

Michigan's Messenger



The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan ~ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume V Number 4

May 1997

Department Officers 1996/1997

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Chief of Staff

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Camp Organizer

Kent L. Armstrong

Patriotic Instructor

Edgar Dowd

Chaplain

Gordon F. McAllister

Counselor

James B. Pahl

Historian

Ronald Bellenger

Guide

Howard Streeter

Guard

Laverne Aves

Color Bearer

Patrick D. Wallace

In Memoriam

Isla M. Dow

28 February 1908 ~ 14 December 1996

The Department of Michigan Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War lost one of its long time members with the passing of Miss Isla M. Dow. Sister Dow passed away on December 14, 1996 at the South Haven General Hospital from pneumonia at the age of 88. She was born on February 28, 1908 near South Haven, Michigan.

In the fall of 1935, Isla joined the South Haven Auxiliary and in the following year was elected president. She would later go on to serve as the Department of Michigan Vice President in 1940. She was elected Department President in 1942 and again in 1960. Isla was elected National Vice President in 1946, National Chaplain in 1951 and National Patriotic Instructor in 1955. Sister Dow could have served as National President, but refused that post as she could not serve in that capacity and teach school simultaneously; she needed to attain thirty years tenure for retirement purposes. Isla retired from teaching in 1973 after which she became a member of the Allegan County Retired Teachers Association, where she would serve as its President.

Fraternally her grandfather, Henry C. Dow 1846 - 1935, was connected with Jacob Fry Post No. 46, Grand Army of the Republic of Ganges, MI and then later to Zach Chandler Post No. 35 in South Haven. Colonel Dow was the organizer of the Allegan-Van Buren County Soldiers and Sailors reunion that was held in Oakdale Grove Park near Pullman, Michigan every June, starting in 1893 and continued for over 40 years. He was a veteran of the Navy, where he served as a sailor assigned to the 11th District Mississippi Squadron on the Gunboat General Grant. He participated in the naval engagements on Mobil Bay, on the Tennessee River and also near Chattanooga. At the close of the war he returned home. He worked as an orchard farmer until his death at the age of 88.

William A. Brennan, BDC

Department Commander's Memorial Day Directive

Brothers:

In taking our obligation to our Order, we pledge to "always observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day" - May 30th. In observing Memorial Day, we are specifically directed in the *Ritual and Ceremonials* as follows:

"It is obligatory upon every Camp to participate in Memorial Day ceremonies, either with other patriotic organizations, or as Camps, in memory of the honored dead of our country.

Each member is obligated to regard Memorial Day. He shall use his influence in every possible manner for the proper and general observance of this day, that Memorial Day, instituted by the Grand Army of the Republic, shall ever be held sacred by the people of our country.

In parade, members will conduct themselves in dignified and proper manner; will wear upon their left breasts the Regulation Badge; white gloves and dark clothes.

Memorial Sunday (Sunday preceding Memorial Day) should be observed by every Camp and every member by attending Divine services, preferably with affiliated organizations.

Camp Commanders should issue instructions to members covering Memorial Sunday and Memorial Day, advising them in full detail time and place of meeting and of needed information concerning participation of the Camp in the program of these occasions.

Camps are urged to have a special patriotic program at their regular meeting prior to Memorial Day."

I am therefor directing that all Camps and Brothers of the Department of Michigan make every effort to observe Memorial Day and Memorial Sunday (May 25th), either in individual Camp ceremonies or in conjunction with other patriotic organizations ceremonies. The use of the "Memorial Day Services" as proscribed in the *Ritual and Ceremonials* is encouraged whenever possible. Also, don't forget to call attention to your observance by notifying and inviting the media and giving them a schedule of your events. In closing, I would remind all Brothers of the charge given to us by Gen. John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11 directing the observance of Memorial Day:

"If other eyes grow dull, and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remains in us".

By Directive of:

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary



Remembrance Day ~ Gettysburg 1996 ~

Michigan SUVCW
at the
3rd Michigan Infantry Monument

Front row (l to r):

Keith Harrison, Terry McKinch,
David Wallace, Robert Gunn,
Richard Greene and Kim Shaw.

Back row (l to r):

Ed Dowd, Bill Morris, Doug Park,
Patrick Wallace, Wade Chapman,
Gordon McAllister, Dean Lamphere Jr.,
Kurt Schultz and James Pahl.

Department Orders No. 3

Series 1996/1997

1. It is my sad duty to report that the following Brother was called by our Great Commander to the Grand Army above: *William G. Worden, Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43*. In testimony to his loyalty to his country and her glorious principles of freedom; of his private character as a citizen, and as a true and loyal Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I direct that all Camp Charters will be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

2. Congratulations to our Brothers of the newly organized Col. George W. LaPoint Camp No. 76 of Monroe, the Albert and James Lyon Camp No. 266 of Daggett, and the Archibald Stewart Camp No. 259 of Litchfield. I know that all Brothers will join me in extending a Brotherly welcome to these new Brothers in the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

3. Official call is hereby made for the 108th Annual Department Encampment of the Department of Michigan to be held on Saturday, June 7th, at the Holiday Inn - West, 7501 W. Saginaw Road, Lansing. This is the annual business meeting of the Department and I hope that all Brothers will make every effort to attend. Particulars including pre-registration are contained within this issue of *Michigan's Messenger* (page 19). The pre-registration cutoff date is May 31st.

4. All Camps are reminded to submit all required reports and per capita tax prior to the Department Encampment. This includes submission of all Form 27-28's, submission of Form 22, and submission of a copy of current Camp Bylaws (as required by Department Orders No. 2, Series 1996-1997, Item No. 11). Please note: *A Camp which fails to pay its per capita tax or other indebtedness or fails to make reports, shall not be entitled to representation in Department Encampments* (Regulations, Chapter II - Departments, Article II - Membership, Section 4).

5. All Brothers are encouraged to attend the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Banquet which will be held following the Department Encampment. Please plan to join in the fellowship of an enjoyable evening. A reservation form is contained within this issue of *Michigan's Messenger* (page 19). The cutoff date for ordering tickets is May 20th. Advance sales only - no tickets at the door.

6. All Camps and Brothers are reminded that May 30th is Memorial Day. Please refer to the Department Commander's Memorial Day Directive contained within this issue of *Michigan's Messenger* (page 2) for instructions regarding the observance of this day.

7. All Camps and Brothers are encouraged to participate in the "Michigan Parades Into the 21st Century" parade to be

held in Lansing on Saturday, May 17th. Please refer to the article concerning this contained within this issue of *Michigan's Messenger* (page 16).

8. June 14th is *Flag Day* and all Brothers are encouraged to proudly display the flag of the United States as a reminder of the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. In conjunction with this, *National Flag Week* is designated as the week in which June 14th falls (June 8 through 14). Display of the flag is encouraged during this time period.

9. All Brothers are reminded that *Honor America Days* are designated as the 21 days from *Flag Day* through *Independence Day* as a period to honor America. Congress declares that there be public gatherings and activities during this period at which the people of the United States can celebrate and honor their country in an appropriate way.

10. All Camps and Brothers are encouraged to observe *Independence Day* on July 4th by participating in appropriate community ceremonies and activities.

11. As this is my last set of Department Orders as your Department Commander, I want to take this opportunity to thank all my Brothers of the Department of Michigan for their support and encouragement offered me during my term. I appreciate the friendly welcome I have received at the Camps I was able to visit. I regret that I did not get the opportunity to visit and inspect all of the Camps personally. We have achieved a substantial portion of the goals we set out at the beginning of this administration. This was accomplished through the dedicated and diligent work of the Officers of this administration. I feel toward these Brothers as U.S. Grant did when he wrote his friend, Gen. William T. Sherman, about his promotion to the position of Lieutenant General of the Army: "...no one feels more than me how much of this success is due to the energy, skill, and the harmonious putting forth of that energy and skill, of those who it has been my good fortune to have occupying a subordinate position under me". In closing, I call upon all Brothers of the Department of Michigan to offer the level of support and service to the incoming administration that you have offered to mine. Thank you all.

By Order of:

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary

Department Officer Reports

Senior Vice Commander

The refinement of the Department bylaws is a continual process. As we grow in numbers and programs, new and revised methods of conducting business are necessary. Some attempts hit the mark, others misfire but can be corrected and still others simply should be dropped. The bylaws governing them need to be adjusted accordingly.

The 1996 amendments illustrate this process of progression. As the recruiting efforts expanded, so did their costs. The bylaws then, were amended to provide for reimbursement of certain expenses of the Junior Vice Commander and also for certain expenses of the Senior Vice Commander. Further, to encourage broader involvement in committee activities, a limitation on committee size was removed.

Amendments to the bylaws are proposed again this year. One pertains to the Graves Registration and Memorial Committee, a standing committee and another to the GAR Records Committee, a special committee. Under the proposal they would be replaced by three new standing committees: Graves Registration Committee, GAR Monuments and Memorials Committee and GAR Records Committee, thus emphasizing the activities in all three areas. In addition, another special committee, the Communications and Technology Committee, would become a standing committee.

These committees would be chaired by new appointed officers: a Graves Registration Officer, GAR Monuments and Memorials Officer and a Communications and Technology Officer. (The titles of these officers as well as the titles of the committees could be changed during the amendment process if considered advisable.)

Another proposal pertains to the creation of special committees. The change would have them created by the Commander rather than by the Department Encampment. This revision would empower the Commander to form special committees as needed throughout the year, without waiting for the annual Encampment.

Finally, a section which repeals all previous bylaws would be deleted. That section is inappropriate when the bylaws simply are being amended and not being replaced altogether.

A copy of the bylaw amendments proposed for presentation at the 1997 Encampment has been sent to all Camp Commanders in accordance with the specific procedure. Each Camp is directed to take action on them and instruct its delegates accordingly.

In F., C. and L..

Paul D. Hodges

Department Senior Vice Commander

Chaplain

Greetings Brothers. I hope your winter experience has gone well and you are now gearing up to devote your energy toward perpetuating the memory of the GAR. I think God may even bless us with more sunshine this year after putting us through such a horrible blustery rain soaked winter.

For those of you who attended the Department's Mid-Winter Conference, I hope you gained more knowledge to help solidify our organization. The event was very meaningful for me as your Chaplain and new Camp Commander of Camp No. 67 in Bay City. I encourage you to attend every Sons and SVR function you can, because it does truly help your devotion grow stronger and stronger to our organizational purpose.

Talking from the heart I can suggest three ceremonies that will tickle my heart for sure this year. They are the Memorial Day Ceremony in Bay City on the 26th of May at 2:00 pm, the Grand Rapids Soldiers Home/Hospital in August and Gettysburg in November on Remembrance Day. There will be many more ceremonies that you and I will attend that will also bring that wonderful grand glorious experience to our hearts and minds.

Good Luck,
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gordon McAllister
Department Chaplain

Department Officer Reports

Junior Vice Commander

Greetings, gentlemen. The most important and dear time of year to our organization is upon us this month! The *trinity* of Red, White & Blue will soon be everywhere as we observe MEMORIAL DAY. I encourage all Camps to ask their local media to share the origins of this tribute with those in your communities. This offers an excellent opportunity to get the name of our Order in the public-eye while promoting the memory of those who *Saved the Union*. Our public ceremonies should strive to offer an example of pride, dignity, and honor that will draw new members to our Order.

Communication — Newspaper Public Relations examples are included in the special *Recruiting Packet* that I began distributing to Camp Junior Vice Commanders at the Department's Mid-Winter Conference. All newly elected Camp JVCs who've contacted me have received this. I hope to hear from the rest of you soon, so that I may continue to refer candidates for membership to your Camp without interruption. Thank you. I also want to thank all of you who have sent me the information on your particular Camp's initiation fee and dues rate so that I can get this directly to those referred to us from the National

Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief. Thus, better serving these prospective members/associates in a more timely manner.

Recruiting — Minor wear and tear has been repaired on the Department's *Recruiting Tent* and it's now ready for the campaign ahead. For you who haven't seen it, we have a white canvas Civil War era Wall Tent and Fly (canopy) with all poles, ropes, & stakes ready for you to borrow and setup at any public function that would lend itself to a recruiting display. The Department now also has a *Recruiting Box* available whether you wish to use the tent or not. The box contains a large, attention-getting Red, White & Blue Banner that will cover a large display table. There are also some 3-ring binders with material to help break the ice with any visitors. Camp JVCs can also display any/all of the Civil War Trivia material furnished in the *Recruiting Packet* that you got from me. Please contact me to reserve and arrange handling of the tent and/or box.

After a great deal of updating effort, the Department will soon be able to print a new *Recruiting Brochure* for everyone's use. As with past editions, this will include brief information on all of our Department's Camps, for you to share with anyone who may visit your display, regardless of where they may live around our state. Names and phone numbers of Camp JVCs will be included in the brochure so that an interested individual may contact the Camp nearest him when he returns home. I will be sending some to each Camp for you to have for Memorial Day.



Benjamin F. Stevenson
1st Commander-in-Chief of the GAR
1866 ~ 1867

My thanks to all who have expressed support for the idea I shared on a special *Recruiting Video* to be eventually prepared at the National Level. I hope that you also shared your encouragement with Brother Glenn Knight who heads the committee responsible for such concerns. His address is printed in the February 1997 issue of *Michigan's Messenger*.

Summary — As this is the last newsletter printed before the Department's Annual Encampment, I'd like to express what an enjoyable honor it has been for me to take a turn in this role. It's been a pleasure working with all of you to strengthen our membership across the state. Everyone whom I've met, in the course of opening new Camps, exhibits a sincere desire to

promote the memory of those who served the Union, in the most honorable ways possible.

Our Department will have an opening in the role of Senior Vice Commander this year and I would like a turn in that position on the team, provided the membership deems me worthy. Therefore, I invite all of you to consider lending your time and talent to the position of Department Junior Vice Commander.

My best wishes for success with all of our patriotic ceremonies this month!

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Kent Armstrong
Department Junior Vice Commander

Department Officer Reports

Camp Organizer

I have the honor of reporting the formation and official organization of another three Camps within the Department of Michigan, bringing our total to twenty-two Camps (including the Camp-at-Large).

The **Colonel George W. LaPoint Camp No. 76** was opened at Monroe on February 23rd, to serve our interests in the Monroe County area. The Charter Camp officers are:

Camp Commander	John Reaume
Camp Secretary-Treasurer	V. Craig DeCrane
Camp Council	Robert B. Elliott Dale R. Nieson James R. Ryland

Please direct any membership referrals to Commander Reaume at (313) 243-6697.

The **Albert and James Lyons Camp No. 266** was opened at Daggett (20 miles north of Menominee) on March 22nd, to begin serving our interests in the Upper Peninsula. The Charter Camp officers are:

Camp Commander	Patrick E. Kennedy
Camp Secretary-Treasurer	Larry E. Peterson
Camp Council	LeRoy D. Austin Paul A. Nelson Philip N. Parks

Please direct any membership referrals to Commander Kennedy at (906) 863-7686.

The **Archibald Stewart Camp No. 259** was opened at Litchfield on April 20th, to serve our interests in the Hillsdale

County area. The Charter Camp officers are:

Camp Commander	James M. Wildt
Camp Secretary-Treasurer	Randy L. Iles
Camp Council	Floyd E. Gittings Steven L. Isles Michael E. Nye

Please direct any membership referrals to Commander Wildt at (517) 542-3517.

All three of these Camps are numbered in honor of original GAR Posts and two have also given new life to the name of the original Posts. After the representatives of these Camps get settled in, we will have them prepare a Camp News article and share special stories related to their namesakes.

Most of the leg-work has been done for the formation of yet another three Camps and so, it is likely by the end of May, we will have opened Camps to be headquartered in Presque Ile, St. Joseph and Washtenaw Counties. Looking ahead, we are in the talking stage for Camps in Mason and Oakland Counties. Some members of the newly formed Camp No. 266 drove upwards of 200 miles to attend their Charter Meeting. Therefore, in the best spirit of our work being done on the local level, the Brothers of our Upper Peninsula Camp may form a couple more Camps!

I hope that all SUVCW Brothers in Michigan share my pride in seeing more men join us to preserve the memory of those who *Saved the Union* from the conflict of 1861 ~ 1865!

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Kent Armstrong
Department Camp Organizer



Charter Meeting of Albert and James Lyons Camp No. 266

(left to right)

Dennis Kennedy, LeRoy Austin
Dept. Secretary Richard Lee
Dept. Commander David Wallace
Camp Sec./Treas. Larry Peterson
Richard Laansma
Paul Nelson, Gregory Wright
Camp Commander Patrick Kennedy
Dennis Renken, Philip Parks
Dept. JVC Kent Armstrong

Department Officer Reports

Mid-Winter Conference a Success

Fifty members from 14 Camps in Michigan gathered at the Midway Hotel in Lansing on February 19th for a most successful conference. Commander-in-Chief Alan Loomis was present as a special guest.

The meeting began with a session about various Camp ceremonies. With Brother James Lyons, PDC, instructing from the fine print of the Ritual, Department Officers demonstrated the Opening, the Ceremony for Receiving National or Department Officers, the Initiation (short form) and the Closing. Department Commander David F. Wallace presided over the ceremonies which included the formal reception of Commander-in-Chief Loomis and the authentic initiation of James King of the newly formed Henry W. Quigley Camp No. 147 in Cadillac.

In the next session, Department Officers met with their Camp Officer counterparts for training and discussions. The exchange of ideas between Camps was particularly enlightening and helpful.

In the last period of the program, committee chairmen and others described various activities underway within the Department. The topics included membership recruiting, legislation, GAR records, *Michigan's Messenger* and the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Commander Wallace concluded the meeting with a special recognition. He presented James Lyons a certificate of appreciation from the Department for his leadership in the planning and implementation of this Mid-Winter Conference. A job well done!

In the evening, SUCVW members and their guests joined with members of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan for the annual George Washington - Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Banquet. Gary Gibson, a member of both organizations, spoke on the times and toils of George Washington.

Paul D. Hodges

Department Senior Vice Commander

It does not require a lawyer to interperate the provisions of the Bill of Rights. They are as clear as the Ten Commandments.

Herbert Hoover

Treasurer's Report

The following statements have been reported from the books and records of the Department.

Department of Michigan — SUCVW Statement of Assets, and Liabilities and Fund Balance At 28 February 1997

Assets	
Checking Account	\$1,712.81
Savings Account	3,670.08
Russell Alger Memorial Fund	<u>515.95</u>
Total Assets	\$5,898.84

Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Liabilities	
Due Camp-at-Large	\$ 41.00
Due Lyons Camp	10.00
Due SVR	112.00
Miscellaneous	<u>7.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$170.00

Fund Balance	
Restricted Funds	\$515.95
Unrestricted Funds	<u>5,212.89</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$5,728.84

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance **\$5,898.84**

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures As of 28 February 1997

Revenue	\$1,386.25
Expenditures	<u>-2,015.18</u>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	-\$628.93

Total Fund Balance Beginning of Period \$6,357.77

Total Fund Balance End of Period **\$5,728.84**

Dated 19 March 1997
Yours in F., C. and L..

James T. Williams
Department Treasurer

Department Officer Reports

SVR Adjutant

It is my privilege to announce the following promotions: Kim D. Shaw, Private, Co. B, effective November 1996, has been appointed to the Post of Judge Advocate General with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Col. Shaw now serves as the SVR legal councilor and is a part of the National Military Department, Sons of Veterans Reserve (NMD,SVR). William Morris, Private, Co. B, effective 3 February 1997, was promoted to the grade of Corporal. Cpl. Morris will be serving under Sergeant Lamphere and is a member of Company B, 1st Platoon, 2nd Section.

Company B, at its current strength, has room for one more Corporal. When I am able to make this promotion, all four sections of Co. B will have a Corporal. I would like to make this promotion in the fall. Early in 1998, I would like to promote one of these Corporals to 2nd Sergeant. This will allow another Private to make the grade of Corporal.

Please join me in welcoming the following new reservists! Gerald M. Lintemuth, Camp No. 28 and Garry G. Redding, Camp No. 1, both new to Company A. Richard A. Russell is new to Company B.

I would like to thank all the reservists who were able to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing on February 15th. On 1 March 1997, SVR troops and reenactors under the direction of B. Gen. Keith G. Harrison, SVR, supported the Flag Adoption Ceremony in Lansing. At the ceremony, Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 adopted the Regimental Standard of the 4th Michigan Cavalry.

The annual SVR and Valley Guard Infantry School was held on March 7, 8, and 9, 1997 at Crossroads Village. This year's school was attended by 50% of the Michigan Military Department. I commend all who attended this year's school. Thank you for making it a success!

From the desk of Captain McKinch, Commander of the Michigan Military Department, these reminders of upcoming events:

- 17 May — Lansing, Michigan parades into the 21st Century, starting at 11:30. Contact Capt. McKinch at the following address if you are interested in participation; 7432 Potter Road, Davidson, MI 48423.
- 26 May — Observed Memorial Day. Participate in services with your local Camps.
- 30 May — Traditional Memorial Day. Participate in services with your local Camps.
- 1, 2 and 3 August, Grand Rapids, Day of Remembrance.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, this will be the largest observance held here for many years. There will be a military bivouac for SVR troops and reenactors, a parade and honor services on Saturday, a large dinner for troops Saturday evening, and a battle reenactment on Sunday. Contact Capt. McKinch for further details.

- 15 November — Gettysburg, PA. Grand Army of the Republic Remembrance Day Parade and Honor Services.
- 19 November — Grand Army of the Republic Remembrance Day in Michigan. All Camps are encouraged to hold observances.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the SVR or its activities, please feel free to contact your NCO.

- Company A: 1st Sgt. James Pahl or Cpl. David Rehkolf.
- Company B: 1st Sgt. L. Dean Lamphere Jr., Cpl. Ed Dowd, Cpl. William Morris or Cpl. Gordon McAllister.

If you don't know how to contact your Company NCO's, please contact me directly, 7270 Morrcrest Lane, Flushing, MI 48433. I will direct your concern to the appropriate NCO or address it myself. Keep the lines of communication open!

I would like to close this report by thanking all Brothers for your support during this time. My father passed away on the evening of March 26th. I have received many notes of encouragement. Thank you for all your kindness. Thank you for your continued service in the Reserve.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

Lt. Daniel V. Graves
Adjutant

A Little Bronze Button

There's a little bronze emblem that's dearer by far,

Than diamond or ruby or jewel or star.

To heroes who wear it 'tis worth more than gold,

It links them together those comrades of old.

What memories it brings of boys living and dead,

Of fathers and brothers who struggled and bled,

To keep us a nation: They're veterans who fought

They're known by the button they wear on their coats.

(Chorus)

That little bronze button still keep it in view,

And honor the wearers, once brave boys in blue,

They all ate their hardtack, and march'd side by side,

'Tis the Grand Army button they wear with such pride.

Department Officer Reports

Historian

In June 1946 the last Department of Michigan Encampment of the GAR, at which a Civil War veteran attended, was held in Lansing and Orlando LeValley was re-elected Department Commander. The 1947 and 1948 Encampments were held in Grand Rapids. The membership of the GAR in Michigan went from a high of 21,418 in 1889, to 0 on April 19, 1948 with the death of Commander LeValley. The largest number of GAR Posts in Michigan was 391, in 1892. The first Encampment was held in Detroit in 1868 with Russell A. Alger as Commander. The following is a list of all Encampments, where they were held and the presiding Commander.

Michigan Department Encampments Grand Army of the Republic 1868 ~ 1948

Year	City	Presiding Commander	Year	City	Presiding Commander
1868	Detroit	Russell A. Alger	1913	Lansing	John T. Spillanc
1869	Lansing	William A. Throop	1914	Jackson	Frank R. Chase
1870	Lansing	William Humphries	1915	Kalamazoo	Riley I. Jones
1879	Grand Rapids	C. V. R. Ponds	1916	Bay City	Eli Strong
1880	Grand Rapids	C. V. R. Ponds	1917	Battle Creek	Lucius H. Ives
1881	Quincy	A. T. McReynolds	1918	Saginaw	William O. Lee
1882	Muskegon	Byron R. Pierce	1919	Traverse City	David S. Howard
1883	Battle Creek	Byron R. Pierce	1920	Port Huron	Edwin F. Lamb
1884	Detroit	Oscar A. Janes	1921	Flint	Henry Spaulding
1885	East Saginaw	Rush J. Shank	1922	Detroit	J. J. Holmes
1886	Jackson	Charles D. Long	1923	Grand Rapids	William Mears
1887	Grand Rapids	John Northwood	1924	Lansing	Lyman A. Gilbert
1888	Lansing	L. G. Rutherford	1925	Port Huron	M. C. Barney
1889	Bay City	Washington Gardner	1926	Jackson	John Seel
1890	Adrian	Michael Brown	1927	Benton Harbor	James R. Stephenson
1891	Muskegon	Henry M. Duffield	1928	Kalamazoo	Charles A. Bartlett
1892	Ann Arbor	Charles L. Eaton	1929	Bay City	A. C. Estabrook
1893	Benton Harbor	Henry S. Dean	1930	Pontiac	A. C. Estabrook
1894	Owosso	James H. Kidd	1931	Grand Rapids	A. C. Estabrook
1895	Mt. Clemens	Louis Kanitz	1932	Petoskey	Orestus Blake
1896	Saginaw	S. B. Daboll	1933	Saginaw	Orestus Blake
1897	Greenville	William Shakespeare	1934	Grand Rapids	John Killeen
1898	Port Huron	Aaron T. Bliss	1935	Mt. Clemens	Frank F. Keeler
1899	Petoskey	Alex L. Patrick	1936	Battle Creek	Ira M. Stewart
1900	Grand Rapids	Russell R. Peeler	1937	Detroit	Ira M. Stewart
1901	Flint	E. M. Allen	1938	Grand Rapids	S. H. Carlton
1902	Pontiac	James Van Kleek	1939	Jackson	A. C. Estabrook
1903	Muskegon	Edward C. Anthony	1940	Ann Arbor	A. F. Chappell
1904	Holland	D. B. K. VanRaalte	1941	Lansing	M. J. Warner
1905	Traverse City	George H. Hopkins	1942	Grand Rapids	Sr. Vice Orlando LeValley
1906	Saginaw	E. C. Cannon	1943	Lansing	Orlando LeValley
1907	Bay City	Joseph B. Griswold	1944	Bay City	W. H. Ferguson
1908	Detroit	William Jibb	1945	Grand Rapids	Orlando LeValley
1909	Kalamazoo	George L. Holmes	1946	Lansing	Orlando LeValley
1910	Holland	James M. Greenfield	1947	Grand Rapids	Orlando LeValley
1911	Ypsilanti	Samuel J. Lawrence	1948	Grand Rapids	Leah Simpson Marshall (<i>Presiding</i>)
1912	Port Huron	George W. Stone			

(Continued on page 10)

Department Officer Reports

(Historian --- Continued from page 9)

The following numbers show the gain and loss of GAR Posts and Members in the Department of Michigan after it was reorganized --- year by year from January, 1879 to January, 1949.

Year	Posts	Members	Year	Posts	Members
1879	6	127	1915	267	7,452
1880	9	281	1916	263	6,995
1881	13	482	1917	252	6,257
1882	27	1,019	1918	240	5,553
1883	100	4,442	1919	238	5,115
1884	209	10,311	1920	227	4,667
1885	288	14,475	1921	212	4,000
1886	316	16,957	1922	197	3,386
1887	348	19,226	1923	193	3,105
1888	371	21,353	1924	190	2,836
1889	373	21,418	1925	149	2,377
1890	377	21,255	1926	125	1,882
1891	375	20,765	1927	119	1,563
1892	391	20,905	1928	112	1,212
1893	390	20,469	1929	109	991
1894	384	19,020	1930	102	817
1895	383	18,059	1931	97	656
1896	373	16,766	1932	89	550
1897	382	16,096	1933	81	418
1898	385	15,831	1934	78	314
1899	386	15,531	1935	68	244
1900	382	15,102	1936	66	198
1901	375	14,930	1937	45	120
1902	368	14,406	1938	35	78
1903	359	13,716	1939	31	59
1904	355	13,168	1940	26	50
1905	346	12,282	1941	21	35
1906	340	11,566	1942	16	47
1907	326	11,068	1943	10	33
1908	318	10,688	1944	6	21
1909	313	10,220	1945	4	8
1910	311	9,854	1946	2	7
1911	309	9,372	1947	1	2
1912	286	8,707	1948	1	1
1913	279	8,226	1949 (Jan.)	0	0
1914	271	7,821			

All Camp Historians or Commanders are again reminded to send newspaper articles and pictures regarding their Camp to me for the Department files. Please send them to:

Ronald Bellenger
1219 62nd Street
Fennville, MI 49408

In F.. C. and L.

Ron Bellenger
Department Historian

Commanders Group

As the Department's representative to the Commanders Group, I attended the Group's February meeting in Lansing. This association consists of key officers of twelve veterans' organizations which receive grants from the State of Michigan. The member organizations include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Marine Corps League.

On my arrival, I discovered one familiar face, that of Herb Gage, a Brother from Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20. He was there representing another affiliated organization, the Consolidated War Veterans. As we sat together, he advised me about the business at hand.

The meeting began early in order to hear State Representative Karen Willard. As chair of the Senior Citizens and Veteran's Affairs Committee, she welcomed suggestions about how the state can better serve veterans.

About sixty members and guests considered a variety of topics during the meeting. They ranged from a homeless veterans project in Detroit to the Michigan Veterans trust Fund (definitely solvent), from possible reduction of funds for VA hospitals in Michigan to mandatory fines for illegal parking in handicapped parking areas.

A highlight of the meeting was a brief message by Joe Frank, the National Commander of the American Legion. He urged support for the legislation to protect the American Flag.

The Commanders Group, and by extension the veterans organizations throughout Michigan, recognize our Order. We need to continue our presence among them.

Paul D. Hodges

Department Senior Vice Commander



*Gen. John A. Logan
2nd Commander-in-Chief of the GAR
1867 ~ 1870*

Statue Vandalized



SALT RIVER CEMETERY STATUE

The Salt River Cemetery is located a few miles south of Shepherd on the east side of old highway U. S. 27. The statue was placed in the cemetery around the turn of the century. Made of hollow cast zinc, the piece sits atop a marble base. Over the years, vandals and weather have taken their toll of the memorial. Some seams in the metal have parted. Much of the original finish of the piece has worn away. Sadly, vandals years ago severed the wrist of the stock of the musket, bent the visor of the kepi upward to a vertical position and also bent the flap of the cartridge box. A Central Michigan University art professor has estimated that the preservation of the statue will cost about \$5,000.00, with complete restoration topping \$8,000.00. The local township board appears to be unwilling to help, citing lack of funds. It appears to be more like a lack of interest.

Anyone interested in helping to restore this monument may send their donation to Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 53 at 2750 Mier Road, Midland, MI 48642. Please note on your check that it is for the Salt River Statue Fund.

Son of Civil War Veteran Welcomes Renewed Interest Inspired by Musters

Thayne LaBanta is one of only two members of Michigan's Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who are actually sons of Union soldiers.

LaBanta, 92, of Jackson (MI), is the youngest of four children of Dean LaBanta (Derick Dean Banta), who served with the 76th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. The elder LaBanta was 60 years when his last son was born, about forty years after his three years of fighting in battles such as the siege of Vicksburg.

Although his father lived another 20 years, Thayne LaBanta learned little from him about the war. He said his father didn't like to talk about it. "He did talk about Gen. (Ulysses S.) Grant. He thought a lot of Gen. Grant," LaBanta said. His father also had praise for Admiral David Farragut for his actions on the Mississippi River.

LaBanta remembers visiting Grant's Tomb on a family trip to New York, and being warned by his father to take his hat off in the general's honor.

The elder LaBanta did relate one of his personal war experiences to his son. He played the fife in a fife and drum corps, and the group decided out onto the river one Sunday, a day usually exempt from fighting on both sides. Suddenly, some Confederate soldiers started shooting at them. "My dad said, 'I chickened out. I hid behind the smokestack until they quit shooting,'" his son recalls.

LaBanta remembers one other reference his father made to the war. When the younger LaBanta was 9 or 10 years old, two neighbor boys were given hunting rifles. Their father warned them never to shoot their guns in the city, but young LaBanta wanted to try it. "We were never allowed to have guns," he said. "I don't know why."

When one of the boys brought him his gun, LaBanta picked a gourd or pumpkin from the garden and sat it atop a chicken coop, which was leaning against the barn behind the family home on Randolph Street. Then he aimed and fired. "I don't know if I came anywhere near it or not," he said. "but my

father came flying out. He shouted, 'Here I go all through the Civil War, and then my son shoots me.'" Fortunately, his father wasn't wounded and the youngster went unpunished.

LaBanta said he hated history in school, but couldn't help but learn something about the war when he began driving his father to his regiment reunions at age 13 or 14. He absorbed the stories told by the former soldiers, and eventually joined the Austin Blair Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He has attended meetings ever since of the local, state and national organizations.

When he was commander years ago, the Jackson group had about 100 members. But through the years, as sons of veterans aged or lost interest, it dwindled down to two members. LaBanta and the other man (Donald Hoch), who lives elsewhere in Michigan, wouldn't let it die out, though and paid dues for several non-existent members for awhile. A

minimum of 5 members was required to keep a charter, LaBanta said.

Then the Civil War Muster arrived in Jackson. "This reenactment has done wonders," LaBanta said. "It's created so much interest in Civil War history. Now we are back up to 35 or 40 members, with membership including grandsons and great grandsons of veterans."

LaBanta has framed photos of his father in uniform, and a copy of his discharge papers. But most of his possessions from the war, including his rifle, were lost a few years after his discharge. He was a chemist in Chicago, with his office and living quarters in the Palmer House Hotel when the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the downtown area in 1871.

"When Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern, he lost everything," Thayne LaBanta said. His father escaped unscathed, and later moved to Jackson.

Article and photograph by Densie B. Cavins, printed in the Jackson Citizen Patriot, 21 September 1996. Reprinted with permission.



Camp News

Camp No. 7 Gov. Austin Blair

Jackson — Taking advantage of the cold days of winter several brothers have been busily researching members of the Edward Pomeroy Post No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic. This was Jackson's GAR Post from 1882 until 1944 and had over 750 members.

Name by name they are being researched in regimental records of numerous states. Of course about $\frac{2}{3}$ of them served with Michigan, however more than 150 served with New York units followed by Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and various other states. This has necessitated research at the State Library in Lansing and the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Yet another Brother spends lunch hours and after work time researching genealogical and newspapers clippings in our local library. Most all of the regimental (other than Michigan) and local research is contained on Micro film. When completed this information will be published for reference by interested historians and genealogists.

April 5, 1914 our Camp was mustered and the Charter issued two weeks later. Accordingly, an 83rd Anniversary Celebration was held on our meeting night of April 14th. Nearly 50 attended including distinguished guests and family and friends of the area as we heard from several of the Brothers who played an important part in our history.

Brother Thayne LaBanta, PDC, a "True Son" and 68 year member of our Camp, opened the Camp following the Ritual. Brother Don Hoch, PCC, a 60 year member assisted. Camp Historian Bob Metcalf spoke of the first year or so of the Camp sharing some of the minutes of the early meetings. Brother Jim Neely, PCC, told of the re-activation and revitalization of the Camp about ten years ago when he, Brother Dick Halsey and the late Jack Patch transferred here from Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17.

Michigan Department Commander Dave Wallace joined in the festivities bringing greetings from the Department and a communique from Commander-in-Chief Alan R. Loomis congratulating the Camp for 83 years of service to the SUVCW. Also bringing greetings was Department President Lucille Streeter of the Women's Relief Corps and Mrs. Eleanor Newberry, Past Department President of the WRC. President Streeter presented the Camp with a patriotic table decoration and a copy of "Our Lizabeth", a book about the life of Lizabeth Turner and her activities with Andersonville Prison.

Commander Howard Streeter of the Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22, in Marshall attended with another member of that Camp. Greetings were relayed from our Department Senior Vice Commander Paul Hodges, Junior Vice Commander Kent Armstrong and Steve Alexander, the well known impersonator of General George A. Custer.

Three nights later an organizational meeting was held to re-activate the Auxiliary to our Camp. Eight paid applications were received, two were from spouses of Brothers of Austin Blair Camp No. 7, the other six all lineal descendants of Civil War veterans.

Bill Lowe

Camp No. 28 Alexander French

Big Rapids — November's Camp meeting saw us accepting another candidate, Kreation Cullimore, whose ancestor's records are still pending from the National Archives. But at that meeting we also had the unpleasant task of taking action to drop two of our Charter Members, which is always a sad thing. A bronze recognition button was presented to Brother Thomas Mehl and a Membership Certificate to Brother Gerald Lintemuth.

This was also the month for nominations and elections, with the following Brothers being elected or appointed as Camp Officers for 1997: Dave Waldron, Commander; John Walker, SVC; Gerald Lintemuth, JVC; John Emmons, Secretary; Ted Johnson, Treasurer; Kreation Cullimore, Chaplain; Lyle Troupe, Patriotic Instructor; Jerry Waldron, Color Bearer; Hon. LaVail Hull, Counselor.

A gavel and pad were presented to the Camp by Brothers Dave and Jerry Waldron in memory of their great, great grandfather, Hanley A. Waldron, a Private in Company 1, 10th Michigan Cavalry. The gavel had been made by their father about 75 years ago.

January's Camp meeting had been scheduled for installation of officers, but due to several illnesses and involved Brothers being out of state, it had to be rescheduled for the March meeting. January did see the long overdue initiation of one of our Charter Members, Brother LaVail Hull, who had not been able to attend any meetings for the past two years. The Alexander French Camp No. 28 Bylaws were officially adopted, signed and sent off to Department Headquarters for

(Continued on page 14)

Camp News

(Camp No. 28 continued from page 13)

approval. Also at this meeting the members elected to have the March installation of officers an open meeting for family members and special guests, with light refreshments to be served following the meeting. Such was conducted was conducted for our Charter Presentation Meeting earlier, with splendid participation and was favorably received.

Department Commander David Wallace and Department Chief-of-Staff Captain Terry McKinch will be presiding at the installation ceremonies scheduled for 7:30 pm on March 4, 1997. Alexander French Camp now includes as a part of the closing ceremonies of all Camp meetings, the playing of *Taps* as we render honor to *The Boys Who Wore the Blue, 1861 - 1865*. We look forward to a challenging year ahead!

David L. Waldron

Camp No. 53

Wa-Bu-No

Mt. Pleasant/Shepherd - On Saturday, the 5th of October, Brothers Wayne Barrett, Wayne Nash and Don Workman met at Riverside Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant to work on the GAR monument which was showing signs of deterioration. The structure consists of a concrete base, perhaps six by six feet, topped off with cannon balls embedded in a concrete pyramid, out of which emerges a metal flagpole. The entire monument is about 20 feet in height. We had earlier discovered that the concrete had been poured over a sand filled interior, the concrete forming a thin outer shell. Over the years, water had seeped into the structure, frozen, cracked the base and loosened many of the cannon balls.

The crew of Brothers set about scraping off loose paint and concrete. Once the clean up was completed, all cracks in the monument were sealed with caulking and quick setting cement. When the repair work was completed, the entire concrete portion of the monument was given a fresh coat of paint.

As the three of us stood around admiring our handy work, some men approached us and asked if we were members of the Order. Ironically, the men proved to be Brothers Mike McMillan and his son Tristan, of Camp No. 160 in Corunna. They had arrived at the cemetery a few minutes earlier in a successful attempt to find the grave of one of their Civil War ancestors. It seemed a fitting end to a day devoted to a labor of love.

On October 15, Brothers Wayne Barrett, Leo Cohoon, Ray

Croissant, Jacob Kuhlman, Wayne Nash and Don Workman met in Ithaca with the Gratiot County Historical Society to present a program on the Civil War, our Order and related topics. Brother Cohoon presented highlights of the service of his great uncle, while Wayne Nash spoke about the 8th Michigan Infantry. Brother Don Workman gave information on several relics brought for display as well as the history of the Grand Army of the Republic and the SUVCW. The entire program was video taped by the society and was later played on a local PBS TV station.

Don Workman

George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

DeWitt — The Camp No. 58 1997 slate of officers are:

Camp Commander	Kent Armstrong
Sr Vice Commander	Warren Gidley
Jr Vice Commander	Dave Johnson
Secretary / Treasurer	Mark Pangburn
Camp Council	Don Boak

Tom Dingler
Bob Knowles
Kim Altvater

Camp Delegate

The new Camp No. 58 officers were recently installed by Dept. Chief of Staff Terry McKinch.

Among recent Camp activities, details are unfolding on establishing a Veterans Honor Roll. This would consist of some sort of plaque listing Civil War veterans within various communities in the county and having them placed at sites such as V.F.W. Posts or other appropriate venues. Final details to follow.

Plans are finalizing for participation in Memorial Day activities in DeWitt, St. Johns and perhaps Waucousta. Activities most likely will include cemetery ceremonies in all cities, and possibly a parade in St. Johns.

A special speaker visited the camp recently. Mr. LeRoy Fladseth, of Lansing, stopped by to discuss his ancestor, Sgt. Smith Stimmel. He was one of President Lincoln's bodyguards, due to his being a member of the Union Light Guard. The Guard was entrusted with protecting Lincoln as he ventured around on official business. Lincoln instructed the Guard not to accompany him on personal social occasions. This point, of course, aided in his demise on that fateful evening of April 13, 1865. Mr. Fladseth highlighted the re-

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Camp News

(Camp No. 58 continued from page 14)

publication of his grandfather's book, "Personal Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln".

Commander Kent Armstrong spearheaded the preparation of a Resolution of Respect document which was humbly sent to the family of recently deceased, Past Commander-in-Chief Frederick Combs, Jr.

Recent new members of Camp No. 58 include, Bro. Bruce Fech of DeWitt, Bro. Gerald Crawford of Durango, Colorado, and Bro. Gary Peterson of DeWitt.

In miscellaneous news, some of Camp 58's on-going work includes completing the Grave Registration task. Most Clinton county cemeteries have been completed, only a few small areas still remain. Some members are looking forward to helping in the Department's quest to locate and document all Civil War era sculptures and monuments within the county. And lastly, the purchase of a Camp Flag is still one of the Camp's primary short term goals.

Mark Pangburn

Camp No. 67 Gen. Phil Kearny

Bay City — Our last meeting was held February 10th with great success. Not only did we install our new Camp Officers for the year, we initiated four new members. The guests of honor for the evening were Dave Wallace, Department Commander; Terry McKinch, Department Chief-of-Staff; and Donald Workman, Past Department Junior Vice Commander. The new Camp Officers were installed by Brother Wallace. They are as follows: Gordon McAllister, Commander; Scott DeVeau, Senior Vice Commander; Robert LaBelle, Junior Vice Commander; Ken Martin, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Cummings, Color Bearer; David Cook, Guide; Len McInerney, Guard; Kim Leese, Patriotic Instructor.

Initiation of new members was performed by Camp Commander McAllister and Camp Chaplain Jack Long. The new members are Donald Londo of Essexville, Jeremy Railing and John Taylor of Saginaw and Dave Russell of Midland. Brothers Harlen Holiday of Auburn and Larry Glynn of Bay City, who joined the Camp last fall were also formally initiated.

The Department's Mid-Winter Conference was attended by Camp Brothers DeVeau, Martin and McAllister. It was great networking with the Sons of the American Revolution.

Camp projects in progress for this year are working on GAR sculpture identification, restoration of local cemetery GAR cannon and performing memorial services. See *Invitation* on page 16 regarding our Memorial Day, May 26 services.

To conclude, our next meeting will be June 2nd (Monday) at 7:00 pm at my home at 1810 Grant Street in Bay City.

Gordon McAllister

Camp No. 145 Gov. Henry Crapo

Flint — February and March are the coldest and darkest months of the winter. The warmth of a campfire cannot compare to the warmth of the cheer brought by a gathering of Brothers.

During February, Brothers of Camp 145 and members of the SVR attended the Mid-Winter conference in Lansing. We were honored by the attendance of a *True Son*. The information given on how to run Camp meetings and Lt. Graves' presentation were outstanding! Also in February, Brothers of our Camp and members of the SVR attended a meeting of the 8th Michigan Infantry, a reenactment organization. This meeting was held at the home of Brother McKinch. We heard, "The Saber Rattle" and "The Rumor of Shiloh".

In March, our Camp adopted a flag in the State of Michigan's Battle Flag Collection. We adopted the Regimental Standard of the 4th Michigan Cavalry. We received a framed tribute from the State of Michigan. Accepting this award for the Camp was Lt. Graves, the Camp Commander. It was a very proud moment, not to be soon forgotten!

Also in March was the Annual Infantry School. Drill and drill, where is this place called Shiloh? Our sergeants are making sure we're ready. It's hard to leave home. We were drilled by Corporals Morris and Shaw. Brothers of the Blue found the cake and treats offered by Brother Morris' wife tasteful. Thank you very much for such kindness. Loading, firing and right face and march. The new people are so young. Or are we old before our time? The sound of the bugle brought us to our company streets and the wrath of the screaming officers and NCOs. The cold, "Oh, how cold" and Shiloh comes to our thoughts. Crossroads Village, the last friendly place before Tennessee.

Wade E. Chapman

Invitation to Memorial Day Services

WHEN THE BOYS IN BLUE ARE ALL GONE

In Memory of Civil War Veterans you are cordially invited to participate in a Memorial Service this coming Memorial Day (May 26, Monday at 2:00 pm) at Bay City's downtown Wenona Park, located at the foot of Center Avenue at Water Street next to the Saginaw River.

The Memorial Service is to honor all the Bay County, state and nationwide Civil War Veterans and Bay County's only Civil War General, Benjamin Partridge. The Memorial will be coordinated by the Gen. Phil Kearney Camp No. 67 and the 3rd Michigan Infantry, Company A reenactors, along with their civilian reenactor contingent.

In attendance will be some federal, state and local dignitaries, as well as some members of other military organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, PLAVDAV and the National Guard. The event will have as many Civil War period dressed people as possible to perform at the ceremony saying prayers, pledges to the flag, reading letters and poems and singing songs all about the Civil War.

Our ceremony will also include history, songs, poems, etc. of African-American, Hispanic American and Native American Civil War Veterans with members of the different races participating. The end will include the SUVCW memorial segment ending with a 21 gun musket salute, Taps (forward and echo), a cannon shot directed above the Veteran Memorial Park across the river and bagpipes. Please come. TV5 has promised to cover the ceremony. Bring a folding chair because the event will last approximately two hours.

The alternate location in the event of bad weather will be at Bay City's Central High School Auditorium, located at 1624 Columbus Avenue.

Gordon McAllister
Commander, Camp No. 67

Michigan Parades Into the 21st Century

On Saturday, May 17th, at 11:30am, elements of the Department Color Guard, the 30th Michigan Infantry, will be participating in the "Michigan Parades Into the 21st Century" parade to be held in Lansing. This event will attract participants and representation from across the State of Michigan. Besides the participation of the Department Color Guard, we are extending an invitation to all Camps to send representation in the form of Camp Colors either supported by a uniformed Camp Color Guard or by Brothers of the Camp in appropriate parade dress (see Ritual and Ceremonials or Department Guidelines). The display of Camp banners is also encouraged.

If you are interested in accepting this opportunity to participate in this event (and we certainly hope you that will), please contact the Department SVR Adjutant, Lt. Daniel V. Graves for directions and form-up information:

Lt. Daniel V. Graves
7270 Morcrest
Flushing, MI 48433
(810)639-5275
76754.1525@compuserve.com

This is an excellent opportunity for our Department Color guard to shine with the participation of the massed flags of the Camps and also presents an excellent showcase for our Order. We hope to see you there!

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Copy Deadline!!!

The deadline for submission of articles
for inclusion in the August issue of

Michigan's Messenger
is

July 15th

Write it on your calendar!

Articles received after this date
will be printed only if space permits.

Send all submissions to:
John Mann, Editor
Michigan's Messenger
2495 South Washington Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911-7216



Ancestor Vignette

George Brennan, Sr.

George Brennan Sr. was born September 20, 1818 in Wicklow, Ireland. He was the son of Terrance and Mary (Nail) Brennan. George's parents died early in life leaving six children. Being the eldest, George took on the responsibility of raising this orphaned family.

When 30 years of age, George and his youngest sister sailed to America, a trip taking 9 weeks and 3 days, arriving at Rochester, New York. In 1853, still living in Rochester, he married Margaret Gortland, who was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1824. Six years later they settled in the Irish community of Watson Township in Allegan county, Michigan. There he worked on a farm for one Mr. Coy for two years, having previously met Mr. Coy in Rochester. On December 11, 1862 the Brennan family moved to Cheshire Township in Allegan County, where George took up a homestead of 80 acres from the U. S. Government. He had a large apple orchard along with corn and wheat crops.

On September 26, 1864 George enlisted with the rank of private in the 11th U. S. Regular Infantry, Company B in Detroit. He stood 5' 4" tall and had blue eyes and brown hair. He participated in the Battles of Poplar Springs Church, Peebles Farm, Pegrams Farm, Chapple House and Laurel Hill, Va. He also served in the engagement of Boydton Plank Road (Hatcher's Run), Va. These battles took place in the latter part of 1864.

While guarding Confederate prisoners boarding a train on the South Side Rail Road above City Point, Virginia on the night of April 2, 1865, George was struck by a missile fired from a rebel slingshot. The missile broke the cheek-

bone on the right side of his face. The rebel that fired the slingshot was shot and killed on the spot by another Union soldier on guard duty with George.

During the fall of 1865, after recovering from the broken cheekbone, George was made Orderly for Lieutenant Kinnington and Captain Laddies of the 11th U. S. Regulars. He also served as an Orderly for General Ulysses S. Grant for a brief time, taking care of his horse Cincinnati. My father told me this when I was a young man and that General Grant liked George's Irish accent.



George was discharged on August 29, 1866 for disability at Camp Grant in Richmond, Va. This was due to being thrown from a horse that took fright in the night. He struck his right shoulder throwing the bones out of joint. This accident, along with his rheumatism led to his discharge, as he was unable to perform his duties as a soldier.

In 1869 he built a frame house in Cheshire Township. As his family grew he bought more land, eventually totaling more than 170 acres. On his farm George took great pride in the splendid work horses that he raised. He made enough money from farming that he was able to give out loans to others, charging them interest.

Death came to George Brennan Sr. on May 12, 1899 at the age of 80 years. He rests in Watson Catholic Irish Immigrant Cemetery, also known as Sacred Heart Cemetery. The cemetery is located in the country, with big field stone walls around its perimeter and the old brick Catholic Church across the road. A GAR flag guards his grave and headstone.

George Brennan, Sr.

Private

11th U. S. Regulars

Company B

Great Grandfather

of

William A. Brennan

Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20

William A. Brennan

Coming Events

May

3rd & 4th — Saturday & Sunday **Mansfield, Ohio**
Ohio Civil War Collectors Show, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Richland County Fairgrounds, U. S. 30 at the Trimble Road exit (then follow the signs). The largest Civil War show in the Mid-West with 550 tables. Buy, sell and trade. Restricted to military and related items (C. W. Veterans organizations). Reproduction items allowed if clearly marked. Many display only tables that are worth the trip by themselves.

17th — Saturday **Lansing**
Michigan Parades into the 21st Century, 11:30 am. Please see article on page 16 for further information.

25th & 26th — Sunday & Monday **Dearborn**
Greenfield Village. Ulysses S. Grant Camp No. 101 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department.

26th & 30th — Monday & Friday
Memorial Day, observed and traditional. All Camps should take part in local Memorial Day activities honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

26th — Monday **Saginaw**
Phil Kearny Camp No. 67 invites you to Memorial Day services at 2:00 pm in Bay City's downtown Wenona Park, located at the foot of Center Avenue at Water Street next to the Saginaw River. For further details, see *Invitation* on page 16.

June

7th — Saturday **Lansing**
108th Department of Michigan Annual Encampment. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Encampment starts at 9:00 am and lasts until 4:30 with a one hour break for lunch at 12:00. Holiday Inn West, 7501 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing. Breakfast, lunch and dinner available. Please use reservation form on the last page.

14th — Saturday
Flag Day. Fly *Old Glory* today!

28 & 29 — Saturday & Sunday **Flint**
Crossroads Village Civil War Muster. Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department.

July

4th — Friday
221st Birthday of the United States of America!

4th — Friday **Corunna**
McCurdy Park, Independence Day Program and living history. Maj. Henry F. Wallace Camp No. 160 will host a recruiting tent for the Department.

15th — Tuesday
Copy deadline for August's *Michigan's Messenger*.

19th & 20th — Saturday & Sunday **Hastings**
Barry County's Charlton Park Civil War Reenactment. Curteneus Guard Camp No. 17 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department.

August

1st, 2nd & 3rd — Fri., Sat. & Sunday **Grand Rapids**
Weekend of Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (Soldier's Home). The Department of Michigan and Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 will co-host this large event.

8th & 9th — Friday & Saturday **Utica, NY**
SUVCW National Encampment. See the *Banner* for schedule details, along with hotel and dinner reservation forms.

23rd & 24th — Saturday & Sunday **Jackson**
Cascades Park Civil War Muster. Austin Blair Camp No. 7 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department.

September

6th & 7th — Saturday & Sunday **Marshall**
Historic Marshall Home Tour. Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department at the GAR Hall.

October

4th & 5th — Saturday & Sunday **Milwaukee, WI**
SUVCW Central Region Conference. Tours of sites of Civil War and GAR National Encampment significance. Discussions on Civil War Battlefield problems and concerns of effective Camp.

Meal Reservation Form
Department Encampment
 and the
Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Banquet

Breakfast — 7:30 am to 8:30 am — Cost \$8.15 per person (includes tax and gratuity).
 Served buffet style in the Capitol Room.

Luncheon — Noon — Cost \$10.25 per person (includes tax and gratuity).
 A soup and sandwich combination served with fresh fruit in the Regency Rooms C & B.

Banquet — 6:30 pm — Served in the Regency Rooms C & D. Choices:
 Apple Almond Chicken - Cost \$17.50 per person (includes tax and gratuity).
 Sirloin Steak - Cost \$18.15 per person (includes tax and gratuity).

Number of Breakfast Tickets Ordered _____ at \$8.15 per ticket = _____
 Number of Luncheon Tickets Ordered _____ at \$10.25 per ticket = _____
 Number of Banquet Tickets Ordered _____ Apple Almond Chicken at \$17.50 = _____
 Number of Banquet Tickets Ordered _____ Sirloin Steak at \$18.15 = _____

Make Check Payable to: Women's Relief Corps - Dept. of Michigan

Mail to: Marion Morgan	Your Name _____
Department Treasurer - Michigan	Address _____
Woman's Relief Corps	City, State & Zip _____
324 Sherwood	Camp _____
Otsego, MI 49078-1257	

Please Note — Reservation Cutoff Date is May 20TH

**Department Encampment
 Pre-Registration Form**

Use this form to pre-register for the Department Encampment. Registration Fee is \$5.00. Your preprinted name tag, Encampment ribbon and materials will be presented to you upon presentation of your Delegate Card at the Registration Desk outside of the Encampment Room door.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State & Zip: _____
 Camp Name & Number: _____

I am registering as (check one only):
 Camp Commander _____ Past Department Commander _____
 Camp Delegate _____ Past Camp Commander _____
 _____ Alternate Delegate _____

Include your \$5 registration fee in a check made payable to the "Department of Michigan - SUVCW" and Mail to: Richard F. Lee
 Department Secretary - Michigan SUVCW
 1111 Kern Road
 Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257

Please note:
You Must PRE-REGISTER by May 31st

Room Reservation Information
 for the
Department Encampment
 June 7, 1997

A block of room is being held under the name of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic at the:

HOLIDAY INN - WEST
 7501 W. SAGINAW ROAD
 LANSING, MI 48917
 (517) 627-3211 Reservations Desk
 (517) 627-5240 fax

The rate per night is \$68.20 (double occupancy). The block of rooms will be held until May 6th, so be sure to make your reservations early!

General Logan's Memorial Order

General Order No. 11
Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic
Washington, D.C., May 5, 1868

I. The 30th day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of Comrades who died in defense of their country during the late Rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and Comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, Comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things "*of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late Rebellion.*" What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our Country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a People, the cost of a free and undivided Republic!

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us.

Let us then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the Dear Old Flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude - the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the War remains to honor the memory of Departed Comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and to lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of Comrades in all parts of the Country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department Commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By Command of:

John A. Logan
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:

N.P. Chapman
Adjutant-General

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
1917 TEEL AVENUE
LANSING, MI 48910-3117

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