



# Frederick H. Hackeman CAMP 85

# December 2017

# A Message From the Commander

Let me introduce myself to those Brothers who weren't at the first meeting - and give more back ground information to those who were there.

I joined the SUVCW two years ago into the Florida Department, Camp 4. That camp has about 22 Brothers and holds their meetings in St. Cloud Florida. St. Cloud was founded as a retirement community for Civil War union veterans, and gained the nickname "The Friendly Soldier City". So there is a strong history of being a 'Union' enclave. The local Cemetery is mostly comprised of plots of Union soldiers - and is part of the Wreaths Across America ceremonies each December. They were/are very active in getting recognition of thet many Union soldier gravestones in Central Florida recognized and marked.

As a member of that camp I served briefly as their Signals Officer and for two years as their newsletter editor. As with any lineage or volunteer group not all members attended their meetings. A newsletter keeps all members informed of what is going on what will be going on and who is doing what and thus inspire members to be more active. So I feel that a newsletter for Camp 85 will fulfill those hopes.

Most of my following resume might be self-congratulatory Commander -to Page 5

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# **Next Camp Meetings**

January 18, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Location - 10329 California Road, Bridgman

# In case you missed this -A Wonderful 136th National Encampment!

Brothers, Sisters and families and friends:

We had such a wonderful experience in Lansing, and the Department of Michigan hosted the largest National Encampment in over 20 years. At the end of the day, it was also an Encampment that spoke volumes about Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty at every level of our organization. Congratulations to all of the award winners that recognized by PCinC Martin, particularly those well-traveled Brothers who received the Elmer "Bud" Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award! And congratulations to all of the elected and appointed officers for the 2017-2018 term. Commander-in-Chief Mark Day's remarks were moving and timely, and we should all be excited to work with him and his agenda this year!

The Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star

- -Dexter Bishop, Department MA
- -David McReynolds Department TN
- -Terry Dyer, Department IL
- -Nick Kaup, Department IL
- -Don Palmer, Department MO
- -Henry Shaw, Department OH

Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award

- -Bob Wolz, Department Ohio
- -Ed Krieser, Department Missouri
- -Lee Stone, Department. Chesapeake
- -Danny Wheeler, Department New York
- -Rich Orr, Department Pennsylvania

Abraham Lincoln CinC's Award - Camp Custer Camp #17, Department NJ

The Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award-

- -Eugene G. Mortorff, Garfield Camp #1, Department Chesapeake
- -Danny L. Wheeler, Sydney Camp #41, Department NY

The Meritorious Service Award-

- -Michael P. Downs, Department TN
- -Dave Daley, Department WI
- -Daniel F. Rittel, Department Iowa
- -Jeff Graf, Department WI

The David R. Medert Award – David A. Rish, Dept. OH 13 new members

The National Aide Award-Doug Fidler, McTeer Camp #39, Dept. TN Eric Richhart, Smith Camp #1, Dept CO/WO Jeff Graf Col. Hans C. Heg Camp # 15, Dept. WI James P. McGuire, Govs. Elisha Dyer Camp #7, RI Steve Flickinger Sherman Camp #93, Dept. OH David Rish, Parrott Camp #33, Dept. OH James Johnson, Ruger Camp #1, Dept NC

The Augustus P. Davis/ Conrad Linder Award- Department of Ohio with 54



Officers 2017 - 2018

Camp Commander:

Steven Williams

SVC: Richard Gorsk

JVC: Rex Dillman

Secretary: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Treasurer: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Council 1: Charles L Pfauth Jr

Council 2: Ray Truhn

Council 3: Ted Chamberlain

Patriotic Instructor:

Ted Chamberlain

Chaplain: Open

Graves & Memorials:

**Rex Dillman** 

Historian: Rex Dillman

Eagle Scout

Coordinator: Unassigned

Signals Officer: Unassigned

JROTC contact: Unassigned

Guide: Unassigned

Editor
Steve Williams
sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

# Wreaths Across America

Their mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. They also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

# What is Wreaths Across America?

501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington Wreath Project, with over 700 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers and laid at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery has now become a national organization with over 900 participating locations - all focused on the mission to Remember - Honor - and Teach.

Wreaths Across America<sup>TM</sup> wreath sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Funds are collected by each participating group. \$5 of each \$15 will be returned to the registered fund-raising group on a 30 day reimbursement cycle.

The Under Forty Award– Department of New Jersey with 10

Marshall Hope Award for Best Newsletter -

"The Sharpshooter" Robert Finch Camp # 14 Dept. MI

"The March", Department GA/SC

The U.S. Grant Award – Department Georgia 60% increase in membership

The Horace Greeley Award- outstanding website. Department of Iowa

The Founder's Award - The American Veterans Heritage Center, Dayton, Ohio

The Certificate of Recognition-

-Garrard County Public Library, Department of Kentucky

-Brother Bruce Austin, Major James H. Bridgewater Camp #7, Department of Kentucky

# A Sojourn to Gettysburg

Prother Ted Chamberlain, of the Frederick Hackeman Camp 85, recently made presentations in Gettysburg for "Chamberlain Weekend" (November 11-12), an event sponsored by the Inns of the Gettysburg Area. The pictures below (two for each event) show a tour given by Ted and his friends, Jim Connery and Ray Lizarraga, of Little Round Top; 2. An evening presentation in the Adams Ballroom of The Dobbin House, entitled "Protecting the Flanks: Wooster, Spear, and Chamberlain at Gettysburg; and 3. Remembrance Weekend (Nov 18-19).

Pictures continued on page 7.







# Civil War Time line

# December in the Civil War

1860 - Dec 1st - Florida's Legislature convenes; Dec 3rd - Second session of the Thirty-sixth Congress convenes; Dec 4th - President Buchanan report on the State of the Union; Dec 14th - Georgia Legislature called on South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi to consider a Southern



Confederacy; Dec 17th - South Carolina Secession Convention convenes; Dec 20th - South Carolina declares Union Dissolved; Dec 26th - Federal garrison transfers from Ft Moultrie to Ft. Sumter; Dec 30th SC troops seize Federal Arsenal at Charleston.



1861 - Dec 1st - President Lincoln pointed asks Gen'l McClellan 'how long would it require to actually get in motion?' And Prince Albert drafted diplomatic correspondence critical of the American seizure of the Trent with Confederate commissioners Slidell & Mason; Dec 4th - the Senate unanimously expelled Sen. John C Breckinridge of KY; Dec 7th & 8th - minor skirmishes in MO, KY, & western VA; Dec 10th - Confederate Congress accepted KY into the Confederacy; Dec 11th to 31st skirmishes in MO, VA, w VA, KY, SC, and Indian Terr. Naval actions in SC, NC, GA; Dec 18th to 23rd - British Minister to the United States began talks with Sec State Seward concerning the Trent affair threatening the possibility of war with Britain; Dec 26th - President Lincoln and his cabinet agreed to release Confederate commissioners Slidell & Mason thus blunting Britain's demands and Confederate hopes of war with Britain; Dec 26th - Martial law declared in St. Louis.



1862 - Skirmishes throughout December in MS, VA, w VA, TN, Indian Terr., Ark, LA, NC, MD, Naval Action in NC, KY. on rivers n MS, & NC.

Dec 1st - Pres. Lincoln gave his State o the Union message with 3 proposed amendments to the Constitution; Dec 7th - Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark; Dec 10th - The House passed a bill creating the state of West Virginia, the Senate had passed such a measure in July; Dec 11th - Federals Occupy Fredericksburg VA with Battle taking place on Dec 13th with disastrous results; Dec 17th - Grant issued his General Order No 11 which was subsequently rescinded by Lincoln ordering all Jews expelled from the (western) department within 24 hours; Dec 23rd - Confederate President Davis issues a proclamation that Union Gen'l Butler. Dec 29th - Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, MS; Dec 30th - Pres. Lincoln produced final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet; And ironclad Monitor foundered off NC; Dec 31st - Battle of Murfreesboro/Stone's River TN; Act Admitting West Virginia approved.



1863 - December shows the nation looking back over the bloody campaigns of the summer and anticipating the upcoming 1864 election. Throughout the month there was a growing despair in the Confederacy's political hierarchy over the progress of the war. Dec 2nd - Con-



### **Meeting Schedule**

Our meeting schedule is Alternate months between September through April meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month except as noted. At 6:00 PM.

Location -

Currently

10329 California Road, Bridgman



7th corps Kepi patch

federate General Braxton Bragg relieved of command and the Army of the Potomac withdraws to north of the Rapidan in VA. Dec 3rd & 4th - General Longstreet removes to Greenville SC for winter quarters thus ceding eastern TN to the Federals. Dec 4th to - Skirmishes on land in Nebraska Terr, W VA, TN, MS, SC, VA, NC, KY, Ark, Indian Terr., AL, CA, FL & GA. Dec 8th - President Lincoln Proclaims Amnesty and Reconstruction in his message to Congress. Confederate Captain (Naval) seized a merchant steamer ship Chesapeake off Cape Cod and the steamer was recaptured off Nova Scotia (Dec 17th). Dec 14th - Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister, Mrs. Ben Hardin, was granted amnesty after taking the oath of allegiance. Dec 19th - Federal Naval forces continued destruction at St Andrews Bay in Florida. Dec 25th - Federal Naval forces operated in SC, fighting at Ft Brooke FL; Dec 26th - CSS Alabama took two prizes near Malacca.



1864 - With winter came no letdown in action: Sherman was deep in Georgia, Confederate General Hood and the Army Tennessee was in front of Nashville facing Union General Thomas. Congress was dealing with the constitutional abolition of slavery and the reconstruction with a rival Radical Republican faction demanding southern states needed to reapply for statehood. Throughout the month land skirmishes in VA, Ark., MO, GA, LA, KS, TN, KY, AL, NC, AZ, FL, & MS.

Dec 1 - detachments of Sherman's Troops heading to Confederate prison camps in Millen and Andersonville GA; Dec 3rd - Federal Naval forces operated against slat works in Rocky Pt., Tampa Bay FL; Dec 6th - Salmon Chase named Chief Justice, President Lincoln sends his State of the Union message to Congress; [Aside - public debt was \$1,740,690,489.49]; Dec 10th - Sherman's troops arrive before Savannah, and move towards Ft McCallister; Dec 13th - Ft McCallister falls allowing Sherman to make contact with his supply ships; Dec 15th to 16th - Battle of Nashville; Dec 18th - Federal fleet sailed towards Wilmington & Ft. Fisher, NC; Dec 20th - Savannah evacuated; Dec 24th & 25th - Ft. Fisher attacked by bombardments and land troops in a failed attempt to capture the fort caused by disputes between Gen'l Butler and Navy Commander Porter.



1865 - Dec 2nd to 11th - Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Oregon legislatures approved the 13th Amendment. Mississippi rejected it. The 13th Amendment went into effect December 18th after 27 states approved.

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.

### Commander - From Page 1

but I give it so that you might understand me better.

I am a member of several lineage organizations. The one I am most active in having served as the state president of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and as a chapter president for the local Florida chapter. I am currently the Executive Administrator for the Florida Society. I am also a dual member in the Michigan Society of the SAR. Thus, I have a little experience in working with lineage societies.

I would imagine that a primary goal for our camp is recruitment and developing new members into active participants in our camp. For organizations such as ours - and others - the public must become aware of who we are, what we stand for, what our community involvement is, and why they should care.

The cadre of Brothers that we have deserve a significant heaping of praise for their continuing support for the camp and keeping it alive over the years. We now need to re-invigorate our efforts towards publicizing our organization and increasing our recruiting. If each of us brought in one new member we could double our size - and find new officers, too.

So, is it a deal?

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Steve Williams, Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85 Commander

# The Battle of Gettysburg

By Frank Aretas Haskell

# A Book Enjoyed and You Might Too, Or Not



There are so many ways in which this book, that was originally a letter, can captivate you. First of all it is a first-person narrative of a very important event in American history, the Battle of Gettysburg. Plus it was written shortly after the battle and by a person with a very readable no-nonsense style of writing. And lastly it still can stir controversy over battlefield tactics and unit bravery that is argued to this day.

Frank Aretas Haskell was born in Vermont in 1828. In

1854 he graduated from Dartmouth College with distinguished honors. He entered a law firm in Madison, Wisconsin and by the beginning of the Civil War was beginning to be a successful lawyer. Knowing that he dies in battle in 1864 the "what ifs" enter your mind. The tragedy of an early death, the

Book Report to Page 8

Lincoln Tomb Observance: April 13 - 14, 2018. President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center

# **Department**

### October 2017

14 October - Michigan Commandery MOLLUS Meeting - Michigan's GAR Hall and Museum, Eaton Rapids.

### November 2017

- 09 November Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250 Officer Installations.
- 13 November Austin Blair Camp No. 7 Officer Installations.
- 14 November Sgt. John Cosbey Camp No. 427 Officer Installations.
- 18 November Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony Gettysburg.
- 20 November Alexander French Camp No. 28 Officer Installations.
- 23 November Thanksgiving.

#### December 2017

- 01 December Deadline for submissions to Michigan's Messenger. Articles should be forwarded by email to editor@suvcwmi.org.
- 02 December Albert and James Lyons Camp No. 266 Officer Installations.
- 07 December Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 Officer Installations.
- 11 December LeValley-Heusted Camp No. 255 Officer Installations.

### January 2018

- 09 January March-to-the-Sea Camp No. 135 Officer Installations.
- 13 January Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Officer Installations.
- 13 January Gen. Benj. Pritchard Camp No. 20 Officer Installations.
- 13 January Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 Officer Installations.
- 17 January U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 Officer Installations.
- 18 January Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43 Officer Installations.
- 22 January Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180 Officer Installations.
- 25 January Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp No. 2 Officer Installations.
- 30 January Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 Officer Installations.

### February 2018

- 12 February Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 22 February George Washington's Birthday

#### March 2018

1 March - Deadline for submissions to Michigan's Messenger. Articles should be forwarded by email to editor@suvcwmi.org.

### April 2018

6 April - Founding of the Grand Army of the Republic 1866

15 April - Lincoln Death Day

### May 2018

- 27 May Memorial Sunday
- 28 May Federal Holiday Memorial Day
- 30 May Memorial Day



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) - the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish - American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85 of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.

# Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp85.php.





## **Sutler Links**

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories. http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html http://www.ccsutlery.com/http://www.crescentcitysutler.com/index.html

# Department of Michigan Officers

Commander - David S. Smith, PCC Senior VC - Robert Griggs, PCC Junior VC - Robert R. Payne, CC

Members of the Council -

Charles Worley, PDC Kevin Lindsey, PCC Michael Maillard, PCC

Secretary - Dick Denney,CC
Treasurer - Bruce S.A. Gosling
Counselor - Nathan Smith, CC

Chaplain - Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC

Patriotic Instructor - Robert Boquette
Color Bearer - Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Signals Officer - David F. Wallace, PDC

Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" -

Historian -

Guide -

Richard E. Danes, PCC John R. Keith, CC Nathan Tingley Theodore Mattis, CC

Guard - Theodore Mattis, CC
Graves Registration Officer- Richard E. Danes, PCC
GAR Records Officer- Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials Officer- John H. McGill
Eagle Scout Coordinator - Nathan Tingley
Camp-At-Large Coordinator - George L. Boller
Aide de Camp - Paul T. Davis, PDC









# Book Report from Page 5

effect on others. All of us have thought about this in our own lives.

But we get ahead of ourselves. This is an account of much of the Union Army leaving Falmouth, Virginia and following Lee's army into Pennsylvania and finally meeting at Gettysburg for a bloody showdown. Haskell, a lieutenant and aide to 2nd Corp, 2nd division Commander Gibbon gives the reader a very clear picture of what happened before they arrive late on July 1st. So you are up to date and know his writing gives you an eyewitness account of the second and third days at Gettysburg. He was in the thick of it and deserves a great deal of the credit for the victory.

It is interesting that the letter did not receive a lot of notice until it was reprinted in large numbers in 1908. That reprinting was exactly as Haskell had written it. Previously changes had been made to the letter that defended Sickle's tactics during the battle. Another note of interest is that the Philadelphia Brigade did not like the recount of some of their actions at the Angle. The book is a well written delight to read. Forget about the above "or not".

Re-print from Camp 4 Florida Department

[Ed. notes] Haskell's Battle of Gettysburg in Popular Culture.

On February 9, 1864, Haskell was appointed colonel of the 36th Wisconsin. On June 3, he assumed command of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, II Corps when its commander Col. Henry Boyd McKeen was killed during the Battle of Cold Harbor. Shortly after taking command he



Gettysburg Address - November 19, 1863; Photo Matthew Brady



General George Mead



Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain



Big and Little Round Top Panorama - 1909

was shot through the temple and killed while leading a charge. A distraught Gibbon cried out: "My God! I have lost my best friend, and one of the best soldiers in the Army of the Potomac has fallen!" Gibbon wrote to his wife that he had planned to promote "poor Haskell" to field command after the battle.

Haskell's account is reprinted in volume 43, "American Historical Documents", of The Harvard Classics.

In The Killer Angels, the novel by Michael Shaara, part 4 ("Friday, July 3, 1863"), chapter 3 ("Chamberlain"), Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain goes to see Gen. Sykes, his corps commander, where there is a lunch for the senior commanders, and is finally taken some chicken by Lt. Haskell himself. That lunch is from Haskell's account.

In "The Civil War", the documentary by Ken Burns, the subtitle of Episode 5, "The Universe of Battle", comes from Haskell's account, where, shortly after the lunch, he and Gen. Gibbon are sitting, watching the great cannonade of the third day. During "Gettysburg: The Third Day", Garrison Keillor reads a relevant excerpt.

CSS Alabama.



Captain Raphael Semmes, Alabama's commanding officer, standing aft of the mainsail by his ship's aft 8-inch smooth bore gun during her visit to Cape Town in August 1863. His executive officer, First Lieutenant John M. Kell, is in the background, standing by the ship's wheel.



The Battle of the Kearsarge and the Alabama by Édouard Manet





# CSS Alabama

CSS Alabama was a screw sloop-of-war built in 1862 for the Confederate States Navy at Birkenhead on the River Mersey opposite Liverpool, England by John Laird Sons and Company. [3] Alabama served as a successful commerce raider, attacking Union merchant and naval ships over the course of her two-year career, during which she never docked at a Southern port. She was sunk in June 1864 by USS Kearsarge at the Battle of Cherbourg outside the port of Cherbourg, France.

Alabama was built in secrecy in 1862 by British shipbuilders John Laird Sons and Company, in north west England at their shipyards at Birkenhead, Wirral, opposite Liverpool. The construction was arranged by the Confederate agent Commander James Bulloch, who led the procurement of sorely needed ships for the fledgling Confederate States Navy. The contract was arranged through the Fraser Trenholm Company, a cotton broker in Liverpool with ties to the Confederacy. Under prevailing British neutrality law, it was possible to build a ship designed as an armed vessel, provided that it wasn't actually armed until after it sailed into international waters. In light of this loophole, Alabama was built with reinforced decks for cannon emplacements, ammunition magazines below water-level, etc., but the builder stopped short of fitting her out with armaments or any "warlike equipment".

Initially known as "hull number 290" to hide her identity, the ship was launched as Enrica on 15 May 1862 and secretly slipped out of Birkenhead on 29 July 1862. Union Captain Tunis A. M. Craven, commander of USS Tuscarora, was in Southampton and was tasked with intercepting the new ship, but was unsuccessful. Agent Bulloch arranged for a civilian crew and captain to sail Enrica to Terceira Island in the Azores. With Bulloch at his side, the new ship's captain, Raphael Semmes, left Liverpool on 13 August 1862 aboard the steamer Bahama to take command of the new cruiser. Semmes arrived at Terceira Island on 20 August 1862 and began overseeing the refitting of the new vessel with various provisions, including armaments, and 350 tons of coal, brought there by Agrippina, his new ship's supply vessel. After three days of back-breaking work by the three ship's crews, Enrica was equipped as a naval cruiser, designated a commerce raider, for the Confederate States of America. Following her commissioning as CSS Alabama, Bulloch then returned to Liverpool to continue his secret work for the Confederate Navy.

Alabama's British-made ordnance was composed of six muzzle-loading, broadside, 32-pounder naval smoothbores (three firing to port and three firing to starboard) and two larger and more powerful pivot cannons. The pivot cannons were placed fore and aft of the main mast and positioned roughly amidships along the deck's center line. From those positions, they could be rotated to fire across the port or starboard sides of the cruiser. The fore pivot cannon was a heavy, long-range 100-pounder, 7-inch bore (178 mm) Blakely rifled muzzle-loader; the aft pivot cannon a large, 8-inch (203 mm) smoothbore.

The new Confederate cruiser was powered by both sail and by two John Laird Sons and Company 300 horsepower (220 kW) horizontal steam engines, driving a single, Griffithstype, twin-bladed brass screw. With the screw retracted using the stern's brass lifting gear mechanism, Alabama could make up to ten knots under sail alone and 13.25 knots (24.54 km/h) when her sail and steam power were used together.

The ship was purposely commissioned about a mile off Terceira Island in international waters on 24 August 1862. All the men from Agripinna and Bahama had been transferred to the quarter deck of Enrica, where her 24 officers, some of them Southerners, stood in full dress uniform. Captain Raphael Semmes mounted a gun-carriage and read his commission from President Jefferson Davis, authorizing him to take command of the new cruiser. Upon completion of the reading, musicians that assembled from among the three ships' crews began to play the tune "Dixie" just as the quartermaster finished hauling down Enrica's British colors. A signal cannon boomed and the stops to the halliards at the peaks of the mizzen gaff and mainmast were broken and the ship's new battle ensign and commissioning pennant floated free on the breeze. With that the cruiser became Confederate States Steamer Alabama. The ships motto: Aide-toi et Dieu t'aidera (French for "God helps those who help themselves") was engraved in the bronze of the great double ship's wheel.

Captain Semmes then made a speech about the Southern cause to the assembled seamen (few of whom were American), asking them to sign on for a voyage of unknown length and destiny. Semmes had only his 24 officers and no crew to man his new command. When this did not succeed, Semmes changed his tack. He offered signing money and double wages, paid in gold, and additional prize money to be paid by the Confederate congress for all destroyed Union ships. When the men began to shout "Hear! Hear!" Semmes knew he had closed the deal: 83 seamen, many of them British, signed on for service in the Confederate Navy. Confederate agent Bulloch and the remaining seamen then returned to their respective ships for their return voyage to England. Semmes still needed another 20 or so men for a full crew complement, but enough had signed on to at least handle the new commerce raider. The rest would be recruited from among captured crews of raided ships or from friendly ports-of-call. Of the original 83 crewmen that signed on that day, many completed the full voyage.

Under Captain Semmes, Alabama spent her first two months in the Eastern Atlantic, ranging southwest of the Azores and then redoubling east, capturing and burning northern merchant ships. After a difficult Atlantic crossing, she then continued her path of destruction and devastation in the greater New England region. She then sailed south, arriving in the West Indies where she raised more havoc before finally cruising west into the Gulf of Mexico. There, in January 1863, Alabama had her first military engagement. She came upon and quickly sank the Union side-wheeler USS Hatteras just off the Texas coast, near Galveston, capturing that warship's crew. She then continued further south, eventually crossing the Equator, where she took the most prizes of her raiding career while cruising off the coast of Brazil. After a second, easterly Atlantic crossing, Alabama sailed down the southwestern African coast where she continued her war against northern commerce. After stopping in Saldanha Bay on 29 July 1863 in order to verify that no enemy ships were in Table Bay, she finally made a much-needed refitting and reprovisioning visit to Cape Town, South Africa. The Alabama is the subject of an Afrikaans folk song, "Daar kom die Alibama" still popular in South Africa today. She then sailed for the East Indies, where she spent six months destroying seven more ships before finally redoubling the Cape of Good Hope en route to France. Union warships hunted frequently for the elusive and by now famous Confederate raider, but the few times Alabama was spotted, she quickly outwitted her pursuers and vanished over the horizon.

All together, she burned 65 Union vessels of various types, most of them merchant ships. During all of Alabama's raiding ventures, captured ships' crews and passengers were never harmed, only detained until they could be placed aboard a neutral ship or placed ashore in a friendly or neutral port.

All together, Alabama conducted a total of seven expeditionary raids, spanning the globe, before heading to France for refit and repairs:

- The CSS Alabama's Eastern Atlantic Expeditionary Raid (August–September, 1862) commenced immediately after she was commissioned. She immediately set sail for the shipping lanes southwest and then east of the Azores, where she captured and burned ten prizes, mostly whalers.
- The CSS Alabama's New England Expeditionary Raid (October–November, 1862) began after Captain Semmes and his crew departed for the northeastern seaboard of North America, along Newfoundland and New England, where she ranged as far south as Bermuda and the coast of Virginia, burning ten prizes while capturing and releasing three others.
- The CSS Alabama's Gulf of Mexico Expeditionary Raid (December, 1862 – January, 1863) was centered around a needed rendezvous with her supply vessel, CSS Agrippina. After that, she rendered aid to Texas during Major General Banks' invasion near Galveston, Texas. There, she quickly sank the Union side-wheeler USS Hatteras.
- The CSS Alabama's South Atlantic Expeditionary Raid (February–July, 1863) was her most successful raiding venture, taking 29 prizes while raiding off the coast of Brazil. Here she recommissioned the bark Conrad as the CSS Tuscaloosa.
- The CSS Alabama's South African Expeditionary Raid (August-September, 1863) occurred primarily while ranging off the coast of South Africa, as she worked together with the CSS Tuscaloosa.
- The CSS Alabama's Indian Ocean Expeditionary Raid (September–November, 1863) was composed of a nearly 4,500 mile journey across the Indian Ocean. [15] Successfully evading the Union gunboat Wyoming she took three prizes near the Sunda Strait and the Java Sea.[16]
- The CSS Alabama's South Pacific Expeditionary Raid (December, 1863) was her final raiding venture. She took a few prizes in the Strait of Malacca before finally turning back toward France for a much needed refit and long overdue repairs.

Upon the completion of her seven expeditionary raids, Alabama had been at sea for 534 days out of 657, never visiting a single Confederate port. She boarded nearly 450 vessels, captured or burned 65 Union merchant ships, and took more than 2,000 prisoners without a single loss of life from either prisoners or her own crew.

### **Final Cruise**

On 11 June 1864, Alabama arrived in port at Cherbourg, France. Captain Semmes soon requested permission to dry dock and overhaul his ship, much needed after so long a time at sea and so many naval actions. Pursuing the raider, the American sloop-of-war, USS Kearsarge, under the command of Captain John Ancrum Winslow, arrived three days later and took up station just out-



USS Kearsarge, a Mohican-class sloop-of-war

side the harbor. While at his previous port-of-call, Winslow had telegraphed Gibraltar to send the old sloop-of-war USS St. Louis with provisions and to provide blockading assistance. Kearsarge now had Alabama boxed in with no place left to run.

Having no desire to see his worn-out ship rot away at a French dock while quarantined by Union warships and given his instinctive aggressiveness and a long-held desire once again to engage his enemy, Captain Semmes chose to fight. After preparing his ship and drilling the crew for the coming battle during the next several days, Semmes issued, through diplomatic channels, a bold challenge (or hoped-for intimidation) to the Kearsarge's commander,[17] "my intention is to fight the Kearsarge as soon as I can make the necessary arrangements. I hope these will not detain me more than until to-morrow or the morrow morning at farthest. I beg she will not depart until I am ready to go out. I have the honor to be Your obedient servant, R. Semmes, Captain."

On 19 June, Alabama sailed out to meet the Union cruiser. Jurist Tom Bingham later wrote, "The ensuing battle was witnessed by Manet, who went out to paint it, and the owner of an English yacht who had offered his children a choice between watching the battle and going to church." [18]

As Kearsarge turned to meet her opponent, Alabama opened fire. Kearsarge waited patiently until the range had closed to less than 1,000 yards (900 m). According to survivors, the two ships steamed on opposite courses in seven spiraling circles, moving southwesterly with the 3-knot current, each commander trying to cross the bow of his opponent to deliver a heavy raking fire (to "cross the T"). The battle quickly turned against Alabama due to the superior gunnery displayed by Kearsarge and the deteriorated state of Alabama's contaminated powder and fuses. Her most telling shot, fired from the forward 7-inch (178 mm) Blakely pivot rifle, hit very near Kearsarge's vulnerable stern post, the impact binding the ship's rudder badly. That rifled shell, however, failed to explode. If it had done so, it would have seriously disabled Kearsarge's steering, possibly sinking the warship, and ending the contest. In addition, Alabama's too rapid rate-of-fire resulted in frequent poor gunnery, with many of her shots going too high, and as a result Kearsarge benefited little that day from the protection of her outboard chain armor. Semmes later said that the armor on Kearsarge was unknown to him at the time of his decision to issue the challenge to fight, and in the years that followed Semmes steadfastly claimed he would have never fought Kearsarge if he had known she was armor-clad.

Kearsarge's hull armor had been installed in just three days, more than a year before, while she was in port at the Azores. It was made using 120 fathoms (720 ft; 220 m) of 1.7-inch (43 mm) single link iron chain and covered hull spaces 49 feet 6 inches (15.09 m) long by 6 feet 2 inches (1.88 m) deep. It was stopped up and down to eye-bolts

with marlines and secured by iron dogs. Her chain armor was concealed behind 1-inch deal-boards painted black to match the upper hull's color. This "chaincladding" was placed along Kearsarge's port and starboard midsection down to the waterline, for additional protection of her engine and boilers when the upper portion of her coal bunkers were empty (coal bunkers played an important part in the protection of early steam vessels, such as protected cruisers). A hit to her engine or boilers could easily

leave Kearsarge dead in the water and vulnerable, or even cause a boiler explosion or fire that could destroy the cruiser. Her armor belt was hit twice during the fight: First in the starboard gangway by one of Alabama's 32-pounder shells that cut the chain armor, denting the hull planking underneath, then again by a second 32-pounder shell that exploded and broke a link of the chain armor, tearing away a portion of the deal-board covering. If those rounds had come from Alabama's more powerful 100-pounder Blakely pivot rifle, they would have easily penetrated, but the likely result would not have been very serious, as both shots struck the hull a little more than five feet above the waterline. Even if both shots had penetrated Kearsarge's side, they would have completely missed her vital machinery. However, a 100-pound shell could have done a great deal of damage to her interior and nearby crewmen; hot fragments could have easily set fire to the cruiser, one of the greatest risks aboard a wooden vessel.

A little more than an hour after the first shot was fired, Alabama was reduced to a sinking wreck by Kearsarge's powerful 11-inch (280 mm) Dahlgrens, forcing Captain Semmes to strike his colors and to send one of his two surviving boats to Kearsarge to ask for assistance.

The ironclad frigate French battleship La Gloire was in the English Channel, near Cherbourg, during the battle between Alabama and Kearsarge

According to witnesses, Alabama fired 370 rounds at her adversary, averaging one round per minute per gun, a very fast rate of fire, while Kearsarge's gun crews fired less than half that number, taking more careful aim. During the confusion of battle, five more rounds were fired at Alabama after her colors were struck. (Her gun ports had been left open and the broadside cannon were still run out, appearing to come to bear on Kearsarge.) Then a hand-held white flag came fluttering from Alabama's stern spanker boom, finally halting the engagement. Prior to this, she had her steering gear compromised by shell hits, but the fatal shot came later when one of Kearsarge's 11-inch (280 mm) shells tore open a midsection of Alabama's starboard waterline. Water quickly rushed through the defeated cruiser, eventually drowning her boilers and forcing her down by the stern to the bottom. As Alabama sank, the injured Semmes threw his sword into the sea, depriving Kearsarge's commander Captain John Ancrum Winslow of the traditional surrender ceremony of having it handed over to him as victor (an act which was seen as dishonorable by many at the time). Kearsarge rescued the majority of the survivors, but 41 of Alabama's officers and crew, including Semmes, were rescued by John Lancaster's private British steam yacht Deerhound, while the Kearsarge stood off to recover her rescue boats as the Alabama sank.[19] Captain Winslow was forced to stand by helplessly and watch Deerhound spirit away to England his much sought-after adversary, Captain Semmes, and his surviving shipmates.

The sinking of the Alabama by the Kearsarge is honored by the United States Navy with a battle star on the Civil War campaign streamer.









# ROTC/JROTC Award

### How the program works:

Camp and Departments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, through this program, are encouraged to participate in recognizing deserving cadets. Such participation is voluntary.

Where a Camp and Department chooses not to participate, or in locales where no Camp or Department exists, the ROTC/JROTC Award may be purchased by the unit using the Form 7 application / order form. - - http://www.suvcw.org/?page\_id=2076

### WHY WE HONOR THE CADETS OF THE ROTC/JROTC:

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Preamble reads –

We, the descendants of soldiers, sailors, or marines who served in the Army or Navy of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861 to 1865, have formed this patriotic and fraternal Order, for the purpose and objects in this Constitution set forth; and in so doing pledge ourselves to commemorate our fathers' deeds; to render loyal service to our Country, and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag.

By honoring deserving cadets, we help promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship because it will be these young people who will eventually serve in our Nation's military, under the flag our forefathers fought to preserve.

## Our Purpose and Objects include –

... to cooperate in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism, and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our Flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

We believe it right to award those who have stepped forward to accept the challenge of leadership in defending our Nation's flag, principles and freedoms. By honoring those who serve today, we show our respect for those who have served in all others war in the past.

### THE CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING OUR AWARD:

Our definition of a deserving cadet is one that "shows a high degree of patriotism to his/her Nation and has demonstrated a high degree of academic performance and leadership."

ROTC/JROTC units are encouraged to work with their local (participating) Camps and Departments in determining any additional requirements that may be used to determine a "deserving cadet."



### Officer Installation

The following officers were in attendance and were installed: Steve Williams, Commander; Rex Dillman, JVC; Charles Pfauth Sr, Secretary/Treasurer; and Counselors Ray Truhn, Theodore Chamberlain. Rex and Ted will be holding multiple positions this year. Also, in attendance is Past Chaplain William Veit. The Installation was performed by Department of Michigan Treasurer Bruce Gosling.

### Meeting Discussion

The Camp Commander lead discussion on increasing the membership through expanding our exposure into the many Berrien communities; the structure of the camp meetings; and realigning the camp meetings. The next meeting in January - the usual bimonthly meeting - will continue these discussions so that the members can have the ability to think about these topics and come and present their thoughts.

Meeting re-alignment of the meeting schedule to include possible summer meetings in place of a winter-time meeting. This might allow our brothers to help in scheduling participation in the many patriotic events (Memorial Day, July 4th, etc)

Come to the January meeting with your ideas!

# Michigan in the American Civil War

Michigan made a substantial contribution to the Union during the American Civil War. While the state itself was far removed from the combat theaters of the war, Michigan supplied a large number of troops and several generals, including George Armstrong Custer. When, at the beginning of the war, Michigan was asked to supply no more than four regiments, Governor Austin Blair sent seven.

Before the Civil War, President James Buchanan took a weak position amid a looming South secession crisis. Secretary of State Lewis Cass of Michigan, a 78-year-old elder statesman who has been Michigan's U.S. senator and governor of Michigan Territory, resigned from Buchanan's cabinet in protest, remarking that "he had seen the Constitution born and now feared he was seeing it die".

In December 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Outgoing Governor Moses Wisner delivered a speech to a Michigan Legislature in defense of the Union and the Constitution, stating: "This is no time for timid and vacillating councils, when the cry of treason and rebellion is ringing in our ears." On January 2, 1861, Austin Blair was sworn in as governor, vowing strong action to maintain the Union and punish secession. The Legislature was also firmly pro-Union; when Virginia invited Michigan to send delegates to the Washington Peace Conference, the Legislature passed a refusal resolution stating that "concessions and compromise are not to be entertained or offered to traitors."

At the beginning of the Civil War, regiments from Michigan were raised to answer Lincoln's call for men. The first volunteers from Michigan were mustered into the Army as the 1st Michigan Infantry on May 1, 1861. On May 16, the regiment arrived in Washington; Lincoln was said to have exclaimed "Thank God for Michigan!" upon the troops' arrival.

Over the course of the war, some 90,000 Michigan men (about 23 percent of the 1860 male population of the state) served in the Union forces. This figure includes some 1,600 black soldiers). Michigan raised a total of 30 infantry regiments, eleven cavalry regiments, one light artillery regiment, two light batteries, two companies of sharpshooters, and the 1st Michigan Engineers. According to Frederick H. Dyer, a total of 14,753 officers and men from Michigan died during the war, but a "Roll of Honor" prepared upon order of the Michigan Legislature in 1869 contains 14,855 names.

Among the more celebrated units was the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which, as a part of the famed Iron Brigade, suffered considerable losses at the Battle of Gettysburg while defending McPherson's Ridge. George Armstrong Custer's "Michigan Wolverine" Cavalry effectively battled J.E.B. Stuart at Gettysburg on the East Cavalry Field.

Several Union generals hailed from Michigan, including: Custer, Elon J. Farnsworth, Byron Root Pierce, Orlando Metcalfe Poe, Israel Bush Richardson, and Orlando B. Willcox. In a letter to his wife, one Union soldier from Michigan detailed his motivations for fighting for the U.S. in the war, before dying in 1864:

The more I learn of the cursed institution of slavery, the more I feel willing to endure, for its final destruction... After

# Eagle Scout Program



Since 1910 the Boy Scouts of America have contributed to the moral and physical character of our communities by offering opportunities where young men can experience fun and adventure while learning the skills necessary for good citizenship and leadership.

One of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War many goals and purposes is to reward young men who achieve the status of Eagle Scout with a special congratulatory letter

and color Certificate of Commendation, suitable for framing. While we encourage any young man searching for that special community service project to look to us for inspiration on projects relating to the Civil War, we offer this certificate with no "strings attached" other than you must be an Eagle.

Your Eagle Court of Honor observes a very proud tradition that our organization is pleased to recognize in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Comprised of over 400,000 Union Veterans of the American Civil War of 1861-1865, the GAR was a living symbol of patriotism when the Boy Scouts of America was formed in 1910. Before the passing of their last member (on 2 August 1956) the GAR officially recognized the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) as their Legal Heir. As such, it is our honor to maintain the many traditions of the GAR. These include the promotion of good citizenship by teaching patriotism, civic duties, and the love & honor of our flag – concepts that are "near and dear" to the Boy Scouts of America.

When possible, every effort is made by Camp (local chapter) and Department (state) members to present the certificate to the Scout at his Court of Honor, usually wearing the uniform of our Order or a replica Civil War uniform. Note: A personal presentation is not possible when ordering through the National Coordinator.

### How to Order a Certificate

Download this certificate application (pdf). http://suvcw.org/eagle/eagle application fi.pdf

This application must be completely printed on line. We recommend you keep a copy for your records. You may also keep an electronic copy by saving the completed form to your computer. You must use a different file name in order to preserve your entries. NO hand written forms, letters or cards will be accepted.

We prefer that the application be sent as an email attachment. Email the application to the Department Eagle Scout Coordinator and request that the application be sent to the appropriate coordinator within your department. A 45 day notice is required to have a presenter at the Court of Honor. Postal mail applications will not be accepted.

Note: These guidelines must be followed in order to receive a certificate. If these guidelines are not followed a certificate may not be sent.

this war is over, this whole country will undergo a change for the better... Abolishing slavery will dignify labor; that fact of itself will revolutionize everything... Let Christians use all their influence to have justice done to the black man.

### **Casualties**

14,753 Michigan soldiers died in service, roughly one of every six who served. A total of 4,448 of these deaths were combat deaths while the rest, over 10,000, were from disease, a constant fear in crowded army camps with poor food, sanitation and exposure issues and pre-modern medicine. Michigan suffered the sixth-highest losses among the Union states (the non-state U.S. Colored Troops losses also exceeded Michigan's).

### Homefront

Michigan actively participated in the American Civil War sending thousands of volunteers. A study of the cities of Grand Rapids and Niles shows an overwhelming surge of nationalism in 1861, whipping up enthusiasm for the war in all segments of society, and all political, religious, ethnic, and occupational groups. However, by 1862 the casualties were mounting and the war was increasingly focused on freeing the slaves in addition to preserving the Union. Copperhead Democrats called the war a failure, and it became more and more a partisan Republican effort. Michigan voters remained evenly split between the parties in the presidential election of 1864.

#### **Infantry**

- 1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (3 Months)
- 1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (3 Years)
- 1st Michigan Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment African-American, later 102nd Regiment United States Colored Troops
- 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Reorganized)
- 4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Reorganized)
- 5th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 8th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 10th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Reorganized)
- 12th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 13th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 14th Michigan Volunteer Mounted Infantry Regiment
- 15th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 16th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment Stockton's Independent Regiment
- 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment Stonewall Regiment
- 18th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 19th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 20th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 25th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment

- 26th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 27th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 28th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 29th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- 30th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment
- Stanton Guard
- Independent Company (Provost Guard)

#### Sharpshooters

- 1st Regiment Michigan Volunteer Sharpshooters
- Hall's Independent Battalion Michigan Volunteer Sharpshooters
- Brady's Independent Company Michigan Volunteer Sharpshooters
- Dygert's Independent Company Michigan Volunteer Sharpshooters
- Jardine's Independent Company Michigan Volunteer Sharpshooters
- Company "C" 1st United States Sharpshooters Regiment
- Company "I" 1st United States Sharpshooters Regiment
- Company "K" 1st United States Sharpshooters Regiment
- Company "B" 2nd United States Sharpshooters Regiment
  - Company "D" Western Sharpshooters Regiment

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- 1st Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 2nd Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 3rd Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 4th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 5th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 6th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 7th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 8th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 9th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 10th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 11th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
- 1st United States Lancer Regiment
- Chandler's Horse Guard

#### Artillery

- 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "A" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery (Loomis Battery, Coldwater Artillery)
- Battery "B" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "C" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery (Robinson's Battery, Grand Rapids Battle Creek Area)
- Battery "D" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "E" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "F" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "G" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "H" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery (De Golyer's Battery)
- Battery "I" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "K" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "L" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
- Battery "M" 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery
   6th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Heavy Artillery
- 13th Independent Battery Michigan Light Artillery
- 14th Independent Battery Michigan Light Artillery

### Engineers

1st Regiment Michigan Volunteer Engineers and Mechanics Howland's Company Michigan Volunteer Engineers