

# 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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GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

*2016 Camp 20 Officers*

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PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: GARY L. SWAIN

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: DANIEL KNIGHT

MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: DAVID CONKLIN

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER: TOM BRUCE

COLOR BEARER: GLENN HALL



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HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON

CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN

ASSISTANT CHAPLIN: JEFFERY E. BAKER

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

BILL COSTELLO, MIKE CULP AND  
ROBERT TOWNSEND

PRITCHARD PRESS EDITOR: GARY L.  
SWAIN

### **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**

### ❖ April 2016

**5<sup>TH</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

**16<sup>th</sup> :** Lincoln Tomb Ceremony-Springfield, IL

**30<sup>th</sup> :** Department Encampment-Great Lakes Christian College-Lansing, MI.

### ❖ May 2016

**3<sup>RD</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

**21<sup>st</sup>, 9 am:** Riverside GAR Monument clean up

**30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm: Memorial Day Ceremony-**Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo

### ❖ June 2016

**7<sup>TH</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ July 2016

**5<sup>TH</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ August 2016

**2<sup>ND</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

**11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>:** National Encampment-Springfield, IL

### ❖ September 2016

**6<sup>TH</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ October 2016

**4<sup>TH</sup>, 7 pm:** Camp Meeting-Portage Library

### ❖ November 2016

1<sup>ST</sup>, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage  
Library

❖ December 2016

No Camp Meeting



## Camp Happenings

Sister Patti Townsend, Brother Robert Townsend and Brother Bill Brennan attended the living history event at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds in March.



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One of the Camp's CD's in the Farnsworth Fund matured in late March and was rolled over into a higher yielding 22 month CD. The second CD in this fund will mature in November 2016.



## Trivia Question

**Question:** How did the Northern opposition gain the name Copperheads?

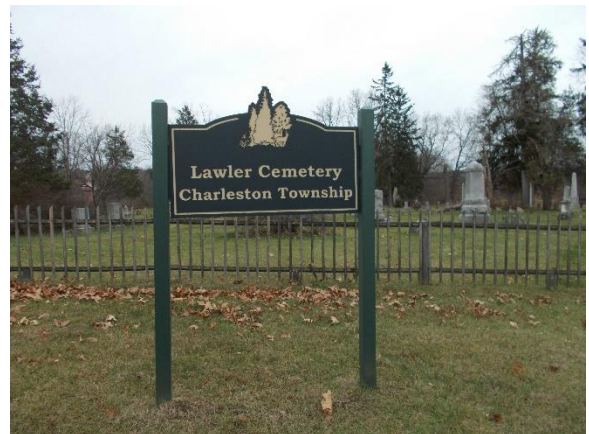
**Answer:** See page 5



## Our Heritage

### Summer Project

#### Lawler Cemetery



Brother Dave Conklin has encouraged the camp to focus some of our restoration efforts on Lawler Cemetery which is located on the grounds of Fort Custer. The cemetery is owned by Charleston Township and, due to its location and difficult access, it has suffered from neglect for many years.

The small Lawler Cemetery is the final resting place for eleven veterans including nine Civil War veterans, one War of 1812 veteran, and one Revolutionary War veteran.

Several of the Camp 20 brothers are planning on devoting some time and effort to cleaning and repairing grave stones and generally providing preservation efforts to the entire pioneer cemetery during the summer of 2016. Please consider helping in this very worthwhile project. All efforts are meaningful and appreciated.



Civil War Monument in need of cleaning and repair



Broken Civil War gravestone



Cemetery in general disrepair

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## Van Buren County Cemetery Vandalized

The Van Buren county sheriff's office reported that vandals damaged over 30 gravestones in the Lacota Cemetery in Gevena Township, on March 17th. Fortunately, the township is insured for this and has begun the claim process, planning to repair the damage as soon as the funds are provided. Camp 20 Commander John Keith contacted the county clerk and offered the assistance of the camp if needed.



Vandalized gravestones in Lacota Cemetery



## Quote of the Month

*"It is now conceited that all idea of British intervention is at an end. I want to hug the army of the Potomac for Gettysburg. I want to get the whole Army of Vicksburg drunk at my own expense. I want to fight some small man and lick him."*  
**Henry Adams on the surrender of Vicksburg.**



## Trivia Question Answer:

The Northern opposition gained the name Copperheads because they wore the Head of Liberty clipped from a copper penny on their lapels.



## Patriotic Instruction

### Medal of Honor



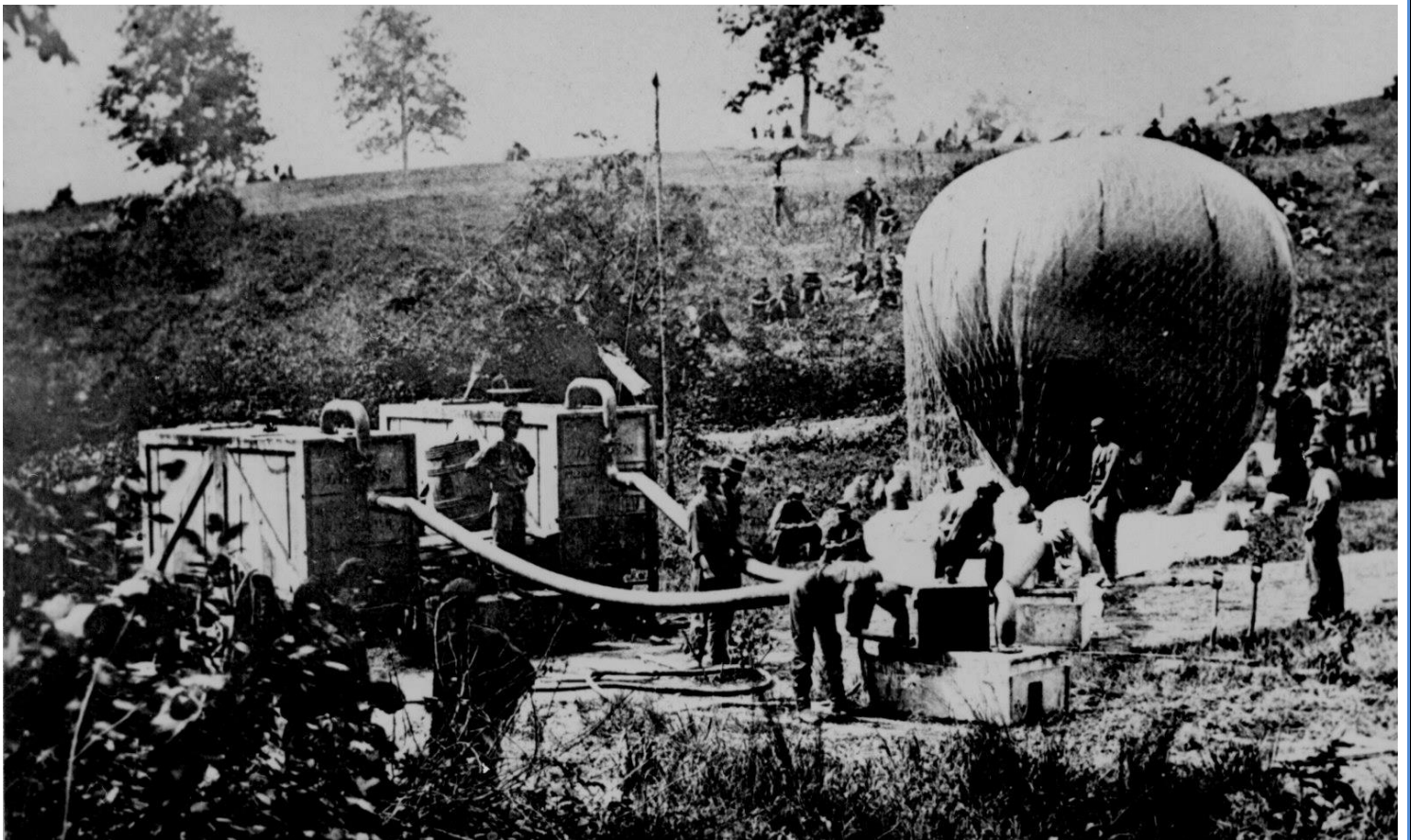
On December 21, 1861 President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution Number 82 thus establishing the Navy version of the Medal of Honor. The Army version followed a few months later. The original intent was to award a medal of honor to "to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection"

3514 Medals of Honor have been awarded to American servicemen since the its inception a hundred and fifty years ago. Almost half of these decorations were awarded during the Civil War. Since that time, the criteria have been redefined. Since 1963, a recipient must have "*distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*" and this act of heroism must occur while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States.

The first recipients of the Medal of Honor were the six soldiers who hijacked the Confederate locomotive "The General" in 1862. Their leader, James Andrews, was captured and hanged as a spy, but because he was a civilian he was not eligible for the Medal of Honor.



## Photo of the Month



Federal observation balloon Intrepid being inflated. Battle of Fair Oaks, VA, May 1862