



GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

JULY 2008
THE PRITCHARD PRESS
NEWSLETTER OF THE
GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD
CAMP 20
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SONS of UNION VETERANS of the
CIVIL WAR
“PRESERVED BY THE GRACE
OF GOD...”



2008 CAMP 20 OFFICERS

COMMANDER JOHN R. KEITH
 SR. VICE COMMANDER MIKE STONE
 JR. VICE COMMANDER THOMAS BRUCE
 CAMP SECRETARY JEFF BAKER
 CAMP TREASURER JOHN C. KEITH
 GUARD: CLIFFORD BURHANS
 GUIDE: DANIEL KNIGHT
 PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: GARY GIBSON
 BOY SCOUT COORDINATOR: MIKE STONE

MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: ART BONNELL
 GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER: BILL COSTELLO
 COLOR BEARER: GLENN HALL
 HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON
 CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN
 SIGNAL OFFICER: JOHN C. KEITH
 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:
 BILL COSTELLO, STEVE REDINGER AND ART
 BONNELL

REMINDER- our next camp meeting will be **Tuesday, August 5TH, 2008** at 7PM.
 Camp 20 meets on the first Tuesday of the month, March through November, at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, located at 7265 West Main Street.

THANKS TO ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS FOR
YOUR SERVICE!

Thanks to the following Brothers who stepped up to fill the vacancies when
 Bro. J. Orbeck left the camp.

Bro. John C. Keith- Treasurer	Bro Tom Bruce- JRVC
Bro. Mike Stone- SRVC	Bro. Cliff Burhans- Guard

2008 SUMMER EVENTS

HISTORIC CHARLTON PARK CIVIL WAR MUSTER
 JULY 19TH & 20TH 2008

YOU CAN CALL THE PARK OFFICE FOR EVENT DETAILS AND PRICES
 269-945-3775

A CIVIL WAR REENACTOR'S ENCAMPMENT SPONSORED BY THE HOLLAND
 HISTORICAL TRUST. IT WILL BE HELD SATURDAY AUGUST 9, 2008 12 NOON
 TO 5PM AT THE CENTENNIAL PARK.
 FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CAMP 3 BROTHER CLIFF OWEN AT COWEN@SIRUS.COM
 OR CAMP 3 SECRETARY BROTHER DANIEL GRABLE AT DANIELGRABLE@YAHOO.COM

2008 SUMMER EVENTS CON"IT

PRAIRIE RIVER MONUMENT RE-DEDICATION

THE PROGRAM IS TO BEGIN AT 10:00 AM ON AUGUST 30 AT THE PRAIRIE RIVER CEMETERY.

THE MARCH TO THE SEA CAMP #135 OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR EXTENDS AN INVITATION FOR YOU TO ATTEND A RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MONUMENT SITED AT THE PRAIRIE RIVER CEMETERY IN CENTREVILLE.

THE MONUMENT WAS ERECTED CIRCA 1896 IN HONOR OF LOCAL MEN WHO SERVED IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION IN 1861 - 1865 AND FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN MEXICO IN COMPANY E OF THE 15TH INFANTRY UNDER CAPTAIN I.D. TOLL. SOME TIME AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, AS A RESULT OF EITHER AN ACCIDENT OR ACT OF VANDALISM APPROXIMATELY 15 INCHES OF THE SOLDIER'S RIFLE BARREL WAS BROKEN OFF. UNFORTUNATELY, REPAIRS WERE NOT MADE AT THE TIME AND THE BROKEN PIECE HAS BEEN LOST OR DISCARDED.

CAMP 20 IS HOSTING A GRAVESTONE DEDICATION FOR SOLOMON OSTRANDER, OAKWOOD CEMETERY, ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN. HE WAS IN BATTERY C, 1ST MICHIGAN LIGHT ARTILLERY.

DATE October 4th at 2:30 pm
COMMITTEE?

1. MIKE STONE
2. BILL BRENNAN
3. DAN KNIGHT

NOTICE

PROPOSED CAMP 20 BY-LAWS CHANGE:

(COPIES OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE WERE HANDED OUT AT THE JUNE 3RD, 2008 MEETING AND INCLUDED IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER)

(This was shelved till the August 5th meeting)

Camp 20 has purchased two, "LAST SOLIDER PLAQUES" and have permission to put one on the gravestone of Ralph Towner, (the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Allegan County), interred in Mallory Cemetery, Trowbridge Township, Allegan County and one on the gravestone of Nelson Wood, (the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Van Buren County), interred in Coloma Township Cemetery, Coloma Township, Berrien County.

ALLEGAN GAZETTE

August 13th, 1904

After many weeks of painful illness, Captain Henry C. Stoughton passed away Saturday night, leaving two daughters, the Misses Laura and Julia Stoughton and one granddaughter, Miss Ruth Bowles, very lonely indeed. The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Samuel Selbert. Mr. Stoughton was born in Vermont, March 7th, 1823. He and his wife came to Otsego in July 1849 and had ever since practiced law in this village. He was in the Civil War and attained the rank of captain in the 13th Michigan Infantry. He was a member of the Masonic Order.



"Only Seven G.A.R. Veterans Alive on Anniversary"

April 6, 1951
Chicago Tribune

Today is the 85th anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic. There are only seven veterans living - none from Illinois.

Survivors are....

Douglas T. Story, 106 and William A. Magee, 104 - both of Los Angeles
Joseph Clovese, 106 - Pontiac, Mich.
James A. Hard, 109 - Rochester, N.Y.
Lansing A. Wilcox, 105, Cadott, Wis
Israel Broadsword, 104, Samuels, Ida
Albert Wooslon, 104 - Duluth, Minn

The group was formed April 6, 1866, in Decatur (Illinois) and by 1890 boasted 409,489 members. The annual banquet in commemoration of the founding will be held at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Hamilton hotel by approximately 400 sons and daughters of Civil War veterans from Illinois.



Consider the career of West Point Cadet, James McNeill Whistler, the son of George Washington Whistler, an Academy graduate and career officer who died in Russia in 1849.

Young Jimmy secured an appointment to West Point and enrolled in July 1851.

By years end Whistler had collected 116 demerits, more than the number mandating his dismissal. However, Superintendent Robert E. Lee and the Commandant of Cadets had the discretionary authority to examine demerit records and excuse some infractions if the cadet's general conduct and potential justified the mercy. Lee exercised his authority and expunged 39 demerits and salvaged the young man's career for the moment.

But in June 1854, Whistler was principal in what was probably the shortest examination in the history of West Point. Second Lieutenant Caleb Huse commenced Whistler's chemistry examination by asking the cadet to discuss silicon. "I am required to discuss the subject of silicon," Whistler responded. "Silicon is a gas." "That will do Mr. Whistler," interrupted Huse. In thirteen words Whistler failed chemistry and flunked out of West Point. Much later Whistler insisted, "Had silicon been a gas, I would have been a major general."

Lee could find no reason to reexamine Whistler in chemistry or to excuse enough demerits to prevent his mandatory dismissal.

So instead of becoming a major general, Jimmy Whistler became an artist and immortalized his mother Anna in the portrait entitled "Arrangement in Grey and Black", (A.K.A. "Whistler's Mother").

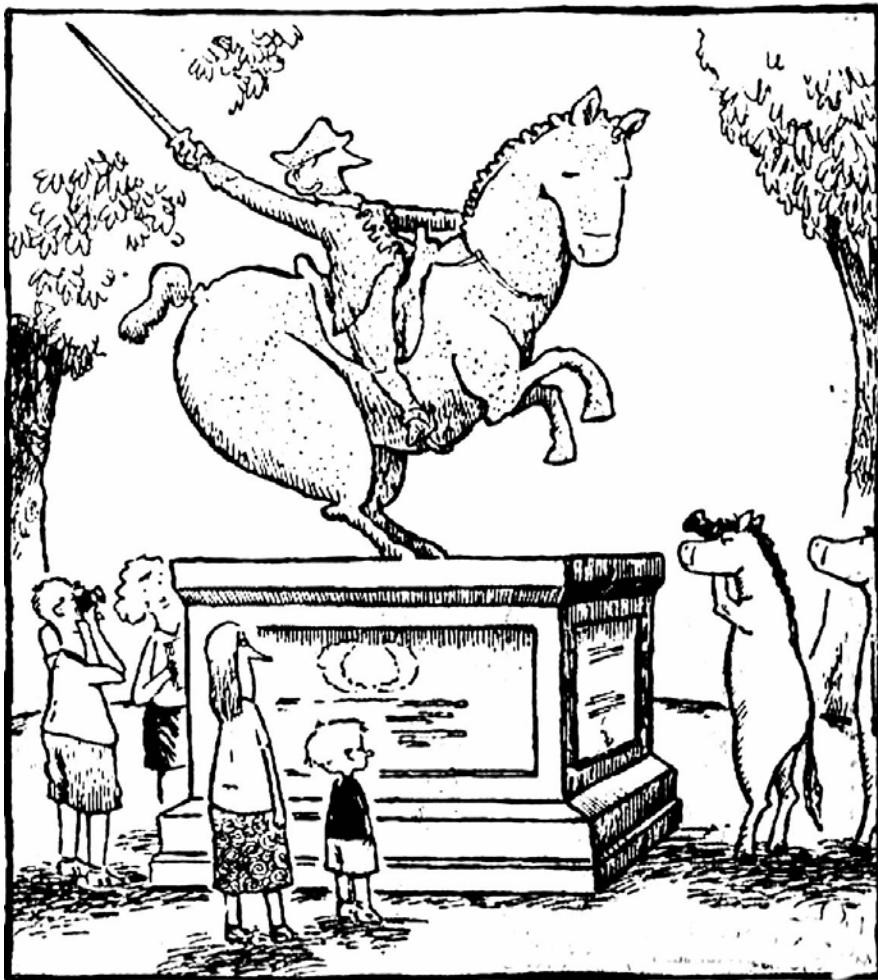
During the Confederate retreat after Gettysburg, a confederate staff officer described General Mead's pursuit as follows,

“General Meade pursued us as a mule goes on the chase of a grizzly bear—as if catching up was the last thing he wanted to do”

In 1864, when General Lee requested a new uniform jackets, Lee advised, Get any pattern to fit a big old man and cut them large. Measure Custis and give an extra size or two!”

On August 12th, 1864, Lt Col. Walter Taylor a Staff Officer to Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote to his future wife, Betty Saunders the following:

“ The general and I lost temper with each other yesterday and of course, I afterwards was disgusted at my allowing myself to be placed in such a position where I appear to such disadvantage. I couldn't help [it] however, he is so unreasonable and provoking at times; I might serve under him for ten years to come and couldn't love him at the end of that period. I don't intend though to take up my paper and your time with any account of my grievances concerning the “Greatest and Best (?) man living!”....Ah! but he is a queer old genius. I suppose it is so with all great men.



Please submit items to be added to this newsletter to-

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Plainwell, MI 49080

Email address is Hardtackcw@aol.com

Or

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4347 117th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010

Email address is camp20suvcwmi@gmail.com

**GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP 20
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DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:
<http://suvcwmi.org>**

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