will host the SUVCW's National Encampment this year, I hope that we will be able to fill our maximum number of seats (consult Constitution and Regulations – Regulations, Chapter III (National Organization), Article II (Membership), Section 1 for the criteria on delegates to a National Encampment). Those attending will find a pre-registration form, plus lodging and banquet reservation information in the next issue of *The Banner*. Department of Michi-

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## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR*

Gregory Hayes

Brothers,

As stated in the Department Bylaws, it is hoped that every Camp can obtain three flags - National, State and Camp. Although this information has been given out before, I thought I would provide the information on obtaining flags again. The National Encampment will provide an opportunity to talk with those Brothers from other Departments that actually make Camp flags. I would urge all the Brothers to attend. A state flag is obtained by contacting your local representative.

To obtain an American Flag that has been flown over the capitol in Washington, D.C., a letter is sent to one of our Michigan Senators. Note that you can ask for the flag to be flown on a particular day before it is sent to you. Even for those Camps that already have their National Colors, having a flag that was flown for example, on Memorial Day, would give special significance to it's use in parades or ceremonies.

To order a flag, send a letter to the Senator of choice in Washington with the following information:

1. Where the flag is to be sent.
2. Phone Number of Person ordering the Flag.
3. If you want this flag flown over the Capitol, name(s) to appear on Certificate.
4. Occasion for which flag is being flown.
5. Date Flag is to be flown. *Note - If date is specified, order must be received four weeks prior to date on which the flag is to be flown.*

Costs:                   3' x 5' nylon \$7.50  
                               3' x 5' cotton \$8.25  
                               5' x 8' nylon \$17.50  
                               5' x 8' cotton \$18.75

Plus:                   (\$4.05/flag) Postage  
                               (\$4.00/flag) Flag Flying Fee

Make out a check or money order for the total cost of your order, payable to the: *Keeper of the Stationery.*

If you have any questions on this, please feel free to contact me. My phone number is (810) 735-9283. Or you can e-mail me at [Dayhayes@aol.com](mailto:Dayhayes@aol.com).

*CHAPLAIN*

William McAfee

Memo to all current (and potential) Camp Chaplains:

Gentlemen,

When we took our oaths of office as Chaplains, we accepted certain responsibilities. I know many of you have taken that oath seriously and are carrying out the duties of your office in a most respectful manner. However, it will hurt none of us to review the highlights of our job descriptions and the ritual obligation occasionally.

1. Conduct devotions/prayer at meetings;
2. Officiate at funerals and conduct grave site services for Brothers "and important dignitaries";
3. Conduct memorials for grave dedication/rededication ceremonies of veterans, esp., Union veterans;
4. Serve as custodian of the Camp Bible unless it is otherwise assigned;
5. Prepare an "annual necrology of Camp Brothers and submitting the list to Department Chaplain" (Would anyone like to venture a guess as to how many reports I received this year?)\*;
6. Serve as coordinator of the Camp's Memorial Day ceremony [*The Time is Here & Now!*];
7. Offer comfort and consolation to the afflicted; and
8. Demonstrate the proper and reverential feeling which should always be assumed by those who approach the Throne of God.

\* There is now a new form available for reporting deaths of Brothers. It exists both in hardcopy and on our departmental website. A copy of the former was in the packet your Camp Commander received from the Mid-winter Conference.

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

*THE MICHIGAN DIVISION*  
*SONS OF VETERANS IN 1889*

A *Veteran Soldier's and Sailor's Hand-book* which listed all local units of veteran's organizations and their allied organizations was printed by the Detroit Tribune in 1889. According to it, the Michigan Division (Department), Sons of Veterans had 142 Camps and numbered some 3,100 members.

*Information provided by Gary Gibson, PDC*

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 6)

gan Signals Officer Wallace is working to provide an online registration form via the website, too.

**22.** *Red, White, and Blue* will soon be everywhere as we observe Memorial Day. No matter how many, or how few activities you take part in, I salute all our Brothers who make the effort to honor their membership pledge - "always to observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day (May 30<sup>th</sup>), sacred to the memory of the Union Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 to 1865 and to do all in my power to persuade others to do the same."

Elsewhere in the Messenger, please find a Memorial Day message from 100 years ago, courtesy of research by Brother Douglas Armstrong. It is interesting to see how the evolving "American-Lifestyle" of 1900 was affecting observances on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the turn of the last century.

**23.** All Brothers are encouraged to proudly display our country's flag on all of the upcoming holidays and patriotic dates. Please consult the U.S. Flag Code (that I have distributed to each Camp) for dates and proper methods of display. Thank you.

Camps are also encouraged to utilize the tri-fold "Flag Facts" handout that was approved at last year's National Encampment. While these are not yet available from the National Quartermaster, I have been given permission to print samples from the prototype design that I submitted. These are a popular item with the public in my locale, as I have had to restock the pamphlet display racks at my hometown's City Hall and Public Library. I will get a starter-supply out to each Camp and ask your consideration to utilize this public-relations handout for the SUVCW.

**24.** With the return of Spring and Summer weather, I encourage all Brothers to consider helping with our *Graves Registration* and *Civil War Memorial Assessment Projects*. These programs represent some of the most important work of our Order.

**25.** PC-in-C Keith Harrison reports that this year's Remembrance Ceremony and program at the Grand Rapids Veterans facility has been scaled back to a single day observance - scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup>. More info to follow.

**26.** More information on the August 17 - 20 National SUVCW Encampment will be shared in the next *Messenger* and Brother John Mann will also be distributing information on the special National Encampment booklet that he will be editing and printing for us. Fraternal Greetings are encouraged from each Camp in our Department (ad space and fees will be conveyed to each Camp by Bro. Mann).

**27.** Looking further ahead, this year's *Central Region Conference* has been scheduled for Saturday, September 30, in Valparaiso, Indiana. More details will be shared as they become available.

**28.** My sincere gratitude and compliments go out to all Department and Camp Officers, who it has been my pleasure to work with. It has been a privilege and honor to serve two terms as Commander of this great Department and I will be forever proud of what we have accomplished together.

By Order of:

**Kent Armstrong**  
Department Commander

Attest:

## THANK YOU

Mr. William B. McAfee

23 January, 2000

Dear Bill:

Thank you for having the January issue of Michigan's Messenger sent to me. Your article nicely summarizes the efforts of many people who made November 13, 1999, a very special day for the Alber family, residents of Oregon Township, and all those who were in attendance. The memorial service was solemn and deeply moving, and the Alber family is very grateful for the participation of the sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Please express the family's gratitude to the members of your fine organization.

Sincerely yours,

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

*Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman*

On October 23, 1899 this letter was written from the Benicia Arsenal in California to the Charles E. Grisson Post 156 in St. Johns, Michigan.

*Mr. J. L. Ring, Commander  
C. E. Grisson Post G.A.R.  
St. Johns, Michigan.*

*Sir: I am instructed by the Chief Of Ordnance, U.S.A., to issue to you one 30-pdr Parrott Rifle. As this is to be without expense to the United States, please advise me by what route shipment shall be made and at what point the charges for transportation will be paid.*

*Respectfully,  
A. Mordecai  
Col. Ord. Dept., U.S.A.  
Commanding.*

This announcement appeared in the November 2, 1899 issue of The Clinton Republican. The article states that this was in response to a two-year effort by the Charles E. Grisson Post to secure the cannon after Congress decided to assign obsolete ordnance to cities of the United States. The transportation charges for the 4200-pound cannon were \$147.00 and a caisson was constructed for a cost of \$200.00.

The following year, one hundred years ago this July 4<sup>th</sup>, the cannon was dedicated by the Post and placed on the Clinton County Courthouse grounds in St. Johns. The newspapers advertised it as "A Grand Celebration ...the good old fashioned kind...", with the "4200 lb. cannon booming a 14 round salute at sunrise and continuing to proclaim itself throughout the day." The cannon was drawn to the courthouse-square by a six-horse team and was said to be "a very pretty site". In attendance at the celebration was Captain Allen, Department Commander of the Michigan G.A.R., who's oration was "...teemed with patriotic and noble thoughts from beginning to end and was listened to with rapt attention by the large gathering." Also in attendance were local orator W. A. Norton, The Honorable, Judge S. B. Daboll and many Civil War Veterans of the surrounding area. The day continued with the singing of "Hail Columbia" and the "Star Spangled Banner" and also the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

At the dedication, the gun was given the name "Gov. Ping" in honor of then, State Governor Pingree who was instrumental in the procurement of the cannon. The name of the gun, at the time was intended to be "...by which it is to be known through all time to come". This, regrettably, was not to be the case. Today not only is the cannon missing from the courthouse-

square but also the courthouse itself. The Courthouse, built in 1869, was raised in 1998 to make room for a new County facility to be opened later this spring on the same square. *Ah Progress.* The cannon's fate is still at this time, material for my further research. It is my thought that it was likely melted down during the scrap drives of either World Wars, by which many of these monuments met their demise.

## MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER EDITOR

*John Mann*

On the back page of this newsletter you will find information pertaining to the National Encampment Program Book. These books are printed for each National Encampment. The purpose of the book is to: *first*, serve as a means of information for the Delegates of the Allied Orders concerning the agendas for the weekend; *second*, serve as a means of recognizing the National Officers, both elected and appointed, for their work in the past year; and *third*, serve as a means of income through the sales of ads for the host Department to help finance the National Encampment.

Hosting a National Encampment is an expensive proposition, and although the host Department does receive some funds from the National to help cover the expenses incurred, it is never enough to fully fund the hosting of the National Encampment. Thus, the sale of ads in the Program Book.

Initially, the Department was going to have the book printed commercially. A preliminary report was made to the attendees of the Mid-Winter Conference of the cost, some \$1100. After the conference, the committee got together and it was decided we could do it "in house" for about half the quoted cost, after making a few changes in the design (8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 11 instead of 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and using comb style binding), securing the use of binding machine, *gratis*, and using volunteer labor.

If we receive enough ads, we can pay all the bills incurred from hosting the National Encampment and wind up with a profit. The extra money can then be used to fund some worthy projects within our Department, such as the memorial and statue restoration that some of our Camps are taking on.

Please help to support *your* Department by taking out an ad in the Official Program Book. The ads can memorialize an ancestor (doesn't have to be a Civil War veteran) or a deceased comrade of your Camp. Or congratulate C-in-C Danny Wheeler on a successful year in office. You may also advertise asking for information concerning a regiment or brigade, for items to add to your collection of memorabilia or anything else connected with the Civil War. The cost isn't much and your support of our Order will be noted by all of the Delegates and National Officers to the 2000 National Encampment.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## OUR TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN

*Recap by the Department Commander*

Immediately after the *Pledge of Allegiance* at our Midwinter Conference, we wished a "Happy Birthday" to President Lincoln. [With February 12 falling on a Saturday this year, we were able to meet right on the 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.] The *Pledge* itself, had extra significance that day, too. Thinking of President Lincoln and all of the brave men who answered his call to *Save the Union*, makes the following words all the more special (the Republic / one Nation / indivisible).

As February 12<sup>th</sup> was chosen by the G.A.R. to be **Union Defenders Day**, we focused briefly on the meaning behind this observance before getting down to the business of the conference (most points covered in Department Orders No. 4, Item 11). After the traditional "roundtable-exchange" between Dept. Officers and their Camp level counterparts, we welcomed our Guest Speaker, Dr. Weldon E. Petz of *General Ulysses S. Grant Camp 101*, whose *slide-talk* focused on G.A.R. Monuments and other Civil War related memorials across Michigan.

It was the SUVCW's turn to host this year's "George Washington – Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner" that we annually share with the *Sons of the Revolution* in Michigan. Therefore, on President Lincoln's birthday, what better topic for our Dinner Speaker than Dr. Petz's *slide-talk* on "Michigan's Monumental Tribute to Abraham Lincoln?"

Dr. Petz became interested in the life of Abraham Lincoln at an early age and has been a serious student and collector of Lincoln related material since the mid 1930s. Over the years, his collection of Lincoln memorabilia has grown to several thousand items that include: books, manuscripts, pamphlets, photographs, paintings, plaques, medallions, and statues which are now housed at the Plymouth Historical Museum in Plymouth, Michigan.

In addition to his Doctoral work at *Wayne State University*, Dr. Petz earned a Doctorate in History from *Lincoln Memorial University*. He was the 52<sup>nd</sup> recipient of LMU's *Lincoln Diploma of Honor* in 1972. Others who have received this honor include Raymond Massey, Robert Sherwood, Carl Sandburg, Allen Nevins and Bruce Catton.

Dr. Petz has become a well-known Lincoln Scholar, presenting over 3500 lectures at universities, public schools, historical societies and Civil War Round Tables. We are proud to have him as a Life Member of the SUVCW and our

Department has recognized Brother Petz and his accomplishments with our *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation*.

An addition to ice cream for dessert was a taste of "Abraham Lincoln's favorite white cake" (recipe courtesy of Ohio's Junior Vice Department Commander, Don Darby).

Dinner attendees also received a copy of an unpublished letter that President Lincoln wrote on March 13, 1864 to the "first free-state Governor of Louisiana," the Honorable Michael Hahn. A co-worker of mine found the letter in some old books that he bought and has had it authenticated. It was quite a treat for me to hold the original, that had once been in President Lincoln's hands.

Last but not least, are my thanks to PDC Jim Pahl for joining me in supplying door prizes for the occasion. [We won't hold it against him, that he won one.]

## UNION DEFENDER'S DAY

*By James T. Lyons, PDC  
Curtenius Guard Camp 17*

A number of people have asked what Union Defender's Day is, not having heard the term before.

This was the designation given to Abraham Lincoln's birthday by the Grand Army of the Republic. It is symbolic of their view of Lincoln's role as the Civil War began. The President's desire, first and foremost, was for the preservation of the Union. Other considerations came into play as time and the war moved onward.

They observed this day with ceremonies and patriotic exercises. We as their successors were urged to do likewise.

In the 1939 Ritual and Ceremonies there are three Ceremonial Occasions designated for Camps to observe. The first was Union Defender's Day. The second was Veteran's Night, now designated Remembrance Day, commemorating the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863.

Finally was Memorial Day, with the direction that preparatory to May 30, at a regular meeting appropriate exercises comprising a patriotic program should be conducted.

Thus was laid out the key dates around which our activities should be employed to keep green the memory of those who sacrificed so that the nation might survive. If we, as the

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*GRAVES REGISTRATION**John Obermeyer*

The Department Graves Registration database is now up to 18,200+ records. We would like to thank all those Camps that are helping to contribute to this project.

We would like to especially thank the Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427. Within the last several months they have submitted several hundred Graves Registration Forms - complete and legible!. Most of these bore the signature of Brother Richard Danes. The Department truly appreciates their/his effort.

On the subject of "completeness" - quite often what we receive is simply a list of Civil War Soldiers buried at a given cemetery. While these are gladly accepted, the purpose of the Program is to record not only the location, but the condition of the grave site as well. Please take note of all the information requested on the Graves Registration Forms.

We recommend that all Camp Graves Registration Officers become familiar with two books published by the Library of Michigan: The Michigan Cemetery Atlas, and the Michigan Cemetery Source Book. These two books clarify two sources of confusion: 1) a single cemetery within a County being known by several different names, and 2) several cemeteries within the same County being known by the same name. The Dept now uses the Alpha/Code indicated by these books.

We would also ask that GR Forms submitted, contain the Soldiers' enlistment/discharge dates as well. We cannot send them on to the National Graves Registration Officer without this information. Currently, we are asking the Brothers of Camp 1 and the Sisters of the Eva Gray Tent, DUVCW to help fill in this information. (The "Brown Books" at the Grand Rapids Library are really getting a workout!)

We would also like to be able to record each Soldiers grave "locator" - the Section/Plot/Grave locator within the Cemetery. This locator, in conjunction with the maps we are trying to acquire from each cemetery, will allow us to easily find a given Soldier's grave site.

We have the ability to generate printouts sorted by Name, Cemetery or Regiment. If a Camp would like to see what we currently have on record for the County within their Area of Responsibility, please contact the Department Graves Registration Officer.

*SIGNALS OFFICER**David F. Wallace, PDC*

Fraternal greetings to all my Brothers of the Department of Michigan. Since stepping in to this position, I've been updating several of the pages on the Department's website. Currently, the "Cyber Pickets" page is being updated and I encourage you to list your e-mail address. If your address is already up as a "Cyber Picket", please take a moment to review it and ensure that it's correct. I've received e-mails from several Camps with their Officer Updates for this term. The Department Secretary has also provided me with copies of Form 22, so most of the Camp information should be updated shortly - remember, each Camp is allotted a one page basic listing or a link to its home page on the Department website so make sure that you're sending in your current information.

*Michigan's Messenger* is up in "e-format" on the website and can be linked to from the main page. Please note that it is in "frames" format. There are also informational links to the Department and National Encampments. A form has been added that will notify the Department of the passing of a Brother. It can be found under the Department Headquarters link, Chaplain's link. Finally, the Calendar of Events has been updated. If your Camp has a special event that you'd like to call attention to, please send me the information so that I can list it on the calendar.

One note on transferring files. If at all possible, please compress the files using a program like WinZip®. This will ensure that the data you send is the data I receive. You can download a copy of the WinZip® program from the WinZip website. Also, if you are interested in developing your web skills, there are several sites online. Here's a couple of good ones:

HTML Writer's Guild can be found at: <http://www.hwg.org>  
SmartPlanet can be found at: <http://www.smartplanet.com>  
(note: this used to be ZDUniversity).

AOL also has a site within its computing and education links. There are lots of tutorial sites and links out there in cyberspace that you can access to assist with HTML.

In closing, thanks to Brother Dan Doyle of the Austin Blair Camp for assisting as the "Communications Committee".

Contact me at: [dfwsuvcw@aol.com](mailto:dfwsuvcw@aol.com)

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 CAMP NEWS
 

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### *AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7*

*by Bob Hoffman*

If it has been a while since you visited Camp 7's web site, let us invite you to visit us again at: <http://suvcw.org/mi/007home.html>. There you will find the excellent work that our Signals Officer Dan Doyle has done. Brother Doyle has listed each member of the Camp along with the member's picture and a quick reference to the member's Civil War Ancestor, along with a bulletin board and calendar of events. Great job, Dan.

At the January meeting it was brought to the Camps attention that the City of Jackson is planning a construction project in Blackman Park near the General Pritchard Monument. Concern was expressed by several of the members that a GAR memorial stone in that area would be damaged or removed. In response to a letter from the Camp Commander the Jackson City Manager invited Camp 7 to send representatives to the Blackman Park Committee meetings to express our thoughts in the matter.

Past Camp Commander Bill Lowe, our current Graves Registration Officer, reports on several instances that the Camp's graves registration data base has been of benefit to other researchers. He cites one instance in which a lady had searched more than a dozen cemeteries trying to locate an ancestor before contacting the Camp. In thirty seconds Brother Lowe was able locate the grave and verify the information she already had.

Our "True Son", Thayne is wintering in Florida, Max Miller was there on a visit and reports that Thayne is doing well. He uses a walker to help get around, but if I know him they will have to replace the wheel bearings in that walker soon.

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

*by Douglas Armstrong*

Camp 58 is saddened by the recent passing of Brother Lowell Spry. Brother Spry was the great, great nephew of Private Thomas Spry who served with Company H of the 71<sup>st</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Lowell, a veteran himself, served his country in the U.S. Army with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Brother Spry joined our Camp as a transfer from Camp 17 in September of 1995 and was helpful in developing Camp 58's By-Laws. He will be missed.

At our January meeting we welcomed Dennis Felton and Bruce Linton as new Brothers of Camp 58. We will also soon initiate Brother Bob Knowles from Associate status to that of Member due to his family's genealogy research. Department Commander Armstrong was present again this year to perform the installment of the Camp's newly elected officers. The following Brothers were installed into their elected positions:

Commander, Douglas Armstrong; Senior Vice Commander, Kim Altvater; Junior Vice Commander, Thomas Dingle; Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Pangburn; Camp Council, Bruce Fech, Bob Knowles, and David Thompson; Camp Delegate to the Department Encampment, Kim Altvater.

Camp 58 is proud to report that the City of DeWitt has installed a light to shine on the Flag above the G.A.R. section in the DeWitt Cemetery. The National Colors that our Camp donated for the new flagpole can now be flown continuously day and night above the Civil War Veterans buried there and the monument they erected to the Unknown Dead of the Civil War.

We have again been invited to participate along with other veteran's organizations in Memorial Day observances at Wacousta, DeWitt and St. Johns. Plans will be made at our upcoming meeting to attend all three.

### *GOV. CRAPO ~ CAMP 145*

*by David F. Wallace, PDC*

The Camp held its Officer Installation at a breakfast meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison did the honors of installing Commander Shaw and his administration. Brothers Mark D. Schmidt and David F. Wallace, PDC, were the recipients of the John W. Campbell Award, an award given out by the Camp in recognition of exemplary service to the Camp and the Order. The award is named in memory of John Wallace Campbell, a Real Son and Brother of the Camp. The Brothers of the Camp observed Abraham Lincoln's birthday at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Camp with a cake and coffee. The Camp was pleased to "muster-in" a new Brother, Kenneth Seger, at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commander Shaw is focusing the Camp on the Aventine Cemetery/Historic Camp Thomson Project for this year. Aventine Cemetery is an abandoned cemetery within the City of Flint, which the Brothers of the Camp maintain. There are 34 Comrades of the Gov. Crapo Post No. 145, Grand Army of the Republic, buried there, along with veterans of the Spanish-American War, World Wars I & II, and the Korean War, and one Brother of the Sons of Veterans, USA. The cemetery lies within the boundaries of Camp Thomson, the Civil War training camp for several Michigan regiments during the winter of 1861-62. The Camp is seeking historic designation from the State of Michigan for the Camp Thomson site. You can find more information regarding this project at our Camp's website: <http://www.gfn.org/suvmi145/>

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

*by Rick Danes*

Dearborn — On January 30, Department Commander Kent Armstrong honored our Camp by initiating new officers. Elected during a December 1999 annual meeting were: Jerry

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 CAMP NEWS
 

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Olson, Commander; Rick Danes, Senior Vice Commander and Secretary; Jerry Thomason, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, and appointed to Chaplain. Retiring because of poor health was Commander Rick Carden. Appointed to offices were: Erik France, Camp Council; Jeffrey Montminy, Camp Council and Patriotic Instructor; Aaron Schraeder, Camp Council and Guard. We also initiated Brother Willard Grant as a new member.

In January of 1999, the Camp was saddened by the passing of Brother Warren E. Carden, a grandson of Corporal Edward O'Brien, Company A, 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Cavalry (Civil War) and 7<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry (Indian Wars). Carden was a Charter member of Camp 427, and father of Retired Commander Rick Carden.

The Camp participated in many service-oriented activities during the year, beginning with a goal of having all cemeteries in Wayne County outside of Detroit surveyed for Veteran's graves by year-end 1999. The group grossly over-achieved this goal, completing not only that part of Wayne County, but all of Macomb County as well. To date, Camp 427 has documented over 1500 gravesites of veterans of all wars from the Revolutionary to the Spanish American. While identifying gravesites, a good added activity was the location and documentation of all donated ordinance located in our area. The Camp found the location of all except two "unknowns" in the area.

On May 2, we organized and participated in a rededication of the gravesite of Private Lemuel Blount, Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Cavalry at Newburg Cemetery in Livonia. Joining us was the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry Re-enactors, several State SUVCW Officers, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regimental Band. The Blount family brought relatives from all over the country to celebrate this event. Memorial Day was spent in uniform conducting services and placing flags at Wallaceville Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.

During the year, we made our presence known by providing service to one of our benefactors, the Dearborn Historical Society and Museum. During many of their special events we participated in uniform as guides or as interpreters of the Commandant's Headquarters.

Our calendar for the year 2000 is planned as follows:

Feb 6	Provide service to the Museum at the Annual Antique Show, Dearborn
Mar 26	Camp Meeting, Commandant's Headquarters
May 26	Camp Meeting, Commandant's Headquarters
May 30	Service and Flag placement
Jun 3-4	Service at Dearborn "Art on the Avenue"
Jun 10-11	Recruitment, Rendezvous on the Rouge, Dearborn
Jul 30	Camp Meeting, Commandant's Headquarters
Sep 24	Camp Meeting, Commandant's Headquarters
Nov 11	Service and Flag Placement
Nov 26	Camp Meeting and elections, Commandant's

Headquarters  
Provide Service at Dearborn Holiday on the Avenue  
Dec Annual Dinner

### CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180

by Bill McAfee

Spring is coming and we are getting ready for April 15. Nothing to do with taxes (perish the thought!). We are going to be supporting Brother John Delcamp with the Muster at Ypsilanti that day. First of all, we want to have a recruiting table in the center of activity, even as it moves with the program. The day is laid out as follows:

10:00 am: March/Walk from *Riverside Park* (Depot Town) to *Highland Cemetery* where we will be stationed to give historic information on some of the many Civil War veterans buried there.  
Noon: Memorial Ceremony at the *WRC Monument* in Highland.  
2:00 pm: *5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regiment Band Concert* at Depot Town Plaza.  
3:00 pm: Reenactment of *The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain* at Riverside Park.  
7:00 pm: Military Ball at Depot Town's historic *Freight House*.

You're all invited and encouraged to attend and participate, or just enjoy. If you want to join in the reenactment, contact Brother Delcamp at (734) 483-1296 (evenings). If you want to help at the recruiting table, gravesites or the WRC Memorial, contact me (734) 572-3217 (evenings).

For our May 22 meeting, we plan to have Brother Lowe from Camp 7 meet us at the Lodi (Twp.) Cemetery for instruction on graves registration, inventory, rubbing, etc.

### GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1

by Bruce B. Butgereit

We can all probably remember our mother saying to us, "Don't talk with your mouth so full." Well please bear with all of us here at Camp #1, because we have taken quite a big bite into projects these recent months! And it will take some effort to be sure that we didn't have "eyes bigger than our stomachs," something else our mother was known to say, because we have a full plate of projects to work on.

One of the most important activities that the Camp will be putting together in the coming weeks will be the Ceremony of Remembrance, now only one day, 5 August 2000 (other activities are being discussed for Sunday but not finalized). The memorial service will be held in the am and a battle reenactment/skirmish in the pm. Held on the grounds of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, the Home is allowing re-

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 BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
 

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*LEO F. COHOON*87 years young on May 7<sup>th</sup>

Leo is a Charter Member of Wa-Bu-No Camp 53 in Shepherd, helping to form the Camp in 1985. He has served as Camp Commander and in several other Camp offices. In addition, Leo has also served the Department as Chaplain and Color Bearer. Brother Cohoon is the great grandson of Private John C. Buckenbachber (Buckenburger), 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Sharpshooters and Private Clark Wright, 12<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, Company F. He also had two great, grand uncles who served in the Civil War, Private Benjamin A. Cohoon, Company K, 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry and Corporal Stephen Cohoon, Company M, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. Leo is a veteran of WWII, seeing duty in the Army Air Corps.




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*Has Brother in your Camp reached or surpassed the 75 year mark? If so, send in his name, birth date, the year he joined the SUVCW, the Camp he is a member of, his ancestor (if a Member) and the ancestor's regiment or ship, along with a current photo of the Brother, if possible, so he may be honored in the Department newsletter in an issue close to his birthday.*

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## CAMP NEWS

*(Continued from page 13)*

enactors to set-up on Friday (4<sup>th</sup>) and stay until Sunday (6<sup>th</sup>). The cemetery has over 2,500 Civil War soldiers buried there.

*(Continued on page 14)*

Efforts are underway and research being conducted in preparation for two memorial services to honor John Norton, a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient and Francis E. Hall, Past Commander SUVCW. Hall also dedicated much of his life to grave registration and veterans research and was honored with a Civil War veteran's marker although he never served (b. 1884). The tentative plans for the Norton ceremony is 12 August 2000, Hall's date is not yet set.

Of course, grave registration requires much diligence and dedication, but is a project well worth the effort. Commander Obermeyer recently passed out regimental printouts that the Camp membership is working on to clarify dates, names, etc. for accuracy.

But probably the biggest, and most challenging of all the projects, is the restoration of the Kent County Soldiers monument/fountain in Grand Rapids. The 30-foot tall monument was dedicated in 1885 with Lt. General Phil Sheridan in attendance. For 115 years, the Union soldier atop the monument has stood guard at his post with little fanfare or attention.

From what began as a report on the monument as the Camp's Patriotic Instructor, came the idea that something ought to be done for the monument/fountain. I researched the history of the monument in the local library and found much available on microfilm. From there, a feasibility study was conducted as to what could be done, how it could be done, and what it would cost. Questions were asked, quotes requested, and a meeting with the mayor of Grand Rapids gave us the permission necessary to begin working on the project. At our February meeting, the membership voted unanimously to accept the challenge of raising the funds necessary to do the work, estimated at nearly \$7,500 for a new coat of paint.

It was at the Mid-Winter Conference, and after listening to the fine program presented by Dr. Weldon Petz, that Commander Obermeyer and I decided to look into more than just "slapping another coat of paint" on our monument. After more questions were asked, I was able to obtain the name of a conservator from Cincinnati, Ohio, who specializes in monument restoration, for a quote. Unfortunately, the expense of restoring the monument to nearly original specs is nearly \$200,000, and combined with other projects involved in the restoration, the total needed funds will be near \$240,000. When compared to the \$2,500 quote on just painting the monument again, this is a rather substantial project to undertake, but oh the rewards!

At our March meeting, the Camp agreed that even though there

HISTORY

FORT GRATIOT BUILDING SURVIVES

by Randy Maxfield, Commander George W. Howe Camp 9

In May of 1998, the author read an article by Jessie Halladay in the Port Huron Times Herald newspaper concerning a surviving structure of the Fort Gratiot Military Post.

Fort Gratiot had been built in 1814, roughly where today's Blue Water Bridge stands, to guard the entrance to Lake Huron. General Meade, of Gettysburg fame, drafted the layout of the fort, and the 27th Michigan trained and garrisoned the fort prior to heading off to war. After the fort's abandonment in 1879, the buildings were sold for civilian use and moved away. One building, about 30' x 50', had served first as Officers Quarters, then as Post Hospital. It too was moved to a new and nearby street and divided to make two adjacent homes.

Time passed and memories faded, but in 1985 these building's histories were discovered. One had been remodeled and maintained, while the other was abandoned; its hand hewed construction slowly decaying. Interest in saving the building existed, but without means.

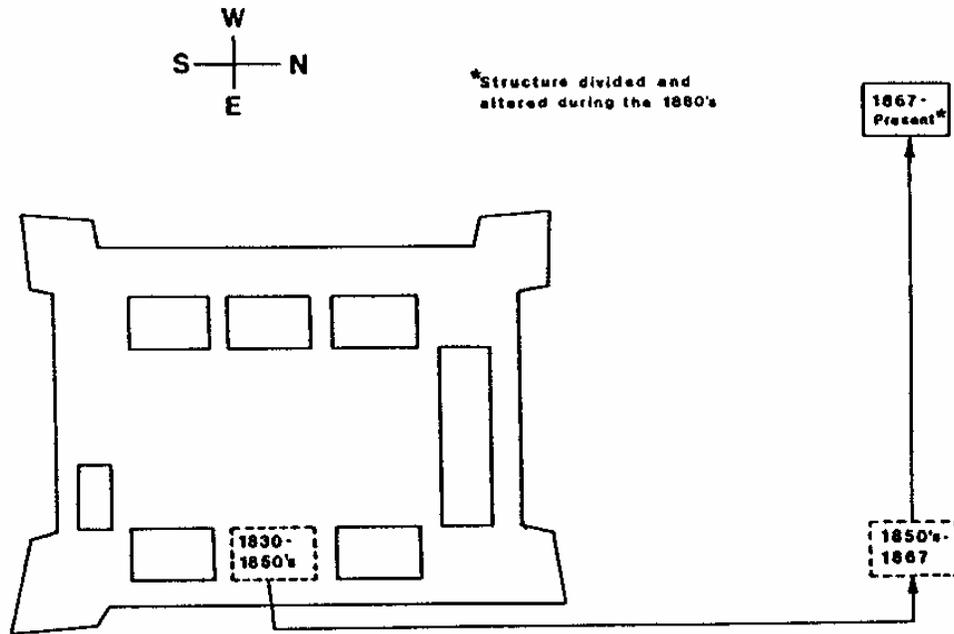
At Camp 9's January 1999 meeting, yours truly shared the Times Herald article with the membership, and suggested we get involved. It was decided we would. The owner of the building, Mr. Don Reynolds, was discovered and letters of proposal were sent. Mr. Bruce Hawkins, the archeologist who had discovered the building gave us an insightful lecture.

In November of 1999, the building was given to the Port Huron Museum, for movement to their grounds and restoration. Although the fort's building's original footings have been located, they are today on prime water-front real estate and ground of concern to the Native American community.

In concert with museum volunteers headed by Eric Naetzel, several workdays at the building have been accomplished. The interior has been gutted of modern walls, a modern lean-to removed and the roof patched. For our Camp's efforts in the recovery of this building, Museum Director Steve Williams has invited our Camp to hold our meetings there. The building was originally two large rooms; we envision it restored that way, with one for the Camp's permanent use and the other for Fort Gratiot/Civil War displays. Come see it when we're done, you won't be disappointed.

Of course, restorations of this magnitude are not inexpensive; any sized donations would be appreciated and can be sent to:

Special Fund, % Bob Gardner, Treasurer George W. Howe Camp 9 5200 Pte. Drive E. China, Michigan 48054



PLAN OF FORT GRATIOT SHOWING THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL/OFFICERS QUARTERS STRUCTURE

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

*SILAS B. COMPTON*

First Sergeant  
Company B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry

Great, Great Grandfather

*ROBERT J. COMPTON*

Private  
Company B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry

Great, Great, Grand Uncle

of

Garry Redding, Jr.  
Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1

Robert J. Compton was born 1838 in New York, probably the son of John P.<sup>1</sup> and Eliza (Woodruff), he was 23 years old and living in Lamont, Ottawa County, Michigan,<sup>2</sup> when he enlisted in B Company, probably with his younger brother Silas. He was missing in action at White Oak Swamp, Virginia in July (probably on July 1) of 1862, and returned to the Regiment on August 6 at Harrison's Landing, Virginia. He was wounded on July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and was sent to one of the hospitals in Philadelphia,<sup>3</sup> where he was possibly employed as a nurse and remained absent sick from July of 1863 through January of 1864. He was wounded slightly in the arm sometime in early May<sup>4</sup> and admitted on May 11, 1864, to Mt. Pleasant hospital in Washington, probably from a Fredericksburg hospital, but his injury was "not sufficient ... to be retained in ward." He was mustered out of service on June 20, 1864. After his discharge he may have been working as a laborer in Moorland, Muskegon County, Michigan in 1866 when he became a member of G.A.R. Sperry Post 337 in Ravenna, Muskegon County. He was living in Ravenna when he became a member of the Old Third Association in 1887, and at one time may have been a member of G.A.R. Williams Post 15 in Ludington, Mason County, Michigan. He was living in Moorland in 1888, 1890, and 1894.

Silas H. Compton was born 1843 in Chemung, New York. He stood 5'8" with blue eyes, dark hair and a dark complexion. Silas came to Michigan with his

family between 1855 and 1860 when he was living with his family in Tallmadge,<sup>5</sup> Ottawa County, Michigan. He was 18 years old and living in Tallmadge when he enlisted in B Company, probably with his older brother Robert.

On October 9, 1961, Silas wrote to his aunt, H.M. Wells, from Arlington Heights, Virginia. "We had heavy rain here night before last and the wind blew a perfect storm. The ground was soft and the pins that hold [sic] our tents got loose so the wind like to have blown them away. In fact, we had to hang on and growl to keep our tents in camp. So much for being a soldier. The Fifth Regiment is encamped about a mile from here towards Munson's Hill. They got a big name here. They call themselves the fighting fifth. And I hope they will keep to their name for it is a good name if it is kept good. We hae [sic] also a good name for we call ourselves the basswood third, and I guess we can keep our name good in battle for we do everywhere else. Every regt has its name and so do we."<sup>6</sup>

Silas was reportedly absent sick in his quarters in November and December of 1861, and then again absent sick in a general hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, in August of 1862, admitted on August 23. He was reported as a corporal in November and December and a recipient of the Kearny Cross for his participation in the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia on May 3, 1863,<sup>7</sup> and on December 23, 1863 he was a

(Continued on page 17)

## PAGES FROM HISTORY

*FIRST POST OF THE G.A.R.*

The Saturday Evening Star, Jackson, MI, August 24, 1901

*Contributed by Mike Maillard**Austin Blair Camp 7*

The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 1866, by Major B.F. Stephenson, assisted by Captain John S. Phelps. The first post or encampment had twelve charter members.

The records of Post 1 were lost for many years and not until 1887 were they recovered, and then only in part. The records show that between April 6, 1866, and May 7, 1868, forty three meetings took place. Between the date of the first meeting and May 9, 1867, there were enrolled and mustered into Post 1 eighty comrades. The imperfect records of 1868 show the enrollment of two comrades.

After the organization of Post No. 1 at Decatur, Post No. 2 was organized at Springfield, Illinois, April 11, 1866, and others rapidly followed in different parts of the State of Illinois. Maj. Stephenson, acting as commander-in-chief, pushed the organization of posts and departments in other States. In this work he was assisted by Comrades Webber, Snyder, Woods, Lightfoot and Phelps, who composed his first staff. The only survivors of Post No. 1 now residents of Decatur are Captain M.F. Konan, ex-mayor and local capitalist, and Isaac W. Coltrin, who, although far advanced in years, is still a typesetter, employed on the Decatur Morning Herald. The other survivors are Captain Chris. Reibsome of Bloomington, Illinois, and John T. Bishop of Oil City, Pennsylvania.

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

*(Continued from page 16)*

corporal when he reenlisted at Brandy Station, Virginia, credit- ing Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan. He went home 30 days veterans' furlough in January of 1864, when he married Louisa Phinney, and probably returned to the Regiment on or about the first of February.

Silas was subsequently promoted to Sergeant on March 1, 1864, and suffered the loss of a middle finger when he was wounded in the hand<sup>8</sup> on May 6, 1864 at the Wilderness, Virginia. He was absent wounded when he was transferred to E Company, Fifth Michigan Infantry upon consolidation of the Third and Fifth Michigan Regiments on June 10, 1864; it is possible that he joined the Fifth Michigan and may have been wounded on August 1, 1864. On April 8, 1865, he was admitted to Armory Square hospital in Washington, diagnosed with *gonorrheal vegetatus*,<sup>9</sup> and it is unclear whether he was physically present with the Fifth Michigan when he was mustered out as First Sergeant on July 5, 1865 at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

After the war, Silas settled in New York State, and was possibly living in Schuyler County by 1867 when their son Frederick

was born. They were probably still living in Schuyler County in January 1870 when Silas, then working as a boatman on the Erie Canal was injured when he fell between two boats. He was reportedly taken to Bellevue Hospital where he died on February 2, 1870. Silas was buried in Cypress Hill National Cemetery.

1. In May of 1864 he had listed his nearest relative as John Compton in Lisbon, Ottawa County, Michigan.
2. He may have been working in Moorland, Muskegon County, Michigan.
3. *Grand Rapids Enquirer* July 22, 1863, p. 1, col. 2: "Michigan Wounded in the Hospitals at Philadelphia."
4. *Grand Rapids Eagle* May 24, 1864, p. 1, cols. 1-2: "Killed and Wounded in the Third."
5. According to Van Eyck's *Ottawa County in the Civil War*, p. 5.
6. Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.
7. *Official Records* series I, vol. 51, pp. 1279-80.
8. *Grand Rapids Eagle* May 24, 1864, p. 1, cols 1-2: "Killed and Wounded in the Third."

## PAGES FROM HISTORY

## G.A.R. 1914 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Bill Lowe, PCC  
Austin Blair Camp 7

With the recent article in the *Michigan History* magazine about the G.A.R. National Encampment in Detroit in 1914, the view of Detroit's hospitality through the eyes of an outsider might be of interest. My Great Uncle, Pvt. William Lowe, formerly of company C, 36<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry and the U.S. Signal Corps., attended as Department Commander of the Department of Missouri, leading their delegation; this is his report to their next Department Encampment:

"My next duty was at the National Encampment at Detroit. We left St. Louis by special train on the morning of Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and traveled all day over the beautiful States of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Like other comrades, I went from car to car, holding camp-fires in all, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. If it was enjoyed by all as it was by the Commander, it will be a day long to be remembered. The hospitable people of Detroit sprung a most gratifying surprise on us when we arrived there about eight o'clock in the evening. There was a platoon of Boy Scouts at the station sent there to act as our guides and bodyguards. Little soldiers they were, drilled and up-to-date in every particular, and with it all such perfect little gentlemen. They knew our wants before we realized them. They took our grips, and led us to the Hotel and in the morning when we came down, to our surprise, there they were, ready again to render us any service as guides, friends and aids for the city. They remained with us through the entire encampment. May the success of each of them in life be sweet in memories of the soldiers they served."

"Next day, in the afternoon, the committee provided a boat ride excursion around the island, which was most enjoyable. The scenery was beyond description for its beauty, but the feature that impressed itself most upon the minds of the boys was the sight we had of the Canadian soldiers drilling across the river. It brought back the days when we were preparing for war in our youth. It also brought to us visions, happily hidden from those young soldiers, of battles, of shot and shell, of muddy trenches, of the long hours of sentry duty, of sickness, of cripples, of death and sorrow and all the agonizing pangs of war, and our hearts turned with thankfulness to God that the peace we fought for had endured and gave promise of lasting far beyond our days on earth."

"We had idea weather for our parade on Wednesday. There was no dust, and a light, balmy breeze from the lake scattered the refreshing ozone among us, and the years fell from our shoulder, like the burden from the back of Christian as he approached the Holy City."

*Is the neglect of the true purpose of Memorial Day a modern day occurrence? The distractions from the proper observance Memorial Day occurred much earlier in our history than is currently thought, according to the following article taken from the April 5, 1900 edition of The Clinton Republican, a newspaper printed in St. Johns. Commander Peeler is Russell R. Peeler, Commander of the Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic, 1899/1900. The article was submitted by Douglas Armstrong of George W. Anderson Camp 58, DeWitt.*

## A DAY OF PATRIOTISM

### Popular Amusements Should be Discouraged on Memorial Day

Department Commander Peeler in General Orders No. 5, urges early arrangements for a proper observance on Memorial Day, May 30. He says, "This day should be kept not only as a memorial day, but as a day when our young should be taught the lessons of patriotism, when we should all again renew our devotion to the Union and pledge ourselves to the faithful discharge of our patriotic duties as patriotic citizens.

"Where such sporting programs are gotten up which engage the thought of our young and draw the people away from the Memorial services, the purposes for which the day was set apart are defeated.

"In behalf of all the surviving Union soldiers who placed their lives on the altar of their country to save this Union, not only for their own generation, but also for those who should come after them, and who wrought the victory which has brought such grand fruitage to us as a people, and given us the power and prestige we now enjoy and made this country a nation to be proud of, I ask all citizens to lend their influence toward securing the proper observance of this day. Whenever possible have the citizens take part in the management and services for this day. They have more vigor and are patriots as we, and if placed on the committees will gladly lend a helping hand."



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUVCW LICENSE PLATES IN MICHIGAN

by Jim Pahl, PDC  
Curtenius Guard Camp 17

Members of the Order from the Department of Maryland appeared at Remembrance day activities in Gettysburg with a newly issued SUVCW license plate. Following the example of the Department of Maryland, I looked into getting Michigan to produce SUVCW logo license plates.

The short version is that we need commitments to sell 500 license plates. The literature from the Secretary of State indicates 500 individuals, but I am assured by SOS people that 250 people that will take two plates each will count.

The process involves an initial application with assurance there are 500 plates committed and a \$500.00 application fee. The Secretary of State then designs the plate (we can submit our logos — they need to have a decal specially made). The plate becomes available, the 500 committed (and any other Brother in the Department) applies to their local SOS office to get their plate(s). There is a \$25.00 one time charge for each plate. The renew fee each year thereafter is the regular renewal fee.

If you are interested, please write to our Department Secretary/Treasurer with your intent to purchase how many plates. For each plate you request, enclose \$1.00. In this way, we can raise the \$500.00 application fee. Once we have 500 plates committed, we can apply. It would be great to have a parking lot full of Michigan SUVCW plates to greet our guests at the next National Encampment.

If for some reason we cannot make the 500 commitment, then in that event, the funds raised will be turned over to the Department's National Encampment committee to help pay for the National in Lansing this coming August. Let's show our support to remembering our civil war ancestors and the great Order we belong to that honors their sacrifice.



## VIET NAM MEMORIAL WALL

By Max Miller, PCC  
Austin Blair Camp 7

Coming to Jackson June 30-July 2 there is to be a very exciting and solemn exhibit. A 240-foot replica of the Viet Nam Wall will be on display at Ella Sharp Park. The display is known as the "Viet Nam Wall Experience-2000" and will be open to the public 24-hours a day with FREE admission. It is scheduled for only three stops in Michigan; Muskegon, Jackson and Detroit and will then leave the state for Maine. In Jackson, it is being sponsored by the Jackson County Veteran's Council, Roseland Memorial Gardens, Charles Burden & Son Funeral Home and Patience Montgomery Funeral Home. Many volunteers are needed in many areas of service for this to be the success it deserves to be.

Brother Bill Lowe and I attended the Jackson County Veteran's Council meeting on February 1, where we first learned of this project. A sponsor's representative gave us an overall view of the project to get things rolling. Because of the size and scope of the project, they must start now to bring it to fruition on June 30. Just a few of the areas in which volunteers are needed are: set-up and take-down, security, media, programs, displays, lighting and sound, assistance in locating names and rubbings.

Set-up will be on June 29 and take-down on July 3. If possible plan to spend special time as a volunteer on this project. Naturally, more volunteers are needed for set-up and take-down than for public assistance, etc. at 2:00 am. As of this writing, the number of volunteers and hours of need are not set. If you are interested in volunteering, please send your name, address and phone number with the times you would be willing to volunteer and your areas of interest (set-up, tear-down, security, clean-up, etc.) to: Don Higgins

Patience Montgomery Funeral Home  
406 First Street P.O. Box 1407  
Jackson, MI 49204-1407

The phone number of the Patience Montgomery Funeral Home is (517)768-0805 or (517)782-0591. Fax number is (517)768-1290. Please note you are a representative of the SUVCW Dept. of Michigan and your Camp name and number.

As noted above, Detroit and Muskegon are also hosting the display. Help with the set-up, take-down and other assistance will also be needed in these cities.

Detroit will be hosting the display on June 16, 17 and 18 at the Ford World Headquarters. Contact Chris Marsh at (518) 885-5257 for more information and to volunteer your assistance.

Muskegon will host the display on June 23, 24 and 25. The site is not known at this time. Contact Sandra Moore at (231) 777-3557 for more information and to volunteer your assistance.

## COMING EVENTS

## APRIL

10<sup>th</sup> — Monday

Camp Officers

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

15<sup>th</sup> — Saturday

Ypsilanti

Memorial Ceremony, Civil War Band Concert, Battle Re-enactment and Military Ball at Riverside Park. See details in Camp 180's Camp News article.

## MAY

6<sup>th</sup> — Saturday

Kalamazoo

The Department of Michigan's 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Kalamazoo. The encampment will be hosted by the Women's Relief Corps.

29<sup>th</sup> — Monday

Observed Memorial Day

Take part in local community parades and ceremonies honoring our deceased service men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

30<sup>th</sup> — Tuesday

Traditional Memorial Day

A day to remember and honor the deceased service men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

## JUNE

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> — Saturday & Sunday

Dearborn

Rendezvous on the Rouge. Contact Camp 427 for details.

14<sup>th</sup> — Wednesday

Flag Day

Fly *Old Glory* proudly today!

15<sup>th</sup> — Thursday

Newsletter Contributors

Deadline for articles for the July issue of Michigan's Messenger. Articles must be *received* by this date. Mark your calendar!

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> — Friday-Sunday

Detroit

A replica of the Viet Nam Wall comes to Henry Ford World Headquarters for a 3 day exhibit. See article on page 19.

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> — Friday-Sunday

Muskegon

A replica of the Viet Nam Wall comes to Muskegon for a 3 day exhibit. See article on page 19.

30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup> — Friday-Sunday

Jackson

A replica of the Viet Nam Wall comes to Jackson's Ella Sharp Park for a 3 day exhibit. See article on page 19.

## JULY

4<sup>th</sup> — Tuesday

The Glorious Fourth

Today marks the 224<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America. Fly *Old Glory* proudly!

10<sup>th</sup> — Monday

Camp Officers

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

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> — Saturday & Sunday

Hastings

Charlton Park Civil War Muster.

## AUGUST

5<sup>th</sup> — Saturday

Grand Rapids

Weekend of Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home. Come visit one of Michigan's largest Civil War Cemeteries. Over 2,500 Civil War Soldiers are buried here. Take part in a ceremony to remember them and their sacrifices. There will be a reenactment demonstration and a pig roast for all in attendance.

17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> — Thursday-Sunday

Lansing

The 119<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW at the Holiday Inn South Hotel, 6820 South Cedar Street in Lansing.

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> — Saturday & Sunday

Jackson

Cascades Civil War Muster, featuring the Battles of Cumberland Church and Appomattox Court House, with a surrender ceremony following the Sunday battle.

## SEPTEMBER

15<sup>th</sup> — Friday

Newsletter Contributors

Deadline for articles for the October issue of Michigan's Messenger. Articles must be *received* by this date. Mark your calendar!

30<sup>th</sup> — Saturday

Valparaiso, IN

The Department of Indiana hosts the *Central Region Conference*. Details forthcoming in the July issue of the Messenger.

## OCTOBER

10<sup>th</sup> — Tuesday

Camp Officers

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

## SUNFIELD G.A.R. HALL CENTENNIAL

*100 YEARS OF G.A.R. HISTORY**by John Nash, Curtenius Guard Camp 17*

In September 1899, the Union Veterans of Samuel W. Grinnell, Post 283, Grand Army of the Republic, held a Dedication Ceremony for their newly constructed G.A.R. Hall in Sunfield. The following year they again gathered to dedicate two Cannons which had been mounted in front of the Hall. The Boys in Blue are gone, but their legacy remains. The Hall and Cannons, after a Century of service to the G.A.R. and Allied Orders, stand as a reminder of: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

*The Brothers of Curtenius Guard, Camp 17, SUVCW, and the Sisters of Helen M. Edwins, Tent 30, DUVCW, request your presence at a Centennial Celebration and Rededication Ceremony, honoring the Civil War Veterans of Sunfield, and their venerable G.A.R. Hall.*

*Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000 in Sunfield, Michigan*

The activities will commence at 1:30 pm with a Potluck Dinner for Allied Order Members and their families. The Hall will be open for inspection during the course of the afternoon and the Rededication Ceremony will be presented at 3:00 pm. We hope that everyone with an interest in the history of our Order will join us in adding another page to the historical record of the Samuel W. Grinnell Post 283 GAR Hall.

For further information please contact  
John Nash (517) 726-0118, [jnash@voyager.net](mailto:jnash@voyager.net)  
Or  
Laverne Aves (517) 627-2777, [lmaves@netscape.net](mailto:lmaves@netscape.net)

*The following newspaper excerpts were contributed by  
LaVerne Aves, Curtenius Guard Camp 17.*

SUNFIELD CENTENNIAL  
Sept. 21, 1899

Speech and anecdote and song, attention march and presence of comrades from other posts in line and groups, were the features of that ceremony by which, last Friday afternoon, S. W. Grinnell grand army post dedicated their new hall to the use of the order. Hon. Washington Gardner delivered an address at the grove, and his speech was all of good cheer to the veterans.

Mrs. Trumble of Grand Ledge added much to the excellent quality of the program by the rendition of several elocutionary pieces. The choir sang very pleasingly. At the hall in the evening a campfire conference was held, and around it comrades of the post and many from Lake Odessa, Mulliken, Grand Ledge and Sebewa arose in reminiscent about and talked over battle days of old and the pleasures of re-union.

This is the fourth, and they hope the final home of the order in Sunfield. First they located in the room above Albert Orsers, then above the Richard blacksmith shop, next in Oddfellow's Hall and Friday all the banners were transferred to the latest of all.

The dimensions of the building are 20x40 feet. The stone and timber were contributed by members of the post and most of the labor accomplished by their hands, with aid of many friends from the local women's relief core.

The exterior of the hall challenges the taste of an observer with its brightness and neatness, but on post nights it is fair to presume the psychic brightness of the soldier mind will throw it all in shadow. They will gather there and by the mystic process of memory return to those scenes of '61, to travel again down the hot, strange days-day of soldiering and endurance-to '65 and its closing victories.

SUNFIELD CENTENNIAL  
June 21, 1900

The cannon which the GAR boys secured to adorn the front area of the GAR Hall premises are at last to be mounted. The soldiers have been hard at work paying the freight bill which was taxing their resources severely. Last week the village council appropriated \$50 toward the mounting expense and the township came down with \$50 more. These are the most gracious acts which could be preformed just now towards the gallant but worried old vets.

## TAPS ~ OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS

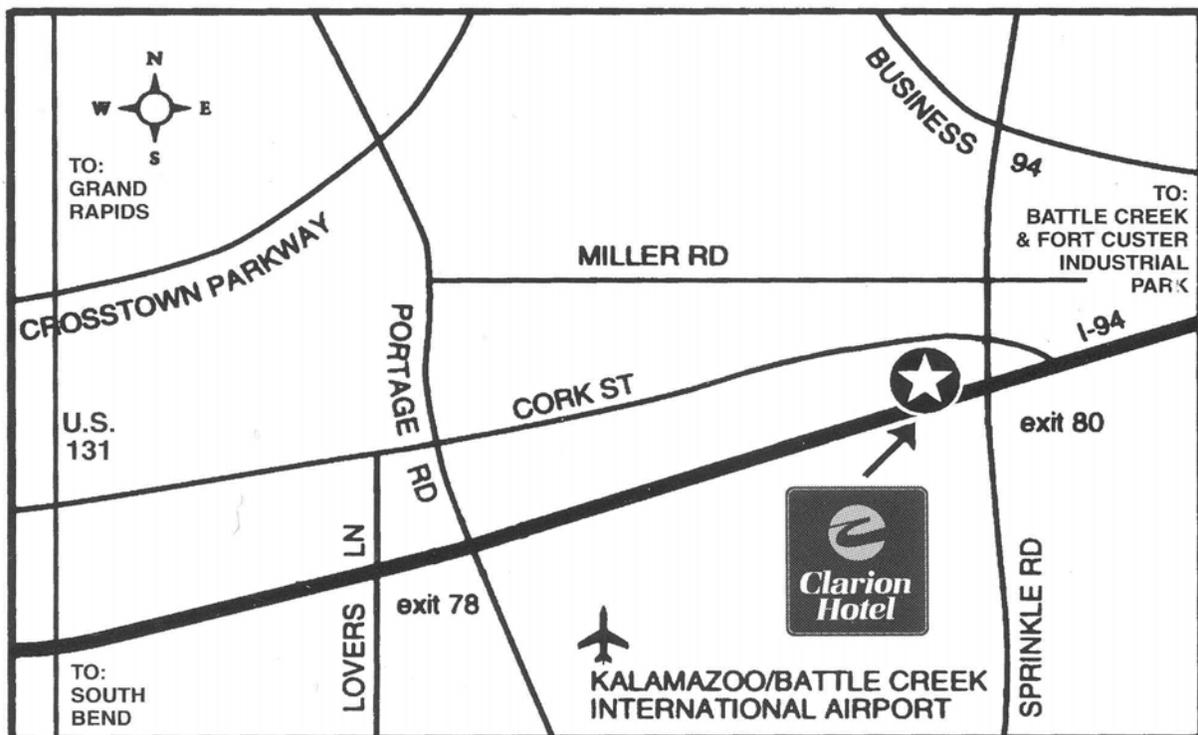
*LOWELL E. SPRY*

Brother Spry passed away December 23, 1999 in Lansing at the age of 61. He was a Member of George W. Anderson Camp 58 in DeWitt, transferring to that Camp shortly after its formation from Curtenius Guard Camp 17.

Lowell was the great, grand nephew of Private Thomas Spry of Company H, 71<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and as a Military Policeman.

*KENNETH FARRIS*

Brother Farris was a Life Member of the SUVCW and Curtenius Guard Camp 17. Kenneth was the great, great nephew of Private Harvey P. Bordner, Company H, 103<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Infantry



*111<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT  
AT THE CLARION HOTEL, KALAMAZOO, MI*

The hotel is located on the East side of Kalamazoo. Take exit 80 off I-94 (Sprinkle Road Exit), proceed North to the first traffic light (Cork Street). Turn left (West) on Cork Street. The Clarion Hotel is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile West on the South side of the road.

Meal Reservation Form

111<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT
AND THE
ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BANQUET

BUFFET STYLE LUNCHEON — NOON

Cost is \$13.47 per person (includes tax and gratuity).
Cold buffet of deli meats, vegetables cheeses, breads, soup of the day, garden salad and coffee or tea.

BUFFET STYLE BANQUET — 6:30 PM

Cost is \$19.62 per person (includes tax and gratuity).
London Broil, Wine Marinated Chicken, Vegetable, Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee or Tea.

Number of Luncheon Tickets Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ at \$13.47 per ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Banquet Tickets Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ at \$19.62 per ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make checks payable to:
Dept. of Mich., WRC

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail payment to:

Lucille Streeter
782 Girard Road
Sherwood, MI 49089-9705

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Camp \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note — Reservation Cutoff Date is April 29<sup>th</sup>

Department Encampment
Pre-Registration Form

Use this form to pre-register for the Department Encampment. Registration
Fee is \$5.00. Your pre-printed name tag, Encampment Ribbon and materials
will be presented to you upon presentation of your Delegate Card at the
registration desk outside the Encampment Room door.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering as (check one only):

Department Commander Past Department Commander
Camp Commander Past Camp Commander
Camp Delegate Alternate Delegate

Include your \$5.00 pre-registration fee in a check made payable to the
"Department of Michigan - SUVCW" and mail to:

Richard F. Lee, Secretary
Dept. of Michigan SUVCW
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257

Please Note:

You Must PRE-REGISTER by April 29<sup>th</sup>

Room Reservation Information
for the
Department Encampment
May 6, 2000

A block of rooms is being held under the name
Woman's Relief Corps
Phone reservations must be made directly to the
hotel, not through the national 1-800 number.

Clarion Hotel
3600 East Cork Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: (616) 385-2747
E-mail: clarion@iserv.net

The rate per night is \$69.00 plus tax, double
occupancy. The block of rooms will be held
only until April 21<sup>st</sup>, so be sure to make your
reservations early.

## *NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OFFICIAL PROGRAM BOOK*

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

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

Individuals and Camps can show they take an active part and have pride in our Order by placing an ad in the Official Program Book. The book will be in a larger 8½ x 11 inch format this year. Costs for ads are as follows:

**Full Page - \$30.00      Half Page - \$17.00      Quarter Page - \$10.00      Eighth Page - \$7.00.**

Two Full Page ads on facing pages may be requested at no extra charge, if ordered together.

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

Please make your check payable to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW

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

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

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

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1917 TEEL AVENUE  
LANSING, MI 48910-3117**

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