

THE PRITCHARD PRESS

The Newsletter of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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ART BRUNNELL

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Announcements

- ❖ Brother Tom Bruce advises that a rededication ceremony is planned for the family of Aquilla Carey Pvt Co H 102nd U.S.C.I at the Robinson Cemetery in Gobles, MI. The ceremony is tentatively planned for Saturday Sept. 17th at approximately 1:00 pm. Further details will be announced when plans are finalized.
- ❖ Camp Historian Gary Gibson recently spoke with a representative of the City of Kalamazoo Parks Dept. and it was agreed that the Columbiad cannon, in Bronson Park, is in need of repainting. A date for this project will be decided by the August meeting and volunteers to assist with this project will be appreciated.

Our Purpose

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), we are the legal heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Our goal and purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the GAR; what they did in the Civil War and to preserve the Union, and to continue the work they started following the War. Teaching others about our flag, patriotism and citizenship were important to them and should be important to us all. Learning about the other cultures and histories that live among us today is important, but the basic history of the United States cannot take second place to that of others.

We are a National organization divided into Departments (States) and then Camps (local chapters). While perpetuating the memory of the GAR, we also work actively to locate and record the final resting place of all Civil War soldiers as well as work to restore and or preserve Civil War memorials. We also seek to honor the veterans of all wars. We participate in Memorial Day services as well as those on Veterans' Day.

Camp Calendar

- ❖ **August 2011**
2nd, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
11th-14th: National 2011 Encampment, Reston, VA

14th: Civil War Collectors Show-
Centerville, MI
26th-28th, Jackson, MI Cascades Civil
War Muster

❖ September 2011

6th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage
Library

17th, 1:00 pm Robinson Cemetery
(Section 2), Gobles, MI-Rededication
ceremony of tombstone for Aquilla
Carey

❖ October 2011

4th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage
Library



Final Muster

It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Brother Robert (Bob) H. LaPoint on July 15, 2011. He had been an active member of the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 SUVCW since joining July 5th, 2005 and will be missed by his many friends and family.



Our Heritage

Thomas C. Carrico

By Gary Swain

Thomas C. Carrico, my great-great-uncle, enlisted as a private in Company G, 122nd Infantry Regiment Illinois on Sept. 4, 1862. He was a couple of months short of his 37th birthday which was an advanced age for the foot infantry where the average age was between 20 and 21. Back on the farm, in Virden, Illinois he left his wife Mary (34) and daughters Amy (10) and Mary (8). His only surviving son Leander had already left home, the year before at the age of 13, to join the 1st Missouri Cavalry Regiment, Company D and fought through to the end of Civil War.

It must have been difficult for Thomas to leave a wife and two young children to run the farm. Certainly the corn crop would not have been harvested by early September. The motivation to join must have been enormous.

Thomas' family originally immigrated to America in 1685 and settled in Maryland. His father left Maryland in the early 1800's moving first to Kentucky and then settling in Southern Illinois. Ironically, Thomas had two first cousins with the same name (one in Maryland and one in Kentucky) who were slave owners.

Thomas had an older brother Dennis Carrico, my great-great-grandfather, who also lived and farmed in southern Illinois at the start of the Civil War. After the South succeeded the U.S. congress was finally able to pass the Homestead Act in 1862. This was designed to expand free farmers

throughout the west by giving them 160 acres of land for free. Dennis chose to take advantage of the free land, sell his farm, pack his wife and nine children and emigrate to Oregon via covered wagon. Dennis and his family left on the Oregon Trail in the spring of 1862 and his brother Thomas volunteered for the Infantry in September of the same year.

The 122nd Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers was organized at Camp Palmer, Carlinville, IL and was mustered in with 960 enlisted men. Company G included 97 men and nearly all were from the tiny farming community of Virden, Illinois. A comparison of the muster rolls and the 1860 census indicate that several of Thomas' immediate neighbors joined the same company. Given the small community that they all came from it must have seemed like every able bodied man in the area enlisted.

The 122nd Illinois remained in camp and drilled until October 8th, 1862. They were then ordered to Columbus, KY. and finally on to Jackson, TN, in December to guard the Ohio and Mobile Railroad from the cavalry raids of the brilliant but barely literate former slave trader Nathan Bedford Forest's Cavalry. Here they skirmished twice with Forest. Then in late December the 122nd Illinois along with then 50th Illinois and three pieces of artillery from the Wisconsin 7th, a total force of 1540 men, engaged Forest's 6000 men and fought them for three hours until Forest left the field. The Union troops captured 8 pieces

of artillery and 500 prisoners including Major Strange, Forest's Adjutant General.

They were sent to Corinth, Mississippi on February 17th, 1863. Private Thomas C. Carrico had emerged from the skirmishes and battles with Forest unhurt. However, like many farm boys from the rural north he had developed little resistance to disease and his health suffered from the unsanitary conditions they lived under. He contracted dysentery. He died in Corinth on March 14, 1863, just six months and a week after his enlistment.

Thomas' body was eventually returned to Virden, Illinois where he was buried in the village cemetery. Sixteen years later on Nov. 29, 1879 a headstone was provided by the U.S. government in a program to assure that all Union veterans that lost their lives during the war had proper headstones. His headstone read: Thomas C. Carrico, Private, Co. G, 122 Regt, Ill. Inf., Died March 14, 1863.

It is not know how Thomas' widow and young daughters survived immediately after his death. However, his wife Mary remarried eight years later to Daniel Betis. Daniel, was a widower, a Civil War veteran (130 Ill. Inf.) and a life-long member of the Grand Army of the Republic. They remained in southern Illinois and Mary passed away in 1906. All three of their children, who had survived infancy, lived well into the 20th century.

The "History of Jersey County" (Illinois) said of Thomas that "He was much

esteemed in the community where he lived. He was a republican in politics, an earnest advocate in the cause of temperance, and a consistent Christian, holding connection with the Baptist church at Virden, IL". But he was also one of over 400,000 Americans who gave the "Last Full Measure" in the cause of the Union.



Quote of the Month

"It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant to edit newspapers! In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor/geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I'm readily willing to yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I'll, in turn, do my best for the Cause by writing editorials – after the fact."

Robert E. Lee, 1863

Civil War Trivia Question

"Old" Civil War Nicknames

By Gary Swain

Nicknames were popular in the Civil War and many of them started affectionately with the word "Old". Below are eight "Old" nicknames and the well known person from that era associated with that nickname. The columns are alphabetical so they don't necessarily match up. Can you match the nickname with the appropriate name? The correct answers will appear on the next page of the Pritchard Press.

Old Blizzards	George Thomas
Old Blue Light	Henry Halleck
Old Brains	James Longstreet
Old Fuss N Feathers	Robert E. Lee
Old Jack	Thomas Jackson
(The) Old man	Thomas Jackson
Old Pete	William Wing Loring
Old Slow Trot	Winfield Scott



Civil War Casualties

Civil War Casualties June 1861

	Month	War to Date
North	9254	10953
South	6826	7920

*Casualties include disease, capture, disfigurement and death. July casualties increased so dramatically because the [Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run](#) was fought on July 21st, 1861. This was the first major battle of the Civil War.



Civil War Trivia Question Answer

“Old” Civil War Nicknames

By Gary Swain

Correct Answers

Old Blizzards

William Wing Loring

Old Blue Light

Thomas Jackson

Old Brains

Henry Halleck

Old Fuss N Feathers

Winfield Scott

Old Jack

Thomas Jackson

(The) Old Man

Robert E. Lee

Old Pete

James Longstreet

Old Slow Trot

George Thomas



Photo of the Month



[Fair Oaks, Va. Lt. James B. Washington, a Confederate prisoner, with Capt. George A. Custer of the 5th Cavalry, U.S.A.].

