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GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

2016 Camp 20 Officers

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ROBERT TOWNSEND

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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

- ❖ **June 2016**
7th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **July 2016**
5th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **August 2016**
2nd, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
11th, 14th: National Encampment-Springfield, IL
- ❖ **September 2016**
6th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **October 2016**
4th, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **November 2016**
1st, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library
- ❖ **December 2016**
No Camp Meeting



Camp Happenings

Flags at Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo

Saturday May 14th was a cold day with blustery rain and wind. However, six volunteers braved the elements to help honor over 200 military veterans at Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo and put flags on each of their graves.



L to R: Brother Gary Swain, volunteer Ron Commissaris, Brothers Tom Bruce, Gary Gibson and Bill Costello. Not shown, volunteers Rita Swain and Brother Mike Culp

GAR Monument Cleanup in Riverside Cemetery

Saturday, May 21st was a brilliant spring morning to conduct our annual cleanup of the GAR monument and surrounding veteran graves at Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo. Brothers Gibson, Townsend

and Swain were on hand to complete this task.



Brother Gary Gibson demonstrating proper rake technique.

Memorial Day

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War from several camps, marched in the Allegan Memorial Day parade and participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies after the parade.





Memorial Day Ceremony

Memorial Day 2016 fell on Monday May 30th. This was the infrequent occasion when the original Memorial Day (May 30th) also fell on the same day as the observed Memorial Day (the last Monday in May). It was a glorious spring day in Southwestern Michigan to remember the sacrifice of so many American veterans.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20 and the daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Cornelia Stockbridge Shelton, Tent 58 pose in front of the GAR Monument after the Memorial Day ceremony.

DAR Member, Jackie Ruttinger, spoke about her ancestors who fought for the union during the Civil War.



L to R: Commander John Keith, DAR Member Jackie Ruttinger and Camp Chaplain Bill Brennan

Sister Patti Townsend recited a poem and read a letter supporting Viet Nam veterans.



The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War provided a ceremony in memory of Union veterans.



L to R Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sisters: Liz Grossman, Samantha Maxam, Sally Redinger, Norma Bonnell and Jane Chappell.

Brother Steve Rossio recited General Order No. 11 first issued on May 5, 1868 and designating May 30th as the first Decoration day (later Memorial Day) as a day to “...arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect...”.



Brother Blain Valentine playing Taps



Firing Squad firing a salute to all veterans.

The camp owes a big “Thanks” to Wenke Greenhouses for providing the annual flowers for the GAR Monument and the graves. We also greatly appreciate the initiative and labor provided by Sister Patti Townsend and Brother Robert Townsend in planting all of the flowers.



Trivia Question

Question: Who was the last Civil War veteran to serve as president of the U.S.?

Answer: See page 7



Our Heritage

Repairing a Broken Gravestone

It is not an uncommon experience to find the older tablet style gravestones broken. Their shape and age make them particularly vulnerable to damage as a result of mower collisions, vandalism or cracking along natural flaws in the stone as they settle and tilt with age.

There are a number of ways to repair broken stones. It is very important to do no harm when repairing or cleaning any gravestone. One of the better approaches to repairing a broken stone involves the use of a specially made epoxy resin to “glue” the pieces back together.

The gravestone pictured below is an 1863 tablet stone that has been broken into two pieces for some time and is an example of the type of broken tablet stones commonly found in Civil War era cemeteries.



The bottom half of the gravestone remains upright while the top half lays on the ground, and it is absorbed by the surrounding turf and earth.



The first step in repairing the stone is to remove the horizontal portion of the stone from the ground and clean it using Orvus or other ph neutral soaps. Next, use a wire brush to clean the broken end of both pieces of the gravestone. Note: This is the only application that a wire brush is appropriate for preservation or restoration of gravestones.



Now the epoxy is mixed with the hardener. This kit, which includes all of the materials needed for the job, was ordered from Polymer Concrete Inc.



The epoxy mix is first brushed onto both sides of the broken gravestone, and then the remainder is applied with the plastic putty knife provided in the kit. The broken gravestone is then reassembled and the excess epoxy removed with the putty knife.

The remaining epoxy is removed with paper towels soaked in 91% alcohol. If the excess epoxy is removed carefully, the seam will be barely visible.



The final step is to add temporary bracing to the repaired stone to eliminate any movement while the epoxy dries. The bracing can be removed in a day or two; the repaired stone will remain in place for many years of normal weathering.



Quote of the Month

“War is the remedy our enemies have chosen and I say let’s give them all they want.” **William T. Sherman**

Trivia Question Answer:

William McKinley was the last president to serve in the Civil War. He entered the war as a private and ended the war as a brevet major. Elected to two terms (1896-1901), he was our 25th president. He was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz in 1901 and his vice president Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.



Photo of the Month



Atlanta, Georgia 1864 prior to the Battle of Atlanta and subsequent fire

