



# Michigan's

# Messenger

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

Volume XXVIII, Number 2

Chartered June 24, 1884

Summer 2019

*John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus*

*Richard C. Danes, Editor*

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department  
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*



## **Department Commander**

*Robert R. Payne, DC*

Greetings Brothers! I can hardly believe Labor Day has arrived and summer has passed. I don't remember a summer flying by this fast before.

We have recently returned from Cleveland, Ohio and our National Encampment. We saw the completion of the Commander in Chief term for our own Don Shaw. Congratulations on a successful year and Encampment.

We are now entering the nomination, election, and installation period for our camps. As passed by the National Encampment, Nominations and Elections may be held as early as August with Installations beginning in September. Please submit requests for Department support for your installations to L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. at [chiefstaff@suvcwmi.org](mailto:chiefstaff@suvcwmi.org).

I have had the privilege of attending some events this summer. I joined with Curtenius Guard Camp 17 at the Nashville, MI 150th anniversary celebration on August 3, at which the renamed a park in downtown as Parady Park, after the soldier who pulled John Wilkes Boothe from the burning barn in 1865. Later that day I joined Pritchard Camp 20 in Allegan to help at a grave dedication. On August 4, I traveled to Constantine to again help honor Brother Moyer, a soldier who had no gravestone since he had died over 100 years ago. On August 18, I joined Carpenter-Welch Camp 180 honoring 7 soldiers from The Civil War and 1 soldier from The War of 1812 in Salem Township. The Department was well represented with brothers from Camp 180, Camp 120, Camp 145, Camp 7, and Camp 17.

I look forward to traveling the state, participating for Officer Installations and meeting again with my brothers in their various camps. Thank you again, for entrusting me to be your Department Commander for this year. It is an honor I do not take lightly.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Robert R Payne, DC

**Department Order #9**  **Series 2019 – 2020**  
**Headquarters, Headquarters, Holt, MI**  
**July 29, 2019**

*The Department Chief of Staff shall be the point of contact for coordinating the Department Commander's schedule.*

*This includes Camp events and , especially important, the scheduling of Officer installations.*

*All scheduling requests shall to be processed through the Department Chief of Staff, L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., at [chiefofstaff@suvcwmi.org](mailto:chiefofstaff@suvcwmi.org) or posted to 1062 Four Seasons Blvd., Aurora, IL 60504.*

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,*

*Robert R. Payne*

/s/  
 Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC  
 Commander, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney  
 Secretary, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**George Anderson Camp # 58**

*Submitted by Dick Williams*



Nellebar Londry fought in Company F of the 29<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry during the Civil War. He was buried in the northwest corner of Lafayette Township Cemetery on St. Charles Road section 35 of Lafayette Township in Gratiot County.

Nellebar didn't have a headstone identifying his name. His Great-Great Grandson, Douglas Londry from Merrill, contacted the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for help in obtaining a Civil War headstone from the Veterans Administration. Douglas was a previous member of Camp 14 in Traverse City.

Above, Douglas Londry (left) and Dennis Felton, Camp Commander of George W. Anderson Camp 58 after installing Nellebar Londry's headstone on June 12, 2019.

**2019 – 2020 J. Richard Greene Award***Submitted by Rick Danes, PCC Committee Chairman***Brothers,*****I reiterate the guidelines for choosing the 2019 – 2020 J. Richard Greene Award as established during the 2018 – 2019 Session.***

1. Pursuant to Department Commander Robert R. Payne's Department General Order #6, Series 2018 – 2019 the J. Richard Greene Award shall be based on Camp Newsletters voluntarily submitted to the Committee Chair between the end of a Department Encampment, and no later than 30 days before the next encampment.
2. The Committee Chair will receive (preferably by e-mail) all current Camp Newsletters and forward copies to the other committee members. The e-mail address is [redanes@suvcwmi.org](mailto:redanes@suvcwmi.org).
3. The Committee Chair will be the single point of contact for communications regarding this award.
4. Newsletters shall be assessed based on:
  - a. Readability (including spelling and grammar);
  - b. Content (including reports, ancestor vignettes, news from the Department and National, activities, and announcements);
  - c. Appearance (including placement of text and photos, and use of color);
  - d. Distribution (do all Camp members receive the Newsletter, what other distribution is there);
  - e. A "checklist" shall be developed to aid the Committee members in "grading" each submission.
  - f. Regularity of publication (monthly, quarterly, etc.)

**2019 - 2020  
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**Patriotic Instructor**

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**Military Affairs**

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

**Counselor**

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**Signals Officer**

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**Michigan's Messenger Editor**

Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

**Historian**

Keith G. Harrison, PCinC

**Guide**

Nathan Tingley

**Military and Veterans Affairs**

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**Graves Registration**

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**GAR Records**

Gary L. Gibson, PDC

**Civil War Memorials**

John H. McGill, CC

**Chief of Staff**

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC

**Camp At Large Coordinator**

Nathan Tingley

**Aide de Camp**

Paul T. Davis, PDC

**Department Chaplain**

Charles F. Buckhahn

Brothers:

*Those who know me, know that, along with an active interest in the Civil War, I am a space nut as well. This is understandable; growing up in the 1960's, I experienced the centennial anniversary of the Civil War and the space race between us and the Soviet Union. As many of you know, this summer was the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. But did you know that Astronaut Buss Aldrin took with him the bread and wine of Holy Communion, which he took while he and Neil Armstrong were on the moon?*

*The eighth man who walked on the moon, James Irwin, became a born-again Christian. After his retirement in 1972, Irwin founded the High Flight Foundation. He spent the next 20 years as a "Goodwill Ambassador for the Prince of Peace", stating that "Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon". He said that his experiences in space had made God more real to him than before. Irwin and his wife stated that his Christian rebirth, which happened while he was in space, saved their marriage and made their lives much happier.*

*The tenth man who walked on the moon, Charles Duke, became a committed, born-again Christian in 1978. He wrote that his temper, ego, single-minded devotion to work, and greed had ruined his relationship with his wife and his children, and his marriage twice teetered on the verge of divorce. Duke and his wife, who became a Christian before him, both credit their Christian faith with making their lives much happier. Duke also stated that his marriage and relationship with his children became considerably better soon after finding Christ. Today, he is active in prison ministry.*

*The last, twelfth, man to walk on the moon was Eugene Cernan. The final words he spoke on the moon were, "We leave as we came and, God willing, as we shall return, with peace and hope for all mankind."*

*Whether it is war or space travel, faith sustains, encourages, and eternally protects the believer. For Irwin and Duke, space travel led them to see God's creative work, which led them to see Christ's redemptive work. During the Civil War, the horrific sights of war led many to a deeper trust in the Risen Savior who offers peace and eternal life.*

*I leave you with a verse written by CDR. J. Volonte, USN, for the Navy hymn, "Eternal God, Strong to Save," which asks God's protect for all astronauts:*

*Eternal Father, King of birth,  
Who did create the heav'n and earth,  
who bid the planets and the sun  
Their own appointed orbit run:  
O hear us when we seek they grace  
For those who soar through outer space.*

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*

**Colgrove-Woodruff Camp 22**

*Submitted by Blaine C. Valentine Camp Secretary/Treasurer*



Colgrove-Woodruff, Camp 22 of Battle Creek Michigan, participated in the "saving graves Union City, Michigan" project.



This is a continuing restoration program by Mrs. Bobby Mathis of the Union City Historical Society.

Bro. Louie Cuyler and Bro. Jack Smith participated this June 29, 2019 restoring the Civil War Veterans headstones located in the Riverside Cemetery just north of the city.



They and the restored gravesites are shown.

**Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – June 2019**

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PCC, PDC

The summer of 2019 has been a busy time for the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14. From grave dedication ceremonies to gravestone cleaning to the National Encampment in Cleveland – Camp No. 14 remains active during the warm weather season.

In July, Brothers of Camp No. 14 traveled to Petoskey to perform a grave dedication for GAR Comrade Marshall Swenor. Comrade Swenor was a member of the Stevens-Begole GAR Post No. 66 in East Jordan. With the efforts of GRO John Sawyer, CWMO Scott Schwander, and the descendants of Marshall Swenor, Comrade Swenor finally received his much deserved headstone. In honor of Comrade Swenor, a grave dedication service was performed on 13 July with a large contingent of Marshall Swenor's family in attendance. Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul performed Taps at the ceremony.



Above: PDC Aurand serving as Master of Ceremonies during the Marshall Swenor Ceremony with Commander Lantzer, JVC Ribby, and Brother Hulbert looking on.

*Continued on the next page*

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications  
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates**

**Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication**

**Spring- June 1 for a June 15 Publication**

**Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication**

**Fall - December 1 for a December 15 Publication**

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at [editor@suvchwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvchwmi.org), 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!**



Above Left: Br. Hulbert, Pat Rensberger (G-Granddaughter of Marshall Swenor), & PI H.G. Smith  
 Above Right: Brothers of Camp No. 14 preparing for the ceremony.

On 27 July, Brothers of Camp No. 14 joined the Traverse City community in welcoming home Korean War MIA, Corporal Charles Lawler. Cpl. Lawler's remains were returned to US possession in July 2018 after the summit between the US and North Korea. Guard Milk, MVAO Murphy, PDC Aurand and PDC Davis represented Camp No. 14 at the event. Corporal Lawler was interred at Oakwood Cemetery.



Above Left: PDC Aurand and PDC Davis at the Corporal Lawler Ceremony  
 Above Right: Corporal Lawler's casket surrounded by family, active Military, Veterans, & the Traverse City community

In early August, three Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 attended the National Encampment in Independence, Ohio (Cleveland). Much camaraderie was had, and the business of the Order was conducted. The Department of Michigan was able to witness one of their own, (now) PCinC Don Shaw, conclude his term in the office of Commander-in-Chief.

*Continued on the next page*



Above: PDC & CoA Paul Davis, PDC David Smith and PDC Dale Aurand at the 2019 SUVCW National Encampment.

On Sunday, 18 August, Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 partnered with Brothers of Alexander French Camp No. 28 and participated with the Old Settler's Reunion (OSRW) in Mecosta to honor five Union Veterans that received new VA headstones. The five Veterans belonged to various USCT regiments during the Civil War. Many of the settlers of the area arrived from SE Ohio, as well as from the Underground Railroad via Canada. The Veterans honored with new headstones and the ceremony includes: Michael Norman (102<sup>nd</sup> USCT), Robert Scott (Co. F, 102<sup>nd</sup> USCT), Amos Robinson (Co. G, 29<sup>th</sup> USCT), Lewis Gross (Co. E, 16<sup>th</sup> USCT), and an Unknown Veteran.

In addition to Camp No. 14, Camp No. 28, OSRW, and various representatives of the community and descendants of these noble men – the ceremony saw Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul perform Taps, and the Honor Guard of the VFW Post in Mecosta serve as the honor guard of the grave dedication. It was a wonderful event showing united teamwork between Camps and the community.



Above: Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 and Alexander French Camp No. 28 post ceremony (18 August 2019).

The Fall looks to be a continued busy time for Robert Finch Camp No.14 as a memorial ceremony in Cadillac is finalizing in October with possible additional activities. Also, Camp No. 14 is busy at work on research and honoring the last Union Veterans in each of the 19 counties assigned. More to come.

*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 all 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 have tried to keep all articles in the format that they are sent, however, in the spirit of editorial judgement, I will correct spelling or edit for space restrictions. 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@sucwmi.org](mailto:editor@sucwmi.org).*

## **Graves Registration**

*By Department Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes*



Gravesite of I. B. Richardson,  
at Oak Hill Cemetery, Pontiac

*Our committee will meet on September 14, and I am announcing that we have recorded 75,110 Other War and Civil War, records represented.*

*The addition of new records has been slowed, as we have been revisiting our existing database, adding spouses, dates, and other information, man by man, and deleting those who have been erroneously included because of an error in Regiment or spelling.*

*More to come about that.*

**Activities in the Department**  
*Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC, PCC*

The Department of Michigan has had a busy Summer. Many Camps of the Department have worked together to perform a number of memorial services

Members of Robert Finch Camp 14 in Traverse City attended a funeral service for Korean War Veteran Chuck Lawler who was killed at the age of 19 in 1950.



His remains were recently returned and a funeral service with full military honors was performed.

*Continued on the next pages*

In cooperation with the Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, and with the support of Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan, Sons of Veterans Reserve, a memorial service was held in Allegan, Michigan for Thomas Mitchell, 102<sup>nd</sup> U.S.C.T.



In addition to the Sons from various Camps throughout the state of Michigan, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 were present and placed a wreath in memory of Thomas Mitchell.



Michigan Daughters of Union Veterans Of The Civil War 1861 to 1865 (L to R) Patti Townsend, Jan Davis, Royetta Doe



Co. A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan, SVR supported the event and fired a musket salute



Following the Mitchell Service, members of the Pritchard Camp 20 and the members of Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan SVR traveled to Constantine, Michigan, just north of the Indiana border to perform another service for Garrett Moyer, Co. C, 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry.

Garrett's descendants, Carol and Ken Moyer traveled to Michigan from Arizona to be part of the service.



The National Guard played Taps and presented Ken Moyer with a flag in memory of Garrett Moyer



Carol Moyer is a DUVCW in Arizona and was largely responsible for much of the research and planning for Garrett's memorial hosted by Camp 20.



(L) Carol Moyer, DUVCW, Arizona, and  
(R) Jan Davis, Michigan Department  
President, DUVCW 1861-1865

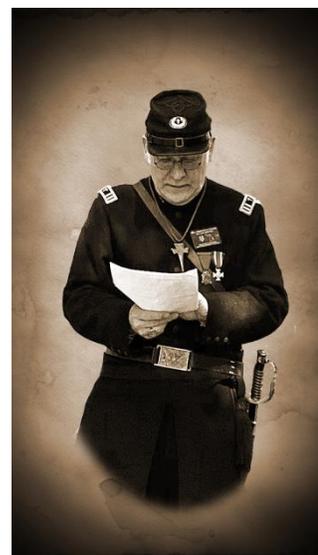


Bill Brennan, Camp 20 SUCW



The Department of Michigan sent a large contingent to the National Encampment in Cleveland, Ohio.

Department Chaplain and U.S. Grant Camp member Rev. Charles Buckhahn has announced his retirement. A dinner and celebration in honor of his year's of service was held earlier this year. Thanks Chaplain Charlie for your service to the Department and our Order.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry

By James B. Pahl, PCinC

(The account is based upon and quotes frequently from "Michigan in the War" compiled by J. Robertson, Adjutant General.)

*"And swore to the God of the ocean and land  
That ne'er shall the sons of Columbia be slaves,  
While the earth bears a plant or the sea rolls its waves."*

After the organization of several Congressional district regiments, more companies had been offered than places had been provided for, so the 25<sup>th</sup> was constituted from the surplus. Col. Orlando H. Moore, a captain in the U.S. army and Lt. Col. of the 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan was placed in command. The regiment was mustered into service September 22, 1862 in Kalamazoo.

A silk flag was presented to the regiment on behalf of the citizens of Kalamazoo. It was of regulation size with the inscription: "This flag is given in faith that it will be carried where honor and duty lead."

On September 29, the regiment was ordered to Louisville, its muster rolls showing strength of 896. It remained in Louisville until December 8, when it was ordered to Munfordsville where it engaged in their first skirmish with the enemy. They moved to Bowling Green on January 8, 1863 where they were employed on provost and picket duty.

March 26<sup>th</sup> saw the regiment moved to Lebanon where they took part in pursuit of rebels under Pegram. The regiment returned to Lebanon and then moved on to Louisville where they were again engaged in provost and guard duty.

The 25<sup>th</sup> was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> division, 23<sup>rd</sup> corps, Army of the Ohio, in which they served until the end of the war.

On June 10, five companies (some 200 men) were detached and ordered to Lebanon and then on to Green River Bridge, near Columbia where they were attacked on July 4 by a largely superior force of the enemy, some three to four thousand men under General Morgan. The closest Union forces were some 30 miles away. Determined to defend his post, Col. Moore (in personal command of the detachment), set up a strong defensive line. The detachment met and drove back eight separate charges. A rebel regiment was then able to breach a flank of the command, but with bugles blowing, the reserve company advanced. The rebels believed the line was being reinforced; the colonel of the advancing regiment was killed, so the rebels abandoned their position on the flank.

While General Morgan's intent was to capture the city of Louisville, this unexpected and terrible repulse cost him more than 12 hours delay and he abandoned his attack.

Col. Moor had been Provost Marshal of Louisville and his administration was not agreeable to the large rebel element residing there. The Louisville Journal also attacked him most severely. It was rumored his taking out the small detachment and being removed from Louisville was the result of pressures and influences. However, his defense of the Green River Bridge was acknowledged to have saved Louisville. The Louisville Journal then eulogized his bravery and great services and made a most ample apology for previous articles. The Legislature of Kentucky commended his services with a set of complimentary resolutions. This action was also commended upon by Rev. John S.C. Abbott, a historian, writing for the Harper's Magazine in August of 1865.

On August 19, the companies that had remained at Louisville joined the regiment at Lebanon and on the same day, the regiment moved with the corps over the mountains into East Tennessee, maneuvering with the Corps from a base in Loudon.

The regiment left Loudon on November 9 and moved to Kingston, where they participated in the defense of that place from attacks by rebel Generals Wheeler and Armstrong. On November 27, the regiment then moved to Mossy Creek and they were attacked on the 29<sup>th</sup> by the enemy under General Martin, who fell back after a contest during the whole day. The regiment remained at Mossy Creek until January 18, 1864, when Union forces commenced falling back to Knoxville, the regiment arriving there on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 25<sup>th</sup> left Knoxville on February 24, advancing toward Morristown. After several marches and counter-marches, they arrived on March 12. A camp was established and the regiment completely equipped for the summer campaign. They broke camp April 25 and May 4<sup>th</sup> saw the regiment encamped at Red Clay, Ga.

*Continued on the next page*

The movements of the regiment during the summer campaign were with the Army of the Ohio, part of General Sherman's Campaign. The 25<sup>th</sup> participated in engagements at Tunnel Hill, May 7 & 8; Rocky Face Ridge, May 9; Resaca, May 14; Cassville, May 19; Etowah River, May 20; Kingston, May 27; Altoona, May 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>; Pine Mountain, June 3 to 7; Lost Mountain, June 10 to 18; Culps Farm, June 22; Kennesaw Mountain, June 23 to 29; Nickajack Creek, July 1 and Chattahoochee river, July 9.

The regiment crossed a river on July 9 and was engaged at Decatur on July 18 & 19. They appeared in front of Atlanta on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, taking an active part in the siege of that place. The regiment assisted in the attack upon the enemy's works near East Point at Utoy Creek on August 6 and also participated in the flank movement west and south of Atlanta to Jonesboro on the 25<sup>th</sup>, which was followed by the evacuation of Atlanta by the rebel army. The 23<sup>rd</sup> corps occupied Decatur.

During this campaign, the regiment was under fire for 58 days and nights and within hearing of the skirmishers for over 100 days.

On October 4, the 25<sup>th</sup> left Decatur and participated in the campaign under General Sherman in pursuit of the rebel army under General Hood and engaged in action at Rome on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Bluff, Alabama on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the 25<sup>th</sup> was encamped at Rome, GA. During the year, it had marched over one thousand miles and suffered many hardships and privations.

On November 2, the regiment was again on the move to Resaca and then moved by rail to Johnsonville, Tenn, arriving on the 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the regiment marched to Centreville to guard several important fords on Duck river and was engaged at Pine Creek on the 26<sup>th</sup> and Franklin on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The brigade was ordered to Nashville, but owing to the rebel General Hood having invested that place, it was compelled to make a circuitous march of 250 miles by way of Clarksville. At one point, they were within rebel lines but under cover of a dark night, made its way out and arrived at Nashville on December 8. They took part in the battle before Nashville on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with light losses. Thereafter, they moved with the 23<sup>rd</sup> corps in pursuit of Hood's army.

From Columbia, the regiment marched to Clifton on the Tennessee River and embarked on steamers for Cincinnati and then by rail to Washington, D.C., there boarding transports for North Carolina. There they participated in the movements of General Schofield's army.

After the surrender of rebel forces under Johnston, it was sent to Salisbury, where they remained until June 24, 1865 when they were mustered out of service and started for Michigan. They arrived in Jackson, MI on July 2 where they were paid off and discharged.

The losses of this regiment were 1 officer and 21 men killed in action, 13 men died of wounds, 2 officers and 129 men of disease, having borne on its rolls 988 officers and men, 166 being its total loss.

*"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer." --President Abraham Lincoln*