



Maj. General Wm. T. Sherman

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Dept. of Michigan March to the Sea Camp Number 135 April 2008 Newsletter

"Preserved by the grace of God...."

Camp Officers:

Commander, Bruce Gosling
Sr. Vice Commander, Mike McLaughlin
Jr. Vice Commander, David Gosling
Council Members, John Dudd
Carl Holsinger
Christopher Herrmann

Secretary, Treasurer, Chuck Worley
Chaplin, Richard Cripe
Patriotic Instructor, John Dudd
Signals Officer, Bruce Gosling

Camp happenings:

Memorial Day:

Since our April meeting, our Camp has been approached to have our members staff a Civil War display at the White Pigeon Library on the observed Memorial Day from 9:00 AM until Noon with a break for the service at the cemetery. They would like us to be on hand to answer questions about the Civil War, provide atmosphere by being in uniform if possible and to talk about our organization. Their display is all wall mounted materials, so they would welcome any memorabilia you would care to bring with you round things out.

This helps to resolve the question of selection of a parade for us to participate in this year. I have called the American Legion in White Pigeon, and they were very glad to have us join them with our color guard. The color guards will form up at the Legion Hall on corner of Chicago Road and Lincoln Street at about 10:00 AM and the march to the cemetery will start at 10:30 AM. At the cemetery we will then lay a wreath at the GAR cannon at the same time the Boy Scout decorates the cross representing the Civil War. The Library display will shut down

during the Memorial Day ceremony so it would not have to worry about staffing that as well.

Last year we initiated our own tradition of observing the true Memorial Day with a Sons service at the monument at the Prairie River Cemetery in Centreville. This year we will be honoring the GAR site at the Leonidas Cemetery at 7PM on May 30th. Changing locations annually will give us a chance to get acquainted with other GAR and Civil War monuments in our county as well as to provide the opportunity for us to do a formal assessment of the monument for the National Organization. We will need to fire three volleys at the conclusion of the service, so if you have an appropriate black powder rifle, please bring it along. A drum roll before the volley is indicated in the program. I have a suitable drum; do we have any drummers? Also a bugler/trumpeter for Taps would be wonderful.

Please let me know if you will be able to attend any of these events so that we can be sure all parts are covered and can make adjustments for the talents of those who will be there.

Prairie River Monument Update

The sculptors are underway on their portion of the Prairie River Project. If there are no problems, the last word was that they expect the project to take about 60 days, which would put completion at sometime in June. We still need to decide on an appropriate date for the re-dedication of the restored monument. Camp 20 has been invited to participate in the re-dedication of this monument and has been asked about dates that would fit with their schedules. Hopefully we will be able to set a date at our May meeting.

Departmental Encampment:

CC Bruce and PCC Chuck both attended the 119th annual encampment of the Department of Michigan. Two items were acted upon that our Camp directly. First, the resolution to adopt changes to the National Organization Constitution and Regulations to properly create the Junior and Junior Associate classifications were passed unanimously. Once adopted by a majority of the Departments, these changes will become effective. Second, PCC Chuck was elected unanimously to the position of Senior Vice-Commander of the Department of Michigan. This is a great honor for both him and our Camp. Congratulations Chuck!

The ornament raffle was held as planned at the Encampment, with less success than was hoped for. On the positive side, we were able to add \$75.00 to our treasury. Carol Santini, a member of one of the allied orders, won the ornament and seemed quite pleased with the prize.

All in all, this was a great time of fellowship, and an opportunity to learn more about the workings of our order. This would be something well worth putting on your calendar for 2009.

Random Thoughts:

Summer and parade season bring to mind that we might be well served by doing some drill as a color guard unit. Do any of you have interest in polishing our presentation with a few such sessions? If so, please let me know.

As noted earlier, I have acquired a drum; do we have any candidates for "Drummer Boy"?

As an organization we benefit directly from the skills and knowledge of our membership. Your support of our activities is important to our success, as is the recruiting of new members who can bring fresh energy, thoughts and skills to the group. Be sure to promote the order when you can, and bring a friend to a meeting.

Remember, on Tuesday May 6 at 7:00 PM the Three Rivers Civil War Roundtable has invited us to a special presentation of a display at the Carnegie Center in Three Rivers titled "Civil War at Sea". This is a display from the collections of Paul DeHahn and Paul Milliken who will be on hand for the event.

Our next meeting will be May 20, at the Nottawa Stone School at 7:00 PM.

In fraternity, charity and loyalty

Bruce Gosling, Signals Officer