

Michigan's Messenger

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



Volume VII Number 1

August 1998

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 1 SERIES 1998-99

1. Greetings, Dear Brothers. My humble thanks to the delegates of the 109th Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, for electing me to serve a term as Commander. I hope to remain worthy of your confidence, and the honor you have bestowed upon me. My compliments go out to the entire team of newly elected & appointed officers (please see full listing, elsewhere in this issue) who will be serving our Department and the interests of our Camps. I respectfully and fraternally call upon our entire membership to support the activities of their respective Camps and help move our cause forward in the year ahead. Coming to know, and to work with as many of you as possible, is something that I look forward to - either by attending a meeting of your Camp or by some other function.

2. Please join me in saluting Past Department Commander Paul D. Hodges, and all other retiring Department Officers, for the accomplishments made this past year.

3. We are disappointed to report that the career-work of our former Department Treasurer, James T. Williams, will require that he move to Indianapolis, Indiana. Our very *best* wishes go with you and yours, Jim.

4. Department Headquarters are now located at 213 E. Madison St., DeWitt, Michigan. Communications sent by the U.S. Mail should be addressed to P.O. Box 618, DeWitt, MI 48820-0618. Fax transmissions can be sent to (517) 669-1865. E-mail messages may be sent to KENT24MICH@aol.com and the home phone is (517) 669-5765. Please telephone me between 10:00 am & 2:00 pm. Thank you. New Member and Associate information should be directed to Department Secretary Lee, 1111 Kern Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257. Please contact Sec. Lee with address change info, including telephone

number – especially those of you affected by the new (734) Area Code.

5. A great deal of ground was covered at the 109th Encampment, including an extensive updating of our Department Bylaws. All revisions have been edited in and the document has been sent to the Commander-In-Chief, for approval. Secretary Lee will be publishing minutes of the Encampment, in one or more issues of *Michigan's Messenger*.

6. The Encampment voted to endorse United States Senate Bill 116 (S. 116), "To restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day" (to May 30). Since January 21, 1997, this proposed legislation has been in the hands of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. If you would like to lend your personal support, please write to: The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch; United States Senator; Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary; 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building; Washington, DC 20510-6275. Senator Spencer Abraham, of Michigan, is also on this committee and can be written to, at 245 Dirksen Senate Office Building; Washington, DC 20510-6275. Thank you.

7. The Encampment voted to endorse United States House of Representatives Bill 2346 (H.R. 2346), "To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit desecration of Veterans' memorials." Since July 31, 1997, this proposed legislation has been in the hands of the "Subcommittee on Crime" of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary. If you would like to lend your personal support, please write to: The Honorable William McCollum; United States Representative; Chairman, Subcommittee on Crime; Committee on the Judiciary; 207 Cannon House Office

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*Department Officers 1998/99**Commander*

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Chief of Staff

Mark L. Pangburn

Camp Organizer

John R. Mann

Patriotic Instructor

Gregory D. Hayes

Chaplain

William B. McAfee

Counselor

Kim D. Shaw

Historian

Gary Holmes

Guide

Patrick E. Kennedy

Guard

Richard J. Gorske

Color Bearer

Douglas R. Armstrong

Graves Registration

John E. Obermeyer

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

William R. Morris

Communications & Technology

Charles J. Ten Brink

Camp-at-Large Coordinator

Wade E. Chapman

Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

*Weekend of Remembrance**Liaison*

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

B.S.A. Coordinator

Gary F. Ralston

Commanders Group Rep.

Kent L. Armstrong

FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY

by Pete Carlson, PCC Camp 147

Guys, here's your opportunity to have fun, work hard and make money for your Camp or the Department. You'll be up in the North Country and can visit other places. You can also see a great Farm Steam Engine show and a big outdoor antiques and flea market. There are all sorts of old steam engines that were used to supply power around the typical farm around the turn of the century, from little stationary engines to pump water to huge mobile engines for thrashing, plowing and combining crops. See how it was done on the "modern farm" in the early part of this century!

Camp 147 will have a Food Concession Stand located at the *Buckley Old Steam Show*, one mile south of Buckley, MI. on M-37. They need your help in staffing the concession and you will earn a portion of the profits for your Camp or the Department, your choice as to where the money goes.

Staffing duties will include: Taking food orders, serving the order to the customer on a tray, totaling and taking the money for the order and cleaning tables. All duties will be inside a building. Everything is provided. Camp 147 will take care of the ordering and cooking of the food, we will just need people to help with the rest of the duties. If anyone would like to help cook they will be welcome, too.

Donations will be issued to your Camp or the Department of Michigan. When you arrive, sign the log book with your name and Camp number and designate whether you want your part of the fund raiser to go to your Camp or the Department. This will insure the donation goes to your choice. Expected earnings will be about \$5.00 to \$6.00 per hour per person.

Dates: August 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th; Thursday through Sunday.

Times: 3 shifts each day, shifts are 4 hours each and will cover the following times: 6:00am to 10:00am, 10:00am to 2:00pm and 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Work however many shifts you wish. Sign up for any of the following dates and shifts:

Thursday	1 st shift — 6:00am to 10:00 am	covered
	2 nd shift — 10:00am to 2:00pm	5 persons needed
	3 rd shift — 2:00pm to 6:00pm	5 persons needed
Friday	1 st shift — 6:00am to 10:00 am	covered
	2 nd shift — 10:00am to 2:00pm	5 persons needed
	3 rd shift — 2:00pm to 6:00pm	5 persons needed
Saturday	1 st shift — 6:00am to 10:00 am	5 persons needed
	2 nd shift — 10:00am to 2:00pm	5 persons needed
	3 rd shift — 2:00pm to 6:00pm	5 persons needed
Sunday	1 st shift — 6:00am to 10:00 am	5 persons needed
	2 nd shift — 10:00am to 2:00pm	5 persons needed
	3 rd shift — 2:00pm to 6:00pm	5 persons needed

Please respond no later than August 1, 1998. Send reply by mail, phone, or e-mail to:

Pete Carlson, PCC
Henry W. Quigley Camp 147
4493 West Lake Mitchell Drive
Cadillac, MI 49601-2208
616-779-3910
bkeith@northlink.net

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

John R. Mann

I would like to express my thanks to the Delegates of the 109th Department Encampment for electing me to the position of Junior Vice Department Commander. It will be hard trying to meet, let alone surpass, the high standards set by my predecessors of the past several years. I will strive to continue the increase of membership and the number of Camps in the Department in the coming year.

THE DEPARTMENT ON THE INTERNET

I have written to all Junior Vice Camp Commanders (or the person in charge of recruiting for each Camp) regarding some changes that are in the process of being made in the way this Department handles recruiting. Most of the changes will effect our Department web pages on the Internet. This seems to be the area where we are receiving the most inquiries for membership nowadays. The changes are designed to make it easier to navigate the web pages, trying to make them more pleasing to the eye, adding more information to the Camp pages and rewording some possibly confusing language that was contained in some of the old pages.

Brother Charles Ten Brink, the Department "web master" is in charge of reconstructing the pages. He has been quite busy since the Department Encampment, creating several "draft copy" pages, trying to dazzle this old curmudgeon's faulty eyesight with his redesigns. He has done just that and, by the time this appears in your mailbox, you should be able to view at least some of his handiwork. Why not take a look at our Department web pages the next time you are surfing the web. The address is: <http://suvchw.org/mi/deptmi.htm> From that site you can link to all our Department's other web pages and the Camp pages. You can also link from there to the National pages and from the National, to other Department pages.

Once the changes have been completed, it should be possible for the potential recruit viewing the Department and Camp web pages to make his own decision on which Camp is best suited for him, instead of having to rely on someone else to direct him to a Camp. The Camp home pages are also in the process of being redesigned and more information added to them. Eventually, they should contain enough information so that each Camp can "sell itself" to the viewer. To do this, Camp personnel are being asked to provide a brief history of the Camp, who the Camp was named after, why, when it was chartered, and what sort of activities the Camp promotes, i.e. graves registration, cemetery or monument restoration, veteran headstone resetting/replacement, civic educational programs, etc.

All Camps are being encouraged to have someone in the Camp receive and send e-mail for the Camp regarding recruiting, even if the JVC personally doesn't have e-mail. This should allow the Camp to deal directly with the potential recruit, instead of going through two or three other people first. E-mail doesn't cost anything if you already have a computer and modem.

There are several e-mail programs free for the asking, such as Juno. (1 800 654-5866 or <http://www.juno.com>). *Please note that I am not endorsing Juno. It just happens to be the only free e-mail provider that I have the address for.* This method of communication is fast and economical when compared to the U. S. Post Office and long distance telephone calls. E-mail also has the added advantage of "getting them while they're hot". A person just clicks on the e-mail address on the Camp web page and instantly a screen comes up allowing him to send a message to the Camp. He doesn't have to copy a phone number to call later (if he gets around to it, and probably won't if it is a long distance call) and he doesn't have to take the time and effort write a letter. He just types a sentence or two and sends it off to the Camp. How easy can it get?

The recruiting brochure is also being updated with a slightly new and more attractive look. It will include e-mail addresses for those Camps that have them, as well as other necessary updates. The new brochures will be printed as soon as the necessary information required is received from the Camps.

PROPER TERMINOLOGY

Perhaps at this point I should clear up some misunderstandings concerning the classes of membership in the SUVCW. We have Members, Associates and Juniors. *We do not have Full Members, Ancestral Members, Associate Members or Junior Members.* When referring to a person or persons of an unknown class of membership, or to the entire body of a Camp, Department or the National Organization, it is proper to use the term "member", "members" or "membership", spelled with a lower case "m". You should Capitalize "Member(s)" only when referring to a specific person or class of persons, i.e., "... this includes all Members and Associates, but not Juniors." Or, "He is a Member by right of descent from his great, great grandfather." Get in the habit of using the proper terminology when referring to our membership, it is only common courtesy.

NEW MEMBERS

Camp 7, Austin Blair, Jackson

Robert W. Mulvihill, Member — Great grandfather, Charles Mulvihill, Private, Co. B, 110th New York Inf.

Darius Heath, Junior — Great-great grandfather, Darius Heath, Private, Co. K, 10th Michigan Cav.

Tyler Fenton, Junior — Great-great grandfather, Lewis H. Ostrander, Private, Co. F, 14th Ohio Inf.

Phillip Holton, Junior — Great-great-great grandfather, S. E. Schoff, Private, Co. D, 85th New York Inf.

Camp 58, George W. Anderson, DeWitt

Kirk Armstrong, Member — Great-great grandfather, John Tait (Tate), Sergeant, Co. G, 24th Michigan Infantry.

Camp 22, Colegrove-Woodruff

Samuel W. Childs, Member — Great grandfather, Samuel P. Hoyt, Private, 1st Michigan Inf.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Richard Lee

The 27-28 Forms for the Quarter 1 January to 31 March were mailed on 6 April to Camp Secretaries. The following Camps had reported by 5 May — 4 weeks later: 7, 9, 17, 22, 28, 43, 53, 58, 67, 120, 147, 160, 259, and 462.

The 27-28 Forms for the Quarter 1 April to 30 June were mailed 26 May to the Camps. The following Camps had reported by 30 June — 5 weeks later: 1, 3, 7, 43, 53, 67, 120, 160, 259, and 427.

This is not a good return when there 25 Camps reporting. Late reports from the Camps result in an estimated and possibly inaccurate report sent to the National Secretary.

The 27-28 Forms for the Quarter 1 July to 30 September will be mailed the week of 23 August. These reports should be received by this office no later than 10 October — 6 weeks later.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Dick Williams, Chairman

At the Department Encampment each represented Camp received a copy of House Bill 5115.

Providing information has been recorded at the county, this bill allows general researchers to obtain information from County Clerks on the name, rank, unit of military service, dates of military service, and medals and awards for individuals providing the information is not less than 70 years old.

A veteran's military discharge record can be obtained from the County Clerk by the veteran, a person with the veteran's permission, surviving heirs, a veteran's service officer, the Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund or a person employed by the county Department of Veteran's Affairs who provides counseling for veterans, providing access to that record is necessary to aid the veteran, or the surviving spouse or a dependent of the veteran in applying for benefits available to the veteran.

For those Camps not represented at the Encampment, a separate mailing was sent to the Camp Commander, or at least the person indicated in the current records as the current Camp Commander.

CAMP ROSTERS

A complete membership roster of all Camps in Michigan was distributed along with the copy of House Bill 5115. Each Camp has in its possession that roster.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Williams
(1997/98 Treasurer)

Department of Michigan, SUVCW Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance At 31 May 1998

Assets	
Checking Account	\$731.57
Savings Account	3,832.38
Russell Alger Memorial Fund Savings Account	<u>691.39</u>
Total Assets	\$5,255.34

Liabilities	
Due Camp-at-Large	\$212.00
Due 30 th Michigan	190.00
Miscellaneous	
Flag Donation	\$7.00
S.O.S. Collection	62.00
Lyon Camp 266	140.00
Morgan Camp 70	50.00
Prutzman Camp 72	30.00
Total Miscellaneous	<u>289.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$691.00

Fund Balance	
Restricted Funds	691.39
Unrestricted Funds	<u>3,872.95</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$4,564.34
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$5,255.34

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures For the Year Ended 31 May 1998

Revenues	\$8,167.98
Expenditures	<u>(9,776.02)</u>
Excess of Expenditures over revenues	(\$1,608.04)
Total Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$6,172.38
Total Fund Balance End of Year	\$4,564.34

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

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Samuel W. Childs, Member — Great, greatgrandfather Samuel

These gentlemen have been reported by Camp JVC's to me as having joined our ranks since January 1st of this year. On behalf of the Department; Welcome Brothers, to the SUVCW!

In closing, I wish to thank all those members who expressed condolences on the recent death of my mother. Your thoughts and prayers were comforting in a difficult time.

TREASURER

David T. Wallace

Brothers, we still have a large amount of Camps that have not paid their Per Capita tax and filed their forms 27-28. As a Department we still have to pay the tax on your Camp and this puts a burden on the Department Treasury. Also, by not filing your Form 27-28 on time, we are left with using the past form for your membership figures. This creates the possibility of overpaying the tax that we might not otherwise have to pay. All Brothers are encouraged to check with your Camp Commander, Secretary and Treasurer to insure that these forms and monies have been correctly and timely forwarded to the Department. Your help will be greatly appreciated and will save the possibility of future embarrassment for your Camp.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL

Dick Williams, Chairman

Dues for the Camp-at-Large were set by the Michigan Department Council at \$20.00 per year and the initiation fee was lowered to \$15.00. All current members of the Camp-at-Large will not be billed any additional amount for this year. Any new members will be charged the lower initiation fee and the dues will be prorated at the new rate.

WANTED

Donations of filing cabinets and shelving for Department archived material being accumulated and stored at the G.A.R. Hall in Marshall. The Marshall Historical Society has generously allowed the Department use of a storage area in the Hall, but we have to supply our own storage cabinets and shelving.

If anyone has an old filing cabinet or shelving unit they would be willing to donate, please contact Howard Streeter at (517) 741-7161 to arrange for delivery.

PUBLICATION DATE

CHANGES

John Mann, Editor

As the 110th Department Encampment will be on May 1st next year, the deadline, printing and mailing of the newsletter will have to be moved ahead to accommodate the date shift. This will enable us to get any necessary information out to our membership regarding the Encampment in a timely manner. Rather than moving ahead only the issue preceeding the Encampment, which would result in that issue closely following the February issue, then having a long gap between the Encampment issue and the August issue, it was decided to shift all four issues. The shift will take place starting with the first issue of the year and each issue will be dated one month earlier than in previous years; February will become the January issue, etc.

The new schedule for 1999 will be:

Issue	Deadline	Mail
January	December 20 th , 1998	January 10 th
April	March 20 th	April 5 th
July	June 20 th	July 5 th
October	September 20 th	October 5 th

These dates only allow two weeks between deadline and mailing (5 extra days allowed for the January issue because of the holidays), so be sure to *pay attention to the deadline dates*. It usually takes the printer five to seven days to schedule and print the job, so this only leaves me about seven or eight days to put it all together. It makes for a very tight schedule for me and I would appreciate it if contributors would send in their articles *before* the deadlines, the earlier, the better. If you can send it on computer disk, please do so, as it saves me a lot of time and effort. *Please enclose a printed copy* in case I cannot import your file or something happens to the disk in the mail.

You can also send in articles by e-mail at: jrm7suvcw@aol.com Send it as an e-mail message (please include a short lead in message stating the article is for the Messenger and the title, i.e., Camp News, officer report, etc., and don't forget to tell me who it is from). Or, send it as an attached file.

Those lacking computers are welcome to submit articles also. If you have access to a typewriter, please use it. Otherwise, I still accept handwritten submissions, but please write legibly. I have, in the past five years, received some handwritten copy that was very hard to decipher and in a few cases I just had to guess at what the words were. Please write clearly and don't forget the deadline dates. Articles received after the deadline will be used only on a space available basis.

My address is: John Mann, Editor
Michigan's Messenger
2495 South Washington Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911-7216
Phone (517) 694-1440

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Chuck Ten Brink, Chair

The installation of a new slate of officers for the Department, who bring with them different perspectives and fresh ideas, has brought change to the Departmental web pages. The opening page has been slimmed down to provide a more immediate overview of the site, with headlines linking to our officers, communications, and projects. First and foremost on this list is the heading "Camps/Membership", which reflects the importance of the internet in recruiting new members and in publicizing the activities of the 25 Camps in the Department of Michigan.

The emphasis on recruitment at the Camp level discussed elsewhere in this issue will be reflected in the individual Camp web pages. In addition to revamping the "look and feel" of the Camp pages to match the new style of the Departmental page, the Communications and Technology Committee needs information from every Camp to improve the quality of the information we present there. We must have current information from every Camp: officers, names and addresses for potential member contacts, times and places of regularly scheduled meetings. An e-mail contact is critical, both for prompt updating of the Camp page and to provide an immediate link to potential recruits, and I urge all Camp officers to seek out some member of their Camp who will take on this responsibility.

The Camp pages should be more than just a directory. This is a great place to publicize your Camp's programs and activities. At the very least, every Camp has a story to tell in its name; some biographical information, and perhaps a small photograph of the Camp's namesake helps affirm one of the primary purposes of the SUVCW, to remember the men of 1861-1865.

Please contact me at c-tenbrink@uchicago.edu, or write me at 5401 South Ridgewood Court #2, Chicago, IL 60615, with updates and information.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Greg Hayes

Dear Brothers, I wish to thank our new Department Commander Kent Armstrong for giving me the privilege of serving on his administration. Let us endeavor to make this year better than last.

Commander Armstrong told me that I could define the level of activity for this position. Therefore I have listed below the goals for the Office for this term.

1. REPRESENTATION

I believe that Department Officers should serve the entire Department. So, with a little advanced notice I will be pleased to go to any Camp or function within the Department to give a speech, hand out an award or just be a warm body in uniform or civvies.

2. RECOGNITION

To promote the values of patriotism we must showcase those individuals and groups that are illuminating the way for others. To that end I will provide Certificates of Recognition from the Department Commander and Patriotic Instructor to be given to anyone the Camps of the Department designate as deserving. Along the same lines, we still can award National Certificates for those honor our Nation's flag.

3. GOOD OF THE ORDER

In our Ritual, the Patriotic Instructor is charged to present a small program or discussion of history, the Republic or civic nonpolitical matters. In many Camps this is the highlight of the meeting. At the Howell Camp, No. 120, Brother Glen Fincham always has an entertaining presentation. I would encourage all Camp Patriotic Instructors to provide some material at each meeting.

4. FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

To close my first message, I would like to quote from the G.A.R. Ritual of 1910: "Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. The soldiers and sailors of the Republic have passed through the furnace of war and have been tried by fire, and in this noble association they seek to manifest their work by the relief of their suffering comrades, and the widows and orphans of those who died that the nation might live."

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

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Building; Washington, DC 20515. A courtesy-copy should be sent to U.S. Representatives Henry J. Hyde (Chairman of the Judiciary Committee) and John Conyers, Jr. (Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee) at 2138 Rayburn House Office Building in "DC."

8. The Encampment voted its approval for our Department to host the *Central Region Conference* in the fall of 1999. I've conveyed this interest & support to the Central Region Commander, Robert E. Grim, but as of the time of this writing, we have not received a confirmation nor authorization to proceed...

9. A "Use Document" for Reclaimed G.A.R. Gravesites (submitted by our Brothers of Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 53) was approved by the Encampment. The language has been placed on Department Stationery (as stipulated by the Encampment) and a supply delivered to Secretary Lee for distribution to our Camps. Please note the article, "Reclaiming G.A.R. Property" on page 7 of the May 1998 issue of *Michigan's Messenger*.

10. Two Camp Charters were signed by Department Commander Hodges on June 6th, for presentation at the Encampment. Congratulations to the **Henry W. Quigley Camp No. 147** of Cadillac and the **Albert and James Lyon Camp No. 266**, whose membership rotates meeting locations across our Upper Peninsula.

11. Two *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Awards* were conferred by Commander Hodges at the Encampment. One went to PDC Gary L. Gibson, in recognition of his service at the Camp, Department and National level over the years. The other was awarded to Mrs. Sally Redinger (wife of PCC Steve Redinger of Camp No. 20), for her work to help raise funds (\$8,000.00) for the conservation of eight original Civil War Battleflags that were carried by Michigan Regiments. The Department Commander also adds his praise for these accomplishments.

12. The Department's *Governor Austin Blair Membership Award* was earned by the **Frederick H. Hackeman Camp No. 85**, for initiating the most new Members and Associates during the twelve months preceding the Encampment. Since representatives from the Camp were not able to attend the Encampment, the Department Commander will personally present this recognition at an upcoming meeting of Camp No. 85.

13. The Department's *Orlando LaValley Membership Award* was earned by the **Col. George W. LaPoint Camp No. 76**, for demonstrating the largest percentage of membership growth during the twelve months preceding the Encampment. Since representatives from the Camp were not able to attend the Encampment, the Department Commander will personally present this recognition at an upcoming meeting of Camp No. 76.

14. Our senior Past Department Commander, Thayne C. LaBanta (1946-47) was not able to attend the Annual Encampment this year. Per resolution, I have expressed everyone's Best Wishes to Thayne and our regrets that he could not be with us.

15. On behalf of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, I have extended congratulations to: Rolene Robinson, who was re-elected on June 6th to serve another term as Department of Michigan President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW); and Xenia Zimmer, newly elected Department of Michigan President of the Women's Relief Corps (WRC).

16. I am saddened to report that Mrs. Zimmer was seriously injured in an automobile accident on June 8th and at the time of this writing (July 1st), she is still hospitalized. I have extended sincere wishes for her recovery on behalf of the Department.

17. Please join me in expressing condolences to Brother John Mann whose mother passed away on June 23rd.

18. My thanks to the Brothers of the **Gov. Henry Crapo Camp No. 145** in Flint, for inviting all of us to their special meeting and picnic at the Crossroads Village Civil War Muster on June 27th. Their spirit of Fraternity and recruiting efforts at this event are appreciated very much.

19. A salute to Bros. Dick Williams and Bill Morris for their "logistical support" in getting the Department Recruiting tent and materials from Flint to the Civil War Muster at Hastings on July 18th & 19th.

20. At the time of this writing, the **Weekend of Remembrance** at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on August 1st & 2nd is close-at-hand. I look forward to seeing many Brothers of our Department at this function.

21. I also hope to see many of you in our delegation to

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS

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the National SUVCW Encampment at Harrisburg, PA on August 7th, 8th, & 9th (see *The Banner* for more details). If you have extra time, added interest attractions include: the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg (Peter F. Rothermel's 1870 painting, "Gettysburg" takes up a whole wall in their Civil War collection room); the ornate State Capitol Building there; the National Military Park in nearby Gettysburg; and the U.S. Army War College Library in Upton Hall at the "Barracks" in Carlisle.

22. Please see the details (printed elsewhere in this issue) related to the August 13th-16th fundraising opportunity at Buckley, MI that PCC Pete Carlson of Camp 147 is extending to the Department and our Camps.

23. Our Camps are respectfully reminded to be thinking about Veterans' Day functions that you may join in, on November 11th and I hope that many of you can take part in the **Remembrance Day** function at Gettysburg on November 21st (see details in *The Banner*).

24. Camps wishing to have a "Camp Flag" made, will be interested in the fact that nationally approved SUVCW Emblems are once again available from Brother Ed Krieser (Dept. of Indiana) at approx. \$40.00 each + shipping & handling. Bro. Krieser may be contacted at 1354 Gilleevan Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46385. Please consult our Department Bylaws, Article XV, Section 2 for more details related to the design & manufacture of a Camp Flag. Thank you.

25. Please mark your calendar for February 13, 1999 as the date of our next Mid-Winter Conference. I hope to see as many, if not more of you in attendance, as could be with us this past February. A larger room has been reserved at the same facility. More details to follow.

26. In regard to our Department's next Annual Encampment, please be advised that those present at Saginaw on June 6th, voted for the next meeting (hosted by the SUVCW in 1999) to be held back at Lansing. After researching the various facilities in the area, and their rates, it was discovered that the best deal available would be by our utilizing the ball room at the Best Western Midway Lodge on West Saginaw Hwy at the I-96 interchange. For some time now, many of you have expressed an interest in the Encampment date being moved earlier into the calendar year, to avoid the common conflict with graduation related functions occurring in early June. Our Bylaws allow us to meet as

early as May 1st, through the end of June. It has also come to our attention that the DUVCW has a deadline of May 15th each year, to submit matters dealt with at the Department level, that they wish to have acted on at their National Encampment. By meeting in June, they have had to live with waiting another year before submitting to their National Organization, resolutions proposed by their Department, here in Michigan. Therefore, in the interest of best relations between our Allied Organizations I am pleased to announce that the 1999 Encampment will take place on Saturday, May 1st. This date will allow ample time for the DUVCW to deal with their deadline and not conflict with the second weekend in May, which always includes Mother's Day. To maintain the existing time interval for our Department Newsletter, before and after the Annual Encampment, I've asked our Editor to consider shifting his publication schedule.

27. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** — One of the most important things that we must strive for, is better reporting from Camps to the Department each quarter. The National Organization has a business timetable that requires a Camp's Quarterly Report and Per-Capita Tax payment to be forwarded by the Department, by the 10th day of January, April, July, and October. Even with our recent fee increase to meet expenses, the Department cannot afford to cover the portion of a Camp's payment that is forwarded to the National Organization. I realize that some of our Camps have meetings that take place late in the last month of a quarter but I ask that allowances be made to ensure that the Department Secretary receive your Form 27-28 (signed by both the Camp Secretary & Commander) and check, prior to the deadlines. Thank you.

By Order of:

Kent Armstrong
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard Lee
Department Secretary

CAMP NEWS

HENRY E. PLANT CAMP 3

By Daniel Grable

Grand Haven — Camp 3 has had a very busy spring. At our May meeting the Camp approved the idea of sending letters to our U.S. Senators and Representatives encouraging the passing of Bill S111, to move Memorial Day back to the traditional date of May 30th. I was also announced that work continued on our Bylaws, with many suggestions coming in. The suggestions will be put into a working copy for approval. Our Camp webmaster announced that he is adding a few things to our web site. They will include a history of our Camp and our namesake, along with a schedule of our activities. Finally, it was announced by the chairman of our Camp's 1999 Memorial Day Weekend Civil War Veterans Reunion reenactment committee, that he needs a few members to serve on the committee.

On Memorial Day we had a very busy time. On the legal Monday Holiday the Camp participated in the Spring Lake Parade (in front of the Spring Lake Junior High School Band). The parade was followed by our Chaplain, John Bauldus, reading John A. Logan's General Order 11. Chaplain Bauldus also included an explanation of the origin of Memorial Day.

In the afternoon, the Camp marched in the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days Memorial Day Parade, where we fired a volley by the reviewing stand following our introduction. We marched in our traditional location, in the front of the parade, just behind the V.F.W. That evening the Camp participated with the 3rd Michigan reenactors in the Fremont Parade and Ceremony. The ceremony included a dedication of a new memorial, listing all the of Fremont area war veterans. Following the impressive ceremony, the group marched to the Maple Grove Cemetery. Once there, we went to the Civil War Monument, placed a wreath and fired a volley.

On Traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, Camp members traveled to Grand Rapids. There, we joined with members of Gen. John A. Logan Camp and the 3rd Michigan reenactors, marching in the Grand Rapids Memorial Day Parade. We then participated in the Kent County United Veterans Council's ceremonies by being the firing squad. The ceremony was followed by a short combined Camp ceremony at the Grand Rapids Civil War Monument.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Max Miller

Jackson — Greetings, Brothers. It has been a very busy summer so far. At what time we'll slow down a little, I don't know. In the month of May we had several activities in which we took part. On Friday, May 1, the Jackson County Veterans

Council held its annual Loyalty Day dinner at the VFW Post 23 on Wildwood Avenue in Jackson. Several Brothers including our "True Son," Thayne LaBanta, and his niece attended. After dinner, Camp Commander Bill Lowe did the program.

On Saturday, May 9, after our Round table breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor, we spent some time registering a large section of Mt. Evergreen Cemetery in Jackson. Following that, Commander Lowe and I joined Bro. Mark Heath, our Camp Secretary, in Hastings to help him place two new Civil War headstones on his Civil War ancestors graves. Also assisting were: Bro. John Obermeyer; Mark's son, Darius, who joined our Camp as a Junior; and Mark's brothers and their sons. Bro. Heath had a well planned day with lots of help. Nice job, Mark!

On Saturday, May 16, some Brothers from the Camp traveled to Tecumseh and set up our information and recruiting tent at the Civil War re-enactment campground in conjunction with the Nash-Hodges Camp 43 of Blissfield. Several Brothers from this Camp spent the day with us and we had an enjoyable time. The re-enactment was the "Capture of the Huntsville & Alabama Railroad Depot" and the "Great Locomotive Chase." The "Chase" was carried out with railroad engines on the tracks running through town and ended at the Civil War Camp site. Another part of the weekend schedule was a cemetery tour where re-enactors did 1st person portrayals of Civil War Veterans who were buried there. It was an interesting and enjoyable program.

On Sunday, May 24, a good turnout of Brothers attended church services at the First Congregational Church in Jackson. Several Civil War units left from this church as they departed Jackson for the Civil War.

Memorial Day was observed by the Camp fielding a Color Guard along with several other Brothers and Auxiliary members marching. We took part in the parades in Jackson and Spring Arbor. After the regular Veterans Memorial program in Mt. Evergreen Cemetery the Camp held a special service at the grave site of Union Army Sgt. Tuttle.

As the month of June began, several Brothers attended the Department Encampment in Saginaw on June 6.

Our Camp doesn't have a meeting in June, so we get a little break in the action; however, by the time you read this, we will have set up the tent fly as an information and recruiting area at the Log Cabin Days at the Waterloo Farm Museum.

Who knows what July will bring and, of course, we'll all be planning for and looking forward to the Jackson Muster. Hope to see many of you there.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Mark Pangburn

CAMP NEWS

(continued from page 11)

The 1998 officers for Camp 58 are:

Commander	Warren Gidley
Senior Vice Commander	Dave Johnson
Junior Vice Commander	Doug Armstrong
Secretary / Treasurer	Mark Pangburn
Camp Council	Tom Dangler Bruce Fech Bob Knowles
Camp Delegate	Kim Altvater

The Camp officers were duly installed earlier in the year by Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison.

Among recent Camp activities, Camp 58 has undertaken the task of participating in the State of Michigan's "Save the Flags" campaign. The goal was to raise enough money to adopt the flag of the 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which is the regiment that Camp 58's namesake, George W. Anderson, served in. Within a short time the money was realized and details for the official flag adoption are being finalized. It should also be noted that Brother Bob Knowles and his wife Elizabeth, recently undertook the task and adopted the flag of the 8th Michigan Infantry.

Speaking of flags, the camp also has finally secured three flags for Camp use, a National Colors, a Camp flag, and also a State of Michigan flag, which was dutifully donated by Brother Kent Armstrong.

Brother Doug Armstrong was recognized for his efforts in refurbishing grave markers in the Mt. Rest Cemetery in St. Johns, Michigan. A certificate of appreciation was issued by then Department Commander, Paul Hodges.

The Camp participated in Memorial Day activities in DeWitt, St. Johns and Waucousta. A joint Memorial Day Camp activity was realized when members of Camp 58 joined with members of Maj. Henry Wallace Camp 160, of Corunna, to observe the 100th anniversary of dedicating the G.A.R. memorial in the town of Ovid, Michigan. This was a unique ceremony in more ways than one, the town rests on the Clinton-Shiawassee County line, which both Camps are obliged to serve.

Our most recent new member of Camp No. 58 is Brother Kirk Armstrong, of Grand Ledge, who comes to us as a Member by right of his great-great grandfather Sgt. John Tait (Tate) of Company G, the 24th Michigan Infantry. Sergeant Tait was killed in action in 1863.

GILLULY-KINGSLEY ~ CAMP 120

by Richard Lee

Howell — The Brothers of Camp 120 participated in various patriotic and educational events recently. On Memorial Day, 25

May, Brothers Greg Hayes, Mike Taylor, Larry Wall, Jim Williams, James Williams and Richard Lee marched under the command of Gary Ralston, Camp Commander, in the parade and ceremony in Howell.

On Memorial Day, 30 May, the above named members of the Camp Guard, assisted by Brothers Jim Appleton, Glen Fincham and Matt Taylor were at Greenwood Cemetery in Fowlerville. There, they re-dedicated the only Civil War cannon in Livingston County on the 100th anniversary of its dedication by members of John G. Gilluly G.A.R. Post 114, "to their fallen comrades".

In Milford on the 4th of July, Brothers Gary Ralston, Larry Wall, Jim Williams, James Williams and Richard Lee were seen in the parade vanguard.

Brother Lee read General Logan's Order No. 11 to students, staff and parents, and spoke on Michigan and Livingston County in the Civil War, at the *Civil War Days*, held by Middle Schools in Brighton and Howell in May.

GOV. CRAPO ~ CAMP 145

by David F. Wallace

Flint — The Camp has been busy since the last issue of the Messenger. In April, we hosted Civil War author Wiley Sword in conjunction with the Flint Public Library. His program on the Battle of Shiloh was well received. In May, we held a breakfast meeting, which was attended by 32 Brothers and family. During the meeting the Camp welcomed William Moore III as a Member of the Camp. The Camp participated in Memorial Day Parades in the communities of Lapeer and Burton. On Memorial Day May 30th, the Camp held ceremonies at Aventine Cemetery in Flint. The Camp Guard mounted an Honor Guard from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. At 5:00 pm, the Comrades of the Gov. Crapo G.A.R. Post were memorialized as their name, rank and regiment were read aloud by Brothers of the Camp. The Traditional Memorial Day Service was held per Ritual Order at 6:00 pm. This year we were fortunate to have the participation of members of the Swartz Creek High School Band to lend a musical touch to the ceremony. Aventine Cemetery is maintained by Brothers of the Camp 145 and much clean-up work was required after the recent severe weather.

On June 9th, members of the Camp travelled to Watrousville to participate with Brothers of the Gen. Phil Kearny Camp of Bay City in a memorial service for the Civil War veterans of that community. On Flag Day, June 14th, a Camp Color Guard represented our Order at the Flag Disposal Ceremony conducted by the Lapeer American Legion. Several members sent flags for proper disposal. As of this writing, we are looking forward to our annual picnic held during "Civil War Days" at Crossroads Village.

CAMP NEWS

(continued from page 11)

MAJ. HENRY F. WALLACE ~ CAMP 160

by Mike McMillan

Corunna — On Monday May 25th, members of our Camp, including our Camp Guard, participated in the Memorial Day parade in Owosso. We were joined by members of Tent 14, of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We took part in the memorial service held at the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors monument in Oakhill Cemetery and fired a volley to conclude the ceremony. Later that day we marched in the Memorial Day parade in Byron and took part in the ceremony in that city's cemetery. Earlier in the month, three members of our Camp marched in the Michigan Day parade in Lansing .

On Memorial Day, May 30th we joined with members from George W. Anderson Camp 58, of Dewitt and marched in the Memorial Day parade in St. Johns. We also participated in the ceremonies in the city cemetery. Later that afternoon, members from both Camps commemorated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the G.A.R. monument in Maple Grove cemetery in Ovid. That cemetery is divided almost equally between Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. Several members of Tent 14 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War honored the memories of the Soldiers and Sailors with us at both events. Joint participation by the Camps was very well received and plans were made to cooperate in similar ways in the future.

A Camp banner was created and donated to our Camp by Ms. Judy Kurnik of Chesaning, to be carried during parades and used at our recruiting tent as an additional means of identification for the public. We are also in the process of having a Camp flag made.

On Saturday June 6th, members of our Camp along with members of Tent 14 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War marched in the Curwood Festival parade in Owosso. We also set up a living history encampment and a recruiting tent near Curwood Castle. There was a great deal of interest in our organization.

YOU ARE INVITED...

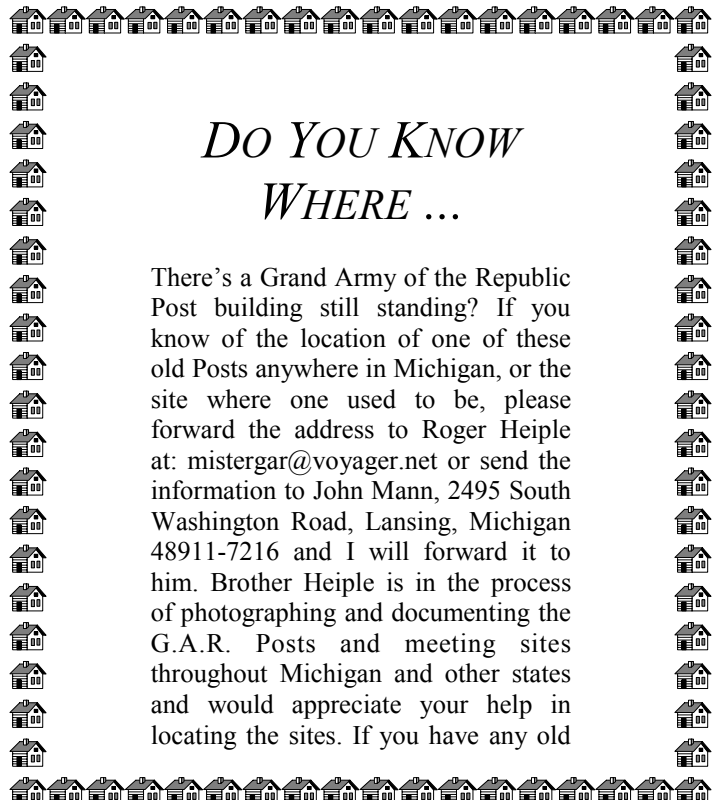
by Bill Lowe, Commander Camp 7

To attend the 1998 Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster on Saturday and Sunday, August 29th & 30th. With the growing interest in the SUVCW and our activities we have decided to have two tents at this year's Muster. Two tents and flies will provide us with more room to "tell our story".

Austin Blair Camp 7 will erect the tents, but will need assistance with staffing on Saturday and Sunday. Plan to attend and give a couple of hours of your time to represent the SUVCW! Bring any of your Camp's literature, pictures or memorabilia for display while you are there. If you have lists of the graves you have registered, bring them, the public is always interested in this information. In one tent, Department Graves Registration Officer, John Obermeyer, will have the data assembled thus far available. Weather permitting, we will have a complete set of "The Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War" (the Michigan regimental brown books) and the accompanying index on hand.

For additional information or to offer your assistance please contact:

Bill Lowe, Commander
Austin Blair Camp 7
3916 Allston Drive, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: (517) 750-9138
E-mail: dorbil@mci2000.com



*DO YOU KNOW
WHERE ...*

There's a Grand Army of the Republic Post building still standing? If you know of the location of one of these old Posts anywhere in Michigan, or the site where one used to be, please forward the address to Roger Heiple at: mistergar@voyager.net or send the information to John Mann, 2495 South Washington Road, Lansing, Michigan 48911-7216 and I will forward it to him. Brother Heiple is in the process of photographing and documenting the G.A.R. Posts and meeting sites throughout Michigan and other states and would appreciate your help in locating the sites. If you have any old

VETERAN'S HISTORIES

By Thomas Wightman

The United States Army's Military History Institute has developed an oral history survey to gather personal experiences of soldiers who served in WWII and the Korean War. The survey is intended for all veterans of all branches of service, not just Army servicemen and women. Many of our members are Veterans of WWII or Korea or are the sons or nephews of veterans. It would be in keeping with our goal of preserving history to get the word out about this important project. It is unfortunate that no one thought to gather this kind of information after the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Surveys are available for the asking and can be obtained by writing to:

U. S. Military Institute
22 Ashburn Drive
Carlisle Barracks
Carlisle, PA 17013-5088

Please state which survey you want, WWII or Korean War. A prepaid return address label is included along with the survey. They will send you as many surveys as you ask for. I requested and received an entire case, which I am distributing to local V.F.W., American Legion and D.A.V. Posts.

The WWII survey consists of 18 pages of questions, which for the most part require only a single sentence or short paragraph answer. The survey is broken down into 5 parts: I – General Military Service, II – Overseas Service, III – Combat Service, IV—Occupation and Demobilization, V – Postwar Experiences. The questions and your answers are designed to allow historians to study, combine and compare with the "official histories" of units during the war to better understand just what actually went on during day-to-day life in the unit.

The Institute is also asking veterans to donate their historical records of the war. They are seeking books, camp unit newspapers, letters to home, V-mail, diaries, memoirs, correspondence and official reports, photographs, illustrations, films, audiotapes, insignia and unit patches.

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

*by Robert Grim, Commander
Department of Ohio, SUVCW*

The Conference will be held on Saturday, October 3, 1998 at the Best Western Hotel in Lancaster, Ohio.

An interesting tour of Ohio's Capitol Building in Columbus is planned for the morning. The Capitol has been restored to its original appearance at a cost of approximately \$200 million. We will leave the motel at 9:00 am. The tour will be conducted by Ohio's Civil War Governor, William Dennison (Brother Bob Davis). The tour will end at Shaw's Restaurant in Lancaster for lunch. Following lunch, we will take a brief tour of the boyhood home of Gen. William T. Sherman, located near Shaw's in Lancaster.

The afternoon will be devoted to learning about Ohio's Civil War Military Officers who went on to become Presidents of the United States: Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes, Gen. James A. Garfield, Gen. Benjamin Harrison and Major William McKinley. Several of these presidents will be portrayed by people in period costume who bring these men to life.

The evening dinner will be in the banquet room at the Best Western, with a program involving one of Ohio's Civil War officers who became President.

Additional information relating to hotel cost, dinner reservations and directions can be obtained after August 1st by contacting:

Robert Grim, Commander
Central Region Conference
5367 State Route 72 South
Sabina, OH 45169-9425
Phone (937) 584-4622

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

By the G.A.R. Records Committee. Volunteers are wanted to check with local libraries and historical societies to find out if they have any records pertaining to the G.A.R. in their archives. If any records are found locally, the committee would also appreciate your assistance in making copies of the records for the Department files. Please contact the committee chairman for further details:

James T. Lyons
411 Bartlett Street
Lansing, MI 48915-1805
(517) 482-9360
jtlsrmi@aol.com

*ANCESTOR VIGNETTE***Henry Josephus Woods**

Private

88th Ohio Infantry

Company D

Great, great, great grandfather
of
Craig DeCrane
Col. George W. LaPoint Camp 76

When investigating one's lineage, one has to accept the good with the bad, the hero with the scoundrel and the glorious with the ordinary. I suppose, however, that during the war, there is no "ordinary". Even the most tedious, mundane duty requires sacrifice. A soldier gives up his home life, his family, his friends and his occupation to do his duty.

My great, great, great grandfather, Henry Josephus Woods served in the 88th Ohio Infantry, Company D, the "Governors Guards". His role in the Civil War appears rather ordinary. The 88th Infantry guarded rebel prisoners at Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio.

Henry entered the service in October of 1862 at the age of 40. According to his records, he was present for duty all three years, except when he was sent home on a short sick leave in June of 1864. A doctor's letter refers to "hemisrania". The best I can determine is that Henry suffered from migraines. He was also hospitalized in March 1865 for the measles. In his post-war pension records, Henry, and later his widow, claimed that Henry's health was ruined by chronic diarrhea that he contracted during the war. After the war, several soldiers of the 88th testified in Henry's behalf that he indeed had developed "camp diarrhea".

The 88th was called out to counter CSA Gen. John Hunt Morgan's raid into Ohio. However, Morgan was captured before the regiment saw any action.

The regiment was also involved in the Holmes County Rebellion. In 1864, a conscription was attacked in Holmes County (north-east of Columbus). The residents threw stones and threatened to shoot the officer. When he reported back to Columbus, the 88th was sent to Holmes County. Upon nearing the insurgent's camp, the regiment shook out a battle-line. The insurgents fired a ragged volley that passed over the heads of the men of the 88th. The regiment returned fire, wounding several and scattering the rest. The Holmes County Rebellion was over.

Henry served out the war guarding prisoners at Camp Chase. He was mustered out in July 1865.

A family history written about the turn of the century states that at an old age Henry walked with a cane. He blamed his bad leg on an "old war wound". It appears that no one questioned Henry as to how he received a wound while stationed in Columbus, Ohio, but I am sure that he was not the first veteran to – let us say – embellish the truth.

When asked what my ancestor did during the war, I like to say that he guarded rebel prisoners and shot at fellow Buckeyes! Seriously, although Henry was never at the front, he did as his country asked. He gave up his home for nearly three years, ruined his health and performed the tasks the army assigned him. Was it glamorous duty? No, but it was another

CYBERSPACE NEWS AND REVIEWS

by Dan Doyle, Camp 7
ceedan@mci2000.com

There are so many new Civil War and genealogical related web sites coming on-line each month it is difficult to keep up with them. In order not to inundate you with too many all at once, I will just list a few of the better ones for you to bookmark.

The American Civil War Homepage

<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/cwarhp.html>

This one was on my list to tell you about a month ago and when all of a sudden it disappeared. It is back with a new URL. This is an excellent site with many links. Basically it is a huge well-organized index. It began as a class project for Information Science 560 at the University of Tennessee's School of Information Sciences during the Fall 1994 semester. When the page was first launched in February 1995 it contained slightly more than thirty links to resources about the American Civil War. Since then it has grown in size and has received numerous awards and honors. Recently it was included in the American Library Association's "Top 700 Web sites for Children". The site is maintained by Dr. George H. Hoemann.

Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War

<http://scv.org>

This site is maintained by our pards in the South and is a favorite bookmark of mine. It is interesting and informative with lots of pictures and accompanying music. It also contains many good links.

Civil War Era documents.

<http://www.global.org/bfreed/geneol/civlsrch.html>

Basically it is a search site. Their many rosters can be searched by a series of key words, permitting you to find an individual soldier of a certain rank, date of enlistment, place of enlistment, engagements in which they fought, whether they were wounded or killed, whether they deserted, when they were discharged, and much other incidental information.

Balch Bros. & West Co.

<http://www.balchflags.com>

This is one for your reference folder. It is the company's on-line catalog of flags, flag poles, grave markers and memorial items. This catalog is a one-stop shopping site for everything a fraternal or patriotic group will need. As yet, you cannot order on line but a toll free number is given.

Ask an Expert

<http://njnie.dl.stevens-tech.edu/curriculum/aska.html>

This is a fun site I visit often. Have you ever had a question that's been kicking around in the back of your head for years that you never found the time to look up the answer? I always wondered why grapefruit are called what they are especially when they were not known before the discovery of the new world and grapes had been around for centuries. I asked the experts and they sent me the answer the next day. Think about it, but don't bother them with this question again, because I will publish the answer in the next issue of the Messenger. In the meantime send them your challenging questions.

Tony and Lynda Langham

<http://www.onthenet.com.au/~tonylang/Mainpage.html>

The Langham's are an Australian couple that maintain a very informative genealogy site that has a feature I enjoy when I need to know about an old occupation. You click on the tab titled "Occupations" and it takes you to an alphabetically searchable page. Tony and Lynda are originally from Manchester, England and are willing to help anyone searching their ancestors. (Slow loading - be patient.)

Department of Veteran's Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

Current data for veterans of all wars with good links.

Roget's Internet Thesaurus

<http://www.thesaurus.com>

Looking for that precise word. Keep it bookmarked for ready reference. Saves that trip across the room to the book shelf and it's fast.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

- 1 What was the southern-most city to host a National Encampment of the G. A. R.?
- 2 What was the northern-most city to host a National Encampment?
- 3 What were the eastern and western-most cities to host National Encampments?

Answers on page 18

WILLIAM SHAFTER

CAREER VOLUNTEER

by James M. Gallen
Department of Missouri

William Shafter was born in Galesburg, Michigan on October 16, 1835. His three year teaching career ended with his enlistment in the Seventh Michigan Infantry in August, 1861, in which he was commissioned a First Lieutenant. On October 21, 1861, he participated in the battle at Ball's Bluff, Virginia, later serving in the Peninsula campaign of 1862. During that campaign his gallantry at Fair Oaks on May 31, 1862 led to his delayed brevet to Colonel in 1867. He was transferred to the Nineteenth Michigan Infantry with the grade of Major in September, 1862. While fighting at Thompson's Station, Tennessee on March 9, 1863, he was taken prisoner of war. He was exchanged in May and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June. In April, 1864 he was appointed Colonel of the (Colored) Seventeenth Infantry. He led the Seventeenth into action at Nashville on December 15-16, 1864. He was breveted Brigadier General of volunteers in March, 1865. After the war he chose a military career and was assigned to western posts for about thirty years. By 1897 he had risen to the grade of Brigadier General and was in command of the Department of California.

At the start of the Spanish-American War, Shafter did not cut a likely figure for command. At sixty-three years of age, over three hundred pounds and suffering from gout, he was not an officer who would be predicted to perform well in the tropics. People described him as monstrosly fat, a floating tent, a balloon, a lumbering bear and perhaps the most corpulent man in the army. Newsmen would write that he weighed a sixth of a ton and draw attention to his lack of a West Point education. Cartoonists liked to caricature his obesity. Despite these drawbacks, he was appointed Major General of Volunteers in May, 1898 and began the organization of the expeditionary force for Cuba in Tampa. He sailed from Tampa with the fifteen thousand man V Corps on June 14. Landings began at Daiquiri, sixteen miles east of Santiago, on the southeast coast of Cuba on June 22. The original plan, formulated by the Navy, was that the force would help the Navy breach the entrance to the harbor to Santiago Bay and, thereby, aiding in the destruction of the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera. The destruction of this of this fleet may have freed the U.S. fleet to either reinforce Commodore Dewey at Manila or attack the coast of Spain. After viewing the stone bastions guarding the harbor from the cliffs, Shafter preferred a land attack on the city itself, rather than an assault on the harbor.

Moving from Daiquiri, the troops passed through Siboney and on to Las Guasimas, fighting Spanish troops which had adopted the guerrilla tactics of the Cuban insurgents. After a week of unloading supplies and reinforcements, Shafter was ready to

assault Santiago by going over the San Juan Heights. At crucial times during the actions, Shafter's strength was sapped by lightheadedness due to fever, a gouty foot wrapped in burlap and exhaustion from the trip to the front. The assaults on the Heights included the epic charge of the Rough Riders on San Juan (actually Kettle) Hill on July 1. The casualties on the Heights were high, two hundred dead and one thousand two hundred wounded. The risk of further, heavy losses increased friction between the Navy, hoping for help in attacking the fleet and Shafter, who felt that the Navy should be able to take the Spanish fleet without the need of an assault on the forts by the Army. This source of friction was eliminated on July 3 when the Spanish fleet left Santiago Harbor and was destroyed by the U.S. fleet. After destruction of the Spanish fleet, Shafter delayed the scheduled shelling of Santiago in order to permit peace negotiations. Upon learning that yellow fever had been diagnosed among the army, Shafter urged acceptance the Spanish proposal for the surrender of the city, with the army to be evacuated to the north. President McKinley disapproved these terms and insisted on unconditional surrender. Naval and army bombardment led to a compromise settlement in which the Spanish army surrendered with the agreement that those prisoners who wished repatriation to Spain would receive it at the expense of the U.S. Government. This effectively brought an end to the resistance in Cuba.

Poor public relations would plague Shafter, just as they would later commanders. After getting off to a bad start in Tampa, Shafter further incurred the wrath of the press by refusing permission for reporters to land with the troops at Daiquiri. Shafter was little respected by his men. One soldier in the Sixteenth Infantry said: "General Shafter is a fool and I believe should be shot." In a letter to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge on July 5, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt expressed the opinion that: "Not since the campaign of Crassus against the Parthians has there been so criminally incompetent a General as ShafterShafter never came within three miles of the line, and never has come; the confusion is incredible."

With his campaign a success but his personal performance in question, Shafter retired from the Army in October, 1899, but retained his volunteer commission until June, and was raised to Major General on the retired list in July, 1899. He lived on a ranch near Bakersfield, California where he died on November 12, 1906.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY

FROM MAJOR TO PRESIDENT

by James M. Gallen
Department of Missouri

William McKinley was born in Niles, Ohio on January 29, 1843. In June, 1861 he enlisted in the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, rising from a Private to a Brevet Major. While with the Twenty-third he met and gained the confidence of the commanding Colonel, Rutherford B. Hayes, who would precede McKinley as U.S. Representative, Governor of Ohio and President. The Twenty-third was primarily stationed in West Virginia where it was engaged primarily in smaller battles of the war. During the fighting at Antietam in September, 1862, McKinley demonstrated marked valor in transporting, under fire, a mule team bearing hot meat and coffee to the troops. In February, 1863, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and to the staff of Colonel Hayes. In July, 1863 he clashed with Morgan's Raiders at Bluffton's Island, Ohio. In July, 1864 he displayed bravery while carrying orders to the front at Winchester, Virginia and was promoted to Captain the next day. He later served on the staffs of Generals George Crook and Winfield Scott Hancock. Colonel Hayes said: "Young as he was, we soon found that in the business of a soldier, requiring much executive ability, young McKinley showed unusual and unsurpassed capacity, especially for a boy of his age. When battles were fought or service was to be performed in warlike things, he always filled his place."

One thing that his service in the Civil War left McKinley was an abiding hatred of war. This hatred for the waste of war was evident when McKinley, as President, faced the challenge of the rising crescendo for war in 1898. With public outrage over Spanish policy in Cuba in the background, McKinley proclaimed in his inaugural address that "We want no wars of conquest ... we must avoid the temptation of territorial aggression ... peace is preferable to war in almost every contingency." In his first State of the Union message in December, 1897, McKinley described Spanish actions as "extermination" and "brutal". If needed reforms were not carried out, the U.S. may have an obligation "to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force." As time passed, the pressure for war mounted. Fears that a peace policy

would lead to Republican losses in the elections of 1898 were expressed. Even after the destruction of the Maine, the President cautioned Congress that the public outrage could in a less self-controlled community "might have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer process of reason." Seeking a political solution, McKinley extended offers for the purchase of Cuba, which were rejected by the Queen-Regent.

By April, the war pressures were unstoppable. An eagerly anticipated war message was deferred on April 6 on the advice of Counsel General in Havana, Fitzhugh Lee (former Major-General, CSA) who advised against any action until Americans evacuated from Cuba. McKinley had to expend valuable political capital to prevent Congress from acting on its own. The message was sent April 11 and war was declared on April 25. With the declaration, much of the initiative passed to the military and naval leaders. McKinley's involvement became more active after military success led to peace negotiations.

Victory brought serious questions about the constitutionality and advisability of overseas expansion. Again, circumstances dictated the President's actions. Military occupation of the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam made it difficult to relinquish the conquered territories. A campaign tour of the Midwest seemed to establish a consensus between President and country that Cuba become independent and the other conquered territories be ceded to the U.S. McKinley's firm stand led to this result at the Paris Peace Conference.

In 1900, McKinley became the first President since Ulysses S. Grant to be elected to a second consecutive term. On September 6, 1901, William McKinley was shot by an assassin in Buffalo, New York. The tribute paid to a later President could have equally applied to McKinley, for he too died "as a soldier, under fire, doing his duty in the service of his country."

The preceding two biographies were kindly offered by Brother Gallen, the author of the articles, to the Department for use in our newsletter. This being the 100th year anniversary of the Spanish/American War of 1898, both biographies are very appropriate for Michigan's Messenger, as they cite the careers of Civil War soldiers who went on to become prominent figures that "Tidy little war." There were many other Civil War soldiers and sailors, both officers and enlisted personnel, that volunteered and served in the Spanish/American War.

GETTING INVOLVED

(Thoughts from the Department Commander)

With the summer weather in full swing, there are many aspects of the SUVCW's work that all of us can help out with. The following is respectfully presented for the benefit of our newer members, who may not have yet had the opportunity to attend a Camp meeting. Please read the following, and contact your Camp leadership to express your desire to help. Thank you.

Graves Registration — Each of our Camps has a geographic area of responsibility to survey cemeteries (usually on a countywide basis). These assignments (see listing) are intended to eliminate a duplication of effort between Camps (a Camp level Grave Registration Officer can coordinate & track work within each Camp's assignment area). During the "warm-weather-months," we can visit cemeteries to collect information on *Definite Veterans, Probable Veterans, and Possible Veterans* per instruction on page one of the national form, approved in August of 1995. All Camps should have copies of these. If not, please contact Bro. John Obermeyer [(616) 241-1969] for a sample of both the instruction sheet, and the Registration Form, itself. [The form also provides for information on graves that are marked for a Spanish-American War Vet. Brother Obermeyer will gladly forward this info to the V.F.W., as their organization "absorbed" the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV).] The winter months afford time for further research on the probable & possible entries, plus a check of local records, which may reveal an unmarked Civil War veteran's grave. The Veterans' Administration will provide a free "Government Stone" for an unmarked grave or as a replacement stone for any original marker that has been damaged or badly worn. [Ref: VA Form 40-1330]

Placing a "Government Stone" on an unmarked grave or replacement of damaged/worn stones should only be pursued with full approval & support of the private or public cemetery and/or the local government body responsible for the grounds. The gravestones are quite heavy and are usually transported to a facility that is able to unload them mechanically. In some cases, municipalities prefer that their own cemetery maintenance crew remove the worn stone and install the new one. Several of our Camps have been involved in this procedure and Brother Obermeyer can offer further details.

Another matter involving a veteran's "Government Stone" is resetting those that have sunk or tipped. Members of Camps 7 and 20 have fashioned mechanical

lifting devices that carefully clamp to the stone and allow it to be reset with the recommended two feet of vertical stone surface exposed above the soil line. Please contact Bro. Max Miller of Camp 7 at (517) 750-3220 and/or Bro. Bill Costello of Camp 20 at (616) 665-7165 for more details. Again, this has to be coordinated with permission of the local cemetery officials before work begins.

Sometimes a simple cleaning is in order for these stones (with local permission). **Proper** cleaning instructions are featured in the "*Review and Evaluation of Selected Proprietary Materials for Cleaning Burial Monuments,*" available from THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES; 30 Elm Street; Worcester, MA 01609; (508) 831-7753. Please call or write for their latest Publication List.

Our organization can also assure that Union Civil War Soldiers & Sailors are honored with a Flag Holder (a.k.a. Grave Marker) and U.S. Flag on appropriate dates. Before their passing, the membership of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) worked through their local Posts to place one of many designs of a G.A.R. Flag Holder on the grave of a nearby Union Veteran. They extended this honor to all of the Union Vets, whether the individual was a member of the G.A.R. or not. Over the years many of these markers have disappeared and many that remain are incorrectly placed due to various reasons, including lawn maintenance. The Michigan Law that provides "Markers for Veterans' Graves" (MCL 35.831 - 35.833), may be utilized to provide a marker and flag for each veteran's grave. Our research can assure that veterans whose resting place is marked by a civilian design gravestone will also have an original G.A.R. Flag Holder (if extra are found available at the local cemetery) or a modern reproduction of a G.A.R. Design or Civil War Era marker installed. This law addresses how to approach private, as well as public cemeteries for procurement & installation of the markers and also has a provision to punish those who remove & sell these markers to "collectors." A copy of this legislation was mailed to each Camp Commander last year.

Cleaning, repair and painting of the rusted original G.A.R. Flag Holders is another project that our membership can become involved with, with the permission of local authorities.

A good communication aide, in a Camp's first contact with a local cemetery or government, is the one-page

(Continued on page 18)

GETTING INVOLVED

(continued from page 17)

handout titled, "About our Organization." This includes text that states, in part, that the SUVCW "seeks out and marks the graves of Civil War Veterans; observes the care and upkeep of Civil War Memorials and brings any failure to do so, to the attention of the proper authorities."

In some communities, the American Legion or V.F.W. already help take care of the Civil War veterans' graves. Working with them on this, is another way to strengthen a Fraternal, Inter-Organizational Bond. After all, it was the G.A.R. that the men who formed the V.F.W., turned to for advice in getting started – and, for many years, the G.A.R. and V.F.W. had joint Annual Meetings.

Through our supervision, some of the activities mentioned above represent patriotic Eagle Scout Project opportunities that a Camp's nearby Boy Scout Troop(s) may be interested in.

Civil War Memorial Assessment – This involves seeking out all Civil War related tributes (monuments with or without sculpture; monuments with cannon; historical markers and modest plaques) that honor the men who helped *Save the Union*, and recording the memorial's physical condition by answering questions on a special four-page form [available from Bro. Bill Morris at (810) 659-8515]. This information will be entered into a computer database and will serve to prioritize seeking professional care for the memorials that need attention before others. This will be a perpetual-project, in that each memorial should be re-inspected periodically to check for the effects of weather and/or vandalism.

Each Camp has the same "assignment areas," for this project, as for Grave Registration.

I will be giving a list of known, surviving Civil War era cannon to each Camp for particular attention. Our Department Counselor, Bro. Kim Shaw, will be contacting the representatives of the property where we find these cannon, in a "pro-active" effort to better protect them from those who would profit by their sale. We have seen far too many of these Memorial Cannon disappear to "collectors."

Camp Commanders are respectfully reminded that successful accomplishments involving these projects should be highlighted in your local news media. These efforts are not only something for our present membership to be proud of. They should be shared with

your community as examples of what our organization is all about, and serve to draw more interested individuals into our Order. Thank you, for your help.

Camp	County (or other specific area)	Assignment*
1	Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa	
3	Mason, Muskegon, Oceana	
7	Jackson, Washtenaw	
9	Huron, St. Clair, Sanilac	
14	Antrim, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau	
17	Barry, Eaton, Ingham	
20	Allegan, Kalamazoo, Van Buren	
22	Branch, Calhoun	
28	Mecosta, Newaygo, Osceola	
43	Lenawee	
53	Claire, Isabella, Midland	
58	Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia	
67	Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Saginaw	
70	Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Emmet, Presque Isle	
76	Monroe	
85	Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph	
101	City of Detroit	
120	Livingston, Oakland	
145	Genesee, Lapeer, Tuscola	
147	Benzie, Lake, Manistee, Wexford	
160	Shiawassee	
259	Hillsdale	
266	All Upper Peninsula Counties	
427	Wayne (excluding City of Detroit)	
462	All remaining unassigned counties	

* Subject to Change, with addition of new Camps.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

ANSWERS

from page 14

- 1 Los Angeles, California, in 1912. The "City of Angels" actually lies further south than Chattanooga.
- 2 Portland, Oregon, in 1918.
- 3 Portland, Maine, in 1885 and Portland, Oregon, in 1918.

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

1st & 2nd — Saturday & Sunday **Grand Rapids, MI**
Weekend of Remembrance. A Ceremony of Remembrance will take place on Saturday, followed by a pig roast. A re-enactment of a battle of the Gettysburg campaign take place on Sunday. For further information call Lee Stroschine at (616) 793-3315 or e-mail Keith Harrison at: YJNW42A@prodigy.com

7th & 8th — Friday & Saturday **Harrisburg, PA**
117th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, intersection of I-83 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76). Rooms are \$65.00 per night plus tax (1 to 4 per room). In order to receive this special group rate, you must call the hotel direct at (717) 774-2721 and indicate you are with the *Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic*. Further details in the Banner and on the National internet web site at: <http://suvcw.org/encamp.htm>

13th - 16th — Thursday - Sunday **Buckley, MI**
Fundraising opportunity for Camps at the Buckley Old Steam Show. Do a little work, earn money for your Camp and see a great old time farm steam engine show, along with a large flea market. See details on page 2 of this issue.

29th & 30th — Saturday & Sunday **Jackson, MI**
14th Annual Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster. The battle scenario this year will be "The First and Last Battles of the Seven Days — Mechanicsville and Malvern Hill". Austin Blair Camp 7 will host two recruiting tents for the Department and is asking for assistance from other Camps in manning the tent.

SEPTEMBER

12th & 13th — Saturday & Sunday **Marshall**
Historic Marshall Home Tour. Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22 will host a SUVCW recruiting tent for the Department at the G.A.R. Hall.

OCTOBER

1st — Thursday
Deadline for the November issue of Michigan's Messenger.

3rd — Saturday **Lancaster, Ohio**
Central Region Conference. The Conference will be held on Saturday, October 3, 1998 at the Best Western Hotel in Lancaster, Ohio. For further information, see page 12.

31st & Nov. 1st — Saturday & Sunday **Kalamazoo, MI**
Antique Arms and History Fair at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday.

NOVEMBER

11th — Thursday
Veteran's Day. All members and Camps should take time to remember the sacrifices the members of our armed services have made to keep our country free.

21st — Saturday **Gettysburg, PA**
Remembrance Day Parade, ceremony and evening ball. Details in upcoming issues of *The Banner* and *Michigan's Messenger*.

DECEMBER

15th — Tuesday
Deadline for the January 1999 issue of Michigan's Messenger.

FEBRUARY 1999

13th — Saturday **Lansing, MI**
Mid-Winter Conference at the Best Western Midway Motel. A larger room has been booked this year to better accommodate the ever growing numbers of Brothers attending this popular conference. More details to follow in the November and January issues of *Michigan's Messenger*.

MAY 1999

1st — Saturday **Lansing, MI**
110th Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, at the Best Western Midway Motel. Please note the date change and see Department Order No. 26.

AUGUST 1999

20th & 21st — Friday & Saturday **Indianapolis, IN**
118th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This is also the 50th Anniversary of the final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Is your Camp hosting an event that you would like other Camps and SUVCW members to attend in the coming months? Send the information to the editor of Michigan's Messenger so that it may be listed in forthcoming issues.

THE "FLAG AMENDMENT"

(F.Y.I. from the Department Commander)

On February 13, 1997, the following legislation was introduced as a *Joint Resolution* (H. J. RES. 54) in the House of Representatives of the United States. The language "passed the House" on June 12, 1997 and was received in the Senate on June 16, 1997 during the first session of the 105th Congress. It was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

In the second session of the 105th Congress, H. J. RES. 54 has become "Calendar No. 426" and reported, **without amendment**, by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary) on June 24, 1998. The exact language of **H. J. RES. 54** states:

JOINT RESOLUTION

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

'Article —

'The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.'"

Brothers Richard Spriks and Patrick Kennedy of Albert and James Lyon Camp 266 respectfully inquired if the SUVCW had an "official position" on this proposal, as our Order is not listed as a supporting organization of *The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.* I approached Commander-In-Chief Richard D. Orr about this and was told that the matter would again be discussed at the National Encampment, this year.

This was not an item addressed at our recent Department Encampment but I've been asked by Brother John Walker and other members of Alexander French Camp 28 to share this with all Camps and their membership, for your consideration of individual or collective support. Please give this some thought and discuss it at your next Camp meeting. Thank you. The address for Senators Hatch and Abraham (both on the Judiciary Committee) are listed in Item No. 6 of the Department Orders in this issue. You may write to Sen. Carl Levin, at 459 Russell Senate Office Building; Washington, DC 20510.

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