



Mi

Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ~ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Vol. X No. 1

Chartered June 24, 1884

July 2001

In Memoriam

Adin K. Shank

“True Son”

17 November 1912 ~ 30 May 2001

Curtenius Guard Camp 1



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WHAT DOES PATRIOTISM LOOK LIKE?

by Mark E. Weiss, Patriotic Instructor
Austin Blair Camp 7

Author's Note: The following thoughts were recorded after the funeral ritual for Pvt. Daniel W. Pine, Co. E, 122nd New York Infantry, deceased April 8, 1889, and his remains relocated to the "Field of Honor", Hillcrest Memorial Park, Jackson, Michigan on May 12, 2001

As I stood in my assigned spot behind the hearse last Saturday afternoon, waiting for the start of the procession, I noticed them on the hill to my right. Big guys with long hair, beards, and wearing black leather. Obviously motorcycle people. I was wondering what these characters were doing at an event such as this. As several of them turned around, I noticed "Proud Veterans" emblazoned on their jackets and felt better knowing that these guys would be OK. They participate in the Memorial Day parade every year and are all veterans (mostly from the Viet Nam era I would guess, judging from their ages). My wife later told me that there were many "whispers" about these same gentlemen in the ranks of the lady mourners, also wondering what would bring such a bunch to this solemn occasion.

As I fidgeted around, making sure I had the order of ceremony straight in my mind just one last time, the color bearers came sailing by me on my right. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed at least one of the "Proud Veterans" group snap to attention and salute the flag as it passed. "Hey", I thought, "that's very patriotic!" As it turned out, he was one of the few I saw along the way saluting the flag. Then I began to think about how I had just a few minutes earlier concerned myself with what this group of tough looking customers might be up to, and then had just as quickly changed my mind to think of these same men as exemplary patriots. I wondered, "What makes someone patriotic? What does a patriotic person look like?"

Webster defines patriotism as loyalty to or zealous support for one's country. People might love their country for a good many reasons, but the one most often cited seems to be freedom. We all like freedom — nobody likes having their life dictated to them — but it comes at a price. Freedom would have been taken from us long ago had not legions of men and women fought over many decades to keep our land free. There wasn't much freedom in Germany during the Nazi days, or in countries today operating under dictatorial governments. Many around the world would surely enjoy telling us what we will do and how we will live our lives.

Thanks to the sacrifices of so many, we remain free people today. Free to choose where we will work and live. Free to choose what clothing we will wear. Free to choose how we cut (or don't cut) our hair and our beards. Free to choose a Chevy, Ford, Toyota, or Harley Davidson as our means of transportation.

"Isn't it ironic", I thought, "that a group of veterans, exercising the very freedoms for which they sacrificed several years of their lives, would raise eyebrows at the funeral of another veteran?" It seems that I (and others) need to remind ourselves that a free land is a land of great diversity. We can all enjoy being ourselves, which makes all of us different from the rest. We might not care for some of the differences we see, but hey, it's a free country!

Another paradox became apparent to me as I listened to the speaker's remarks during the ceremony. The funeral for Private Pine, we were told, was symbolic; to remember not just this one forgotten soldier, but all of the forgotten soldiers across the decades. Perhaps Private Pine had much in common with our friends in attendance from the Viet Nam era; he was not a dignitary, he was not a wealthy businessman, he probably didn't own very many suits, and he never got much in the way of compensation from his government for the sacrifices he made. But I'll bet he was a patriot, and could probably have recognized a forgotten soldier and loyal patriot much sooner than I and many of the others did last Saturday afternoon.

And as one of my favorite (although fictitious) Viet Nam veterans would end this miscellaneous rambling, "And that's all I have to say about that".

In Memoriam

ADIN K. SHANK

by James T. Lyons, PDC

Brother Adin Kenneth Shank answered the last muster call on the afternoon of Memorial Day, May 30, 2001. He was born on November 17, 1912 in Angola, Indiana, and the youngest son of Norman Shank and Etta Northrop Shank.

Adin Shank contacted me in the spring of 1994 requesting information on joining our Order. He indicated that he thought he would qualify because his father had served in the Civil War. I immediately sent him an application and we met several times to complete the paper work. He became a member of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 at the July 1994 meeting.

His father, Norman Shank joined Company K, 44th regiment of the Indiana Infantry Volunteers in 1861. At age 15, he was assigned as an orderly to Colonel Aldrich. In the evening Norman was allowed to bake bread and pies to sell in the camp. Any wages earned had to be sent home to his parents. Brother Shank told his daughter-in-law Maureen Shank, "That was a family rule," for a paper written and published in the program of the 2000 National Encampment.

Private Shank joined the ranks in the rest of Company K and was sent out to fight. Norman was wounded at the battle of Shiloh. Adin said, "he was laid up for quite a long time waiting for the leg to heal good enough for him to begin fighting again." When Norman's three-year enlistment ended in 1864, he re-enlisted to serve until the end of the war.

Adin proudly stated, " There is still standing in the town square of Angola, Indiana, a Civil War Monument with the name 'Norman C. Shank, Private', inscribed on the bronze plaque and when I go to Gettysburg, I always find the Indiana Memorial because my father fought there too."

Maureen Shank relates that Norman had eight sons and two daughters, Adin being the youngest. Because he strongly believed in education, all of Norman's children were college graduates, except Adin. He died while Adin was quite young and with the start of the Depression, there was no money so the family farm was sold and Adin, at age 17, moved to Lansing with his mother to find work.

He worked for a while at the Lansing Dairy and then at General Motors where he retired in 1974, after 40 years of service. He served in the Army during World War II as a medic, Because of an injury received during training, he was not sent overseas.

The funeral was conducted at Valley Farms Baptist Church in Lansing. During the service Brother Shank was remembered as a man of deep religious faith and service. He was committed to his family and was noted for talking endlessly about the accomplishments of his grandchildren. Interment followed in Deepdale Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Arletta, his children, Adin (Jean) Jr., of Lansing, Art (Maureen) of DeWitt, Larry of Lansing, Sheila (Jerry) Parsons of Lansing; 17 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His grandson, Arthur H. "Chip" Shank II is also a member of Camp 17.

Among those in attendance at the funeral was Brother Edward Blakely of Grand Rapids and John A. Logan Camp 1, the sole remaining "True Son" of the Department of Michigan. None who were present at the Allied Orders Banquet of 2000 will forget the impromptu dance executed by these two great gentlemen. Also well remembered was their "Charge" at the Confederate line at the Jackson Civil War event that same year.

SECRETARY

Richard Lee

For their diligence in meeting all reporting requirements for the calendar year 2000, the Department of Michigan is pleased to confer the Nicolay-Hay Award on the following Camp Secretaries and Secretary/Treasurers:

Camp 1 Bruce B. Butgereit	Camp 85 Charles L. Pfauth, Sr.
3 Daniel Grable	101 Jerald R. Walters
7 Ronald D. Tyril	145 David F. Wallace, PDC
14 Neal F. Breauth	147 Merle L. Carlson
20 Jeffery E. Baker	160 David L. Hilliker
22 John Lohrstorfer	250 Robert C. Grove
28 Gerald M. Lintemuth	(for Donald Workman)
43 David Schneider	266 Paul A. Nelson
58 Mark Pangburn	427 Richard E. Danes
67 Kenneth H. Martin	462 Kenneth H. Martin

My thanks to all of these Brothers for making my work much easier and special thanks to David F. Wallace, PDC, for his fine work in producing the certificates.

The 3rd Quarterly Reports (January thru March) were received on time from the following Camps: 1, 3, 7, 14, 17, 20, 22, 43, 58, 67, 85, 101, 120, 145, 147, 160, 180, 250, 259, 266, 427 & 462. The Department thanks those Camp's Officers for their efforts.

Brothers who plan to attend the National Encampment in Springfield, MO in August will need a Credential Card from the Department Secretary. There are eight voting Delegate spot still open. Please call me (or write) if you wish to attend and were not present at the Department Encampment.

Richard Lee, Secretary
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HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help to host at the G.A.R Hall in Marshall on Saturdays, from noon to 4 pm. As you may be aware, the museum is primarily dedicated to the military past of Marshall residents, mainly those who fought or were involved in the Civil War. We have hundreds of visitors every year, therefore it is important that we keep the Hall open throughout the summer months. On occasion we have encountered difficulty in finding someone to host at the Museum, thus we are not able to open it for the public as scheduled. If you can spare a Saturday afternoon or two, please contact Museum Curator and fellow Brother Roger Graves at (616)-781-5766 or by e-mail at chief201@aol.com.

CHAPLAIN

Bill McAfee

As we prepare to leave for an extended vacation, I see all the "stuff" we've accumulated over the years. We know we can't carry it all in the car, nor will we need it all. This is especially evident because some of the "stuff" is still in the same box it was in the last time we moved. However, we know where it is (sometimes) and where to get it if and when we want it. Some of it means nothing to anyone but us. Some of it requires work, such as cataloguing in the case of old stereo records or photographs, or more research, as in the case of the genealogy notes, records and documents. Then, there are our books on various historic topics and eras, but most especially the Civil War collection. Add to that the books and periodicals we've picked up as gifts or at several different types of sales (yard, rummage, out-of-stock, etc.), and you see one large collection that we haven't "gotten around to" reading, yet. Then, there are the cameras we've acquired from similar sources, but have no place for display. In fact, we've even stopped collecting them because of space limitations. Some even still have film in them and still worked the last time we tried using them. When we realize all we have gathered as we prepare for our trip, it also brings something else to mind:

What is going to happen to all this when we're gone? God willing, we will survive the five thousand-plus mile driving tour we're about to embark on. If we don't, who will look after all our "treasures"? What will happen to the thousands of 35-mm. slides we've taken from 1964 to whenever we went back to print film? What about all the prints that are still in the processing envelopes? My wife has boxes of collectibles she hasn't taken to one of her mall booths yet, plus items from estate sales she's managed. Will anyone care? I checked my will. It hasn't been updated since our marriage three years ago and it may be too late to do it before we leave. It was holographic and I'm not even sure that anyone who had a copy of it five years ago still has a copy. What about you? Is your will up to date? Do you even have one? What will happen to YOUR collections? Does your family care enough to preserve it, to put it in a library or other appropriate depository? Or, will it end up in the burn barrel or dumpster along with the trash? We don't have a lot of investments, but there are current considerations we would like to have made right now that are different from what it was when we initially designated beneficiaries. Yet, that information is not documented, anywhere.

Well, it is very clear to me that tonight, before we leave, I need to set aside writing my normal column for *THE MESSENGER* and sit down and update my will the best I can, hoping that it won't be needed, but at least I will have left some paper trail of my wishes "just in case" the Lord is ready for us to come Home. Maybe you should consider doing something like that, too. Paraphrasing a passage in the New Testament, 'Man knows not at what hour the Lord cometh'. Aside from spiritual considerations, are any of us really ready? May God bless.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 1

SERIES 2001 ~ 2002

Department Headquarters, Linden Michigan

1. With sadness, I must report the passing of a true and noble son, Adin Shank. Brother Shank was an active member of the Curtenius Guard Camp of Sunfield/Lansing. Although I did not know him as well as the Brothers in his Camp, I do remember many enjoyable conversations at meetings, reenactments and ceremonies. He will truly be missed. To honor his memory, I hereby order that all Camp charters be draped in black for 30 days.

2. Having been duly re-elected to the position of Department Commander, Department Headquarters shall continue to be in Linden, Michigan.

3. I wish to give my sincere thanks to all the Brothers of the Department for the high honor which they have placed upon me. I pledge to give all my efforts towards fulfilling the duties of the Office.

4. I also wish to thank all those who expressed their concern and best wishes during the recent illness of my daughter. The last several months were an ordeal for our family. However, I am pleased to report that she is now quite well and has joined our sister organization the DUVCW.

5. In memory and tribute to our Brother Donald Workman, Past Camp Commander of the Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250, and a past Department Officer, I asked that all Camp Charters be draped for 30 days.

6. The appreciation of this Office is extended to the Brothers of the Austin Blair Camp for their hard work and dedication to Private Pine. The ceremony in Jackson was a fitting tribute to a man

that fought to preserve our Union.

7. All Camps that have summer meeting dates are asked to forward the times and location to this Office. I wish to attend every Camp meeting possible during the next few months.

8. Several slots still exist for delegates from Michigan to the National Encampment in Missouri this August. Brothers wishing to attend, and to lend support to elect our own Kent Armstrong, PDC to the position of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Max L. Newman to the Council of Administration, should contact this Office.

9. Committee Chairmen are asked to submit the names of Brothers for appointment to their various committees to this Office.

10. With the advent of warmer weather, Brothers are encouraged to venture out to work on grave and memorials registration. Both of these projects deserve our attention and care.

By the order of:

Gregory Hayes,
Commander, Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee,
Secretary, Department of Michigan

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas Armstrong, Chairman

In the upcoming months, Camps throughout our Department will be active with projects and events to honor our ancestors and those who served the Union. We will again be venturing into cemeteries to register the graves of veterans of the Civil War. Along with these activities, I again encourage all brothers and their Camps to establish a program to locate and assess the condition of Civil War Monuments and Memorials in their areas. Some Camps have already been very active with this project and have completed and filed the assessment forms with the Department. For those Camps that currently have a Civil War Memorials Officer or have an assessment program in place, I would request that they provide to this office a report of their progress and issue any questions or suggestions about the program that they may have. For the Camps who do not have an established program, I encourage you to coordinate an effort along with your Graves Registration program and offer my assistance to you. Every Camp's participation is necessary and essential to the success of this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Several monuments within our state have, this past year, been restored or are undergoing fundraising efforts for their restoration. I recently had the privilege of attending a restorative demonstration of a bronze statue in Grand Rapids. Arco Engineering Inc. of Louisville, Kentucky, who volunteered their services for the demonstration, has a noninvasive procedure for cleaning monuments and memorials. The process seems to work well and lends itself to many different kinds of materials that monuments were erected from. A limestone monument was also cleaned in a nearby cemetery in Sand Lake. The representative from Arco stated their company is available and ready to give quotes for performing the cleaning of any monument, which is in need. Thank you to Brother Bruce Butgereit for arranging the demonstration and his efforts along with Camp 1.

I have also been in contact recently with the City of Detroit's Planning Department in respect to their construction projects near Campus Martius and Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit. They intend to disassemble and relocate the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument approximately 100 ft. from its current location to that of a circular park at the center of Woodward Ave. The park will provide a more visible location for the monument and serve itself better to the visiting public. The schedule for the park's construction will be sometime next year. I will have more details as the project continues. I'd like to thank Brother Robert Mitchell, who recently transferred here from the Department of Illinois, for providing me a contact with the planning department.

Another effort is underway to restore the monument and statue at the Grand Traverse County Courthouse in Traverse City.

The statue is made of zinc and was cast in 1890 in Chicago. Some sections are separating and others cracking due to freeze-thaw cycles. Last year, the county made efforts for its restoration by contacting Venus Bronze Works Inc. of Detroit. Their quote for the cost of conservation and restoration of the monument was between \$50,000 and \$85,000. Fundraising for the project was started last year and has recently been added to through a grant from the National S.U.V.C.W. Thank you to Brother Neal Breauth and Camp 14 for bringing this to our attention.

There is good news with our efforts with the State Legislature in bringing increased protection to Veteran's Monuments within the State of Michigan, in particular, the theft and sale of Civil War era cannon. This has been brought to the attention of state lawmakers, two of which are currently drafting a bill that would include a "hands off policy" for these cannon that were dedicated by veterans of the Civil War to remain as memorials to their fallen comrades. They have insured me that they will keep me informed of the bill's progress and notify me when it will be brought before the House and Senate. At that time, I ask that all Brothers within the Department of Michigan please contact their representative and respectfully urge their support for the bill. This is important if we are to put an end to the sale and profit by collectors and private individuals of these pieces of our heritage and the sacrifices of those who fought to save the Union. As Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War it is our duty through "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty" to uphold the memory of the G.A.R. and the men who faithfully served the Union.

Thank you to all those brothers for their assistance with this Committee's projects over these past years and I look forward to hearing from **every** Camp and newly elected Camp Commander.

GOLD COIN FOUND INSIDE CONFEDERATE SUB HUNLEY

Archeologists excavating the debris filled hull of the H. L. Hunley have uncovered a gold coin. The find was not unexpected as the commander of the submarine, Lt. George Dixon, was known to carry the coin as a good luck charm. The gold coin was one of the most sought after artifacts on the sub. The Hunley was raised from the ocean bed off the South Carolina coast in 2000, after several years of searching for the wreck. Excavation of its interior was finally undertaken this year after precautions were taken to preserve the sub from further deterioration from rust and corrosion.

Dixon was shot during the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, but his life was spared when the bullet hit the gold coin he was carrying in his pocket. The coin partially absorbed the impact of the bullet,

*SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**Bruce B. Butgereit*

On April 21, 2001 at the 112th Michigan Department Encampment in Lansing, MI I had the sincere honor to be elected as Department Senior Vice Commander by the delegates assembled for business. The purpose of the Department Senior Vice Commander is to assist the Commander, promote the Order and preside at Department meetings in the absence of the Commander. My goal will be to faithfully serve my post with the diligence and loyalty that our ancestors gave to their purpose.

The first activity listed in the job description of the SVC is to **promote Department activities in the media**. In the early days of the Grand Army of the Republic, this function almost was done for each Department/Post on its own, as communities were quick to honor their Civil War veterans and were delighted to celebrate their victories and to honor their deaths. Parades, encampments, meetings, etc. were all covered in the local press in advance of the event and the townspeople made preparation for the "boys in Blue" that would soon be there.

When these communities then began to realize the full impact of these soldier's efforts and sacrifices, between 1870 and 1920, there was a rush for these communities to pay an everlasting tribute with the dedication of monuments and memorials to these men who had fought to preserve the Union. Again, the local press was quick to cover these events. You can look back at newspaper archives and see the full-length stories that were written, including the name of every dignitary and parts of their speeches.

By 1920 and the next few decades, the media, which now included newsreels of film, covered stories on these Civil War veteran's because of the realization that an era was slowly coming to an end and these last few men were indeed special, more so because of their age and how long the War had been over. It wasn't until 1961-1965 did the media again remember the Civil War but only because it was a centennial "celebration."

We have our work laid out before us today as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. April 12 came and went in the eyes of the Grand Rapids media, and I'm sure other communities as well, without even a sentence to cause one to remember the most significant test our Nation has ever experienced, the Civil War. It is up to us to "rally 'round the flag" as our ancestors did and to encourage the patriotic spirit in everyone to remember. My next article will include a recent conversation with an editor of the Grand Rapids Press and what we must do to **promote the Department/Camps**.

I can be reached at:

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*JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**Philip N. Parks*

Thanks to the assembled delegates at the 112th Encampment at Farmington Hills, MI on April 21, 2001 who saw fit to re-elect me Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Michigan. I apologize for not being present to account for the activities of the past year. It was my privilege to take a trip from Memphis, Tennessee, through Mississippi and then to New Orleans where the Delta Queen took us back up the River to Memphis. The Battle for the Mississippi River begins to come alive. To encourage others to become involved with the SUVCW should be easier after having Ed Bearss and Steve Ambrose share their knowledge of this history.

Last year our Camp 266 attempted recruiting at the Upper Peninsula State Fair. The cost for a place for our booth was over \$400.00. We were able to meet with many people but did not get them to sign up. This year we are going to use our public exposure in a little different way. The 1st Annual Great Northern Gun, Knife and Sporting Collectibles Show will be in Escanaba, MI on June 16 and 17. We will set up our booth there since Jim Decremer, one of our members, is the Show Promoter. The following weekend, June 23 and 24, the city recreation department of Escanaba is sponsoring a 'Civil War Weekend'. The re-enactor groups will be the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and the 10th Tennessee Regiment out of Green Bay, WI. We will also set up near Ludington Park where most of the activities will take place. Then on the 28th and 29th of July we will take part in a program sponsored by the Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee, MI. The theme of the weekend will be 'Iron Ore and the Civil War.' Several speakers have been invited including the editor of the 'Michigan History' magazine. A re-enactor band with period instruments as well as the 1st Michigan Light Artillery will be performing. We will need volunteers in order to get the expected recruits.

Going out to recruit new members will give us the growing edge to keep alive the memory of those who gave so much to make our Union of States in America a reality.

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ANCESTOR VIGNETTES WANTED

One of the most popular features of Michigan's Messenger, the Ancestor Vignette, has been notably missing for our newsletter these past few issues. Why not share a photo of him and his experiences in the Civil War with other members by submitting a vignette?

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Neal F. Breagh

In touring Civil War sites, I really enjoy the finding of the smaller, out of the way sites. Louisiana is a great state for this type of touring. We recently spent two weeks in the French Quarter, using it as our base of operations. The necessitated two very long full days of driving—since the major battle field in the state is located at Mansfield, which is near the top of the state a few miles south of Shreveport.

We flew into New Orleans, but if driving from Michigan, it would be much better to travel through Mississippi, visit Vicksburg, then across highway 20 to Shreveport and turn south and visit the Mansfield State Commemorative area. This is where Confederate General Richard Taylor defeated Union General Nathaniel Banks on April 8, 1864. You can then continue south for 12 miles to visit the smaller site of the April 9, 1864 Battle of Pleasant Hill. You can obtain an excellent colorful map and description of both the 1863 and 1864 campaigns by calling the Jean Lafitte National Park in New Orleans at 1-504-589-3882. Ask for the "Thousand Mile Front" brochure. This map was of tremendous help to us, but we still had fun getting lost, asking for directions and searching out smaller unmarked sites.

We enjoyed the site of Bailey's Dam, which is located at the present day Pineville Bridge that crosses the Red River and connects Alexandria and Pineville. We could not even find a marker memorializing the historic feat by Lt. Colonel Joseph Bailey, 19th Engineering Corps, when he built the dams that allowed the Union Fleet to escape to the Mississippi River and safety. But then Bailey was a northern soldier and it was a Union accomplishment, and this is Louisiana.

The opening battle of the Red River campaign occurred on March 14, 1864 when the Union forces captured Fort DeRussy. The fort is located near the town of Marksville and you would be wise to ask directions to the fort in that town. It is an earthen fort that has been very well preserved. Improvements are being made to the area and a reception center is being built. This is a site well worth the hunt.

There is nothing but a sign left of the May 16th skirmish in the little town of Mensura, but the site of the last battle of the campaign at Yellow Bayou on May 18, 1864 is worth visiting. It is now a very nice park with some earth works along the beautiful bayou. But keep your eyes open; we missed it driving north, but it was easier to spot the entrance when heading south.

The 1863 battles of Briland, Irish Bend, Sterling Plantation, Fort Star in Morgan City and Shadow on the Tyche Plantation, which served as General Banks headquarters in 1863 are all worth visiting. There is not enough space to go into these sites here, as well as the several individual sites in Baton Rouge and New Orleans itself. However, a "don't miss" site is Port Hudson State Historic Site with its 6.5 miles of trails. It is located just 25 minutes north of Baton Rouge. I suggest that you pace yourself on this visit—maybe even stay in Baton Rouge overnight and make two trips to Port Hudson. Visit the museum the first day and then park near the Fort Desperate parking lot the second day. Visit Port Hudson each morning and tour Baton Rouge each afternoon. Pace yourself. I walked the entire site in 4.5 hours and paid for it the next two days. However, we were extremely fortunate that the noted Park Historian, Ed Bearss, was leading a tour group that day and we were able to spend a half hour visiting with him. You never know what will happen when touring Civil War sites, big and small. Please contact me if you need help in preparing for any

THE FIRST GAR MEMBERSHIP BADGES



The original membership badge was authorized in 1866. It is generally known by collectors as the Type I, 3BN or Third Battalion badge. As it was feared by many that the south might possibly rise again, the GAR fancied itself as the "Third Battalion"; the First Battalion being the standing Army and the Second Battalion being the various State Militias. The design is basically a shield with engraved features. These badges were first made by local jewelers and therefore vary widely in detail, means of attaching and metal they were made of, examples being found in bronze, silver and gold. A drawing of this badge is shown on the left.

In 1868, a modification was made to the badge consisting of an eagle with a federal shield on its breast, clasp ing olive branches, from which the original design badge was suspended. This design is known as the Type II badge and is shown at the right.



MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER

John Mann, Editor

This issue of Michigan's Messenger marks the beginning of the tenth year of publication for our Department's revived newsletter. As editor, I thought it might be an appropriate time to include a short history of your newsletter and how it has grown over the years.

In October, 1992, then Department Commander James Pahl mailed the first issue, Volume I, Number 1, naming it after the original Michigan Department Sons of Veterans newsletter. His reasoning for beginning the newsletter was found in the first paragraph on the first page of that initial newsletter: "*When I made the commitment to become a candidate for the position of Michigan Department Commander, I tried to identify one area, that if I did nothing else, would be of greatest benefit to Michigan during my time as Department Commander. I decided at that time, communication between the Camps and from the Department to the membership to be that one area.*"

In that first year, only 3 issues of 8 pages each were printed, entirely written, edited, printed and mailed by Brother Pahl. The second newsletter, dated January, 1993 reported that the first issue cost \$48.00 to print and \$52.50 for postage. At the time, there were only 8 Camps within the Department, Camps 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 22, 53 (now Camp 250) and 101 and our membership stood at approximately 180. Department Commander Pahl stated that unless an alternate means of funding the newsletter was found, the Department only had enough money in its treasury for one or two more newsletters. Volume 1, Number 2 also saw the resurrection of a regularly printed Department Orders in each issue and reported the formation of a ninth Camp in Michigan, Gov. Crapo 145, in Flint.

The following year J. Douglas Park was elected Department Commander and he too was just as committed as Brother Pahl to make Michigan's Messenger a means of communications between Department, Camps and members. Looking into the future and realizing that an editor would be needed if the newsletter was to reach its maximum potential, Commander Park created the position of Department Newsletter Editor. The membership of the Department was asked to contribute articles for publication and Michigan's Messenger was on its way to becoming a newsletter not only of the officers of the Department, but of its Camps and members as well.

Though the Department was running on a tight budget, with the help of a raffle, enough money was found to continue printing and mailing the Messenger to all members. Also, with the addition of Camp 145 to the Department and membership increases in existing Camps during 1993, our membership rose to over 200, the minimum amount for bulk rate mailings. A non-profit bulk mailing permit was applied for and a considerable savings in postage was realized. Eventually, an increase in the Department's per capita was approved and

targeted specifically to help cover the costs. By the end of the second year of publication, the number of pages had increased to 12 and four issues had been printed and mailed.

Over the years the Messenger has improved, adding new features, some of which have proved popular and others which were dropped after a few issues. The number of pages now averages 22. Photographs are now a common feature, though we try to limit the number in each issue as they cost extra to process. The Department Council approved the small extra cost to have the Messenger printed, rather than photocopied, to enhance the quality of both the printed text and the photographs. And a direct mailer is now employed, eliminating the necessity of hand application mailing labels and sorting of the mailing by zip code before taking the Messenger to the post office. Nearly all copy is now received in an electronic format, either on disk or via e-mail making it much easier and much less time consuming to compose the newsletter.

The look of the newsletter has also changed over the years, starting with a single column format, then a two column format. For awhile, a three column format was tried using a smaller type size (8 point, to allow more text on fewer pages), until feedback was received from some of our older members saying they had a hard time reading the smaller type. In November of 1995 the Messenger reverted to a two column format using 10 point type as standard. In May of 1997 the Messenger began being printed on ivory color paper, the last major change in format for the newsletter. Several minor changes have also been made to the masthead on the first page throughout the years and with this issue it is once again changed; first, to "spiff up" the look of the front page, and second, to further distinguish that this is the newsletter of *the Department of Michigan*.

It is my belief that Past Department Commander's goal of, "... *communication between the Camps and from the Department to the membership*", has been met and his creation has become one of the most informative newsletters within the S.U.V.C.W. This could have not come about without **You**, the Department officers, Camp officers and members of this Department who have unselfishly contributed the articles and photographs that have graced the pages of our newsletter over the years. I thank you Brothers, for making the Messenger what it is today!

The
Deadline
 for the next issue of
 Michigan's Messenger
 is
September 1st

Articles and photos must be received by this date to ensure their inclusion in the October issue.

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1

by Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

Tuesday, June 12, 2001 was a special night again for our Camp and the Department of Michigan with the initiation of another "true son" Mr. Harold Becker, 84 of Rockford, Michigan – just 10 minutes from Michigan's other known "true son" Brother Edward Blakely. As a dad, it was special for me as my youngest son, Colin (12) joined his brother, Bruce II and myself, as a Junior member.



Initiation of True Son Harold Becker and Junior member Colin B. Butgereit into Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1.

Brother Becker's father was Charles Conrad Becker, born September 1846 and passed away July 1934. In between these dates, Charles enlisted in Co. H of the 128th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers at the age of 17 in 1864. The 128th participated in the Battle of Atlanta and Sherman's March to the Sea.

Becker also remembers hearing stories from his father about when after the War was over, their regiment was detached to inter the bodies of those buried in Salisbury, NC. "There were nearly 10,000 of their comrades who had fallen or died from disease or starvation in prison," his father said, "and they had been hurriedly interred in long trenches and piled one upon the other and the falling rains had washed away the soil exposing

the skeletons of those on the top layer."

Although just becoming a member of our Order, the G.A.R. is not anything new to Brother Becker as his father was at one time, Camp Commander of the Lyon Post, No. 9 of Chicago and once boasted nearly 700 members and a *female* adjutant. Becker can remember his father wearing his G.A.R. uniform while marching in parades and wearing his badges and mementoes from the various encampments he attended.

Charles' recommendation for habits that bring long life were: "Eat and drink and be merry; don't smoke; once in awhile take a little wine for your stomach's sake, and a spoonful of whiskey with quinine is a mighty good medicine." Although he suffered from poor eyesight (supposedly from the War), Charles claimed he "was never sick a day in his life."

Just like Brother Blakely, Becker is quite active and loves the golf game. He also spends much time with his family.

Our Camp has been extremely busy in trying to keep our fund-raising efforts in the public eye but we have run into a little resistance from the local media. Apparently they consider the Civil War "ancient" history and not of "reader interest." Regardless, we still do our best.

Brother Blakely has accepted the role of Monument Restoration Project committee chairman for our Camp. He is a most active man and is passionate about this Monument as he the LAST man still alive who can lay rightful claim to being the son of a Grand Rapids area Civil War veteran to whom that same monument was dedicated in 1885.

With my presentation company, Bruce B. Butgereit & Co. – Civil War Presentations, we continued to give school presentations, monument fund-raising assemblies, and living history moments, right through the end of the school year.

The Allied Orders in Grand Rapids, the Champlin Corps No. 41 of the Woman's Relief Corps, the Eva Gray, Tent No. 2 of the DUVCW and our Camp, volunteered our services to assisting the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home clean up the walking trails around the Home on May 5. This was done as a "Thank You" for allowing our three Orders to meet at the Home for free.

We have been active in our duty to honor "the boys who wore the Blue" by attending the interment ceremony for Private Daniel Pine, May 12 in Jackson and Brig. Gen. Stephen Champlin headstone re-dedication in Grand Rapids on May 19.

Our Camp assisted in Memorial Day services for Hopkins and Monterey, MI on May 28 and provided the Color Guard. A gift of \$50 was given to our Chaplain Comer Skinner who in turn presented it as a gift to the Monument Restoration Project on behalf of our Camp.

The Allied Orders were again in attendance for our Memorial Day service at the Grand Rapids Civil War Monument on May 30. We received TV coverage from all three of our local

channels. We truly appreciate the City of Grand Rapids for keeping May 30th as the day of honoring all those who served and sacrificed of themselves for our freedoms.

We were also given our rightful place of honor in the marching line, ahead of the Civil War re-enactors (again, nothing against them) but our ancestors served long before Civil War re-enacting was even an idea. From this, we will be establishing a better working relationship with the Veteran's Council of Kent County. Brother Blakely also again rode in State Senator Glenn Steil's "Hummer," and was honored as a special guest at the City's ceremonies.

On June 2nd, Brothers Edward Blakely and Bill Johnston, Marcia Bruin of the WRC, and myself attended the funeral services for departed Brother Adin Shank. On behalf of our Camp and the Champlin Corps, WRC, Marcia and I presented Mrs. Shank with a decree of thankfulness for sharing her husband with us and some pictures of Brother Shank and Blakely together at last year's National Encampment and the Jackson re-enactment. We will never forget the "charge" of two old "boys in Blue" back at the Southern troops during the Grand Review. We at Camp No. 1 will miss you Brother Shank.

The rest of our summer is full of events and activities. We encourage each of you to join us on August 4 for the Ceremony-of-Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home. Please look to the Department of Michigan website on

the events page for more details and directions.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Bill Lowe, PCC

As with most Camps in our Department, May is usually the busiest of the entire year, thus it was at Camp No. 7. First we would like to extend our most grateful thanks to all that participated in or attended the re-interment of Private Daniel Pine. Unfortunately we do not have a list of all of the Brothers of the many Camps of the Department of Michigan who were there but you know who you are and we will forever be grateful for your presence. Some drove many hours just to join with us that day.

We were honored to have with us our National Commander-in-Chief, Ed Kreiser, who addressed those assembled just prior to the Burial Ritual. A special note of thanks goes to Keith Harrison who took over practicing and leading the uniformed contingent. Dale Calder recruited the Color Guard and everyone worked together to honor this veteran.

Camp No. 7, was privileged to have this rare opportunity, to re-bury in a Field of Valor, a Civil War veteran using the actual Ritual of the G.A.R. Led by Camp Commander Ken Strickler, each officer of our camp stood in the same position, reciting the same words as the Comrades of Posts across America did time after time as their ranks thinned over the years. More than 90% of the participants were members of the S.U.V.C.W. and many of the "mourners" were members of the Allied Orders.

Memorial Day week was also a busy time. The Memorial Day Sunday worship service as practiced by the G.A.R., and encouraged by the S.U.V.C.W., was different than our past years. This year we went to a church with two morning services and they wanted us to participate in both. Under the leadership of our Chaplain Todd Holton, a special part of the service was given to us to honor all the veterans. At each service the Order establishing Memorial Day was read.

On Monday the 28th, the Camp marched in the Jackson parade that always stops enroute to the cemetery service so our Camp might place a wreath at the Civil War monument. Proceeding on to the united service, a wreath was laid in memory of the more than 425 known Civil War veterans buried there. Next came a special program in the adjacent town of Spring Arbor, the unveiling and dedication of a Veterans Memorial. Here we presented the colors with our Color Guard and then marched in their parade in the afternoon.



*The horse drawn hearse used to transport Pvt. Pine's remains.
Hearse courtesy of Nelson-House Funeral Home, Owosso.
Team of horses courtesy of Earl Shultz, Concord.*

Not wanting to miss an opportunity to honor our veterans on May 30th, we conducted a Memorial Service and headstone re-dedication for a survivor of Andersonville who became a victim of the Sultana while he was enroute home. This service was conducted in Reading, Mich., at the request of one of the descendants of the soldier, Sergeant Aaron V. Waterbury who served in both the Chandler Horse Guard and the 17th Michigan Infantry. Prior to the service Mrs. Bene Fusilier, great-granddaughter of Sgt. Waterbury spoke of him and the hardships incurred by his family after his death. She also had a picture of him for all to see.

Thus May came to a close as many could look back, a little weary, but remembering our pledge to "keep green the memory" of those who fought to preserve the Union.

ROBERT FINCH ~ CAMP 14

by Neal F. Breaugh

We are proud to announce that after purchasing a Camp Flag had been mentioned about six times during the past decade, we finally took action. At our Camp meeting on March 10th, we unanimously approved the purchase of a Camp Flag and all the necessary attachments. The Commander and Secretary/Treasurer were instructed to come up with a financial plan to accomplish this long postponed objective.

At our meeting on May 19th, a plan was presented and approved — also unanimously. Pending approval of our request for a raffle license from the State of Michigan, we will hold a raffle on November 10th at our regularly scheduled Camp Meeting. We will only be selling 100 tickets at \$25.00 each. First prize will be a choice of these three possibilities; \$500.00 in cash; a Timeshare week during the year 2002 at the Sheraton Vistana Resort in Orlando, Florida (right next to Disney World); or a Timeshare week during the year 2002 at the Tahoe Seasons Resort in S. Lake Tahoe, California. Second prize will be a hand crocheted afghan (50 x 62 inches). There is also the possibility that we will have several smaller third place prizes.

Our Camp was very proud to be represented at the May 12th Re-interment of Private Daniel W. Pine. This was a most impressive and moving ceremony, and Brother Bill Lowe and the entire Austin Blair Camp No. 7 is to be highly commended not only for accomplishing this historic project, but for also giving the rest of us the opportunity to share in this event.

On May 28th, five of our Camp Members participated with our community and several VFW Organizations in Memorial Day Services at Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City. We expect to double that number at the Flag Day ceremonies on June 14th. We are all eagerly looking forward to our next Camp Meeting on July 14th when Commander Greg Hayes will be us to present us with a duplicate copy of our long lost original Camp Charter. We received the Charter on May 12th and the calligraphy is in

the process of being completed for this special event. While here, Commander Hayes will also present Camp Commander Jan White with the Austin Blair Award and the Orlando LeValley Growth Award for 2000/2001. We are very proud of these two awards, but will gladly applaud any Camp who can take them from us during this year. We already have three new members — so let's all get going.

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

by Paul Hodges, PDC

Brothers Charles Brown and Dale Calder are the most recent recipients of the Camp's Samuel W. Grinnell Award. Brother Brown was honored for being instrumental in the cleaning, movement, and rededication of a stone marker to the 21st Michigan Infantry at Ionia. Brother Calder was cited for arranging and leading color guards for several events during 2000. He continued in March, 2001, by leading a color guard in the opening ceremonies of the annual meeting of the Michigan Environmental Health Association.

At his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 12, Anthony Worth of Williamston was presented an SUVCW Certificate on behalf of the Order by Paul Hodges, PDC. Scott was the sixth member of his high school graduating class to attain the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

The Camp was very prominent in the City of Lansing's Memorial Day observances on May 26. After participating in the parade past the State Capitol, Camp members went to Mt. Hope Cemetery. There they assembled at the General John A. Logan Memorial for the reading of General Logan's General Order No. 11, marched to the cemetery's GAR section, and conducted the traditional Memorial Day service. From there, Camp members traveled to the Little Arlington section of the nearby Evergreen Cemetery and shared in the City's service.

Sunday, May 27, the Camp participated in the Tent 30, DUVCW service held this year again at the Sunfield United Brethren Church due to rain. Commander Lyons served as the Master of Ceremonies. John Black presented "Surviving in the Pacific: One Man's Story". Rev. Ward Pierce of the Lakewood United Methodist Church delivered the message, and related the story of the death of his half-brother on the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor. Music was provided by the Lakewood High School Brass Ensemble and vocal music by Nathan Gulash of Okemos. The Colors were posted and retired by Boy Scout Troop 157 of Sunfield. Military Honors were rendered by Portland VFW Post 4090.

Memorial Day, May 30, saw a full evening of activities at the G.A.R. Hall in Sunfield. At 6:30 PM the Eaton County Historical Commission met and presented two Eaton County Heritage Awards. The first went to Helen M. Edwins Tent 30, DUVCW, for their long term preservation of the Hall. The other was presented to James Woodruff of Delta Township for

his research and writing about the exploration and settlement along the Grand River. During the program, Commission member Thomas Shaver presented a 1949 G.A.R. National Encampment ribbon and medal to the Camp, nicely framed, for display at the Hall.

At 7:00 pm the Memorial Day program from the ritual was conducted on the steps of the Hall. As part of the program three new maple trees were dedicated to Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan as replacement for the original memorial trees. Shortly after the Hall was completed in 1899, William H. Edwins, a leading member of Post 283, moved three maple saplings from his woodlot to the front of the Hall. They were named for the three leading generals of the Union forces.

General Grant was the first to fail in 1993 and the trees dedicated to Sherman and Sheridan came down shortly thereafter. After nearly 100 years the old trees had developed a number of dead limbs and had to be cut down to prevent accidents.

Greg Tobias lives in and has restored the home of his great grandfather William Edwins and he offered three twenty foot trees, from the same woodlot as the originals, as replacements. The project dragged on for a couple of years due to the need of using heavy equipment to move the trees, and weather, scheduling and other complications.

Greg located several smaller trees this spring, offered to hand dig them, replant them and provide care over the summer, and the project was finally completed this April. He offered, in addition, to replace any trees that did not survive. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Greg Tobias for his generosity and efforts to maintain a tradition and an historic connection with the men of Post 283.

The regular Camp meeting followed at 7:30 with a number of



Camp 58 members and Honor Guard in front of newly restored memorial at Memorial Day Services in Ovid. Left to right are Douglas Armstrong, Claude Vail, Gordon McGarey, Kim Altvater, Mark Pangburn, Kent Armstrong, and Dennis Felton.

guests staying to attend the meeting. We did not find out until the next day the our "True Son", Brother Adin Shank, had died that afternoon. His funeral was held on June 2 at Lansing.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

Douglas R. Armstrong, CC

Members of Camp 58 have been active these past months with several projects and ceremonies. On April 7th we had the privilege of attending an Eagle Court of Honor for three Boy Scouts from Troop 72 in St. Johns and presenting them with our commendations. Since then we have presented another four certificates to deserving Scouts in Clinton County.

On May 19th we conducted a headstone dedication for William Vail who served in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry and died of disease in 1864. His grave had been unmarked since the Vail family moved his remains to Gunnisonville Cemetery near Bath. William Vail is the great, great grandfather of a member of Camp 58, Claude Vail.

The Camp finished its restoration of the Memorial Cannon in the Village of Ovid with the cleaning, painting and relocating of the five remaining cannon balls at the center of the memorial. Four headstones were also ordered to replace the worn stones on the soldier's lot adjacent to the memorial.

Members of the Camp's Honor Guard conducted a rededication of the memorial at this year's Ovid Memorial Day Service, on the 102nd anniversary of its original dedication.

Our Honor Guard and members of the Camp also participated and observed Memorial Day services in the communities of Wacousta and St. Johns. Wacousta has each year shown an outstanding display of patriotism and support for Memorial Day. We look forward to work beginning this summer on the restoration of the G.A.R. Monument there. The City of St. Johns has continually observed the traditional day of May 30th for their Memorial Day Service. Camp 58 along with the VFW and American Legion form a parade and conduct a ceremony in Mt. Rest Cemetery.

At our May meeting we initiated our newest member, who comes to us from Colorado and wishes to honor his ancestor here in Michigan.

Several families have contacted us recently to assist them with research about their ancestry's service in the Civil War. Camp 58 will be ordering a headstone for one such family to be placed on an unmarked grave in northern Clinton County. We intend to conduct a dedication when it arrives.

In the upcoming months, we will be continuing our graves registration efforts in Gratiot and Ionia Counties as well as conducting ceremonies and informational displays. Camp 58 will again set up a tent at the St. Johns Mint Festival for

an informational display to the public. We have had great success with this in the past.

CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180

Edward D. Hall, CC

On April 28th, the Ypsilanti Civil War Muster was held under the direction of our Camp Patriotic Instructor John DelCamp. As part of the festivities, there was a re-enactment of the Battle of Honey Hill (South Carolina). The re-enactment included the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops as well as Confederate reenactment groups. The 102nd U.S. Colored Troops in fact played a key role in the actual battle in 1864. The Carpenter-Welch Camp set up and manned a recruiting booth which resulted in obtaining some new membership prospects.

At the May 28th Camp Meeting, two new members were installed, Larry Arnold and Charles Allegrina. Several additional prospects have been identified.

On the celebrated Memorial Day (May 28th, the Camp participated in the annual Memorial Day Procession which included a service at the Civil War monument in Highland Cemetery. On May 30th (true Memorial Day), we held a memorial service at the Union Civil War monument in downtown Dexter. This was a wonderful event and attracted quite a few interested spectators from Dexter and from the Ann Arbor Civil War Roundtable. The memorial was organized and lead by PCC and current Michigan Department and Camp Chaplain, Bill McAfee. Following the service, most of the attending Camp members visited the local cemetery and paid respects at the grave of local hero Harrison Jeffords, Colonel of the 4th Michigan Volunteers who was mortally wounded in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg while bravely saving his regiment's flag from capture. Prior to the Civil War, Jeffords was a young attorney who practiced in Dexter. His deeds and death in the Wheatfield have been immortalized in Don Troiani's painting "Saving the Flag".

The Camp has kicked off its Graves Registration effort in Washtenaw County under the leadership of Mike VanWasshnova (Camp Secretary and Graves Registration Officer) and new member Larry Arnold, who has already put a lot of effort into the project. The Camp is determined to complete registration of the Washtenaw County Civil War Graves by years end, if at all possible. Thanks to Austin Blair Camp 7 Graves Registration officer Bill Lowe for his help and encouragement, and to Camp 7 in general for completing registration work on the westernmost townships in Washtenaw County that are adjacent to their (Jackson) county. This has given us a much appreciated jumpstart of our effort.

RUSSELL A. ALGER ~ CAMP 462

Bruce B. Butgereit, Coordinator

The transition of paperwork from Coordinator Brother Ken Martin to myself was handled on March 24, 2001 and went very smoothly. This was part of a Camp-at-Large "meeting" held in Gaylord, MI at the request of several Brothers from the Alpena area that are very interested in getting a Camp re-established there.

Brothers Robert Brookbank and Don Londo, with soon-to-be member Rudy Bauer have begun the process of establishing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War by getting an article I had written published on Brother Brookbank's ancestor, Major Robert Anderson of Fort Sumter fame in the local newspaper.

An organizational meeting was held June 3 in Alpena as a result of this local "advertising" combined with posters, flyers, and letters of invitation. Sister Marcia Bruin, Senior Vice-President of the Dept. of Michigan and President of the Champlin Corps No. 41, Grand Rapids, Woman's Relief Corps also in attendance, as there are some patriotic women in Alpena who wish to do something.

The results from this meeting and some excellent work by Brothers Brookbank and Londo have given us the potential for having enough men to re-establish the Camp. At the time of this publication, verifications are being done but I am positive the Department of Michigan will soon again have a Camp in Alpena. From here, I will begin contacting Brothers in the Camp-at-Large from the southeastern part of our State to see if they might be interested in establishing a Camp somewhere in



*Members of the Camp-at-Large, Department of Michigan
Left to right, Bruce Beckeny, Robert Brookbank, John Ulrich
and Don Londo. with Camp-at-Large Coordinator Bruce B. Butgereit.*

COL. GEORGE W. LAPOINT ~ CAMP 76

John D. Reaume, CC

Work on ordering and placing new tombstones for Civil War veterans continued this year in Monroe city's historic Woodland Cemetery. Over the Memorial Day holiday members placed new tombstones for **1st Lt. Henry D. Spalding** (1813-1891) who was with the 18th Michigan Infantry from August 1862 to December 1862, and **Francis J. Caux**, an interesting Monroe businessman (1843-1913) who was in Co. M, 45th Indiana Cavalry from May 1862 to May 1865.

Work started this year in another large Monroe cemetery, the historic St. Joseph Cemetery, a predominately Catholic burial ground. Many Civil War veterans are unmarked in this cemetery, especially of the 15th Michigan Infantry.

Graves marked include:

Louis Washington Bond (1837-1919), Sergeant, Co. K, 18th Michigan Infantry, service from August 1862 to June 1865;

Isadore Durocher (1832-1918), Co. D, 11th Michigan Infantry (reorganized), service from February 1865 to September 1865;

Alexis (Alexander) Duvall (1834-1931), Co. D, 9th Michigan Cavalry;

Cyrille Lazette (1829-1898), Co. B, 15th Michigan Infantry, service from December 1861 to September 1862;

1st Lt. Alexis (Alexander) Lemerand (1835-1923), Co. D, 15th Michigan Infantry;

Maj. Francis Xavier Soleau (1835-1911), service from October 1861 to February 1865. The entire family plot of Maj. Soleau had no tombstones until a new marker was placed upon his grave by our Camp.

Research continues to reveal more and more veterans in unmarked, or with eroded markers at their gravesites. An Uncle and nephew combination was recently discovered in Woodland Cemetery from a stray paper found in local archives. Research reveals both died in the war, **Capt. James C. Darrah** (1817-1862) from disease at Ft. Monroe, VA and his nephew **William Duffield** (1839-1862), wounded at the Battle of Antietam, had his leg amputated and ultimately died from the wound. One newspaper article in the Monroe Commercial urges Duffield be appointed Monroe County Clerk upon his return to Monroe, upon learning of his disability; unfortunately, he died in the field hospital without ever returning to Monroe.

Hopes are to continue to order stones for St. Joseph Cemetery and the above two for Woodland Cemetery and then slowly branch out to other cemeteries. Woodland has approximately 105 soldiers and veterans, St. Joseph's about 75.

The most difficult part of the tombstone process is the identification of the grave. Most old records are sketchy and maps often show only plot owners, not an individual's placement in the plot. But with marble stones weighing in at about 200 pounds, placing the stones well can sometimes be challenging also.

JULY

4th

Independence Day

The 225th Birthday of the United States of America. Fly *Old Glory* proudly!

21st & 22nd

Hastings

Charlton Park Civil War Muster.

AUGUST

4th

Grand Rapids

Ceremony of Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home.

9th thru 13th

Springfield, MO

120th National Encampment of the SUVCW. At this writing, eight Delegate spots are still open. Contact Department Secretary Richard Lee for your Delegate Credentials. Address and phone number on page two.

25th & 26th

Jackson, MI

Cascades Park Civil War Muster. The reenactment this year will be the Battle of the Crater. Camp 7 will be manning a recruiting tent at the event.

SEPTEMBER

1st

Messenger Deadline

All copy and photographs should be in the hands of the editor by this date.

8th

Lansing

Graves Registration Committee Meeting, 1:00 pm Saturday at the Library of Michigan. This Committee is made up of the Graves Registration Officer of each Camp and Chaired by the Department Graves Registration Officer. All Camp GROs are encouraged to attend. The meeting rooms for the day are always listed on the TV monitors in the lobby.

OCTOBER

13th

Chicago Area

Central Region Conference. Due to the death of Brother Dennis Kelly, Dept. of Illinois, who was in charge of setting up the meeting site, a site has yet to be chosen. If you are planning on attending, please contact either DC Greg Hayes or PDC Kent Armstrong around the first week in September for details.

Know of any shows, reenactments, dedications, historical events, etc., in your area that would be of interest to others in our organization? If so, please send in the date, time, site and a short description of the event so that all of our members may become aware of



*Memorial Day Parade, May 30, 2001 — Grand Rapids
True Son and Brother Edward Blakely riding in a “Hummer”, the modern day cavalry
answer to the Civil War horse. Brother Blakely’s father served in the 10th Michigan*

The Department of Michigan is on the Internet at: <http://suvvw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

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