



Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume XXX, Number 3

Chartered June 24, 1884

Fall, 2021

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard E. Danes, Editor

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



From Your Department Officers

Commander's Comments
by Nathan Smith, Department Commander

Greetings Fellow Brothers,

Well, summer is now behind us, and we are quickly approaching Christmas and New Year's. As I sit and write to you today, we are marked by the year's biggest holiday, opening firearm deer season. While I know that the day is not marked as an official holiday, but I can assure you that it is a safe bet that there are more vacation days used on November 15th than any other day of the year. I have had the pleasure of traveling around to some camp events in the past couple of months. In October, I made a surprise visit to Robert Finch Camp No. 14 for their joint Oakwood Cemetery Ceremony with the Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. What a great event! I was finally able to make a special delivery to Robert Finch Camp No. 14 while visiting as they were awarded the 2021 Marshall Hope Award for the Best Camp News Letter at this year's National Encampment. Great Work, Camp 14!

This past week, I attended the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the City of Flushing Cemetery. The event was planned by Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 and the American Legion Post 283. The event was well attended, and I have to admit that I was a little unprepared as I did not know I would be speaking. I will be sure to carry a speech or two with me in the future, but I believe it all went well. Installations are underway across the state, and I want to thank my staff for stepping up and helping get all of the installations completed. There is much to the statement that "Many hands make light work," and I can honestly say that I am grateful to have such a great staff and group of brothers helping our Department flourish. On behalf of the Department of Michigan, I want to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. May the blessings of heaven keep you safe and healthy.

"The power of noble deeds is to be preserved and passed on to the future." – Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Nathan Smith, DC, PCC

If Lincoln were alive today, this might have been his Christmas message to the Country

In this season of peace and hope arriving at a time of much suffering among many of our fellow citizens, I ask you to take solace in knowing that you live in a nation founded on the principles of fairness and equality and these birthrights shall endure as long as this country stays true to their promise. Our destiny as nation of democratic ideals is still evolving.

Remain steadfast in the knowledge that, in time, good conquers evil and truth will triumph. Be patient through these dark days and compassionate for the less fortunate. These difficult times are but momentary ripples in the history of our nation.

I extend the nation's appreciation to our soldiers in distant lands and wish them a swift and safe return home. To our allies I offer our continued friendship. And, to the enemies of freedom and fairness, whether they are within or without, I say that we will never waver in keeping our people free, safe and secure. The pursuit of life, liberty and happiness still guides our journey forth.

In this time of uncertainty, hold hope close to your heart and know that America will return to its rightful inheritance of freedom and justice once again.

May the Almighty bless the American people and bless this great land.

Max Benavidez, PhD, is an author, media analyst, professor at USC.

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

NATHAN L. SMITH, DC, PCC

+ HEADQUARTERS +

2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453



SPECIAL MESSAGE NO.: 02

DATE: 13 September 2021

SERIES: 2021-2022

RE: THANK YOU FROM PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BRIAN C. PIERSON

Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

Attached you will find a copy of the Thank you Card I received in the mail today from Past Commander-in-Chief Brian C. Pierson. He remarks "The Dept. of Michigan is one of the Crown Jewels of our Order."

I want to thank you all for the great things you do!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

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

Nathan L. Smith



COMMANDER, PLEASE PASS MY THANKS TO THE DEPT & AUX!

DEAR BROTHERS OF THE DEPT OF MICHIGAN &
SISTERS OF THE AUXILIARY,

THANK YOU FOR THE VERY THOUGHTFUL & GENEROUS
GIFTS YOU GAVE ME AT THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT
CAMPFIRE. AS A NAVIGATOR, I WAS VERY MOVED
BY THE PRESENTATION COMPASS. THE FRAMED
PROOF OF THE BANNER COVER & THE LINCOLN PLAQUE
HAVE FOUND HONORED PLACES ON MY OFFICE WALL.
THE BOOKS ARE VERY ENGAGING. I'VE ALREADY
WORN THE TIE & TEE SHIRT WITH PRIDE.
THE DEPT OF MICHIGAN IS ONE OF THE CROWN
JEWELS OF OUR ORDER — IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE
TO ATTEND YOUR ENCAMPMENT THIS YEAR.
KEEP DOING GREAT THINGS!
IN F C H,
BRYAN, PCINC

Department Order #8  Series 2021 – 2022

Headquarters Marlette, MI
September 26, 2021

APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Background:

At the 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment, then DJVC Gary Swain recommended three items to the Encampment, which were supported by the Officers Report Committee and the Encampment as a whole.

Those recommendations were:

1. Sponsor a Civil War Film Festival at the Camp or Regional level. The public would be invited, and this would be utilized as a recruitment event.
2. A Department Sponsored multi-day Civil War battlefield bus trip. All Sons, families, friends, and the general public, including all Civil War roundtables, would be invited. This event could achieve all of the stated objectives plus add some income to the Department for additional events.
3. Create a Department Civil War Roundtable Liaison Officer to assist the various Roundtables in finding and recommending speakers, recruiting membership from and for the SUVVCW, Co-sponsoring regional events, and educating the public. A similar approach could be pursued with genealogy clubs and veteran organizations, for our mutual benefit, throughout the Department of Michigan.

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That as allowed under the Department of Michigan Bylaws, Article IX-Committees – Section 2 & 3, I hereby establish a Special Committee to be named the “Special Outreach Committee.”
2. The purpose of this Special Committee is to fulfill the recommendations set forth by the DJVC at the 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment and to cultivate other activities related to the outreach needs of the Department of Michigan as identified.
3. I hereby appoint DSVC Gary Swain as the Chair of this Special Committee, who will also act as the Civil War Roundtables Liaison. The Chair will coordinate and work with the Department Junior Vice Commander on any and all matters concerning membership and recruiting as defined in the positional description & duties contained in the C&R. The Department Junior Vice Commander shall also be a member of this committee.

Continued on next page

2021 - 2022 Department Officers

Commander

Nathan L. Smith, PCC
2620 S. Decker Road
Marlette, Michigan 48453

Senior Vice Commander

Gary Swain, PCC
697 Wynding Oaks
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Junior Vice Commander

David Kimble
910 Queen Street
Owosso, MI 48867

Recording Secretary

Richard Denny
30090 Orla Eagle Road
Colon, Michigan 49040

Treasurer

Bruce S. A. Gosling, PCC
20388 US Hwy. 12
White Pigeon, MI 49099
bgosling@charter.net

Department Council

Robert R. Payne, PDC Secretary
David S. Smith, PDC, Chair
Steve Martin, Vice Chair

Chaplain

Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Nathan Tingley, CC

Color Bearer

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Military Affairs

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Counselor

Paul T. Davis, PDC

Guard

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Nathan Tingley, CC

Signals Officer

Robert R. Payne, PDC

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

Historian

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

Guide

Alex Tingley.

Graves Registration

Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC Chair

GAR Records

Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair

Civil War Memorials

John H. McGill, CC Chair

Chief of Staff

David Smith, PDC

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Aide de Camp

L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Camp Organizer

James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

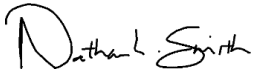
Ceremonies and Rituals

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C chair

- 4. DSVC Gary Swain may appoint additional members to serve on this committee as he deems necessary with the consent of the Department Commander.

Ideas or suggestions for the Special Outreach Committee can be directed to DSVC Gary Swain at dsvc@suvchwmi.org. In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

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

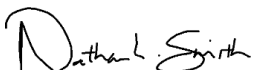
Department Order #9  Series 2021 - 2022
Headquarters Marlette, MI
November 4, 2021

RE: COMMANDER JOHN KEITH – GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP NO. 20

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

- 1. It is with a heavy heart that it has been announced that Brother John R. Keith, Commander of General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 passed away on sometime between Sunday and Monday.
- 2. Brother Keith was a beloved member of his camp and will be missed greatly. Please keep the Keith Family in your prayers.
- 4. Funeral Arrangements will be announced via email when they become available.
- 5. All Camp Charters within the Department of Michigan, the Department Charter, and the Department Website shall be draped for a period of 30 days from this date. Additionally, all Brothers of the Department of Michigan shall affix a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge for the same period of 30 days commencing on this date.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

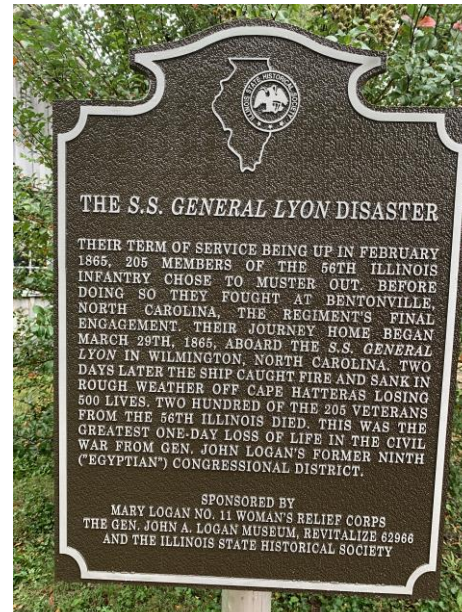
ATTEST:
Richard Denney, PCC, Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

G.A.R. Allied Orders Central Region Conference

Submitted by PC in C Jim Pahl

Don Shaw and I represented Michigan at the G.A.R. Allied Orders Central Region Conference in Murphysboro, Illinois this past weekend. The Conference consists of all of the Allied Orders groups in the greater Mid-West. Founded in 1940, it is one of two regional conferences of the Allied Orders. Voting membership in the Central Region is automatic for all members of all Departments of the Allied Orders. There are no dues, only the conference registration fees for those attending.

We started the day with a dedication of a memorial plaque to the S.S. General Lyon, which sank in February of 1865, transporting the 205 surviving members of the 56th Illinois Infantry home at the conclusion of their three years of service. They encountered rough seas and the ship caught fire and went down. Only five members of the 56th survived.



We continued the morning with a tour of the General John Logan Museum, which included a few special exhibits brought in just for us. We were served a catered lunch by One Hot Cookie, after which we were treated to a guest speaker, playwright Dave Danielson, who is currently writing a screenplay about Memorial Day and General Logan. The Association business meeting was then held under the guidance of Central Region Commander Cindy Norton, a Past National President of the Woman's Relief Corp. Tom Schmitt, a Past Camp Commander from the Department of Illinois was elected Commander for 2021-2022. Our own Don Shaw announced he is a candidate for the office of National Quartermaster at the next National Encampment.

We enjoyed a great dinner at the local Golden Corral restaurant and then adjourned to the hotel breakfast room for an evening of hospitality and fellowship.

The Conference meetings are always held on the first Saturday of October. Next year's conference will be hosted by the Department of Michigan. We are hoping to secure the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids for both a tour and place to hold the business meeting. More to come.

Last Bugle Call

Editor's note: Obituary information is printed as it is received.

Brothers;

It is my sad duty to inform the Department Officers and the various Camps of the Department of Michigan of the passing of a Brother. Brother **NEDELA, JAMES STEPHEN** of the Wa-Bu-No Camp, Camp Number 250 passed away on September 30, 2021. He was 75 years old. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and the families of his two children. The delay in informing all of you of this passing is due to the fact that Brother Nedela was the Camp's Secretary. Thus there was a delay in informing the Department of his passing. Please keep Camp Wa-Bu-No and the Nedela family in your prayers. His obituary is given below.

Christ says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Charles Buckhahn
Department Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

NEDELA, JAMES STEPHEN, SR., age 75, of Mt. Pleasant, formerly of Port Huron passed away at his home surrounded by family on Thursday, September 30, 2021. Funeral Services for Jim will be held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 3 p.m. with Benjamen Evers officiating. A Luncheon will immediately follow in the Reflections Reception Center. The family will receive friends the day of the service from 1 p.m. until the time of the service. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Envelopes will be available at the funeral chapel. Jim was born on March 16, 1946, in Flint, son of Stephen and Gertrude (Couch) Nedela. Jim graduated from Port Huron High School in the class of 1964 and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Williams, on September 4, 1965, in Port Huron. He worked as a Journeyman Pipefitter for Local Union 636 in Port Huron and Local Union 85 in Saginaw. Jim was a proud member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of the American Revolution. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and woodworking. Jim was a Civil War buff and avid outdoorsman. Jim is survived by his wife of 56 years, children, Christine Figueroa of Orlando, FL, and James and wife Sue Nedela of Belews Creek, NC; grandchildren, Caci Nedela of Belews Creek, NC, Zachery Quinn of Missouri, and Christopher Figueroa of Lansing; brother, Bill and wife Paula Nedela of Cape Coral, FL; sisters, Louise and husband Erick Green of Vancouver, WA, and Linda Nedela of Goodyear, AZ; mother-in-law, Mary Williams; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Jim was preceded in death by his parents. You may view Jim's obituary online and send a condolence to the family www.clarkfuneralchapel.com.

KEITH, JOHN R. 4 July 1955 – 13 October 2021. Please see a complete memoriam on the Camo 20 website.

Dear Camp members, Sisters of DUVCW Tents,

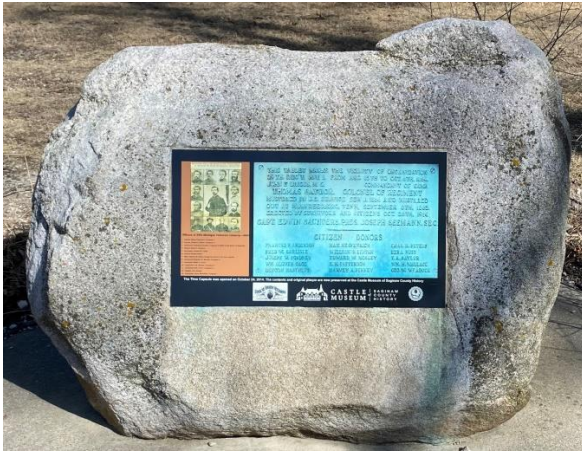
I receive an email this morning from our Sister Angel Sible whose husband is in Camp 28 with the following information:

TED JOHNSON, member of SUVCW Camp 28 in Big Rapids passed away yesterday at age 96.

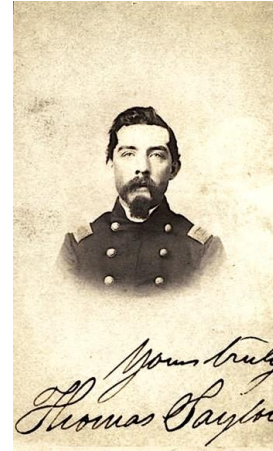
SUVCW CAMPS - you may want to pass this on to Camps I haven't included in this email.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Wenda Fore, President
Eva Gray Tent 2 DUVCW
Grand Rapids, MI

U.S. Grant Camp 67
Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC



29th Michigan Monument Re-Dedication



Colonel Thomas Saylor, 29th Michigan

On October 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM on the same day and hour as the original monument was dedicated on October 26, 1914 at 2:00 PM, a re-dedication service was conducted by members of U.S. Grant Camp 67 at Bliss Park in Saginaw, Michigan on the same site on which the 29th was formed and encamped. Other participants included the descendants of the soldiers who served in the 29th as well as descendants of the monument original donors.

A few years ago, the original plaque was removed to gain access to the time capsule. Unfortunately, time and water damage destroyed much of what was in the capsule. Fearing the original bronze tablet would be further damaged or stolen, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County Historical Museum and Grant Camp 67 worked together to create and provide a new tablet for the marker.

In attendance were Brenda Fay Moore the Mayor of the City of Saginaw, Castle Museum of Saginaw County History President Jonathan Webb and Tom Trombley, Vice President and Chief Historian . Also supporting the program of rededication were: Blumfield VFW Post 229 who served as Color Guard and performed taps at the invitation of Gary Dietrich, an ancestor of Christian Hartner Co. A, 29th Michigan Infantry. Company A 14th Michigan Sons of Veterans Reserve served as Honor Guard and fired a musket salute.



Continued on 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@suvcwmi.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!

GAR Hall Activities

November 2021

Wednesday, November 3rd (7 AM) - **Eaton Rapids Rotary Meeting**
 Wednesday, November 3rd (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**
 Saturday, November 6th (10 AM - 1 PM) - **Annual Civil War Reenactor Calendar Meeting**
 Wednesday, November 10th (7 AM) - **Eaton Rapids Rotary Meeting**
 Wednesday, November 10th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**
 Thursday, November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open for Veterans Day**
 Thursday, November 11th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**
 Tuesday, November 16th (7 PM) - **Major General Alpheus Williams** (Speaker: Jack Dempsey)

December 2021

Wednesday, December 1st (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**
 Saturday, December 4th (Noon - 8 PM) - **Annual Eaton Rapids Christmas Parade**
 Wednesday, December 8th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**

WHY MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED ONLINE

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.