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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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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

❖ May 2016

3RD, 7 pm: Camp Meeting-Portage Library

14th, 9:30 am: Mountain Home Cemetery Flags on Veteran Graves

21st, 9 am: Riverside GAR Monument clean up

30th, 7:00 pm: Memorial Day Ceremony-Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo

❖ 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

Wenke Greenhouses Donate Flowers

Brother Robert and Sister Patti Townsend report that Wenke Greenhouses have donated flowers to the camp through their "Good Neighbors" Program. The flowers will be used to decorate the GAR Veterans Monument at Riverside Cemetery.



Camp 20 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is most appreciative of the generous donation of flowers in support of our veterans. Wenke Greenhouses Retail Garden Center is located at the corner of Sprinkle Road and Market in Kalamazoo.

GAR 150th Anniversary

April 2016 was the 150th anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic. To commemorate that event the Michigan GAR

Museum in Eaton Rapids held an open house. Several members of Camp 20 participated and the event was well attended.



L to R: Bros Bob Griggs of Austin Blair Camp 7, and Ron Bellenger of Henry Plant Camp 3 and our own Bill Brennan of General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20



Bill Brennan (L) and Mike Culp (R) of Camp 20 and the 13th Michigan Memorial Association

Bangor's Arlington Hill Cemetery

The Bangor Historical Society contacted the SUVCW Camp 20 in 2014 asking for our help in restoring the Civil War and Veterans memorial at Arlington Hills Cemetery. Both the cannon ball stack and the cannon base have deteriorated over the past century and have required significant restoration. The camp

attempted to find an appropriate contractor to do the work but was ultimately unsuccessful in that effort. The Historical Society finally hired an engineering firm to design the repairs and work has begun with a contractor.

Below is a photo of the original memorial soon after completion over a century ago.



Cannon Ball Stack (2014)

The recent photo below (April 27, 2016) indicates that the crumbling cannon ball stack has been removed and two foundations begun for two smaller replacement stacks on opposite sides of the cannon. A concrete foundation will be installed and a metal ring utilized to hold the cannon balls in place.

The next two photos illustrate the state of the cannon ball stack in 2014. The concrete had crumbled and the stack had become unstable and dangerous.



Cannon Ball Stack (2014)



The stone trunnion holding the Columbiad cannon was deteriorating and in need of repair. A comparison of the below and the original photos indicate that repairs were done to the cannon base and trunnion at some point in the past. However, time and weather have continued to damage both.



Before (2014)

The crumbling trunnions have now been replaced with new concrete trunnions. Additional concrete repairs were made to the base.



After (2016)

Finally, the entrance pillars to the cemetery have been removed and new ones are under construction.



Congratulations to the Bangor Historical Society for their considerable efforts in preserving for another generation this important memorial to the memory of the veterans who sacrificed so much for our country.

Chicago GAR

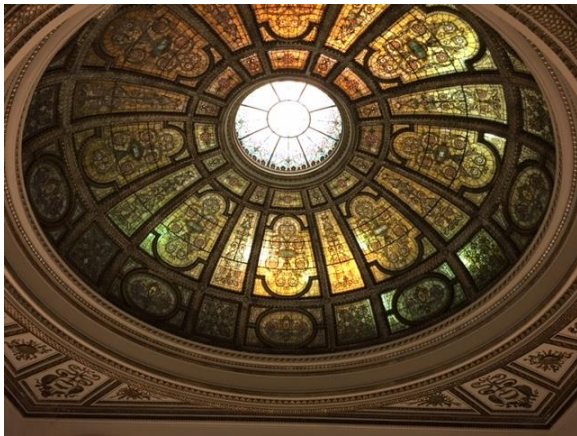
In the late 19th century the Chicago Grand Army of the Republic owned a valuable property on Michigan Ave. across the street from what is today known as Millenium Park. They wanted to build a new GAR hall on this site. However, the Chicago Library wanted this outstanding location for their new library, so in a move that would shock todays' politicians, they compromised and built this magnificent edifice and shared the site. In 1987 the building opened.

Today neither the Library or the GAR are located in the building. Instead, it is now called the Chicago Cultural Center and is the home to art exhibits from around the world and also serves and as a reception facility for world leaders.

The interior is even more impressive than the exterior. The domed room pictured below is still referred to as the GAR Hall. The area is so spacious that the hall could hold a full regiment of soldiers as an honor guard should the need arise.



Chicago Cultural Center (Formerly GAR Hall)



Trivia Question

Question: Can you name the two future U.S. presidents that hired substitutes to fight for them during the Civil War?

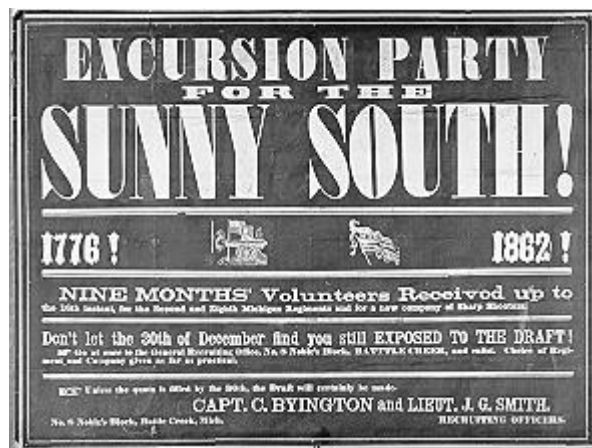
Answer: See page 7



Our Heritage

“Thank God for Michigan”

May 16th, 1861: Just two months after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, the First Michigan Infantry Regiment marched into Washington, DC becoming the first western regiment to reach Washington. Newly sworn in, a beleaguered President Abraham Lincoln is said to have uttered, “Thank God for Michigan.” The First Michigan thus became the first of over 90,000 Michigan soldiers and sailors or 23% of the male population of the state to serve the Union in the Civil War.



Michigan was a strong anti-slavery state prior to the war and played an important role in the underground railroad. Michigan men enlisted with enthusiasm, and in fact, they enlisted at a rate faster than the state could muster regiments, so many went to other states to enlist. Unlike other states, very few Michigan men had to be drafted as most ranks were filled by eager volunteers. The state eventually mustered in 31 infantry regiments, 11 of cavalry, one each of sharpshooters and engineers and 14 batteries of artillery. Also, nearly 600 sailors came from Michigan. When Governor Austin Blair was asked to supply four regiments, at the beginning of the war, he sent seven. Ultimately, 14,753 Michigan soldiers died in the service of their country, or approximately one in every six who entered the service.

Many Michigan Regiments left a legacy that is a source of pride and awe to their state and country even after 150 years. Among the most celebrated units were the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry which earned eternal fame and suffered extraordinary casualties as part of the Iron Brigade on the first day of the Battle of

Gettysburg with their stubborn defense of McPherson's Ridge. In the same battle, George Armstrong Custer's Michigan Wolverine Cavalry stopped Jeb Stewart's Cavalry from attacking the rear of the line during Pickett's Charge. Elsewhere, the 5th Volunteer Infantry sustained the heaviest loss in battle of any Michigan regiment losing 254 men in battle and 454 men in total.

Michigan soldiers fought in virtually every major battle of the Civil War. Michigan soldiers earned 62 Medals of Honor during the Civil War including Second Lieutenant Thomas Custer of Company B, Michigan 6th Cavalry, brother of the more famous Gen. George Armstrong Custer, who was the only soldier to earn two Medals of Honor during the Civil War. Additionally, Captain Frank Baldwin of Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry earned a Medal of Honor in the Civil War and a second Medal of Honor in the Indian Wars.

On July 4th, 1866, at the Presentation of Civil War Flags to the state of Michigan, General O. B. Wilcox summed it up best when he said "Ah! Yes, many a hand that vigorously grasped these Flagstuffs and led the van, now lies crumbling in the grave; and not color-bearers alone, but nearly 15,000 others who fought beside them—the flower of Michigan—return not to

receive your thanks and the plaudits of their grateful countrymen."



Quote of the Month

"You cannot make soldiers of slaves. The day you make soldiers of them is the beginning of the end of the revolution and if slaves seem good soldiers then our whole theory of slavery is wrong." **Senator Howel Cobb of Georgia**



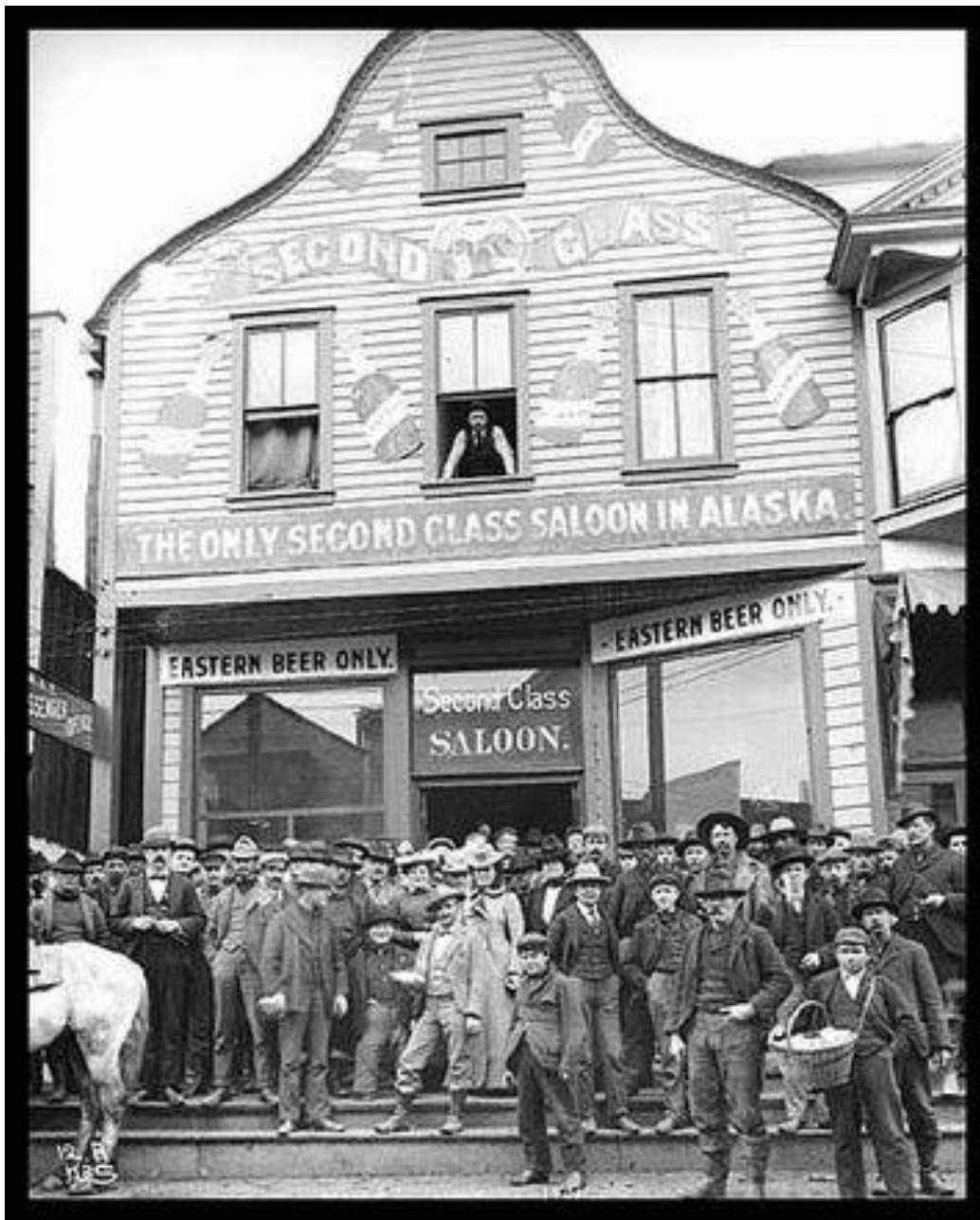
Trivia Question Answer:

Presidents Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland hired substitutes to fight for them during the Civil War. Also Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan and the fathers of both Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt hired substitutes. This unpopular activity gave rise to the term "Rich man's war, poor man's fight."



Photo of the Month

The following historical photo has nothing to do with the Civil War but is very interesting nonetheless.



The original "Second Class Saloon" owned by Wyatt Earp and his wife in Nome Alaska 1887-1901

