



Michigan's

Messenger

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

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John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Danes, Editor

Department Orders #1



Series 2009 – 2010

Charles L. Worley, Commander

Headquarters, White Pigeon, Michigan

13 May 2009

1 I wish to thank all of the Camps and Delegates that attended the 120th Department Encampment. The Auxiliary did an excellent job in planning and hosting the event on April 25th. The Sons look forward to our 121st Encampment hosted by the DUVCW.

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2. I want to also thank the delegates to the Sons 120th Encampment for electing the Department Staff of Officers for the coming year. I am confident that I have a great group of Brothers surrounding me and will draw upon their knowledge and experience often. Several issues have become this administration's agenda. We each are committed to achieving measured progress for the future of the Department.
3. The National Encampment is August 13-16, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky. The most recent Banner has additional information and forms for registration. I would like to attend with a show of strength of delegates from all around the Department of Michigan. Sr. Vice Commander Don Shaw has agreed to help coordinate carpooling and roommates. You may reach him with your questions or extra space at P31713@aol.com.
4. The Department Patriotic Instructor, Brother Max Riekse of Henry Plant Camp No. 3 called attention to the C-in-C David Medert's General Order No. 6 asking Camps to include Patriotic Instruction about President Abraham Lincoln. Please be aware of this order as it is in tribute to the Lincoln Bicentennial.

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**2009-2010
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Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

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Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Robert Mitchell

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5. The National Patriotic Instructor is re-establishing the annual Camp and Department Patriotic Instructors Reports. Therefore, all Camp Patriotic Instructors need to submit their report to the Department PI, Max Riekse, maxriekse@gmail.com, no later than June 30th, 2009. The Department PI will want to submit his annual report by July 10th, 2009 to the National PI. The proper forms can be downloaded from www.suvcw.org, The Patriotic Instructors Handbook, pages 49 through 52.
6. I want to call attention to C-in-C Medert's General Order No. 10 for any Camp within the Department that would raise funds with the manufacture and sale of Camp Flags.
7. I encourage all brothers of the Department to participate in events on Observed Memorial Day, May 25th, and Memorial Day, May 30th. May you and your family enjoy the holiday weekend.
8. It is my sad duty to ask all of the brothers of the Department of Michigan to say farewell to Brother John McFeters of Austin Blair Camp No. 7. Brother John passed away on May 13th. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten. Therefore, I request that all Camp Charters be draped in black until June 13th, 2009 in remembrance.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
/s/
Charles L. Worley
Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War

Attest:
/s/
Kevin J. Lindsey
Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War

Department Orders #2



Series 2009 – 2010

*Charles L. Worley, Commander
Headquarters, White Pigeon, Michigan
27 May 2009*

1. I would like to correct my previous General Order Number 1 to reflect that the Sons look forward to our 121st Encampment hosted by the Woman's Relief Corp.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
/s/
Charles L. Worley
Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War

Attest:
/s/
Kevin J. Lindsey
Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the
Civil War

A Message from the Commander

Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

The Department Staff has been busy since we met on April 25, at our Department Encampment in Lansing. So with a short article, I want to pass along a few thoughts and praises for our Order. I have only begun to appreciate the strength of the many men in the Sons that dedicate their time and talent for the success of The Sons of Union Veterans and their communities.

Most recently I attended the Memorial Day Parade in Tecumseh, Michigan. This parade is coordinated by our very own Camp Commander Gary Naugle of Nash-Hodges Camp #43. It was a beautiful morning for a carriage ride with Brother Bud of Camp #43 and the Regional Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The crowd enjoyed all of the groups and marching bands that were represented. The ceremony at the cemetery was hallowed as each branch of the service and fire and police departments were recognized and wreaths were set beside the various memorials.

Earlier in May I attended a graves dedication for the restoration of five Union Veterans headstones. Camp Commander John Keith and Brothers Tom Bruce and Dan Knight of Camp 20 did a nice job of remembering a little cemetery in Van Buren County.

I have set a personal goal of attending special events, Camp business meetings or installations of new members or officers of as many of the Camps in the Department as I can. I enjoy meeting each of you and hearing about what you have going on. So please send your invitations and I or another Staff Officer will try to get there.

The National Encampment to be held in Louisville in August is just around the corner. I hope by now you have had a chance to read the information in the latest Banner. This is an event of all the pageantry and tradition of the Sons that you'll enjoy being a part of. Department Senior Vice Commander Don Shaw has offered to be a clearinghouse for getting Brothers of the Department together for carpools and bunkmates. So if you need a ride or have extra room in the van or want to split the cost of a room, check with Brother Don.

As for the change of policy about Camp Patriotic Instructor Reports, I encourage each PI to mail their report before June 30th. I didn't provide many answers to your questions in the General Order No. 5. I might suggest, that the current Camp PI recall the highlights of the last 12 months. I will in turn report back at a later date about if this report could become easier to fill out and forward to the Department PI.

I mentioned earlier that the time and talents of so many of you make our Order successful. In that vein, I seek a brother that has experience with the storage of records. The Department decided to investigate this issue as we have a growing volume of records and items that need secure, controlled, and accessible storage. If you can help with your knowledge and experience, I am eager to talk with you.

May God Bless.

Chuck Worley, Department Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW
May 27, 2009

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer – June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall – September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter – December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn,
Michigan 48124-3204**

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

**Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in
the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!**

Patriotic Instructor

Max Riekse

To all Department of Michigan Camp Commanders and Camp Patriotic Instructors:

We have been directed by Department Commander Charles L. Worley, PCC and National Patriotic Instructor (NPI) Jerry Sayre, PDC that **each Camp is required to submit an annual Patriotic Instructor's Report** to the Department Patriotic Instructor (DPI). In turn, the DPI will submit an annual report to the NPI. **Reports are due to me by U. S. Mail (I cannot receive it email) no later than 31 June 2009**, so that I can send in my report by the first week of July. The NPI will then include this information in the Annual Report at the National Encampment. **You will find the reporting forms in the Patriotic Instructor's Handbook, which is on-line at the SUVCW National Website www.suvcw.org**. Be sure to include your Camp's activities from 2009 Memorial Day.

My mailing address is:

LTC (Ret) Max Riekse, PCC

P. O. Box 82

Fruitport, MI 49415

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

In his General Order #6, Series 2008 – 2009, Commander-in-Chief David Medert, through Department Commander Charles Worley directed me to "...forward this information to all Camp Patriotic Instructors and Camp Commanders, for them to include this information as an educational program about President Abraham Lincoln during a Camp Meeting prior to the National Encampment in August, 2009. If it is not possible to accomplish this during a Camp Meeting, to conduct a roundtable discussion and discuss the many contributions this great man made to the United States of America".

President Lincoln defined the creation of a more perfect Union in terms of liberty and economic equality that rallied the citizenry behind him. Because he understood that victory depended upon purposeful and visionary presidential leadership, as well as the exercise of politically acceptable means, he left as his legacy a United States that was both whole and free.

As we are aware, President Lincoln led the country through its greatest internal crises, preserving the Union and ending slavery. The spirit that guided him to preserve the Union was noted in his second inaugural address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial: "With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; bind up the nation's wounds..." A key point here is 'preserving the Union'; my Civil War second great-grandfather enlisted in the Third Michigan Volunteer Infantry in 1861 at the age of 13, and turned 14 when he was Mustered into service; I doubt that he had great thoughts as to the issues of the day in regard to slavery, north-south economic issues, or state's rights; I think that his focus was on preserving the Union that was Lincoln's focus.

General and later President George Washington left us a free and independent country, i.e. the United States of America. He helped bring forth our Constitution and Bill of Rights. When we pledge allegiance to the red, white, and blue American Flag, it is '...to the Republic for which it stands'. Thank you President Lincoln, and God Bless America.

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes. Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

**Commemorative Medal
Of the 125th Anniversary of the Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Now on Sale for a Limited Time to Brothers of the Department of Michigan

**These Commemorative Medals feature the stamped image of Hedrick Hodges – First
Commander of the Department 1884-2009. The reverse side reads: 125th Anniversary
Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.**



**These are the same Commemoratives the Delegates of the 120th Department
Encampment received. They are now available for \$10.00 each to Brothers of the
Department. On August 13th, they will be made available to National members.**

**To order, send your request to:
Brian Shumway, Treasurer
127 West Walnut Street
Hastings, MI 49058-2260**

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Department Graves Registration Committee
by Rick Danes, Chairman

Greetings, Brothers.

This is important, so I will repeat it - the economic times may rob us of one of our primary research facilities, and in fact, the whole History and Library Department of Michigan. We don't know what this will include, but the talk is that perhaps the collections and archives might be donated to a local college, and the Library, Museum, and Archives closed. Perhaps we should let our legislators know how we feel about that idea! At our June 13 Committee Meeting I reported that the Department Database now holds over 57,680 records. This number represents an extraordinary effort by a very few dedicated GROs, our families, and our friends over the years. As I look at the current Camp Officers, I do not see an appointed GRO for each Camp as directed in our Department By Laws. Please join us.

Henry E. Plant Camp # 3

Daniel Grable, Secretary/Treasurer

This year the Henry E. Plant Camp #3 of Grand Haven is becoming a significant organization in the Western Michigan lakeshore area.

At our Holiday Muster in January we had a significant event in the life of the camp when we conducted the installation of our very first Junior member in the history of the camp. Our first Jr. Member was 6 ½ year old Richard Eugeny Riekse of Fruitport, son of PCC Max Riekse. Richard is the Great-Great-Great-Grandson of Guilford Dudley Taylor who served in Company C, 3rd Michigan Infantry from May 13, 1861 – October 1, 1861. He was discharged due to a general disability and a deformity of the right elbow caused by a fall from a horse, producing fracture of the joint. He also has 4 other Civil War ancestors Great-Great-Great-Great-uncle George P. Taylor (Company D, 8th Michigan Infantry and 8th U. S. Veteran Volunteers); Great-Great-Great-uncle Charles Platt (Company A, 10th Michigan Cavalry) Great-Great-Great-Great-Uncle Charles A. Randall (Company B, 3rd Michigan Infantry), namesake of GAR Post #238 of Coopersville, Michigan; and Great-Great-Great-Great-uncle Ruben Randall, Jr. (Company B, 3rd Michigan Infantry).

This Spring we initiated two other Brothers, Michael Lynn Boschaert of Holland and Kenneth Door Kelly of Spring Lake. Michael Lynn Boschaert's Civil War ancestor is his Great-Grandfather Henry H. Brown who served in Company C, 10th New York Heavy Artillery September 11, 1862 - August 1, 1863. He had a disability discharge in Washington D. C. Kenneth Door Kelly's Civil War Ancestor was his Great-Great-Uncle Samuel C. Williams who served in Company H, 10th New York Heavy Artillery. Samuel died of Typhoid Fever at Regimental Hospital 11 July 1863 in Petersburg, Virginia. Our new Brothers' ancestors both served in the 10th New York Heavy Artillery. This was the first time in our camp's history that more than one of our brother's ancestors served in the same unit and their descendents joined the Camp in the same year.

This year we changed our camp communication process by sending out our meeting/Activity notices and meeting minutes by E-mail to those that have the ability and we appointed a new Signals officer when Richard Scott resigned at our March Camp meeting and Camp Commander Scott appointed Brother Daniel Grable to the position. Commander Richard Scott has commented recently on the great improvement of our internal communication.

At our March meeting a nice little present was presented to the brothers of the Camp by Patriotic Instructor Brother Ron Bellenger - a collector of Sons historical items. He brought each brother a card produced in 1941 by the Department of Michigan, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War U. S. A. Letha Mackey, Patriotic Instructor. with the American's Creed printed on it. The Camp Commander then had the brothers read the Creed on the card as part of the opening of our camp meeting.

Camp Brothers of The American Legion on the World War II – Afghanistan/Iraq War Veteran Ottawa County Monument Committee, informed us that the City of Grand Haven would like to move the World War I monument and place the new monument by the eternal flame by the Family YMCA by the channel in Central Park across from the Ottawa County Building. The committee is not happy with the City's choice.

This year for Memorial Day the camp participated in many different activities: On Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend several brothers of the camp individually visited the gravesite of Henry E. Plant in the Nunica Cemetery; on Sunday two members of the camp attended the Grand Haven Memorial Day Association's Memorial Sunday Community Church Service held at the 2nd Reformed Church of Grand Haven. The half hour service was conducted by Rev. John Kenny of the First Reformed Church of Grand Haven and Chaplain in the Michigan National Guard. His message was entitled "God & Soldiers" based on Psalm 27: 1-3. He covered military references found in the Bible; on Memorial Day nine members of the camp participated in the Spring Lake Parade and ceremonies. Five marched in the parade from downtown Spring Lake to the Spring Lake cemetery. They were the Color Guard for the entire parade marching behind the Parade Marshall Robert Stanton, trainer of British pilots during World War II. *Continued on Page 7*

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At the cemetery the camp posted of the Camp Flags at the head of the speaker's platform, the Camp Chaplin read GAR Commander-in-Chief General John Logan's General Order #11 establishing Decoration/Memorial Day in 1868, placed the memorial wreath on the speaker's platform, six brothers participated as the firing squad for the ceremonies and following the speaker a brother of the camp raised the cemetery's American flag from half-mast to full mast. Following the parade and ceremonies the camp held their annual Camp picnic at Central Park next to the cemetery. Eight brothers and family members attended the picnic...

Two other Brothers of our camp attended other parades and ceremonies in the area. Brothers Kenneth Kelly (also of The American Legion) appeared in the Parade and Ceremonies held in Grand Haven and PCC Max Rieskie (also of The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars) marched in the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days Memorial Day Parade. This was the largest percentage of Brothers from the Camp participating in Memorial Day activities.

This Summer the camp is very active. First we will be presenting a Living History presentation of a typical Civil War Camp and a Cemetery walk during the Spring Lake Heritage Festival in June. In July the camp will be conducting Grave Registration work in an Ottawa County cemetery. Then in August we will participate in the Civil War re-enactment being held at the Van Raalte Farm in Holland by the local Holland Historical Trust Museum. We will be conducting a recruiting tent at the event on the second weekend of August.

Meanwhile we are working with the Tri-Cities Historical Museum on several Civil War presentations at the local libraries in Grand Haven and Spring Lake .

TAPS

John M. McFeaters

Brother John M. McFeaters of Austin Blair Camp No. 7 in Jackson, Michigan, died May 13, 2009 following a massive heart attack.

A Member of camp 7 since January 2003, Brother McFeaters served as Camp Secretary, Patriotic Instructor, Junior Vice Commander, and senior Vice Commander. In 2008 he served the Department as Guide.

He was a Member of the Order by virtue of his ancestor 1st Sgt. George Felix Myers, 9th Indiana Light Artillery.

Born in Albion on May 4, 1947, John and his wife Karen resided at 4590 Ackerman Road, Jackson.

A memorial service was held on May 16th at the First Presbyterian Church in Concord.

John was a member of the Horton Lions Club, and the Cascades Civil War Muster Committee, and was active with the Boy Scouts of America and with MHSSA Girls Volleyball and Soccer.

The family has asked that donations be sent to the Cascades Humane Society.

ROBERT FINCH CAMP NO. 14

Neal F. Breaugh, PCC
Secretary-Treasurer

Camp 14 Commander Jeff Morse and the entire Camp was very proud to accept the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award presented by The Michigan Department in honor of our recently deceased Civil War Memorials Officer Fred Knoodle. The Camp will be presenting this framed Certificate to Jimmie Knoodle and her family at our September 12th Meeting.

The Camp is also very proud of our Francis Finch No. 9 Auxiliary who worked very hard along with the Austin Blair No. 7 and Nash Hodges No. 43 Auxiliaries to host such a great Encampment in Lansing. Robert Finch was well represented with CC Morse, SVC Dale Aurand, Chaplain Don Gray, Color Bearer Joe Conger, Guide H.G. Smith, Brothers Jim Johnson & Alan B. Werdehoff along P.C.C. Bill Skillman, Neal Breaugh, and Bob Clark. It was a very successful Encampment and we look forward to being as well represented next year.

Our Camp was represented at several Memorial Day Ceremonies: In Traverse City, Lake Ann, Ludington, Manistee, Boyne City, and probably some others.

On May 30th, we conducted a Grave Stone Rededication for the Emmet County Genealogy Association in Brooks Cemetery at the grave site of Alfonso Brooks. This was an abandoned cemetery on the old Brooks farm that was re discovered by the Association who placed two nice new signs there as well as obtaining a grave stone for Private Alfonso Brooks who served with the New York 179th.

On June 20th, we will be conducting two gravestone rededication for Auxiliary No. 9 Member Jane Prebble. One will be for her Great, Great Grandfather George W. Hayner who is buried in Sunset Cemetery in East Jordan. Private Hayner served with New York Company F of the 125th Infantry Regiment.

The other ceremony will be at Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix for her other Great, Great Grandfather Newton A. Balch. He served with Company I of the 5th New Hampshire Infantry Regiment.

We will also be participating in the Flag Day Ceremonies at the Traverse City Elks Lodge No. 323 on June 14th.

Our annual Camp Picnic will be held in Lake Ann this year on July 25th. We do as little camp business as possible trying to keep it mostly social. The Membership come prepared with both North and South Civil War recipes Provided by the Camp.

GR0 Officer Tom Jenkins and his Auxiliary Member wife returned to his hometown and represented us at the Hart Cemetery Memorial Day observances sponsored by the American Legion and VFW. Brother Jenkins answered numerous questions posed by participants and guests alike about the Order following the Ceremony.

P.C.C. & Patriotic Instructor Bill Skillman and his son Chris participated in the Civil War Remembrance weekend at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Brother Skillman expanded his Camp Signals role by serving at the U.S. Infantry Battalion's chief bugler for the event.

Also, Auxiliary Department Secretary Emily Breaugh also attended the event along with Francis Finch Auxiliary No. 9 member Marjorie Schultz who was honored at the Saturday evening program with a tribute for her work in having her grandfather's poem, "The Last Camp" put to music and narrated by George Shirley

The Last Camping Ground

From the Grand Haven Daily Tribune, May 31, 1902

Submitted by Daniel Grable

Again we revisit the last camping ground of our "boys" who once wore the blue!

They hear not our coming so evenly they sleep, "neath the sod the sunshine and dew.

The soft waves of Lethe have swept o'er their dreams

And borne recognition away;

They rest like their comrades who fell on the field, content with the work of the day.

They hear not the low muffled sound of the drums, or the songs we sing to their praise:

They see not the standard by loving hands pressed memory of long-cherished days.

No pride or ambition is roused in the hearts, The quailed not while four were yet seen;

Their last battle is fought – the victory won, their laurels are still fresh and green.

No more shall they hear the reveille at dawn, or the tattoo and forth its good-night;

The glad news of victory spreading through camp, and thrilling each soul with the delight.

Sleep on, noble heroes! and sweet be your rest forgotten you never will be;

The banner you fought for is triumph still waves o'er our land of the brave and the free

There are graves upon which no tear-drops will fall, where many lie friendless

Yet none are neglected, each grave has a flower, no head-board is lettered "unknown."

Each life had a mission and bravely 'twas done with sprit both loyal and true;

When the last trumpet shall sound God will not forget....

our brave "boys" who once wore the blue.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

By Rick Danes, CC

Since March, Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427 has remained on guard in the east. The Camp participated in the Kalamazoo Living History show with a manned display in the main education room; in April we had a full delegation at the Department Encampment; in May we presented a CD of one of our graves dedication ceremonies at the Dearborn Historical Society's Annual Luncheon. In May we also marched in the 85th Annual Dearborn Memorial Day Parade with a color guard and parade banner, teaming with members of the Northwest Region North South Skirmishers Association. We were also honored by providing members who marched in portrayal of soldiers of the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

On May 30 Camp members held a public Decoration Day Ceremony at the Commandant's Quarters, part of the 1833 Federal Arsenal at Dearbornville.

Our upcoming plans are for a fund-raising garage sale on June 18-20; continuing the survey of Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit; performing a headstone dedication on July 11 for Bvt. Colonel Albert Marshall Edwards, Company F 24th Michigan Infantry at Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit; a camp picnic on July 12; and the coordination of the Dearborn Homecoming History Hill encampment on August 7, 8 and 9.



Marchers in the Dearborn Memorial Day Parade included Camp 427 Members Jon Reed – WWI, 2 unnamed veterans, Jerry Radloff – WWII, State Representative John Dingell, Ken Roberts – Revolutionary War, and Richard Bower – Civil War.



Showing the colors are SUVCW Camp 427 Members Christopher Yagley, Fred Rausch, George Boller, Ed Binkley, Aaron Schrader, and CC Rick Danes. Followed by members of the Northwest Region NSSA. Attending but not shown were SUV Members Jerry Olson, Howard Fite, Jerry Jacobs, and Dennis Fyke.

An Invitation

Brevet Colonel Albert Marshall Edwards died on July 15, 1909. His gravesite was never marked at Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit. On Saturday, July 11 at 11:00 AM, the members of Camp 427 invite you to participate in a solemn headstone dedication to honor Colonel Edwards.

Edwards Mustered into Company K, 1st Michigan Infantry as a Private in 1861, and was Commissioned into Company F, 24th Michigan Infantry in 1862.

We encourage all who have and can wear a uniform to do so, and march in the procession, and those who have and can shoot a period long gun to bring it along and participate in the honor guard firing.

If you will attend, please contact me so that we can expect you.

Rick Danes, Commander, Camp 427 suvcwcamp427@aol.com

4th Michigan Infantry Regiment (Reorganized)

By James Pahl, PC-in-C, PDC

Under orders of July 26, 1864, the 4th regiment was reorganized under Col. Jairus W. Hall, late Lt. Col. of the first 4th regiment. Those veterans who were discharged from the original 4th regiment, but reenlisted as veteran volunteers were joined by eight new companies, totaling 726 men, gathered at Adrian and were mustered into federal service on October 14th, 1864. On the 22nd, they left for Decatur, Alabama, by way of Nashville, Tennessee, arriving in Decatur on 28th.

The regiment was eventually assigned to the 3rd brigade, 3rd division of the 4th corps in the Huntsville, Alabama area. They were then posted at various locations in east Tennessee. On June 16, 1865 the regiment boarded transports and proceeded to New Orleans, arriving on the 24th. On July 6, the regiment headed towards Texas, being posted in Green Lake, where they lost several men to the extremely hot weather and bad water.

On September 11, the regiment was moved to San Antonio, a march of some 170 miles. They remained posted there, assigned to provost duty. The regiment was finally mustered out on May 26, 1866. They proceeded to Galveston, then by steamer to New Orleans and then Cairo, Illinois, then by rail to Detroit, where they were paid off and disbanded on June 10.

The regiment was involved in engagements in Decatur, AL - October 28, 29 & 30, 1864, New Market, AL November 19 & 20, 1864 and Murfreesboro, Tennessee on November 30 to December 20, 1864.

Total enrollment was 1,300, losing 148, one killed in action, six died of wounds and 141 to disease, most of those while stationed in Green Lake, Texas.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Who We Are

Following is part of a presentation that PCinC Keith Harrison made before the Michigan Historical Commission on April 7. It is an excellent description of who we are in the State of Michigan

“Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The SUVCW was created in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic (which was composed of Union Civil War veterans) to ensure that the memory of and sacrifices made by the Union soldiers would never be forgotten by the citizens of the United States. The SUVCW is Congressionally Chartered and is recognized as the legal representative of and heir to the Grand Army of the Republic. Within Michigan, there exists a membership of over 500 members in 25 local camps who put on programs, conduct ceremonies, replace Civil War Veterans' headstones, and repair Civil War monuments all over the state. Five examples out of over 100 plus examples that I easily could reference include, the quarterly sponsorship of free to the public Civil War seminars in Sunfield, Michigan, the recent repair and rededication of the Grand Rapids' Civil War monument, the cleaning of over 40 veteran grave markers and total rejuvenation and rededication of the Mount Hope Cemetery Soldiers' Lot in Lansing, the cleaning and repair of the Grand Army of the Republic monument on the Ingham County Court House lawn in Mason, and the research and dedication of Camp Blair, which was the Civil War mustering in camp in Jackson. Some additional behind the scene type activities of the Michigan Department include the incorporation into a national SUVCW database of over 57,000 burial locations and condition assessments of Civil War Veterans' graves and grave stones, respectively, within Michigan, the locating and condition assessment of Michigan Civil War monuments, the research and identification of over 430 Grand Army of the Republic Posts that existed in the state, and the transcribing of over 13,000 Grand Army of the Republic Post records into an electronic format. The above referenced programs are all in addition to the annual Memorial Day (both actual and federally recognized), Independence Day, and Veterans' day programs that the SUVCW is involved in throughout the state.”

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp # 20

Submitted By John R. Keith CC

Greetings from the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 - It has been an active year for us at Camp 20.

On April 11th, 2009, Michael Ryan who served our country in Company G of the First Michigan Cavalry had a new military gravestone placed on his unmarked grave. Private Ryan is interred in Kendall Cemetery, Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County. Mr. Rob Roy of Portage Michigan the grandson of Michael Ryan, assisted in setting the stone and on that day placed the first American Flag ever to be placed on Mr. Ryan's grave.

Pictured back row, Bro. T. Bruce, Mr. Rob Roy, Bro. B. Costello
Front, Charles L. Keith and Nell K. Davis, grandchildren
of Camp 20 Commander, John R. Keith



We had our annual Spring Cleanup at the Civil War Soldiers Monument in Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo on May 2nd.

At our May meeting Camp 20 added a new member to our roster. Bro. Michael Nick. Bro. Nick is a PCC of U. S. Grant Camp 101 located in Detroit. Welcome Brother Nick.

On May 16th, 2009 at the Pine Grove Township Cemetery, Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County, Camp 20 hosted a gravestone dedication honoring 5 Civil War Soldiers who have received new military gravestones.

The soldier's who received new stones are-
William Eagle-Company G, 178th Ohio Infantry
Daniel B. Brown-Company G, 1st Michigan E & M
Alexander Smith- Company F, 102nd, United States Colored Troops
Samuel Whelpley-Battery C, 1st Ohio Light Artillery
Samuel Horton-Company A, 12th Michigan Infantry

A special thanks to our own Department Commander Chuck Worley for attending, also thanks to Mrs. Marcia Butgereit, National President of the Women's Relief Corp, and Mrs. Lucille Streeter, Department of Michigan President of the Women's Relief Corp for their attendance.

I would like to thank Camp 20 Brother Bill Costello for his yearly efforts in placing flags on the graves of veterans in Mountain Home Cemetery, Kalamazoo. Bill places these flags all by himself, Thanks Bill!

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

**May 25th, Camp 20 members marched in the Allegan Parade. The parade ended up at Oakwood Cemetery for a large Memorial Day ceremony.

After the ceremony at the cemetery, Camp 20 members went over to Gen. Pritchard's house for refreshments and a tour of his house. We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rick Lloyd, the new owners of his house for their invitation and efforts in this.

On May 30th, (the real Memorial Day) Camp 20 conducted our annual Memorial Day ceremony at the G.A.R. Lot at Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, MI.

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Upcoming Camp 20 Events

CURTIS BRIGHAM WAR OF 1812 GRAVESTONE DEDICATION

hosted by

*The Stephen Preston Chapter of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and
The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Department of Michigan,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at
Hillside Cemetery, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan
(Just east of Plainwell)*

June 13th, 2009 3pm

We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the Curtis Brigham War of 1812 Gravestone Dedication being held at the above location.

Mr. Brigham has just received a new military gravestone and on this day we will honor this local hero and very important person in the history of Plainwell and Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Curtis Brigham served our United States as a private in the Massachusetts Regiment of Minute Men, in Captain Tisdall's Company.

Deacon Curtis Brigham is also the founder of the First Baptist Church in Plainwell, the very first church organized in Allegan County.

Deacon Curtis Brigham

In 1833 Deacon Curtis Brigham left his home in Shutesbury, MA, to go to the Michigan Territory to look for a desirable place to locate with his family of a wife and eight children and two others. A place where there would be a better future for them. With a fellow traveler, a Mr. Fairbanks, he made the trip by stage to Troy, NY, by Canal to Buffalo, by steamboat to Detroit and on foot to Gull Prairie, now called Richland, where Mr. Fairbanks' brother-in-law lived.

He made his headquarters there while he looked over the land in all directions and decided it would be a good country in time. Good land and many lakes and streams. Then he returned to Shutesbury for his family.

By the fall of 1834 his home was sold, some goods auctioned off, a covered wagon built and three good horses bought to haul it and they were ready to start on the long journey to the Michigan Territory.

Before leaving Shutesbury, at a farewell gathering for the family, he was handed a paper. It read: "to Whom it may concern", "this may certify that Deacon Curtis Brigham has been a dearly beloved brother with us and has maintained a regular walk with us. We believe he has all the gifts that are profitable to the church. We recommend him to our sister church as one that ought to be encouraged to speak in public and hold meetings, as his gifts shall make room for him; hoping that he may profitable to others where his lot may be cast and find acceptance among our brethren." So he has licensed to preach.

Their route lay thru Canada to Detroit where they crossed into Lake Michigan. It was a tiresome journey, especially so because of storms, rain and mud.

One horse was hitched ahead of the other two on the wagon, but they all took turns walking to save the horses and themselves as well. Sometimes in the afternoon when they stopped to rest they took a small musical instrument from the wagon and all would sing several hymns. The horses seemed to be refreshed by the music as much as themselves.

After the long tiresome journey, they arrived at Gull Prairie and spent the winter in a house that Mr. Fairbanks had purchased the year before. The first winter their main food was corn meal mush and Johnny cake. Only the best of the meal was used for the family. The coarsest was fed to the horse. In later years the children said that the mush mixed with light, clean snow was delicious.

In March 1835, they moved to an 80 acre farm in Gun Plain, rented from Dr. Thompson. This was not far from Woodside Cemetery. Furniture was made from wood cut in the forest. First a table and two chairs and the children stood around the tables for meals, until their father had time to make benches and stools.

After getting settled, Deacon Brigham inquired of the other early settlers about the religious conditions and found that no stated religious services had ever been held in Allegan County.

There was a poorly built log school near by and he invited the few neighbors to meet with him there the next Sunday and was much encouraged by the size of his first congregation, five neighbors and himself.

These meetings were continued and nine months later on December 26, 1835, eight persons met at the home of Silas Dunham, the old Mills farm on River Road and formed themselves a church. They were Mr. & Mrs. Elisha B. Seeley, Mr. & Mrs. Silas Dunham, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Brigham and Alfred and Edward Dunham. This was the first church organized in Allegan County, MI.

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RALPH R. TOWNER "LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER" PLAQUE DEDICATION
 MALLORY CEMETERY, TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP.
 ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
 JULY 11th, 2009 2 PM

We at the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are honored to host this dedication to honor Ralph R. Towner; the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Allegan County, Michigan.

Mr. Towner served our country in Company F of the 186 New York Infantry. He was 98 years old at his death in April of 1946.

At the time of death he was one of a few left in the Nation who attended the dedication of Gettysburg as a national memorial when President Abraham Lincoln spoke! He was also Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of Michigan Grand Army of the Republic and was a past Department of Michigan Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, holding that office in 1945. His death left Michigan with only 3 remaining Civil War soldiers.

Mr. Towner for the last 69 years of his life was a resident on the same farm in Trowbridge Township. Last year Camp 20 placed a "LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER PLAQUE" on his gravestone and we will dedicate the plaque on this day.

Mallory Cemetery is located just south of the City of Allegan, on M40.



Allegan County's Last
 Soldier Plaque

ΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Seven former Generals served as President of the United States: Chester Arthur, James A. Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, Andrew Johnson, and William Mc Kinley – a true measure of the influence that the Grand Army of the Republic had on the affairs of the Country after the Civil War!

The Search for the Grave of Gerrit VanHalteren

Holland City News, April 13, 1911

by Pvt. John Nies, Co. D, 2nd MI Cavalry

Submitted by Charles O. Harthy

According to my promise, I herewith give you some details of my observations while traveling through the southern states.

I arrived at Strawberry Plains, Knoxville and Ashville, Tennessee, and as I went farther south I became more interested in the area. The train passed by Andersonville, Ga., where the bulk of the Federal prisoners were kept during Feb. 1864 to April 1865. I am particularly interested in that prison from the fact that one of my dear comrades, Gerrit Van Halteren, whom I had ordered to guard the highway to keep us from being surprised by the Confederates while we were feeding our horses, disappeared here. He went, and after the horses were fed, I started to recall him. After rideing one-half mile, I did not find him at his post, and on my return to the camp, I found myself cut off by Confederates.

They jumped out of a piece of woods in front of me, telling me to surrender. Upon my refusal, then all three shot at me. My comrade, Gerrit Van Halteren, was never heard of since. The memory of the above incident was the reason why I felt so much interest in that prison yard. I wanted to see if I could find any record of him.

When I got off at Andersonville, a population of about 250, I met a man who is installed by the National Relief Corps. He volunteered to get his buggy and show me all the particulars about the cemetery and also the Confederate fortifications, which offer I readily accepted. When ready to leave, he insisted upon my taking supper with him. For all his services he charged me a very moderate fee.

The Federal cemetery and stockade are on the opposite side of the village. The stockade consists of only 27 acres on which at one time 52,345 Federal soldiers were imprisoned, of which 13,900 were buried during the existence of the stockade. In the month of August 1864 there were 31,693 prisoners and 3,076 of these were buried during that month. The guide informed me, himself having been a prisoner there, that soldiers, who were ailing and not expected to live, were piled lengthwise on the wagon and buried with the dead. A small creek running along the fortification and through the stockade was polluted by the excretions from the Confederate guards. The water became undrinkable; lamentations were sent to heaven. During a heavy rainstorm, a splendid spring of living water burst out of a red clay bank and gave the prisoners relief. This spring is there this day, being built up with marble slabs and called Providence Spring.

For further investigation I obtained leave from the government office to look over the records, but could not find the name of Gerrit Van Halteren. There were many graves there that were marked unknown. Capt. Wirty, commander of the Confederate guard, detailed a Federal soldier to record the dead; said soldier also kept a private record for himself, which he turned over to the general government. The cemetery has many a stately monument and is kept in splendid condition by the government.

When in North Carolina, I took a trip to the Yankee cemetery, (that is what they called it there) a place by the name of Salisbury, which is also kept in first class shape by the government.

In this cemetery, soldiers are buried side by side, as at Andersonville. Each grave has a stone marker, the total number of 12,115, out of which only 90 are known. The public record also failed to disclose the name of Gerrit Van Halteren. (Gerrit Van Halteren enlisted in the 2nd MI Cavalry, Co. D on August 12, 1862, for 3 years, age 18. Military records state that he was taken prisoner at Burnt Church, GA, on May 30, 1864. It was reported that he died of disease in Andersonville Prison.)