

*Department Officers
2003/2004*

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E. Lou Hoos

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Paul Hodges, PDC

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Ed Dowd

Guide

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Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong

Communications & Technology

Eric G. Kirchberg

Camp-at-Large Coordinator

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Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

B.S.A. Coordinator

Bruce Zann

Commander's Group Rep.

Bruce B. Butgereit

Ceremonies & Ritual

Gregory Hayes

TAPS

BYRON E. WEED

CARPENTER-WELCH CAMP 180

18 JUNE 1938 - 6 MAY 2003

A life-long resident of Ann Arbor, Brother Byron E. Weed II died May 6, 2003 after a series of medical problems, including cancer. Born June 18, 1938, he held bachelor and masters degrees from Eastern Michigan University. He served as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserves and he was owner/broker of his own realty company.

Originally a member of Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, he transferred to Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and finally to Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180 as a Charter Member when it was formed in Washtenaw County in 1999. He served one year on the Camp Council. Brother Weed was the great nephew of Seth H. Weed, a Sgt. in Company I of the 1st New York Dragoons, who mustered in 29 August 1862 and was killed in action 7 May 1864.

His wife, Peggy, two married daughters, a stepson, five grandchildren and a sister survive him.

Services were held Saturday, May 10, 2003 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, followed by interment at Washtenawong Cemetery.

The Camp paid tribute by Ritual at its regular meeting on Monday 26 May 2003, Memorial Day (observed).

LEO CUYLER

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF CAMP 22

1917 - 15 JUNE 2003

Brother Leo Cuyler, age 86, senior member of Camp 22, passed away in his sleep Sunday morning, June 15, 2003. Bro. Leo suffered a heart attack a week prior to his death and was recovering at the home of his son, Brother Louis Cuyler, Senior Vice Commander of Camp 22 in Battle Creek.

Visitation was held Wednesday, June 18th, at the Methodist Church in Union City, followed by a short memorial service. Burial was Thursday, June 19, at Riverside Cemetery, Union City.

Brother Leo's ancestor was Capt. David Cuyler, Co. D, 153rd New York Infantry.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 2

SERIES 2003 ~ 2004

Department Headquarters, Kentwood, Michigan

1. It is with sincere regrets that I must announce the passing of **Brother Leo Cuyler**, age 86. Brother Leo, the senior member of Camp No. 22, passed away in his sleep the morning of Sunday, June 15, 2003. Brother Leo had suffered a heart attack the previous week and was recovering at the home of his son, Brother Louis Cuyler, Senior Vice-Commander of Camp 22, in Battle Creek. Brother Leo's final resting place will be the Riverside Cemetery in Union City, MI. Brother Leo's ancestor was Captain David Cuyler, Co. D, 153rd New York Infantry.

2. Brother Neal Breaugh, DSVC and I have begun our second "tour of duty" in visiting the Camps throughout the state. While our By-laws only "encourage" the Department Commander to visit the Camps at least once during his term of service, I am making every effort to visit and share a meeting with each Camp. Neal and I have found the experience rewarding, enlightening, encouraging, filling (with Neal setting up the pre-meeting dinners), and something to look forward to. I say you're all worth the effort!

3. The Department Encampment minutes and officer's reports have been completed and sent electronically to those with email and by regular mail to those without Internet access. At the Encampment, it was decided that each Department Officer, Camp Commander and Secretary, as well as each attendee of the Encampment would be entitled to a copy. If you have not received yours, and you are in one of the above positions, please request a copy from Department Treasurer Dick Williams.

4. To date, I have received newly amended By-laws from the following Camps: 1, 2, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 22, 58, 67, 85, 101, 147, 160, 180, 259, 266, and 427. Thank you!

5. I would appreciate Camps 3, 28, 43, 120, 139, 145, and 250 getting this issue addressed no later than September 1. I know I've stated this before, but our status with the IRS as a non-profit organization, requires each Camp to have updated By-laws. This is also a requirement in our Order.

6. Please take time to remember any Brothers or Sisters in distress and especially any Brother or Brother's son who may be currently serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

7. I appreciate the kind thoughts and concern as well as the support of your prayers during my "wake up call" episode where I spent an overnight in the hospital to check on chest pains. With the Lord's help, I hope to work on becoming a leaner and better rested man and Department Commander.

8. I congratulate Camp 17 on their recent 20th anniversary and for inviting me to the picnic celebration. I truly enjoyed sharing with you and look forward to more in the

future.

9. The National Encampment (August 7 – 10, 2003 in Fort Mitchell, KY) is fast approaching and registration/hotel information is available on the National SUVCW website and in the BANNER. For those of you that are attending, 1) please be sure that you have your membership card, 2) please contact Department Secretary Richard Lee immediately, IF you are going to the National Encampment, as he must fill out and sign your Credentials Card. Brother Lee's phone number is (517) 223-9497. Upon filling out your card, he will then mail it to you. (This is a precaution for the possibility that Brother Lee might not be in attendance to personally hand you your card.)

Lord willing, I will be bringing both our True Sons, Brothers Harold Becker and Edward Blakely with me. As our own Brother Kent Armstrong will be elected C-in-C, I encourage your attendance as a show of support and fraternity.

10. I offer my sincere appreciation for the work each Camp does in honoring the boys who wore the Blue, especially on Memorial Day. I am grateful for the invitations I received to participate and support several Camps throughout the State.

11. I appreciate and thank the Camps (1, 7, 14, 20, 43, 85, 145, 180, and 427) who have been traveling to support the Brothers of other Camps and Departments in various memorial functions.

12. As Department Commander, I have participated in the following events (Camp 1 events not included):

- April 13 – Attended and participated in the Camp 43 sponsored dedication of historical marker to the 4th Michigan Infantry and Camp Williams at Adrian College.
- May 6 – Attended Camp 20 meeting; voluntarily served as Secretary for the evening.
- May 12 – Attended Camp 7 meeting in Jackson.
- May 17 – Attended and participated in Camp 20 sponsored headstone dedication for Col. Charles Haydon.
- Presented students of Mattawan Elementary School certificate of appreciation for adopting 2 flags .
- May 24 – Attended and participated in monument rededication in Oregon, OH.
- May 25 – Attended Camp 259 meeting in Litchfield.
- May 26 – Attended and participated in Memorial Day services in Bay City with Camp 67.

(Continued on page 4)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

William B. M^cAfee

As individuals and as an organization, we have supported the American forces in the conflict in Iraq. Several of our members have served there since day one. The names of the ones known to the National organization can be found on the Internet address <http://www.suvcw.org/proudly-serving.htm>. The ones from Michigan of whom we are aware are Kyle J. Wildt of Camp 259, Dan Terburgh of Camp 250 and Ron Tyril of Camp 7 (returned).

We were extremely pleased to hear that the Lord has spared another one who has been close to us. LCPL Ty Streeter was Camp Commander of Colgrove-Woodruff Camp 22 at age 17 and, unless I'm mistaken, when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was sent to Iraq and was a part of the coalition force that rescued PFC Jessica Lynch, a much-publicized event around the world. Once he got back into the helicopter, he realized he had been wounded in the upper leg. He has, as a souvenir, the AK-47 round that hit him. Not only was he awarded the Purple Heart, he also received the Navy Cross for his part in that rescue operation.

We can be grateful to a merciful God Who spared our Brother from wounds any more serious than that which he received. It doesn't seem that long ago when we saw Ty coming to SUVCW activities with his grandparents, Howard and "Peaches" Streeter as, (could it have been?) a Junior. We watched him develop into a responsible young man to the point that he has now reached.

We wish Ty the very best as he goes on to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (CA) to continue his service to our country. We trust he will also continue to be a source of pride and honor to his excellent family tradition of duty to his God, his country and to his fellowman.

We do not believe that this type of pride goes against our Christian beliefs. We feel that puffed up pride of one's own achievements which makes someone else feel small or uncomfortable is the kind of pride which we should avoid. When we have pride in someone else's accomplishments or honors and express them as encouragements to others, then we are doing them a service. We can be proud of our country, the service man and women of our country, both past and present, and the accomplishments of those near and dear to us without being afraid that the proverbial admonition, "Pride goeth before a fall", applies. We certainly feel pride and encouragement that men like Brother Streeter have stepped forward in a time of need and have accepted the responsibility to meet those needs. Thank God for them!

The Vietnam veterans have committed themselves to the policy that military personnel returning from their assignments be met and treated better than we were. Welcome home, Ty.

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

Historians in the SUVCW are charged to collect and preserve historical and biographical material pertaining to the Civil War, to members of the GAR, and to members of the Order. Accordingly, I again solicited and collected materials of that nature this past year. The items included a book, copies of veterans' military and pension records, photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, printed programs, and Camp records. They filled four three-ring binders.

Volume I contained copies of military and pension records of 14 Civil War veterans. Some were complete files as obtained from the National Archives, and others were only the one or two pages submitted with SUVCW membership applications.

The second binder was a photograph album. One image showed officers of the 17th Michigan Infantry at Grass Lake, Michigan, in 1865. Another was taken at the dedication of the monument to the 22nd Michigan Infantry at Chickamauga Battlefield. A set of modern photos had scenes of the dedication ceremony in Detroit of the International Memorial to the Underground Railroad. Other pictures portrayed installations of Camp officers and dedications of monuments.

Volume III contained newspaper articles, printed programs and announcements, and copies of *Michigan's Messenger*. Also displayed were a wedding announcement, a funeral bulletin, and printed agendas where Eagle Scout certificates were presented.

The other notebook had a variety of articles of interest. From the *Eaton County Quest* were copies of letters written by Union soldiers during 1861 and 1862. Among the stories from *Michigan History Magazine* were "Captured at Shiloh!" and "Return to Spotsylvania."

I again am requesting historical contributions from members, from Camps, and from the friends of SUVCW. All such donations will be treated well and will be greatly

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2

(Continued from page 3)

- May 28 – Presented students of New Baltimore Middle School certificate of appreciation for adopting a flag.
- May 29 – Attended Camp 9 meeting in Port Huron.
- May 31 – Attended and participated in a headstone dedication in Sanford (Midland), MI.
- June 7 – Attended 20th anniversary celebration of Camp 17.
- June 14 – Attended and participated in Flag Day services at the State Historical Museum.

By the order of:

Bruce Butgereit
Commander,

Attest:

Richard Lee
Secretary,

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Neal F. Breaugh

In my last article, I mentioned my responsibilities in the areas of media, public relations and publicity. However, I did not write specifically about what the DSVC needs from the individual Camps. I had forgotten that I had been sending my Camp's newsletters to former DSVC Phil Parks as he had requested. I was reminded of this when I received newsletters from Camp's 58, 17, and 427 who had automatically made the switch from Brother Parks to the new DSVC. I really appreciated this action on their part. I have now received 8 Newsletters from 6 of our 26 Camps. Now I know that some Camps like those mentioned above plus Camp's 7 and 20 produce some very fancy, complete, and professional newsletters. However, I am aware that now all of us can do this. It isn't necessary. All I ever sent to my predecessor was the Camp 14 minutes and sometimes our letter announcing the next Camp Meeting, when that letter contained information on Camp activities. That is all I have received this year from my own Camp. For most Camps, their official minutes are their only Newsletter. Please send yours to me. I do read them all—often with a response to the Camp, I will keep them on file for the DSVC records—probably to be eventually turned over to the Department Historian.

Another thing that would really help me in fulfilling my duties would be if each Camp would also send me any articles about their Camp and its activities that appear in Newspapers. This would include anything from an article announcing their next Camp Meeting to something on one of their Members or a Camp Activity. This would really help the Department Commander, Patriotic Instructor and myself to be aware of the many wonderful activities that are going on around the State of Michigan. I realize that we ask you to copy and keep a great deal of material—records for your own Camp Archives; make copies for each year of minutes and important documents to be given to the Department Historian at our Mid Winter Meeting, and now I am asking for newsletters and newspaper articles. However, I know it can be done. I am also Secretary/Treasurer of Camp 14, and I do it. An organizational suggestion. I try to follow two of Lakein's Rules: Handle each piece of paper *Once* and *Do It Now*. Keep a folder for the Department Historian. When minutes, reports, articles etc are done, just put a copy of it in that folder and it will be all done at the end of the year. For me—mail it to me or attach it to an e-mail to me as soon as it is available.

This leads me to what I consider the most fun and most valuable part of my position. That is attending Camp Meetings and the other events that our Camps sponsor and participate with others. So far Commander Bruce and I been fortunate to attend Camp Meeting of Camp 20 in Kalamazoo, Camp 7 in Jackson, Camp 59 in Litchfield, Camp 9 in Port Huron. I was also proud to represent the Department at the very impressive Military Headstone Dedication for Lt. Col. Charles B. Haydon conducted by Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 and the equally impressive Rededication of the 1901 GAR Civil War Statue at the Memorial Celebration in Wacousta, in Watertown

Township. It was an honor and a privilege to march in their parade with the Color Guard from our George W. Anderson Camp 58. It was also an honor to be in Northport on Memorial Day to present our Department's Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation to George W. Anderson of Northport who has organized this event for the past 39 years. In my presentation remarks, I mentioned the Wacousta event and the large turn out and shared some remarks exchanged between SVC-in-C Kent Armstrong of Camp 58 about how it is small towns like Wacousta and Northport who really turn out and support these patriotic events and ceremonies. Much to my surprise, two ladies, independent of each other, approached me. One had grown up there and one had lived there a few years ago. Both remembered the Memorial Day festivities, the statue (so beautifully restored thanks to Camp 58), and marching in the parade many times. Small world.

Also my compliments and congratulations to Curtenius Guard Camp 17. Emily and I had a wonderful time at their 20th Anniversary Picnic in the Logan Street Park on June 7th. It was like a party on Mt. Olympus with all the gods.

Emily and I will be traveling in Ireland, England, and Scotland in August, but hope to attend Camp Meetings in Detroit with Camp 101 and in Ann Arbor with Camp 180 in July and I also hope that our scheduled visit to Camp 85 in Bridgeman can be rescheduled soon.

Earlier I made mention of the most fun part of my job as DSVC. Here is the most frustrating and discouraging part of this position and I think also for our Commander and the rest of his Staff. It is the breakdown and failure in the Communication cycle. We are not concerned with placing blame. We just want everyone to try and do a better job; get things done and in on time, and to keep the line of communications open and on going at all times. If there is a problem doing this—out of town, ill, etc.—just let us know. We can handle that. We feel that when one accepts a position in the SUVCW, there are responsibilities that go along with it; not only to the individual Members of each Camp, but to the Department and National also. These responsibilities must be taken seriously and carried out. It is our goal to help everyone be successful with these responsibilities. Of course, when all of you are successful in your duties, then we know that we will be too. This is why we visit the Camps and desire so much to keep the lines of communications open at all time. Don't ever hesitate to contact any of us—by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail. This will help us all.

I am also glad to report that Commander Richard Scott of Henry E. Plant Camp 3 has accepted a position on our By-laws Committee. He joins Brothers Bruce Butgereit of Camp 1, Keith Harrison of Camp 17, and myself from Camp 14. If any Camp or Member has any proposals regarding the Department By-laws, they should be sent to me as early as possible. It is our Committee's hope to have any such proposal in the hands of the Camps well in advance of our deadline of at least 60 days prior to the Department Encampment which will be held in Grand Rapids on April 24, 2004 (the DUVCW of Michigan is the official host and in control of the date and place). I am sure that our attendance at this major event will continue to increase.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Kolean

HOOK PHRASES

We have all opened magazines and newspapers filled with advertisements to sell us ideas or products. These advertisements usually have a one sentence or a small paragraph summarization of what the advertiser wants you to remember about their ideas or products. This is called a "hook phrase". The Grand Army of the Republic was no different. Though they were not selling anything, the G.A.R. had a message that they wanted all American Citizens to remember. They didn't generally take out full page ads in some newspaper or magazine to spread this message, but they did include "hook phrases" in various items they used in conducting G.A.R. business.

These items may have included medals, ribbons, postcards and banners. The hook phrases that the G.A.R. used were usually dressed in scenes of flags, patriotism, and honoring the graves of fallen comrades. The following are some of the "hook phrases" that the G.A.R. utilized:

- "Where'er he goes they cheer him, they salute him, near and far, for he wears the magic button of the honored G.A.R."
- "But his Soul goes marching on."
- "Lest we forget."
- "Pride and glory and honor, all live in the colors to stand or fall."
- "All who fought in this struggle are now canonized as heroes and history will ever immortalize them. Their death has been turned from a cause for grief and lamentation into priceless inheritance of their kindred. Personal anguish and hatred has passed. Time has sanctified the cause for which they fought. Loyalty has reunited the country. Where the cannon once stood, now stands the angel of peace reuniting the North and South. One people. One flag. One Country."
- "Nor shall their story be forgot, while fame her record keeps."
- "Freedom smiles, her fate secure beneath its steadfast stars."
- "In memory of the brave."
- "In glory underneath the sod, slumber our heroes today."
- "Glory guards with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead. 1861-1865."
- "A fame that clusters bright around the brows of leaders laurel crowned and honored heroes 'neath the ground."
- "The summon from the shadowy past, the forms that once have been."
- "Since they kissed the lads they loved so dear and sent them to the front."
- "While above them floats Old Glory. Boon to all the world

oppressed."

- "That we might enjoy liberty in a United Republic, those whose bodies lie buried here, died. Their devotion to Country and posterity was a noble sacrifice."

Though the great men of the G.A.R. are no longer with us in this world, the "hook phrases" that they used should still have special meaning to us as members of Sons of Union Veterans and to all Americans.

Tim Kolean will be serving as Department Patriotic Instructor for 2003. He is a member of Gen. John A. Logan

COL. HAYDEN DEDICATION

(Continued from page 1)

There were eight guest speakers at the ceremony:

1. United States Senator, Mr. Carl Levin
2. Michigan State Senator, Mr. Ron Jelinek
3. Michigan State Representative, Ms. Mary Ann Middaugh
4. Mr. John H. Broughton, Wisconsin, cousin to Charles Haydon
5. Van Buren County Commissioner, Mr. Don Hanson
6. Hamilton Township Supervisor, Dr. Carl Druskovich
7. Department of Michigan SUVCW Commander, Mr. Bruce Butgereit
8. Program Director, WSJM AM Radio, Ms. Annette Weston

Mrs. John H. Broughton, spread soil on the grave from Brandon, Vermont, Haydon's birthplace. A special "Thank You" to Brandon Town Clerk, Mr. William Dick for sending us the soil from Brandon.

Unveiling of the gravestone was done by Mr. John C. Broughton, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Broughton. John C. Broughton is a 13-year veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during Desert Storm.

The Ceremony of Dedication, performed by members of Camp 20 demonstrated to an attentive public in attendance that we hold veterans in high esteem and very moving ceremony it was! The Camp 20 members involved did a great job!

Civil War re-enactors attending and rendering the Military Honors were from the 102nd USCT, the 1st Michigan Infantry, the 3rd Michigan Infantry & the 12th Michigan Infantry.

The Sons of Union Veteran Camps in attendance that I know of were from Camp 20, Camp 1, Camp 85, Camp 14 & Camp 22. I apologize if I missed anyone who was there.

Several groups presented floral tributes. The Decatur High School Band performed two songs, "America the Beautiful" & "Bring him Home". Parking was handled by Boy Scout Troop 170 of Decatur. VFW POST 6248 bugler, Danya Jackson, played taps.

The day's events were very touching and instilled pride and patriotism in all that attended.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Rick Greene

First, permit me to express my profound thanks to the Brothers of the Department of Michigan and to the 114th Department Encampment for the confidence in me that they expressed in me by selecting me to be Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Michigan. It is, indeed, an honor. I am moved, all the more, as this office is the parallel of the office held in the GAR by my great grandfather, nearly three quarters of a century ago. I know that he would be proud.

As Chairman of the Membership Committee, the Junior Vice Commander is thought of as the recruiting officer of the Department. To oversimplify, he serves as a clearinghouse for names of membership prospects, received from the National Organization, Camps and others. He, in turn, refers these prospects to the geographically appropriate Camps or to the Camp-At-Large for contact in regard to the prospect becoming a member of the Camp. He follows up by assisting the Camps to assure that the new member is duly registered on membership lists of the Department and National Organization so that he receives the benefits of membership including his first issue of "The Banner" and "Michigan's Messenger" promptly.

With the summer now upon us we find ourselves in the prime recruiting season. Festivals, Civil War re-enactments, and other events that bring people together abound; affording endless opportunities to meet the public and introduce them to our aims and mission.

The Department maintains a tent, which Camps may use for recruiting activities. A Civil War era design, it lends a period ambience, cooling shade and a bit of private security to a recruiting effort. It is available for any Camp's use, free of charge.

The Camp which borrows the tent is responsible for its good care and storage until another Camp may wish to use it. It is also responsible for conveying the tent to the next Camp or coordinating with them to arrange the conveyance.

Any Camp wishing to borrow the Department tent should contact Rick Greene, Dept. JVC, at (989)843-5967 or e-mail rgreene@tds.net

In setting up a recruiting booth of any sort, the Camp should provide suitable quantities of hand out folders, pamphlets and brochures that outline the history, methods, goals, mission, and vision of the Order. Be sure and include ample contact information for your Camp so that the prospect may use Postal mail, e-mail or telephone to make that all-important first contact.

Provide sufficient manpower in your recruiting booth so that no one has to wait to speak with a knowledgeable, friendly representative of the Order. If possible, have Brothers there in both uniform and street clothes. While men in uniform are fetching and offer some splashy color, it is my own experience that it is best to not have everyone in uniform. Having some

Brothers present in street clothes helps explain that we are not a re-enactment group and reassures the prospect that he needn't go out and buy the uniform and all the trappings to be one of us. Stress, community service, fraternity, camaraderie, preservation and patriotism.

Inevitably, you will encounter a person who seems interested but does not live in the general vicinity of your Camp. It may seem hard to try all day to interest men in joining your Camp and then be faced with "giving one away" to some other Camp who may be nearer his home. Try to remember that even an enthusiastic new member will eventually drift away if he is asked to drive a great distance to make Camp meetings. We are now at the point where, in most areas of the state there is a Camp within reasonable driving distance for members. If you have a prospect who is nearer another Camp than to your own, please forward his contact information to the DJVC's office. I'll take it from there and I'll be sure to inform the Camp receiving his name where it came from. Chances are, before long, someone will work up a prospect that is in your area. Contact me at 9245 Willits Road, Mayville, Michigan 48744 or

CORRECTIONS

To the Spring 2003 issue of
Michigan's Messenger

In the front page article, "*It's Not Us*", it was incorrectly stated the Coat-of-Arms on the monument was that of the State of Michigan (see accompanying photo.)

Brother John Gorto, Camp 266, pointed out to author McAfee that the Coat-of-Arms is actually that of the German State of Schwaben (Swabia). Brother McAfee says he feels bad about providing erroneous information, but wonders how many of our "native" Michiganders also caught the error. (*Your editor sure didn't!*)

The e-mail address for Camp 147 in the page 28 article, "*Michigan SUV CW Camps and Contacts*", was incorrect (*editor's error*). It should read:

Henry W. Quigley Camp 147
contact person: Merle "Pete" Carlson
e-mail address: pcarl@tm.net

GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Rick Danes, Chairman

"Where the Green of the Memory has a Special Meaning"

By the time you read this, I hope that all of you are dried out from the wet spring, and are complaining about how hot it is. We in the Graves Committee have already put in many miles this year in surveys, and we have many more to go before it snows again.

At the June 14th meeting I will announce that we have 42,800 registrations in the Department dB, and 39,650 at the National. Put into perspective that is over three times the number that was reported in June of 2000. National Graves Registration Officer Leo Kennedy shares that as of May 19 there were 207,000 registrations in the National dB. Do the math, we have contributed over one-fifth of the total national sum, and we are only 25-30% complete! So the next time you see one of the Committee Members, thank them for their hard work (you'll recognize them, glassy-eyed, hunched over, dirty fingernails, etc.). Brother Kennedy also expects a National version of the dB to be on-line about fall, 2003, and gave a nice mention to the Department of Michigan Committee for their work.

At the Department Encampment I announced that out of 83 Michigan Counties, a Camp was not actively surveying only 8. We still have those eight to work on, so if the Camps that are not participating will give me a shout, perhaps we can get a couple of their guys kick-started.

Another grand achievement of the Department is the launch of the Graves Registration Web. This link from the Department index page is the first look at our efforts. You can expect some refinements as we evolve, but in the meantime please thank Commander Butgereit, Signals Officer Kirchberg, and Treasurer Williams for their tremendous effort and perseverance to make this happen.

I came across this notation while reading an old book *"Campfire Chats of the Civil War"* by Washington Davis, c1889. It seems appropriate to explain why we are taking so much time to document our work. The background of the work is that a young Michigan Soldier was killed by friendly fire while trying to escape the POW Camp at Spanish Fort, Mobile, Alabama. This is the reminiscing of a comrade who was there:

"He was tall and handsome, and not exceeding twenty years of age. His fine features and cleanly person and habit spoke him one of good family and probably city bred. We searched his clothing, hoping to find his name or some address to which we could write and tell the sad story of his death, but none could be found. We made him a grave by the sounding sea, under the shade of the cypress trees, and there he sleeps unknown to the multitude; but not, I trust, unhonored and unsung. Lee and Johnson had already surrendered, but we did not know it...perhaps his mother...may still be searching for the name of her lost boy upon the headstones of the many graveyards."

Cpl. Isaac N. Phillips, Co A, 47th Illinois Infantry.

Motivation? I think that this is what drives us. Won't you help our effort to honor these brave soldiers? If you are interested, please contact me:

SUVMIDGRO@aol.com.

To those who are already out there, thanks and let's keep up the good work.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dick Williams

The annual per-capita and annual reports were due from Camps for the first time this year. For the most part everything went well. We've collected the annual per-capita and paid the National Organization the annual dues for the Department of Michigan.

The current balances for the Department of Michigan are:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Alger Medal of Honor | \$733.46 |
| Checking | \$305.27 |
| Savings | \$15,704.52 |

Financial activity at this time is slow. We have however had a rush on SUV hat badges, so another order was placed to keep up with demand for the item.

C.W. MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 9)

agency. Once the language has been added, the bill will again be introduced and a new House number will be assigned.

After an updated House Bill number is introduced, we would respectfully encourage the members of the Department of Michigan to support this effort by contacting their elected state representative and ask for his or her support. Each Camp will also need to step up their efforts with locating and assessing the condition of each Civil War era cannon and monument in their area. In doing so we can bring to the attention of local authorities and officials the importance of these pieces of their community's history and heritage. With your help we can prevent these collectors from profiting from what our ancestors and veterans of the Civil War entrusted to us to care for and ensure that future generations would not forget.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman

We have the honor to report continued progress by our Department's Camps, in support of the Civil War Memorials Assessment Project. With the increased participation, we have begun to enter the information from the assessment forms submitted by the Camps into our Department database. To date we have registered 85 monuments and memorials located within 24 counties across the State. Brothers have located and assessed the condition of 100% of monuments and memorials in Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ionia, Jackson, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties. Our thanks to the Brothers of Camp's 1, 7, 14, 17, 58, 101, 120, 160, 180, and 427 for their efforts and support of the project.

We would ask that newly elected Camp Commanders and Camp Civil War Memorials Officers contact this office with a report of their Camp's progress with the assessment of monuments in their assigned areas. We would also ask that the Past Camp Commander turn over all materials pertaining to the assessment project to the incoming officers. To those Camps who do not have a program in place we respectfully encourage them to appoint a Camp Civil War Memorials Officer to coordinate an effort within the Camp.

In April of 2001, after hearing the City of Detroit's plan to dismantle and relocate the Michigan Soldier's and Sailor's monument at Campus Martius, a message was sent by this committee to the city's planning director of our interest with this project.

After several communications over a one-year period, a meeting was set with representatives from the city's planning department and Mayor's office for May 29th, 2002. Information gathered from that meeting included an outlay of the plans for a park, which will be built at the center of Michigan and Woodward Avenues. The plans outline the Soldier's and Sailor's monument to be placed in a prominent location at the head of Woodward Ave. The monument will be set on a four-foot high stone pedestal with seating on all sides. In addition, a fountain will be constructed surrounding the base and will include a waterwall. The planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers around the monument and the mixture of blue stone pavers and crushed limestone paths will invite the public to view and appreciate the monument much more than in its current location at the center of a traffic circle.

The monument will be disassembled this summer and stored before it is relocated to its new location. City Officials expect to have a dedication ceremony for the park in June of 2004, at which time consideration will be made for an appropriate rededication of the monument. I thank Brother Michael Nick of Camp 101 Detroit for acting as local liaison for this project. This office was assured that it would be notified of any further developments or changes to the schedule of construction.

Another matter that was discussed with the city, was the replacement of the sign that was set at the corners of Woodward and Michigan Avenues in 1995. The marker, sponsored by the SUVCW, MOLLUS and the 24th Michigan Infantry Re-enactors was placed there at the eastern end of US 12 to designate the highway as the "Iron Brigade Memorial Highway." The project, with the assistance of Brother Kent Armstrong, also included the placement of markers at the western end of US 12 at New Buffalo and another in Indiana. A proposal was given to place the Detroit marker adjacent to the monument after the park had been finished.

We are pleased to report the discovery of a significant artifact in the City of Petoskey. With the assistance of Brother Fred Knoodle, Camp 14 of Traverse City has acquired for restoration a cannon that has been stored at the city garage since its discovery in 1996. Through research by Brother Knoodle and some on sight inspection by artillery expert Wayne Stark, it was determined that the cannon was a rare 12-pdr Confederate Napoleon from the Augusta Foundry. The cannon is the only known iron cannon from the Augusta Foundry, which typically cast bronze artillery pieces for the Army of Tennessee.

Camp 14 has taken on the task of restoring the cannon for future display in Petoskey. They have gotten overwhelming interest and suggestions by many different sources. The Augusta Museum of History has contacted Camp 14 with its offer of advice and assistance in restoring the historical cannon.

Other restoration efforts underway by Camp's within the Department include the continued fundraising efforts of Camp 1 for the restoration of the memorial fountain in Grand Rapids. Camp Commander Butgereit reports the necessary funds may be obtained soon. Camp 14, with the assistance of Grand Traverse County, has continued to raise funds for the restoration of the white bronze monument on the County Courthouse grounds in Traverse City.

We are proud to report recent encouraging developments concerning legislation preventing the theft and sale of all veteran monuments, in particular the theft and sale of Civil War era cannon. House Bill No. 5888 was sponsored by and introduced by State Representative Larry Julian in May of 2002. Since then the bill has gathered the support of the American Legion of Michigan, The Commanders Group and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The bill would create a new act to provide for the disposition of demilitarized military equipment and artifacts, including Civil War era cannon. Specifically, the bill would require the recipient of such equipment from a federal agency to display the equipment in accordance with the agreement with the donor under the grant of conditional title. If the recipient no longer wished to keep the equipment or artifacts, he or she would have to return the equipment in accordance with federal law.

After consideration by the Veterans Affairs Committee, the bill has been recommended to undergo further language changes to set forth penalties and assign jurisdiction to a state

(Continued on page 8)

NEW MEMORIAL FOUND

Rick Danes, Camp 427

While preparing to survey Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit I spoke to the office personnel for leads to the final resting places of any Civil War Veterans. The response, although very cordial, was that 'there were no such gravesites in the cemetery as far as they knew, but to keep them informed if I found any'.

How many times have we been told the very same thing as we continue our work?

As I began my survey, I noticed that there were no above ground military markers for burials prior to the Spanish American War.... could their statement be true of a cemetery that was opened in 1907? I persevered, and was rewarded by a stone that had a CW Regiment and Unit inscribed, another had GAR on it, and finally, a small section that had as its centerpiece a memorial stone, inscribed:

MEMORIAL

ERECTED BY
DETROIT CIRCLE No. 1
LADIES OF THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC
1918

This memorial was surrounded by 20 or so stones having such key words as "Captain, Lieutenant, 7 MI Cav, 1 OVI, 8 OVI, 136 NY INF, Fairbanks Post GAR, 27 MI INF, 155 IL INF", etc. Think I found something? Do you think that the cemetery management will be surprised?

This is what we do; this is what it is all about. This is why I ask all of the Camp GROs to take a camera along in case we "find something interesting", and we can support the equally important *Department Civil War Memorials Program* chaired by Doug Armstrong.

The memorial stone is one that has not appeared on any published list, and I am honored to be able to add it to the Department Memorials.

THE KENT COUNTY CIVIL WAR MONUMENT REDEDICATION

Bruce B. Butgereit, DC

Please mark you calendars to join the Department and Grand Rapids Allied Orders on **Saturday, October 4, 2003 at 10 AM** for the **rededication** of one of the most *historically significant* Civil War monuments in the United States. Joining us will be those attending the Central Region Conference that day (*see more on the CRA on page 11 in this issue, ed*). You will not want to miss this "once in our lifetime" event to rededicate the *first* Civil War monument in the nation to include a fountain and the *first* Civil War monument to pay tribute to the efforts of women.

May 17, 2003 was a historic day in Grand Rapids; for the first time in its 117-year history, the Kent County Civil War Monument was disassembled in order for a complete restoration to begin. The fundraising efforts had reached a level where we could actually begin the long-awaited restoration; we have raised \$244,000 of our \$250,000 goal and continue to work on raising the remaining amount.

This project, which we, the Grand Rapids Allied Orders so ignorantly thought would be over as soon as our deep-pocketed citizens heard of our efforts, turned into a three-year labor of love and devotion. While there were many times we were disappointed, we were never discouraged. The support the Champlin Corps, No. 41, Womans Relief Corp and the Eva Gray Tent No. 2, Daughter of Union Veterans has given us has been immense and very much appreciated.

The monument is currently in Cincinnati, OH at the foundry of Karkadoulis Bronze Art, Inc., Mercene Karkadoulis, conservator. Throughout the fundraising, Mercene has been one of our biggest cheerleaders, not because she will get paid for her work, but because she truly believes that restoring this monument is part of her destiny. She is a wonderful woman. She is so amazing; she cleared her slate of work in order to focus solely on our monument.

While we had been hoping to have a September rededication, as part of the Grand Rapids Celebration on the Grand, complete with ready-made parade, etc., the quality of the restoration far outweighs a rededication date. In order to give Mercene as much time as possible, and still have a ceremony that includes turning on the fountains, we chose to conduct the rededication on October 4. This will be a "high-profile" ceremony and well covered by the media. Invitations will be going out soon. Your Camp flags, both SUVCW and re-enactor "uniforms," banners, and attendance are welcome.

THE CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

GRAND RAPIDS

OCTOBER 4TH, 2003

I highly encourage, not only Department and Camp officers but also anyone interested in doing their best for the Order, to consider attending the 2003 Central Region Conference.

What It Is

The event is very similar to the Mid-Winter meeting we have in Michigan, except other Departments attend it. For those of you not familiar with the Central Region Association, a little history is probably in order.

National Regulations, CHAPTER II, Departments, ARTICLE I, Charters, SECTION 9: *To promote fraternal relations and to coordinate those activities that can extend across Department boundaries, two or more Departments may establish a regional association. Such regional associations may include bodies of the various other Allied Orders, as they exist within the boundaries of such region...*

The Central Region Association contains the following member Departments: Colorado & Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin; last year, the Department of California sent a representative to the meeting held in St. Louis, MO.

Special Event

Each host Department/Camp usually schedules a special tour of Civil War-related sites within the community where the conference is to be held. This year, the special event will be the rededication of the Kent County Civil War Monument in the morning.

The Conference Theme

This year's conference topic is "Understanding Robert's Rules of Order and How to Use Them." Participants will benefit from the critical thinking, problem solving and group dynamics that will be part of this topic's presentation. The presenter will be our own Brother Jim Pahl, National Counselor and motivational speaker on many topics, including that of "The Camel."

In an effort to interject a little fun and friendly competition, maybe even between Departments, we will also be playing "Civil War Jeopardy" with our wonderful game show host, Brother Tom Crawford, Indiana PDC and current CRA Commander.

Banquet and Program

A banquet (optional) will follow the conference at 6:30

pm. The program will begin around 8:15 pm and will feature Brother Jim Ribby of Camp 14, Traverse City, and another version of his moving, dramatic recitation of Civil War poetry. (This is one fantastic program!)

Location & Directions

The Conference will be held at the Grand Rapids Airport Hilton, 4747 – 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI. Phone: (616) 957-0100. Overnight rooms are available at \$75 (king or double) plus tax. Let the hotel know you are with the SUVCW event. Cut off date for above price is September 12, 2003.

From the NORTH: Follow US 131 South to Eastbound I-96. Take Eastbound I-96 to the 28th Street exit (Exit 43A). From the ramp turn right or West and go for several blocks until it intersects Patterson Street. The Hilton is on northwest corner.

From the SOUTH: Follow US-131 North to the 28th Street exit (Exit 81). From the exit ramp turn right or East and follow 28th Street until it intersects Patterson Street. The Hilton is on northwest corner.

From the EAST: Follow I-96 West to the 28th Street exit (Exit 43A). From the exit ramp turn right or West for several blocks until it intersects Patterson Street. The Hilton is on northwest corner.

From the WEST: Follow I-96 East to the 28th Street exit (Exit 43B). From the exit ramp turn right or West for several blocks until it intersects Patterson Street. The Hilton is on northwest corner.

For more on this event and how to place a reservation for the Banquet and Program, please see our Department website



under EVENTS, or call me at: (616) 827-3369

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN CAMP 1 ~ GRAND RAPIDS

Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

Our Camp sent two representatives and a Junior to the April 5 Department Encampment. Brother Tim Kolean was appointed as Department Patriotic Instructor. I am sure Tim will do his best to honor the position and the boys who wore the Blue.

May 17 was a great day for our Camp, as the Kent County Civil War monument was dismantled and sent to Cincinnati, OH for restoration. Although the monument by itself has attracted much attention over the past three years, it was hard not to attract interested citizens, folks with cameras, and those passing by. **Robinson Cartage** provided, as part of their contribution, a lift with basket, a 40,000-ton crane and three men. **Van's Trucking** provided a state-of-the-art flat bed truck with an accordion-styled cover and four men. The **City of Grand Rapids** also had three men on duty to assist wherever needed. The work these men did was exceptional and one might think they dismantled and transported monuments everyday.

I suppose many of you have seen the toppling of the Saddam Hussein monument in Baghdad by the people and the rejoicing that followed. We experienced something similar with our monument. There was a construction crew working on the nearby Police Station and when the crane lifted the soldier off the monument, they stopped working and clapped, whistled and cheered...it made all the hard work seem just a bit easier to bear.

One of the highlights, and there were many that day, was when they finally began taking the different sections apart, the City Park's Supervisor gave Brother Blakely and me the 117-year-old zinc bolts that have held the monument together as a memento of the occasion. Another highlight was to be able to stand face-to-face with our faithful soldier and look into his eyes. They seemed to reflect the vision of that of the soldiers to whom the monument was dedicated, clear, looking forward and resolved. We gave the honor of the first introduction to Brother Blakely (*photo on the page 28*).

There were several things we found quite amazing; the first was the fact that the only thing keeping our soldier at "Parade Rest" and connected to the second section was an eight-inch bolt, a quarter-of-an-inch in diameter in the front between his feet...that's it. The detail of the buttons on the soldier's greatcoat was as if they had recently painted the brass buttons blue...the eagle was very clear. The inside condition of the monument was also unbelievable...it was a clean and bright as the day it was cast; there wasn't even any cobwebs. The entire monument was only one-inch deep into the concrete foundation.

On the 26th of May, our Camp was spread thin as we participated in five functions that day. The first two were in the cemeteries of Poplar Hill and Monterey near Hopkins and again the crowds for these small communities was amazing. As

Brother Blakely was in attendance last year, but elsewhere this year, the people kept asking for him.

True Son Harold Becker and Brother's Blakely and Kolean, CJVC attended the dedication of a new Veteran's Memorial park in Belmont, just a short distance from where the home that Brother Blakely's father built before his passing still stands. Several others of our Camp as well as the Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC and the Eva Gray Tent No. 2, DUV participated in a "Troop Train" reenactment in Coopersville to honor veterans. The reenactment included military vehicles, veterans, the Ottawa County Red Cross dressed in WW II nurses uniforms, a Civil War Refreshment Saloon, and more. Brother Blakely was allowed to ride in the engine with the engineer and crew...he of course utilized the cord to blow the whistle. All this took place while I was in Bay City at another memorial service.

Those that participated will remember the 2003 Memorial Day services forever. Since our soldier (the Monument) was gone, we participated in a daylong event from 7 AM until 9 PM sharing a Civil War presence in Monument Park. We set up a tent and "stood guard" on a rotation basis over our City. All throughout the day, passerby's waved, honked and saluted.

At noon, about twenty students from **Godwin Heights Middle School** (that school raised close to \$7,300 for the monument) came to Monument Park and read the names of the 537 men who had lost their life in the war. Two students from the **Godwin South Elementary** also presented us a check for \$700, raised from a "penny war" they had. In all, we spent about two hours with the students. The Champlin Corps presented a new flag to the Middle School and the Eva Gray Tent gave a new flag to South Elementary; we demonstrated the correct method and reason for folding the flag properly.

At 6 PM that day, we held our usual services at Monument Park and then the Allied Orders marched in the parade. I stood on the Monument's foundation at "Present Arms" through the entire one-hour parade and received salute after salute from veterans and current military units. Marcia gave the benediction as National Chaplain of the WRC for the combined United Veterans Council of Kent County Memorial Day services.

In keeping with our philosophy that standing still just doesn't things accomplished, we also began working to restore the Rockford Civil War Monument in May. When I approached the City of Rockford, they were just tickled that someone (Camp 1) would care enough to help them preserve their history.

In this day and age, when many complain of the lack of history understood by our students, the community of Rockford is blessed with students who not only study history, but help preserve it as well. Of course, there are also some dedicated teachers who guide these students in the right direction.

The restoration of this monument was made possible by the generosity of the students from **East and North Rockford Middle Schools** through their participation in the project, "*Together...we CAN do it!*" This service-learning project,

sponsored by the Grand Rapids Allied Orders, offers students an opportunity to not only learn about the history of the Civil War, but to give something back to their community.

After a one-hour "living history" presentation on the Civil War, the students bring in a can of food, with a dollar bill attached. The money is used to preserve our historical tributes and the food is given to area food banks for those less fortunate. The students learn about history, help save it, and then learn the character values of caring, giving and sharing.

The restoration work (the cap visor, broken by a falling branch in 1999) was done by Grand Rapids-area sculptor, John Schneider of **Schneider Creations, LLC**. **Patten Monument** did the relocation of the monument and the **City of Rockford** cleaned the monument, provided equipment for the project, installed the new foundation, and lent its support.

From a letter I sent to the City expressing our concerns over the fact that their website billed the Monument's new location as a recreational park rather than the Memorial Park it was titled as, the City of Rockford has plans to renovate this Memorial Park in the near future. These plans include creating a walkway, with benches for area residents to relax and reflect. A new flagpole with night lighting will be installed and the Area Garden Club will add floral color. It is even the City's intention to create additional tributes to recognize Rockford's citizens for their service and sacrifice in other wars our Nation has fought in.

It is rewarding to see a community rally in support of projects like this. The Monument was rededicated on Father's Day and those in attendance were extremely grateful for our efforts...all because we took the time to act upon our beliefs and purpose. The Rockford Monument was the 6th memorial our Camp has cleaned, restored and rededicated in the last three years; we have about 40 more to go.

A very special "Thank You" to Brothers John Keith and Bill and Brandon Brennan of Camp 20 for their attendance and support in the ceremony.

In closing, at our June meeting, the Camp tentatively agreed to start our monthly meetings in the cemetery of the Veteran's Home by doing Graves Registration work for about an hour and then going in to conduct our regular meeting. We also have plans to add a second date in which to meet monthly in order to concentrate on our Graves work.

GEN. ISRAEL B. RICHARDSON

CAMP 2 ~ OAKLAND COUNTY

Bruce Miller, CC

Memorial week was a busy one for the Department of Michigan's newest Camp. For the first time, the Camp was included in one of the counties largest observances of Memorial Day, the Royal Oak Memorial Society ceremony held on 26 May. Following the parade down Main Street, the memorial service was held in the Oakview Cemetery. Over 300 people

ringed the platform and local dignitaries spoke. The keynote address was delivered by U.S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg. Knollenberg was followed by Camp Commander Bruce Miller who explained the origins of Decoration Day through the GAR and General Order No. 11.



Camp Commander Bruce Miller (Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp 2) chats with U. S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg about the SUVCW prior to delivering his speech on the origins of Decoration Day at the Memorial Day ceremonies held in Royal Oak, MI.

On 30 May, the Camp gathered for the traditional service held each year at General Richardson's grave in the Oak Hill cemetery in Pontiac. Brother Jim Harris delivered the keynote address memorializing General Richardson and all those who wore the blue. JVC Kevin Lindsey read "The Unknown Dead" and Kevin's son, William, delivered a flawless rendition of "taps" on his bugle. Thanks to a fine article in that day's edition of The Oakland Press, several spectators attended the ceremony and brought the Camp new contacts in the Oakland County veterans and historical communities.

AUSTIN BLAIR

CAMP 7 ~ JACKSON

Mark D. Heath, CC

Now that the May parades and memorials are behind us we look forward to starting this summer's activities. Various members of Camp 7 will be participating at the June 14th Flag Day event in Lansing. On that day we will also be represented in Vandercook, Michigan at a WWII Veteran's memorial rededication of a restored plaque. Brother Lowe was instrumental in helping the local American Legion with this project.

On June 21st we find ourselves again doing double duty, as we will have members at both the Ft. Wayne Re-enactor's

day and the Pioneer Days in Parma, Michigan. Brother Tyrl felt that the event in Parma could use our assistance. I agreed, so off we'll go.

Then it's down to Jonesville, Michigan on the 28th of June, for the town's 175th Anniversary. The day begins with a parade (well I thought the parades were behind us!) and then there will be a GAR monument rededication at 11 am at the Park on US 12. Camp 7 is very excited about working with Department Commander Butgereit and his wife Marcia, who will be one of the representatives from the WRC. Camp Commander Esterline from Camp 22 in Litchfield and Brothers of that Camp will also be participating.

Let me see... that's the Department of Michigan, Camp's 1, 22, 7 and Auxiliary, along with the WRC (Women's Relief Corps). Now that's what I call members of the Allied Orders in cooperation to help preserve the memory of those who serve from 1861-1865.

As I run through June's activities one more time to make sure I don't miss a date I see at the top of my list, that I'm about ready to miss deadline for this issue's article in the Messenger, so I'm off to e-mail my contribution in.

Ahh! ... a Camp Commander's job is never done.

ROBERT FINCH

CAMP 14 ~ TRAVERSE CITY

Wm. E. Skillman, CC

Department Commander Butgereit and Brothers. Since the April 1 Annual Report, Robert Finch Camp 14 has added 1 Member and 1 Associate--giving us a total of 30 Members, 8 of those being Associates.

Memorial Day. Camp 14 has been very active and well represented around the Northwestern region this Holiday. Camp Secretary/Dept. Vice Commander Neal Breaugh and Dutch Herringa were in Northport to present the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Geo. Anderson for his untiring efforts to preserve the memory of the GAR (and other) veterans from that town. Further south, Historian George Goodrich participated in Memorial Day ceremonies with his artillery section in Ludington. Brother Alex Greficz represented Camp 14 on Memorial Day Ceremonies in both Gaylord and in Vanderbilt.

I had the pleasure of leading a contingent from Camp 14 (Thank you; Color Bearer Jan White, Jr. Guide Jim Johnson, Camp Guard Hal Chase, Jim Ribby, Howard Byrne, Charles Heffer, Josh Kuchmuck, and Tyler Putnam) during the honorarium at Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City. Past Commander Al Pifer and his wife Marge represented the USMC. The keynote speaker was retired Navy Captain and astronaut Jerry Leninger. Capt. Leninger recognized the passing of his classmates, brothers in arms, and fellow astronauts/cosmonauts. After surviving two disasters in space that nearly took his life and those of his two Russian comrades, Capt.

Leninger began writing letters to his two young sons. For him, freedom means taking each moment and to appreciate the simple pleasures such as the wind blowing in his face, taking a shower (to mention a few of the absent pleasures he came to appreciate during his epic voyage in space), and enjoying the company of his family and friends. Capt. Leninger suggested that the attendees take time on this Holiday to thank all of the veterans who they knew "for taking time from their lives to help preserve our freedom". His closing remarks brought forth applause and a standing ovation from the crowd.

Following the ceremony, Brother Kuchmuck lead Camp members to the GAR (McPherson Post) plots to pay our respects to the over 20 veterans buried there.

Newly admitted Brother Jeff Morris is a student at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. He informed me that he was selected (from over 400 students) as Historian of the Year. Brother Morris has submitted a pair of contributions to the Messenger that stemmed from his visit (also in attendance was Senior Vice Commander Jim Slis) to Lake Ann over Memorial Day (*article on page 26, ed.*). Brothers Putnam and Ribby represented the Camp at a Civil War Muster and Live Shoot at the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club. Tyler (with fellow re-enactors of the 26th Michigan Infantry), fired his new Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle at targets 50 yards away. Tyler discovered that he and his comrades missed the target more often than they hit it, just like the original soldiers. Past Commander Al Pifer is still active visiting community schools, libraries, fraternal organizations and has been featured on TCTV2. Commander Pifer (attired in a Union soldier's uniform) presents selections from his collection of original Civil War artifacts, describes their function or purpose, combined with a colorful anecdote on how he acquired each of them. The items were often given or sold to him from descendents of the original veterans, both North and South.

On June 10th the Robert Finch Camp will present the National and Camp colors for the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSF) luncheon meeting at the Elks Lodge. Representing the Camp will be Jim Slis, Neal Breaugh, Jim Johnson, Bill Lackey, Tyler Putnam, and Commander Skillman. SVC Jim Slis is the president of Grand Traverse Area Chapter, and Brothers Lakey, Jim Johnson, and Neal Breaugh are Members. On Flag Day, Camp 14 will attend ceremonies at the Elks Lodge in Traverse City. We expect to field the largest Camp contingent ever for this ceremony.

Camp 14 has joined the Grand Traverse Veterans & Auxiliaries Association so that we can increase our participation in local memorial and patriotic events.

Under the leadership of Marge Pifer and the help of Bill & Dorothy Lowe (of the Austin Blair Camp & Auxiliary), we are actively pursuing formation an Auxiliary for the Robert Finch Camp.

Our next meeting (Saturday July 26th) is scheduled to be at Past Commander Pifer's home. We will use the occasion to have a picnic featuring food prepared using original Civil War recipes by the members (I issued a challenge for the men to do

the cooking). Other ideas being considered are period games, music, poetry and activities; introducing members to the period drill, identifying bugle calls and other soldierly pursuits, both serious and humorous. We would like to extend our invitation to any Brother who would like to attend to contact Secretary/Treasurer Neal Breaugh or myself.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF CAMP 22 ~ MARSHALL

John Lohrstorfer

At our June 5th meeting, we were honored by the presence of PCC Ty Streeter, home on leave from USMC after service in Kuwait & Iraq. He was part of a USMC Recon unit assisting Special Forces in the rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch. He was wounded in the upper leg, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Navy Cross. Well done!

Also, new member Craig Berg of Battle Creek was initiated. His ancestor was Jacob Rauch, who served in the US Navy in 1864 aboard the USS Decatur.

Camp 22's new Color Guard, consisting of Lou Cuyler, Steve Datema, Howard Streeter and Blaine Valentine, performed its first service on June 12th with the flag presentation for the opening concert of the season for the Post Band Concert at the Post/General Foods headquarters. They will also provide this service for the five remaining concerts this summer.

Regarding the cover photo on the last issue of the Messenger, the coat of arms is NOT that of the State of Michigan, which does not contain a lion or a crown. This obviously a German coat of arms, is probably that of Schwabia!

GEORGE W. ANDERSON CAMP 58 ~ DEWITT

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

On May 24th, Camp 58 had the honor of rededicating the G.A.R. Monument as part of Wacousta's Memorial Day Observances. It has been 102 years after the original dedication by the members of the Joseph Mason Post in Wacousta and through the years the white marble statue has endured the elements and the work of vandals. The statue's hands and musket had been broken sometime in the late 1960's and in 1996 our Brother Kent Armstrong along with the township supervisor initiated a fundraising campaign to restore the statue. A sculptor was commissioned to do the work that would exceed \$16,000. The sculptor completed the work of cleaning and forming new stone to the statue in 2002 and a rededication ceremony was then planned for this Memorial Day.

Members of Camp 58 along with the Michigan National Guard Band marched in the parade through the village of Wacousta, stopping once at the bridge at the Looking Glass

River for a musket salute and wreath lying in memory of the



Camp 58 members assembled before the GAR monument in St. John's Mt. Rest Cemetery, May 30th.

Navy. The precession continued on to the cemetery where appropriate services were conducted and a Flag was presented by our Camp to fly continuously over the monument. Camp Secretary Mark Pangburn also set up a living history encampment in a nearby park with help from some of his reenactor friends to share the soldier's experience with the public. Camp 58 is proud to see this project completed and would like to thank National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong, Department Senior Vice Commander Neal Breaugh and G.A.R. Records Officer Jim Lyons for their attendance and sharing this accomplishment with us.

On May 30th, members of Camp 58 participated in the City of St. Johns' traditional observance of Memorial Day. We marched along with the VFW and American Legion through the city to Mt. Rest Cemetery where appropriate services were conducted at the modern War Veteran's Memorial as well as the G.A.R. Monument. There were over 150 casket flags donated by deceased veterans' families that lined the drives though the cemetery, which delivered an impressive display for the day. A new American Flag was donated and presented to the cemetery sexton by the Camp to be flown over the G.A.R. Monument.

Camp 58 looks forward to an active summer with the completion of Gratiot County's Graves Registration and Memorials work. We hope to have the completed forms

submitted by summer's end. We will also continue to present local Boy Scouts with our Eagle Certificates.

ULYSSES S. GRANT *CAMP 101 ~ DETROIT*

Michael D. Nick - CC

Greetings from Detroit. Although we've been quiet lately, we're all still here. Hope all is well with the rest of you. Things are beginning to get quite busy around here. After the long hard cold Michigan winter we are ready for summer, as I'm sure all of you are.

Our Memorial Day ceremony was once again a big success. One of the local TV stations was there as well. WJBK TV2 put a remote microphone on me and filmed the entire event. Any and all exposure our Camp and organization can get from the media and the community is wonderful. This year we changed our time from 2:00 pm to 11:00 am and it seemed to work out very well. We all felt it was more convenient for us as members, but also for the public to have the ceremony at an earlier time.

As many of you are aware, Civil War Days at Greenfield Village in Dearborn during Memorial Day weekend was cancelled this year. The Village is finishing up a yearlong complete renovation and will not open backup to the public till sometime in June. The event was greatly missed, but we will all look forward to next year.

Coming up on June 21-22 we are participating in Civil War Days at historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. It is once again being hosted by the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B and the Detroit Historical Museum. This will be the second year for the event, and we're hoping for bigger and better turn out than last year. Our Camp will be setting up an information booth/fly to help answer questions related to the Civil War, SUVCW, our Camp, etc. If anyone happens to be in the area that weekend please feel free to stop by. We'd love to see you.

Camp 101 and myself in particular would like to thank Rick Danes for continuing to help in Graves Registration in the City of Detroit. He himself has completed two more cemeteries in the city. That only leaves 15 of 39 left to be completed. Without him I'm not sure we wouldn't have much of anything done. Thank you again.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Detroit is slated for dismantling in June/July. It will be rebuilt in a park in front of the new Compuware World Headquarters at Campus Martius in downtown Detroit. It is actually going to be moved 144 ft. from its current location. Once the park is completed in the summer 2004, it is Camp 101's hope, as well as the Departments, to have a rededication ceremony in conjunction with other Camps, veterans' organizations, and the City of Detroit. More details to follow from Doug Armstrong. I'm relaying all my information to him.

Membership is still consistent, but we are in hopes of welcoming several new members very soon into the Camp. Our Camp also just made a recent purchase of a 12 x 12 fly for

shelter during events. This should help us out considerably during the hot summer months.

GOV. HENRY CRAPO *CAMP 145 ~ FLINT/FLUSHING*

Rick Greene

The May 26th Memorial Day saw Brothers of Gov. Crapo Camp 145 participating in Memorial activities in Flushing, Flint, Fenton, Mayville, Vernon, Fostoria, and Bay City. On the true Decoration Day, May 30th, the Camp met at Aventine Cemetery in Flint to remember the sacrifices of approximately 50 veterans who are at rest there. In 1994 the Camp "adopted" Aventine Cemetery, on Chavez Drive, clearing away brush and debris left by years of neglect. Since that time Brothers of the Camp have maintained the cemetery, the final resting place of 35 Civil War Veterans. Annually, on May 30th a Memorial service is held there, including a guard mount from noon until the onset of evening ceremonies, and the reading of the names of the Gov. Crapo Post 145, G.A.R.

On May 30th the sunken and neglected G.A.R. monument, located on the lawn of the Genesee County court house was extracted and moved to its new spot, elsewhere on the court house lawn. The new site allows the monument to be a focal point in an all new landscape scheduled for completion in late summer. Several Camp Brothers took various parts in the move. Brother Wade Chapman coordinated the assistance of the United Auto Workers, who affected the move.

Later, in June, the Camp will present its Civil War Veterans Research Project at Crossroads Village, celebrate its Annual Camp picnic at Flushing Park and assist in the visit of the Moving Viet Nam Wall at Blue Bell Beach in Burton, MI.

ALBERT AND JAMES LYON *CAMP 266 ~ MENOMINEE*

Philip N. Parks, CC

On April 12, 2003 we had a day of remembering our beginning as a Camp back in March of 1997. Then we met at the VFW Hall in Dagget, MI which is a short distance from the Masonic Temple Building in downtown Menominee where we gathered this past April. Menominee is about a four hour drive southwest of Houghton-Hancock area. Never the less we did have ten members and two guests. One guest was Mary Johns who is a staff writer for the "Eagle Herald" of Marinette and Menominee. She had written an advance article announcing and describing our planned grave side memorial service.

The first order of business was our presentation of a certificate of Appreciation to the first Commander of the Albert and James Lyon Camp 266, Patrick Kennedy. Getting the Camp on its way initially takes a great deal of dedicated work. We are happy to say that he remains very much engaged in keeping things rolling.

We went from our business meeting to the Riverside Cemetery just outside of the city. There we proceeded to pay tribute to the memory of Albert and James Lyon. The musket, canteen, haversack and knapsack were set leaning against the grave stone. The presentation of the wreath of evergreen, the single red rose, the laurel wreath and the U.S. flag were the symbols to honor our fallen comrades. The Chaplain's prayer was offered and taps were played to bring the ceremony to a close.

We gathered for several pictures at the grave site and near the granite Civil War monument. This central Monument in the military section of the cemetery was due to the dedicated giving and working of the original GAR Post 266. From the copy of the minutes of the meetings from 1887 to 1895, one can see the determination of the Post to work and give so that a monument would be erected. The brass plaque at the base of the monument reads: "Dedicated by the Lyon's Post of the Grand Army of the Republic". July 30, 1893.

There are several weekends this summer that Camp 266 has been invited to take advantage of the opportunity for public relations and requirement for the SUVCW. On June 13-14 our own JVC, Jim Decremer will be managing the Annual Gun and Knife Show at the UP Fair Grounds in Escanaba. The weekend of June 20-22 the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 7th Civil War Living History Encampment. Several units of re-enactors have been invited from Wisconsin in which there are many members of the Wisconsin SUVCW. Then the weekend of August 9-10 we have also been invited to participate in the annual Civil War Encampment sponsored by the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, "Iron Ore and the Civil



Standing vigil at the Lyon gravesite.

War". We are prepared to pass out flyers on several subjects important to all of us.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY *CAMP 427 ~ DEARBORN*

Rick Danes, Secretary-Treasurer

Greetings to all Brothers, Sisters, and Friends.

Camp 427 continues to spread the good word about our organization through community activities centered in the southeast part of our fine state.

Since our last Messenger report, the Camp has participated in the following activities:

- Sportsmen for Scouting Exhibition at Gerber Scout Camp in Twin Lakes, part of the Gerald R. Ford Council, BSA.
- Greenfield Village's Civil War Days.
- Canton Township Historical Society's Cherry Hill Cemetery presentation.
- City of Dearborn Art on the Avenue (interpretive duty at the Dearbornville Arsenal)
- Public May 30th Memorial Service at the Dearbornville Arsenal.
- Reviewing and documenting gravesites in Monroe County.
- Documenting Civil War Memorials in Monroe County.

The last item, with the closing of Camp 76 in Monroe, has been taken on by Camp 427. We have also invited the previous members of that Camp to join us, but to date have not received any responses. We wish that group of previous members well.

We have attended the first wedding of Camp members. JVC Jeffrey Montminy and Melissa Carden, daughter of Bernice and PCC Rick Carden (deceased) were wed on June 7th in Dearborn. We wish them both the best.

At Art on the Avenue, Commander Jerry Olson had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Cosbey, a direct descendent of our Camp's namesake, Sgt. John S. Cosbey. Mr. Cosbey promised to communicate regularly with Jerry from his new home in Florida, and share information about his ancestor for our history.

We hope that the summer is good for you.

(Please see Camp 427 accompanying photo on page 27, ed.)

MARK THOMPSON

G.A.R. POST 269

PLAINWELL, MICHIGAN

John R. Keith, Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

I have lived in Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan for most of my life. After years of seeing the GAR Post 269 flag holders in the local cemeteries, I finally decided to investigate the Mark Thompson G.A.R. POST 269 located in Plainwell.

First I sent away to the Michigan State Archives. They sent me a copy of the first Adjutant's Report of POST 269.

Dated October 29th, 1884, it states 25 members in good standing. The officers are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Post Commander | Norton P. Kellogg |
| Senior Vice Commander | D. E. White |
| Junior Vice Commander | H. D. Talbot |
| Adjutant | O. Tomlinson |
| Quarter Master | Elias Anway |
| Surgeon | John Heath |
| Chaplain | John Garver |
| Officer of the Day | C. J. Poore |
| Officer of the Guard | Arthur Lillec |
| Sergeant Major | H. L. Laine |
| Quarter Master Sergeant | C. E. Whitney |

They met at first, on every alternate Wednesday, in the Plainwell Grange No. 271 on Bridge Street. I have yet to locate where the Grange was on Bridge Street.

Through the years they changed meeting places. In 1891 they opened a new hall above the Bliss Shoe Store. The fire map for 1904 shows the G.A.R. Hall to be located in the old Eureka Opera House on the corner of Chart and South Main Streets. I want to thank Ms. Sandra Stamm for her help in locating these facts on Post 269.

The Mark Thompson G.A.R. Post 269 was named to honor a native son from Gun Plains Township, Allegan County, Michigan who gave his life for the cause.

Marcus C. Thompson enlisted as a Private on 21 August 1862 at the age of 19 in Company I, 5th Michigan Cavalry Regiment. He was one of "Custer's Wolverines". He was eventually promoted to Full Corporal.

On 11 June 1864 at Trevillian Station, VA, he was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville Prison. He died of dysentery on 03 September 1864 in Andersonville Prison. He is buried in Andersonville National Cemetery in grave 7797.

Here are some statements concerning Cpl. Thompson from the Memories of Mrs. Sophia Bush 1820-1908. Mrs. Bush is also buried at Woodside Cemetery! I quote:

"Marcus, Dr. Thompson's second son, went into the army at the age of 19 and became a martyr to the cause of freedom. He died in Andersonville Prison. The Plainwell Grand Army Post was named for him."

Also she wrote, "When the second call for troops came, most of the lads on the Plains" (Gun Plain Township), "were not of age to enlist, nor could have endured camp life. Several did go who might better have stayed at home, for they lost their lives. Marcus Thompson, a delicate young man, was taken prisoner and cast into Andersonville, where he died a martyr, to starvation. It was Mr. John Murphy who brought home the intelligence of Marcus Thompson's death. I remember going to Silver Creek with Mrs. Thompson to see him, but we did not find him at home. He afterwards called upon Mrs. Thompson.

William White, who was also a prisoner at Andersonville, came to see Mrs. Thompson at the close of the war and brought messages. He told her all about her son's sickness and suffering, and of the condition of things in prison. Mr. White, being a stronger man, was able to do a good deal for Marcus."

At Woodside Cemetery, Gun Plains Township, Allegan County in the Thompson Family plot, his family erected a Memorial stone. Next his mother's grave there stands this stone, placed their by his family over 130 years ago. To ensure we never forget what he did for his country!

On the personal side of this essay for me is, my wife and I own a piece of the land that Dr. Cyrenus Thompson, Marcus' father once owned. Sometimes, I can almost see in my backyard a young Marcus playing, hunting etc. Never realizing in his carefree youth that he would be one of the BRAVE that would die for his country, OUR country.



Eureka Opera House, Plainwell, MI

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

BURIED AT ELMWOOD CEMETERY, DETROIT

Michael Nick, U. S. Grant Camp 101

JOSEPH S. KEEN

Sergeant
Company D
13th Michigan Infantry

Born July 24, 1843 at Stanford-in-the-Vale, England. Died in Detroit on December 3, 1926. Joseph Keen was a farmer by occupation and an officer in the Detroit Oak Belting Company.

Mr. Keen enlisted as a Private, for three years in Company D, 13th Michigan Infantry at Detroit on February 1, 1862. He was mustered in on February 27. Keen was twice promoted: to Corporal, August 31, 1862, and Sargent on April 1, 1863.

Joseph was wounded and taken prisoner at Chickamauga, Georgia on September 20, 1863. He was confined in the Confederate prisons at Richmond, Danville, and Andersonville. He escaped on September 10, 1864 at Macon, Georgia. Following the escape and during the period of his attempt to return to Union lines Keen observed the movement of General Hood's forces (40,000 Confederate soldiers) crossing the Chatahoochee River to flank Sherman's army in the rear. Keen boldly walked through the Confederate marching columns, camps, and pickets. He reached Union lines near Atlanta on October 1, and reported his information to General Kirkpatrick.

Keen was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 31, 1899 for carrying and reporting information on enemy troop movements near the Chatahoochee River.

Joseph S. Keen was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit December 6, 1926. He is interred in Section 10, Lot 12.

EDWIN T. SAVACOOOL

Captain
1st New York (Lincoln) Cavalry

Born in Jackson, Michigan in 1835. Died on June 5, 1865, at Washington D.C., as a result of wounds received at Sailor's Creek, Virginia on April 6 of that year.

Mr. Savacool entered the service in Marshall, Michigan. He attained the rank of Captain in the 1st New York (Lincoln) Cavalry.

Edwin received his citation for the capture of the enemy flag during the battle at Sailor's Creek. He was wounded during the battle and was taken to a hospital in Washington, D.C. where he died as a result of his wounds.

The remains were shipped to Marshall, Michigan and he was buried in Oakridge Cemetery. His remains were removed to Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit on January 13, 1883. He is interred in Section A 2nd, Lot 59.

*Data for Medal of Honor
Recipients compiled by Camp 101
member and General Manager of*

Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit, Chancey Miller.

FREDERIC W. SWIFT

Brevet Brigadier General
U.S. Volunteers

Born in Mansfield, Connecticut January 30, 1831, Died January 30, 1916, his 85th birthday.

He came to Detroit in September of 1847 and started a shoe business. He and his brother were later in the drug manufacturing business. He was appointed Postmaster of Detroit in 1866 and served in that office for eight years.

Swift entered military service on June 17, 1862 as Captain in the 17th Michigan Infantry. He was made Lt. Colonel on November 26, 1863. Swift was taken prisoner at Spottsylvania, Virginia, on May 12, 1864, and was exchanged on August 3 of the same year. He was made Colonel in December of 1864 and breveted Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers on March 13, 1865. During the period of his service, he participated in battles at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, and at Jackson, Mississippi. Swift mustered out of service on June 3, 1865.

General Swift was given the Congressional Medal of Honor on February 15, 1897. The citation was for gallantly seizing the colors and rallying the regiment after three color bearers had been shot and the regiment, having become demoralized, was in imminent danger of capture, at Lenoir Station, Tennessee, on November 16, 1863.

Frederic William Swift was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit. He is interred in Section H, Lot 23.

LEWIS CANFIELD

Private
Company F
11th Michigan Cavalry

Great Grandfather
of
Richard G. Hutchins
Gilluly-Kingsley Camp 12



In the fall of 1863, the Eleventh Michigan Cavalry was organized at Kalamazoo, Michigan. My great grandfather, Lewis B. Canfield, age 23, enlisted in Company F of that regiment, at Leroy, Michigan. He was mustered as a private.

The Eleventh moved from Michigan to Lexington, Kentucky on the 17th of December, 1863. The unit remained in that area until the fall of 1864, when it became a part of the force of General Burbridge which moved against Saltville, Virginia. Burbridge attacked the entrenched Confederates with dismounted cavalry and failed, leaving the wounded on the field of battle. Following the battle, many of the wounded Union black troopers were murdered by men under the command of Confederate Captain Champ Ferguson.

My grandfather lay wounded on that bloody field. Later he was moved to the Henry and Emery College that was being used as a Confederate Military Hospital. He was well cared for there, but died from his wounds January 10, 1865 and was buried on the college grounds.

From May 7, 1867 to March 16, 1868, sixty-six Union soldier's graves were moved from the hospital cemetery at Henry and Emery College, Virginia to the Knoxville National Cemetery in Tennessee.

The official cemetery records state:

Lewis Canbell, 11th Mass. Cav.
Sec. 11, Grave No. 77, Knoxville, TN
Original place of interment—Hospital at
Henry and Emery College, VA

No doubt the wooden grave marker was weathered and hard to read, or a clerk got the wrong information. To my knowledge, there was no 11th Massachusetts Cavalry, nor a Lewis Canbell in the 11th Michigan Cavalry. I believe my great grandfather, Lewis Canfield is in that grave.

Lewis' wife, Louisa, gave birth to Lucina Bell Canfield, my grandmother, 28 days after her father's death. She joined a long list of fatherless children in the north, as well as the south.

*SOLOMON STEGRIS**(STAGRAY)*

Bugler
Company C
5th Michigan Cavalry

Great Great Grandfather
of
Len McNerey
Gen. Phil Kearney Camp 67



Solomon Stergris enlisted in Company C, 5th Michigan Cavalry on 18 August 1862. According to his military records he was 22 years old, 5'7" in height, had brown hair and brown eyes, and had a dark complexion. The records state he was born in Switzerland and was a peddler by trade.

As a member of the 5th, he was part of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade led by the newly appointed Brigadier General, 24 year old George A. Custer. The Michigan Cavalry Brigade was made up of the 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th Michigan Cavalry Regiments. They first saw action at Hanover, Pennsylvania on June 30, 1863. Then on July 3rd they engaged the Confederate cavalry forces under the command of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at the Battle of Gettysburg. On September 28, 1863, at Gettysburg, the 5th was issued Spencer Repeating Rifles.

Solomon is recorded as dying of disease at Culpepper Court House, Virginia. He never saw his son who was born in 1862. One family legend has it that Solomon, having his horse shot from under him, ran alongside his pards blowing "Charge" on his bugle, and dying of heat stroke! Another story tells that he was dragged by his horse for a mile with his foot caught in the stirrup after falling from the saddle.

He was probably buried in the unknown section in the Culpepper Court House Cemetery. I stopped there years ago and looked the cemetery over. No stone marker for Solomon was found. To this day, if I visit a southern cemetery, I will sprinkle some Michigan soil from my backyard on the graves of those who served from Michigan to preserve the Union.

OREN WRIGHT HODGES

Corporal
Company I
17th Michigan Infantry

Great Uncle
Of
Paul D. Hodges, PDC
Curtenius Guard Camp 17

Oren Wright Hodges was born at Spring Arbor, Michigan, on February 1, 1842. He was the tenth of twelve children of Drusus, Jr. and Eliza (Meagher) Hodges.

At Lawrence, Michigan, where the family was living and farming in 1862, Oren enlisted as a corporal and his brother Herrick as first sergeant of Company I, 17th Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, on May 29. They were mustered into service on August 15 at Detroit.

September 14th found them in the Battle of South Mountain, Maryland. A shell fragment struck Oren's left forearm, disabling him by depriving him of use of his left hand. (Herrick was wounded three days later in the Battle of Antietam.) Oren was admitted to the U. S. General Hospital in Chester, Pennsylvania, on October 2. He was discharged from service April 14, 1863, at Philadelphia and was awarded a pension.

Oren returned to Michigan and worked as a store clerk in Decatur. There he married Elizabeth Stanley Duffin on March 14, 1870. Their son, Herbert Oren Hodges, was born in Decatur on July 17, 1874. Oren later worked as a railroad clerk in Chicago where he lived more than 20 years.

Oren returned to Michigan and became a resident of the Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids. An active member of its John A. Logan GAR Post 1, he served three terms as Post Commander.

Oren Wright Hodges died at the Soldiers Home on December 16, 1910, and was buried in the adjoining cemetery.

REUBEN DANIELS

Corporal
Company H
45th Pennsylvania Infantry

Grandfather
of
Donald F. Daniels
George W. Howe Camp 9

Reuben Daniels, son of Barna and Matilda (Close) Daniels, was born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, August 19, 1833. He came to St. Clair County, Michigan in November 1865 and homesteaded some acreage west of the city of St. Clair. He married Emily Jane Chaffee on December 1, 1866 and they had one son, William F. Daniels, who served five years in the U.S. Army, obtaining the rank of Sgt. Major, and was a Columbian Guard at the first Worlds Fair in Chicago, Illinois. William also served in the Spanish American War in Cuba.

Mrs. Emily Jane Daniels passed away January 3, 1873. Reuben married again to Sarah Jane Johnston on February 7, 1880 at Kimball Township, St. Clair County, Michigan, and had one child, Reuben Melvin Daniels, my father, who was born May 9, 1889.

Grandpa Daniels, who was a farmer, enlisted at Tioga, Pennsylvania. on September 18, 1861 at the age of 26. He joined Company H, 45th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 9th Army Corp as a Private and was promoted to Corporal. On October 10, 1863, he was shot in the left jaw and through the shoulder at Blue Springs, Tennessee. He was taken to the army hospital at Knoxville where he remained three months.

On May 6, 1864, at the battle of the Wilderness, he was again wounded, this time in the right shoulder breaking the collar bone (I have the mini-ball that hit him). He was cared for in Fredericksburg Hospital and at Germantown, Pennsylvania for four and a half months.

(Continued on page 23)

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He was furloughed for fifteen days and again on January 2, 1865 for thirty days. He was honorably discharged on January 1, 1865, near Alexandria, Virginia, re-enlisting the same day as a veteran in his old command. He took part in the battles of James Island, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Blue Springs, the Wilderness and several skirmishes. Amacy and James Chaffee, brothers of his first wife, were also in the service from Michigan.

Comrade Reuben Daniels' great-grandmother Daniels was a sister to Benjamin Franklin. After the Civil War, Reuben Daniels was a member of William Sanborn Post 98, GAR¹, received a pension², and was a farmer³. Grandpa Reuben Daniels died on July 30, 1895 in St. Clair Township, St. Clair County, Michigan at the age of 61 years, 11 months, and 11 days.

My wife Sandy and I visited Antietam a few years ago, and while checking in with the Park Rangers, we found out that Grandpa was with General Burnside at the Antietam Bridge. I had the thrill of walking across the bridge, seeing the stone fence, and I felt very proud of my Grandfather.

My Dad, Reuben M. Daniels, always said that his father was a small man, who was an invalid, needing help to get dressed and could not work. With both shoulders and the jaw shot up, it is a wonder that he lived 30 years after the war ended.

On May 28, 1995, we dedicated a new grave marker for Grandpa Reuben in the Smith Cemetery, Kimball Township, Michigan. We had the firing squad of the St. Clair County Allied Veterans do the honors. I am sorry to report that at that time, I did not know about the SUVCW.

On November 11, 2000, my wife and I attended a formal dedication of a new marker for Sandy's great-great-great Grandfather, Michael Patrick Coggins, who served with Company K, 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in the old Catholic Cemetery in Flint, Michigan. Brother Coggins died on May 1, 1876 at Fraser Township, Bay County, Michigan and was interred in Flint. The SUVCW Camp in Flint conducted a beautiful graveside ceremony complete with firing squad. It was a very impressive ceremony!

Rest In Peace Grandpa, you both earned it.

¹ Source: *Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen: Soldiers Edition, Volume II, page 1189; by H.H. Hardesty, copyright 1895.*

² Source: *Discharge Papers*



Reubin Daniels

*Born 19 August 1833
Tioga Co., PA*

*Died 30 July 1895
St. Clair Co., MI*

SEWELL A. ABBOTT

Private
Company B
8th New Hampshire Infantry

Great, Great Grandfather
of
John R. Keith
Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20



Sewell (Sewall) A. Abbott, enlisted in Company B, 8th New Hampshire Infantry on November 25, 1861, to serve three years. He enlisted at Exeter, New Hampshire. His occupation at time of enlistment was shoemaker. He was 19 years of age.

Private Abbott was born in Raymond, New Hampshire on January 4th, 1842 to Sewell & Sally Locke Abbott. On a sad note, his father died January 5, 1842, just one day after Sewell A's birth.

The following is by John M. Stanyan, Captain Eighth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteer infantry, and Historian of the Regiment.

“Enlistments for the Eighth Regiment began early in the month of September, 1861. The first company went into ‘Camp Currier’ at Manchester, N. H., on October 12, and on the 9th of December the regiment was full. On January 25, 1862, it was transferred from ‘Camp Currier’ to Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor. On February 16 six companies under the command of Col. Hawkes Fearing Jr., embarked on the ship ‘E. Wilder Farley,’ destined on the ‘Butler Expedition’ to reach Ship Island in Mississippi Sound. On the 18th day of February, the four remaining companies, Lieut. Col. O.W. Lull commanding, left for the same destination on the ship ‘Eliza and Ella.’ On March 18, 1862, the first named arrived at Ship Island; and on March 29, after a very stormy and uncomfortable passage, the ‘Eliza and Ella’ anchored at the rendezvous, and the regiment pitched its

camp at about two miles from the landing, and the nearest of any to a passable drill area on a sandy patch.

On April 9, 1862, the regiment was in line with fourteen thousand troops passing in review before Maj. Gen. B. F. Butler, commanding. On April 25 General Butler, having arrived in New Orleans, ordered through Brigadier General Shepley, Lieutenant-Colonel Lull with two hundred and fifty men take possession of Forts Pike, Wood, and Macomb.

On May 4 the above orders were carried out, Companies A, F, and K being chosen for that purpose. On May 21 the right wing pitched its tents at ‘Camp Parapet,’ just above Carrollton; and on July 6, the last company, F, coming in, the regiment was again together.

On September 19, 1862, Companies A, B, G, and K, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Lull, went up to Pass Manchac, and drove in the enemy's pickets. On October 11 another expedition to the Pass, was executed by the same officer, with Companies G and H. They surprised the enemy and captured seven rebels.

On October 15, at ‘Camp Kearney,’ Carrollton, the regiment formed a part of General Weitzel's brigade, which included the Seventy-fifth New York, First Louisiana, and the Twelfth and Thirteenth Connecticut regiments, the Sixth Massachusetts and First Maine batteries, Perkins, company of Massachusetts Cavalry,

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(Continued from page 24)

and Barrett's, Godfrey's, and Williamson's companies of Louisiana Cavalry. On October 24 the brigade sailed for Donaldsonville, landed, and on the 26th followed the Bayou Lafourche in a westerly direction, the Eighth and Perkins's cavalry being transferred to the right bank.

At Georgia Landing, or Labadieville, the enemy was in ambush, but were driven off. A general engagement ensued which resulted in a Union victory, seventeen of the enemy being killed, including their colonel, McPheeters, a large number wounded, and one hundred and seventy prisoners being taken. Our regimental loss was, twelve killed, thirty-two wounded, and one missing. Among the killed were two of the best of our line officers, Captains Warren and Kelliher. The brigade pushed on to Thibodeau. There, by the appointment of General Butler, Lieut. Col. O. W. Lull held court as provost judge, Company B detailed as provost guard.

On December 30 the brigade was broken up. Company B remained at Thibodeaux, and the remainder of the regiment marched to Baton Rouge, and camped opposite on the west side of the river. The destruction of the rebel armed steamer "Cotton" occurred in the first part of January, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lull in that affair acted as chief-of-staff to General Weitzel.

On January 23, 1863, the regiment moved to the east side and quartered in tents on the Bluff, comprising, with the Fourth Wisconsin, the One Hundred and Thirty-third and One Hundred and Seventy-third New York regiments, and Nims's battery, the second brigade of Emory's division, and commanded by Acting Brig. Gen. Halbert E. Paine. At this time Lieutenant-Colonel Lull, with Company B, returned from Thibodeaux and rejoined the regiment.

On February 7, at 3 a.m., the brigade, with the regular battery under Lieutenant Norris (in place of Nims), under command of General Paine, started for Indian Village on Bayou Plaquemine. It was intended to rout a force of Confederates supposed to be on an island at the junction of the bayous Plaquemine and Grossetete, but by orders from General Emory the exploration of the country was left to Colonel Currie, and General Paine with the Eighth and his own regiment, the Fourth Wisconsin, returned to Plaquemine and embarked for Algiers, where the force remained in camp until March 5, when the two regiments went up the river, and on the 10th the brigade was reunited at Baton Rouge.

On March 13, under orders, the brigade started towards Port Hudson, at the head of Emory's division. At 11 p.m. bivouacked. At 2 a.m. on the 14th advanced again. At 11 a.m. reached the twelve-mile post from Baton

Rouge. The fleet having passed Port Hudson, General Banks ordered a return, saying that the 'object of the expedition had been accomplished.' On the 20th returned to Baton Rouge, and had daily brigade drills on the race course, 28th, it moved to 'Camp Indiana,' beyond the cemetery.

On April 3 the Second Brigade, under General Paine went to Algiers, kept up the daily brigade drills until the 7th, and then started for Brashear City en route of first Red River expedition. It was found that the enemy was well fortified at Bisland near Centreville. During this and the following day the Eighth was in the front line of attack, and at the final advance on the 14th the General planted the flag of the Eighth on the crest of the enemy's works. At Opelousas on April 20 Company G was ordered to become mounted infantry."

This closes an account of the campaigns of Private Abbott's regiment that passed almost the whole of its term of service in an extreme southern state.

The Eighth New Hampshire Volunteers was at Ship Island, Miss., attached to First Brigade, Department of the Gulf, March 18 to May, 1862: at "Camp Parapet," near Carrollton, La., in Department of the Gulf, May to October, 1862; attached to Reserve Brigade, Department of the Gulf; October, 1862; Second Brigade, Third Division, Department of the Gulf, January 13, 1863.

Private Sewell Abbott during these military campaigns developed "Night Blindness", due to the rigors of camp life and the poor diet they were given. On May 2, 1863, Private Abbott was discharged for disability due to the affects of night blindness at Opelousas, Louisiana.

Sewall A. & Alice L. Tenney Abbott had two sons. The first born was my Great Grandfather, born Sewell E. on 4-17-1865 & Arthur E, born 5-3-1868. Another sad note to this essay is Sewall A. Abbott died on January 25, 1870, of consumption (TB). My Great Grandfather, named Sewell E. Abbott at birth, somehow, after his father's death ended up in Allegan County, Michigan, the adopted son of Edwin & Sarah Cole Bucknell. He was known by Everett Abbott Bucknell the rest of his life.

Sewell A. Abbott is my Great, Great Grandfather. I honored his memory by joining the Sons under his service of duty to our country.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

LAKE ANN CEMETERY

Lake Ann, Benzie County, MI

May 26, 2003

Jeff W. Morse, Robert Finch Camp 14

Today we honor all Veterans, past and present for their service to this country. More specifically we are recognizing three Veterans who served in this nation's most horrific conflict. This war was terrible because it pitted Americans against Americans, and in some instances Brother against Brother. It was the American Civil War.

This Great War saw over 3 million participants on both Union and Confederate sides with over half a million men dying for their respective cause. Also, this war left several other hundreds of thousands of men and women living with disabilities and the memories of this terrible chapter in United States history. Furthermore, it is important to note that more Americans died in this war alone than all American conflicts put together up to the Vietnam era.

However, this war did spawn a new chapter in this young nation that directly affected Almira Township. At the onset of the war in 1861, Almira Township had very few inhabitants. As a direct result of the Civil War, President Lincoln had signed into law, *the Homestead Act* that saw a mass exodus of people from the East seeking land and a new way of life. Thus, Civil War Veterans led the way, pushing further into the interior of the United States and its newly acquired territories that had ever been settled before. And Almira Township and its small settlements were no exceptions.

The two Veterans buried here are just two of 23 known Grand Army of the Republic Veterans buried in the Township.

Joab Somers, who served with the Iowa 1st Cavalry, saw extensive action in the western theatre during his five years of service as a teamster. He moved to Almira sometime around 1870, married and died in 1913. With the exception of knowing that a family with the same last name operated a store where the present day B & M Party Store now stands, little else is known about Mr. Somers.

The second Veteran is Reuben E. Stetson. Mr. Stetson served in Company B of the 164th New York Infantry, which was a highly decorated and most colorful unit. The 164th was made up of mostly Irish immigrants from Buffalo and New York City. This unit was commonly called the Cochrane Guard or the Irish Legion. Their uniform was very colorfully ordained, with bright red leggings and a green sash. This was the common garb of the Zouave Regiments of the Union Army.

Mr. Stetson's regiment saw extensive action in the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and the Siege of Petersburg in 1864. It is here that after six months of siege that Stetson's unit fought gallantly along side the highly decorated veterans of the 20th Maine and General Joshua Chamberlain at

the Battle of the Crater. It was at this action that the 164th lost a good many of its men. Despite these circumstances two of its members won the "Medal of Honor".

Mr. Stetson moved to the township settlement of Osborn in 1880, married Lydia Monroe in 1881 and had four children, Birney, Bertha, Frank and Effie. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic Post in either Lake Ann or Traverse City. He passed on in 1896 and very little else is known about Stetson and his descendants.

And speaking of the "Medal of Honor", it brings us to our last Veteran we are honoring on this day: Charles Sancrainte, who moved to the Lake Ann area around 1870 and served as one of its first Township Officers. Mr. Sancrainte, who lived just down the road on the big hill just to the West of the Village and that point on Lake Ann Lake still bears his name. Sancrainte was a member of the 15th Michigan, Co. B, and won his Medal of Honor, the first given to an enlisted man, in actions against Confederate forces outside Atlanta in July 1864. His heroics are detailed in a book about Michigan Medal of Honor recipients. It is worth noting that Sancrainte didn't receive his citation until 1892, while living here in Almira Township. He died in 1910 while in Buffalo, New York and is buried there.

Finally, it is with great respect and affection that we honor these Veterans and all Veterans living or deceased for their sacrifices in keeping this great nation great and free.

The
Deadline
 for the Fall issue of
Michigan's Messenger
 is
September 15th

Articles and photos must be *received* by this date to assure their inclusion in the Summer issue. Computer text files, either as a part of the e-mail body or attached file method, may be sent to the editor at:

jrmsucw@aol.com.

Photos *must* be mailed to:

John Mann, Editor

Michigan's Messenger

2495 Washington Road

Lansing, MI 48911-7216

COMING EVENTS

JULY

4th **Independence Day**
The 227th anniversary of our Country's founding.

19th & 20th **Hastings, MI**
Charlton Park Civil War Re-enactment.

25th, 26th & 27th **Campbellsville, KY**
National Civil War Band Festival, sponsored by the American Civil War Institute and Campbellsville University and held on the grounds of Campbellsville University. Thirteen Nationally known Civil War Bands will be participating. For more information contact David M. McCullough (270) 789-5058 or e-mail dmmccullough@campbellsville.edu

AUGUST

7th, 8th & 9th **Ft. Mitchell, KY**
The 122nd National Encampment of the SUVCW will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, just off I-75 exit 186 (KY). See the Banner for details concerning the encampment or log onto the National web site @ www.suvcw.org. Ft. Mitchell is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, OH.

23rd & 24th **Jackson, MI**
Civil War Muster at Cascades Park

SEPTEMBER

15th **Messenger Deadline**

OCTOBER

4th **Grand Rapids, MI**
10:00 am re-dedication of the Kent County Civil War Monument in downtown Grand Rapids. For further information please see the article on page 10.

4th **Grand Rapids, MI**
1:15 to 5:00 pm, SUVCW Central Region Conference hosted by the Department of Michigan. For further information please see the article on page 11.

FEBRUARY 2004

21st **Lansing, MI**
Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Lodge.

APRIL 2004

24th **Grand Rapids, MI**
Department Encampment at the Airport Hilton Hotel.



Participating in a traditional GAR Memorial Service on May 30, 2003, were Camp 427's JVC Jeffrey Montminy, Anne Podolski, Member Bob Zimmerman, CC Jerry Olson, and SVC Rick Danes. Not shown but tending the camera was Mary Olson. The service, presented by Camp 427 at the Dearbornville Arsenal Commandant's HQ, was open to the public.



~ *WANTED* ~
INFORMATION
On the location of
G.A.R Post Records and
Charters
and
S.U.V. Camp Records and
Charters

If you know the whereabouts of any of these items, whether in public or private hands, please contact

James T. Lyons, PDC, Chmn.
G.A.R. Records Committee
14650 Willowbrook Drive
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-8491
(616) 374-7847
jtlcof@voyager.net

REAL SON MEETS "CIVIL WAR SOLDIER"



True Son Ed Blakely was on hand when the Kent County Civil War Monument was dismantled for renovation, May 17. When the soldier that has stood guard atop the monument these past 117 years was lowered to the ground, Brother Blakely couldn't resist walking up and introducing himself to the unsmiling sentinel, who, like his counterparts at Buckingham Palace, ignoring Brother Blakely and staring straight ahead, unwaveringly held his position at guard.

Pictured left to right are, Department Commander Bruce Butgeriet, True Son Ed Blakely and monument conservator Mercene Karkadoulias, of Karkadoulias Bronze Arts.

For more information on the monument and its upcoming re-construction and re-dedication, turn to page 10.

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

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
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