



Michigan's

# Messenger

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

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## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

*Gary L. Gibson, DC*

As with the summer issue of Michigan's Messenger, this issue and the next two will be shorter, 8 pages in length. That is because we simply cannot afford to continue producing 20 to 28 pages every quarter. Last fiscal year, the Messenger went over budget by \$1,700.00. This year, we have budgeted \$5,050.00 just for the newsletter. The newsletter has taken an ever-increasing portion of our operating funds (membership dues) and this resource has been decreasing, as we have been losing Camps and membership over the last few years. (560 down to 501) This year, the projected income from total per capita is set at \$14,400, or an increase of \$1,631.00 over the actual amount collected last year. Declining membership numbers have not been taken into account.

There is another way to look at this. In the last fiscal year, (2003-2004), after we sent the per capita payment to the National Organization, the amount left over was \$3,500.00 according to the figures presented by the Treasurer. This constitutes the "base income" for the Department operations for the year. The Messenger budget line was \$3,026.00, or 86% of our operating income. Other income, from the sale of hat badges and blazer patches totaled about \$1,416.00 this past year, and took some of the pressure off. Fortunately, nothing was spent on many of the line items in the budget and minimal amounts in

most others. We simply cannot continue doing this, or we shall be dipping into our savings every year to make up the deficit and eventually go broke.

This year's summer issue cost us \$636.65, including printing, labeling and mailing. The average cost for each issue last fiscal year was \$1,178.00. Publishing the Messenger is not the sole purpose of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is a "perk" that we have been able to provide the membership for several years. If we continue with 8 pages per issue, we can easily bring our spending under control. This will leave more funds to do the work of the Order.

I would also like you to consider something else. What if we were to offer the option of receiving the Messenger via email? This would cut our expenses considerably. I ask that all Camps discuss this and even try to come up with alternatives. This problem affects all of us, so all of us should have a say in it. Camp Commanders; please forward comments and ideas to Department Headquarters. By tightening our belts now, we can ensure the financial stability of our Department for the future, and we will have the funds to continue the work of the SUVCW.

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# TAPS

## HERBERT D. EVERETT

15 JANUARY 1934 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2004

### COLEGROVE – WOODRUFF CAMP 22 MARSHALL

A member since 1994, Brother Everett served in the Camp Color Guard. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, stationed in Friedberg, Germany until 1955.

Brother Everett was the great-grandson of Sergeant George Washington Everett, Battery B, First Tennessee Light Artillery.

## HELP HAS ARRIVED

Two Brothers have responded to the "Want AD" seeking help with the publications efforts of the Department. We are still working out the mechanics to make the best use of their interests and skills in this important work.

Brother David T. Wallace, of Camp 145, who lives in Burton, has already designed a new recruiting flyer for use by our Camps. He has also agreed to do the task of collecting articles from the Camps for publication in Michigan's Messenger.

The other volunteer is Brother Paul Herbert of Camp 266, who lives in Fairfax, Virginia.

*We still need an Editor for the newsletter at the earliest possible time.*

## PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

### WHY ACTUAL PHOTOS ARE NECESSARY

Briefly, the reason electronic photo files are not used is three fold. 1st, my printer is not of a high enough quality to print a photo that is good enough to be "shot" by the printshop to make a halftone for offset press printing. Unless an inkjet or laser printer can print at very high quality or TRUE photo quality, 2400 dpi (dots per inch) or higher, the result looks muddy when converted to halftone.

2nd, the quality of electronic files varies tremendously, especially those taken with digital cameras. A minimum resolution of 3 mega pixels should be used for 4 x 6 photos, especially if they are to be cropped and the cropped area enlarged. What looks acceptable on a computer screen doesn't necessarily look good in print.

3rd, the printshop can take the electronic file and convert it directly to a halftone, but that doubles the processing cost per photo. The Messenger already consumes a major portion of the Department's budget and by having everyone snail mail their photos, the result is the Messenger is a higher quality product and costs the Department (you, our members) less to print.

The **Deadline** for the  
Winter 2004 Issue  
of Michigan's Messenger is

## December 15th

All articles and photos must be in the hands of the editor by this date to ensure inclusion. Text files may be submitted by e-mail (attached file preferred). Please use the subject line, *Messenger Article*. Photos **MUST** be mailed (**actual photographs only**). Include a SASE if photos are to be returned. No electronic photo files accepted.

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## DEPARTMENT ORDERS #2

### SERIES 2004-05

**1.** It is with personal sadness that I report the passing of Past Commander-in-Chief Richard C. Schlenker, of the Department of Maryland. Dick served as C-in-C from 1982 - 83, with his wife Doris as National President of the Auxiliary. Those of us who were privileged to know Dick looked forward to seeing him at the National Encampments for several years. He served for many years as the Washington, DC Representative of the SUVCW, and was voted Emeritus status a few years ago. Dick's passing is truly a loss for the Order.

**2.** The Department Charter and all Camp Charters are hereby ordered draped for a period of thirty days in memory of PC-in-C Schlenker.

**3.** Brothers are hereby ordered to either drape their badge ribbons with black per regulations, or, wear the department's black mourning ribbon, for a period of thirty days.

By the order of:

*Gary L. Gibson*

Commander

Department of Michigan

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS #3

### SERIES 2004-05

**1.** I am sure I speak for all brothers of the Department in extending congratulations and saying "well done" to Past Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong. Kent's term in office was very successful in moving the Order forward.

**2.** The Department extends its congratulations to the following brothers who were elected/appointed to national office: James B. Pahl, PDC, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief; Max Newman, National Treasurer; and Bruce Butgereit, PDC, National Patriotic Instructor. Please see the article on the National Encampment elsewhere in this issue.

**3.** The Department Encampment has been set for Saturday, April 23, 2005, at the Holiday Inn West in Lansing. Please mark your calendars.

**4.** The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2005, at the Midway Motor Lodge (the usual site) in Lansing. All camp officers and brothers are encouraged to attend. That evening, the annual Lincoln / Washington Birthday Dinner will be held, hosted by the Michigan Society, Sons of the Revolution Please plan to attend.

**5.** There seems to be confusion in regards to the Eagle Scout Certificate Program. As the National Organization has a program in place for recognizing Eagle Scouts, only the certificate issued by the National Quartermaster is to be used. All others are not valid. Camps are expected to have an Eagle Scout Coordinator appointed by the Camp Commander. As requests are received via regular camp correspondence, the Department Coordinator, or the National Coordinator, the camp issues the certificate. This can be done one of two ways. A representative of the camp can arrange to attend the Court of Honor, or, the certificate can be sent to the requestor, and forwarded on to the scout. Of course, the former is preferable. The certificate has a space at the bottom for signature by a "commander", so that it can be signed by a camp or department commander, or the Commander-in-Chief. To my dismay, I have found that very few camps actually have a Coordinator. I encourage each camp commander to designate an Eagle Scout Coordinator, as this program benefits not only the Scouting program, but, it also gets the name of the Order out before the public, and possibly new members for your camp. All Camp Eagle Scout Coordinators, and those with questions, are requested to contact Bro. Dennis Derr, Department Eagle Scout Coordinator, at DDERR@chartermi.net.

**6.** As the end of the year approaches, it is time to start thinking about camp officer elections. It is a great honor to be elected to an office, but with that honor goes responsibility. I encourage all brothers to consider how they can serve their camp, be it in an elected office, appointed staff position, or a committee assignment. Incoming camp commanders are reminded to keep all brothers active in the work of the Order. By the same token, brothers are encouraged to let their commanders know they are interested in a certain program or project.

**7.** If there are any camps or brothers who are in need of assistance, be it questions on regulations, procedures, recruitment of new members, anything at all, I hope you would feel welcome to contact myself, or a department officer/staff member at any time. I have an open door policy to any brother. The real work of the Order happens at the camp level. The Department's function is to be a resource to ensure the individual camps success. Several of our smaller camps may feel overwhelmed by the several programs and projects the SUVCW is involved in. In this case, it might be wise to focus on one program, such as graves registration. I would like to see the larger camps each "buddy up" with a smaller camp that is close by, and offer assistance any way possible. Developing a good, working relationship between camps can only be beneficial to both.

**8.** Through the efforts of Brothers Bruce Butgereit, Michael Nick and Doug Armstrong, the Department is being kept abreast of the progress on the Detroit Soldiers' and Sailors'

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued from page 3*

Monument. There will be a ceremony opening the new park at Campus Martius on November 19, however, the monument would not have a prominent place in the program. Bruce has proposed to the city a plan for a ceremony on Saturday, April 9, 2005 for the monument. This would actually be the 133rd anniversary of the original dedication. This idea has been received favorably by the city, and we hope will be acted upon accordingly.

**9.** Remembrance Day will be held in Gettysburg on Saturday, November 20. If you are planning to attend, we will meet at the Michigan Section of the National Cemetery at 8:00am, to place the flags on the graves. Following the parade and ceremonies at the high Water Mark, we will hold a brief wreath laying ceremony at the 7th Michigan Monument.

**10.** It is not too early to start to think about the elections for the Department. We will need to fill several positions, most importantly, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider serving your brothers in some capacity.

**11.** The Department was saddened to receive the news of the passing of Brother Herbert Everett of Camp 22. Condolences are extended to the family, and the brothers of his camp.

By the order of:

Attest:

*Gary L. Gibson*  
Commander  
Department of Michigan

*Richard Lee*  
Secretary  
Department of Michigan

~ CIVIL WAR ~

Cannons boomed and muskets roared  
Captains yelled and brave men fought.  
Upon the field where rain had poured  
Awash in mud, freedom was sought.

A battle fought for their children and wives  
They knew the price that must be paid.  
Many would have to pay with their lives  
In hopes that their dreams would never fade.

Brother fighting brother in the rain  
No end in sight to this dreadful day.  
But even after all the death and pain  
Their leaders could find no other way.

Upon this battlefield so drear  
Carrion birds circle up above.  
Men search for their friends they hold dear  
Fearing the Lord now embraced them in love.

*By Scott Stone*

**NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT NEWS**

*James B. Pahl, PDC*

The 123rd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at the Collins plaza hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 13-15. 19 brothers of the Department of Michigan were present, with 18 registered as delegates. There were approximately 155 delegates present. All Departments sent delegates except for the Department of Maine. There were a number of first-time attendees and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Michigan's own Kent Armstrong of Camp 58 in DeWitt ended his very successful term as Commander-in-Chief. We can all take pride in Brother Kent for an outstanding year.

Once again, the Michigan Department's leadership and prominence in the National Organization was shown. Brother James. B. Pahl, PDC, was elected Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, and will serve another term as National Counselor. Brother Max Newman was re-elected to the office of National Treasurer, Brother Bruce Butgereit, PDC, was appointed National Patriotic Instructor, and P-C-in-C Kent Armstrong has one more year on the Council of Administration. An additional honor for brother Pahl was the awarding of the Order's highest recognition, the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star.

Changes in the Constitution & Regulations were few. One of the most important changes was increasing the number of elected seats on the Council of Administration, from three to five. Regulations were amended to allow past nationally elected officers the honor of wearing the national ribbon on their membership badge in perpetuity. Michigan brothers affected by this change are James Lyons, David Wallace, Doug Park and Gary Gibson.

Other changes include the creation of a permanent GAR Records Officer position, a GAR Records Committee, the incorporation of graves registration information from the National Cemeteries into our database, and the authorization to create a full SUVCW Funeral Service to be included in the ritual book, in addition to the "5 minute" service currently in use.

National Regulations Chapter IV, Sons of Veterans Reserve, was amended to allow for the promotion of the commander of the SVR to the rank of Major General, when the membership in the SVR rises above 1,500.

The order's ROTC medal can now be awarded to any grade level, including Junior ROTC. The criteria for awarding the medal states that the commanding officer of the ROTC selects the cadet who displays a patriotic spirit and excellent academic performance.

The Encampment received greetings from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Their representatives informed us that the Daughters will hold their National Convention in St. Louis, MO, in 2007, the same dates and city as the SUVCW, Auxiliary and Ladies of the GAR. The DUVCW will attend our Allied Orders Banquet during the encampment.

## DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

*John R. Keith*

Hello, I'm John R. Keith I belong to the Gen. Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20. I have been a member 3 years now so I know there are several of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet. But in time I hope to!

Just a few months ago, after Bro. Hodges stepped down from his position as Department Historian, Department Commander Gibson appointed me to that position. I thank Commander Gibson for his trust in me and I only hope I can come close to doing the great job Bro. Hodges did during his tenure as Department Historian. We all owe him our gratitude and thanks for the efforts he put forth for the good of our order! "Bro. Hodges, Thanks for a job well done!!"

I look forward to receiving anything anyone of you deems fitting to keep in our Department Archives. We all know how important it is to keep records of what we do as an Allied Order! So many records of G.A.R. are gone and irretrievable. That to me is a shame and a crisis, as is family records and memories that no one wrote down and are also lost forever.

With your help we can be assured that what we have done in our order will never be "lost forever".

Please send items or information to:  
John R. Keith 950 106th Avenue Plainwell, MI 49080  
Or to e-mail: [Hardtackw@aol.com](mailto:Hardtackw@aol.com)

I will serve you as your historian to the best of my abilities!

## COOPERATION: THE KEY!



**TEAM WORK!** In the process of honoring all veterans Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22, honored a request to get a new stone for this Revolutionary War veteran. His original stone was broken in three pieces. Isaac Grant not only fought to create the United States but his Grandson, Sgt. Isaac Grant of the Tenth Michigan Cavalry fought to preserve the Union in the Civil War. Their descendant, the late Don Pace, fought in WW I and when he died he was the oldest member in the Department of Michigan, 104 years old. Brother Harthy is also a President Emeritus of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan. Pictured from left to right are: Max Miller, Louie Cuyler, Ron Lewis, Bill Lowe, Chuck Harthy and Howard Streeter.

## HISTORIC NAME RESTORED

*Ceremony Highlights Island Park's Civil War History*

*Bob Hoffman*

A special ceremony held June 26 in Eaton Rapids celebrated a restored name, highlighted a unique piece of Civil War history and gave the island itself a financial boost.

Brother Bob Hoffman an Eaton Rapids native and PCC of Austin Blair Camp # 7 researched the parks history and found that it was officially named Grand Army of the Republic Park by the Common Council of the city of Eaton Rapids on July 13 1909. The park was so named because of the Eaton County Battalion Encampments held on the island each year from 1908 through 1929.

Over the years a financially strapped city has been unable to repair or replace a sea wall around the island park that sets in the Grand River one block east of the down town district. A group calling itself Friends of the Island was formed in 2001 to help finance the repairs and undertook to raise \$100,000 through various fund raising projects. One of these projects was the sale of commemorative bricks.

Recognizing the importance of the park to the historic and cultural heritage of the city Brother Hoffman approached Camp # 7 about buying one of the commemorative bricks. Not only did the camp think that this was a good idea they encouraged Brother Hoffman to expand the sale of bricks to other members of the SUVCW. Brother John Mann volunteered to assist in the project and contacted many of our camps to advise of the program and acted as liaison between the camps and the Department. Many Thanks to John. Through all our combined efforts we raised \$800.00.

At the 2004 Department Encampment a resolution was passed supporting the proposition that the City of Eaton Rapids restore the name Grand Army of the Republic Park to the island. Brother Hoffman presented the resolution to the City Council in late May and the motion passed unanimously.

Another aspect of the June 26 ceremony was the unveiling of a plaque highlighting a unique piece of Civil War history. In 1910 the James B. Brainerd Post of the G.A.R. obtained from the War Department a 4.2 inch Parrott Rifle and installed it in the Park. Research has uncovered that this cannon was one of 5 of an experimental model made for the Union Army in 1864 and that it may be the only example still existing.

A well drilled and military looking Honor Guard from Austin Blair Camp #7 provided an excellent background as PDC Jim Lyons presented the check to a representative of the Friends of the Island and the unveiling of the historic plaque. From time to time Brothers have asked when the bricks they purchased will be installed. That question was passed off to City Superintendent Scott Poyer who advised that city work crews would start installing some of the 300 already engraved bricks as soon as it can be scheduled.

## JOHN A. LOGAN CAMP 1 ~ GRAND RAPIDS

*Tim Kolean, CC*

John A. Logan Camp No. 1 has had a busy last few months. Memorial Day weekend was full of activities for the camp. Several Camp 1 brothers attended the Michigan Monument dedication at the Andersonville National Historic Site on May 30. On May 31, Camp 1 was present at both the Grand Rapids and Wayland Memorial Day ceremonies. Also on May 31, Henry E. Plant Camp 3, John A. Logan Camp 1 and the Allied Orders conducted a service of dedication for a Civil War memorial at the William Montague Ferry Park in Ferrysburg Michigan. The Memorial was the hard work of Eagle Scout Michael Brower. The Monument listed the names of all who served in the Civil War in the Tri-City area. Afterwards a picnic was held at the Park.

On the Fourth of July, members of Camp 1 were present at the Jackson rededication service of "Defense of the Flag" Monument. PDC Bruce B. Butgereit presided over the ceremony along with Austin Blair Camp 7.

On July 17, Camp 1 conducted a Headstone Dedication Service for Sgt. John N. Baker of the 10th Michigan Cavalry Co. H.. Present were members of Camp 1, Camp 3, Champlin Corps No. 41 WRC and Eva Gray Tent No. 2 DUVCW.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans held its annual carnival for Veterans on July 31. Camp 1 and Champlin Corps 41 WRC sponsored a ring toss game booth. All veterans who came by our booth could choose from a selection of prizes, such as tee shirts, socks, puzzles, or toiletries. A good time was had by all.

## Henry E. Plant Camp 3 ~ Grand Haven

*Daniel Grable - Secretary*

Summertime is usually a lazy, easy going, less busy period for most Camps. For the Henry E. Plant Camp 3 this has been true in summers past. But this year was different in that we had at least one or maybe two activities a month during the summer.

It all started in May with our Memorial Day activities. But it had a slow start when a rainstorm came through early in the morning

causing the Spring Lake parade and memorial ceremonies, which we always participate in, had to be canceled. Then finally that afternoon the Camp participated in the dedication of the Tri-Cities (Grand Haven, Spring Lake & Ferrysburg) Civil War Monument.

The research for and building of the monument was the service project of Eagle Scout (and Civil War re-enactor) Michael Brower of Spring Lake. The monument is located in William Montague Ferry Park in Ferrysburg and contains the names of the men who served during the Civil War who lived in or had connections to the Northwest Ottawa County area. From our Camp Daniel Grable participated as a color bearer, John Baldus, Don Ogden and Jon Scott as the firing squad and Commander Richard Scott as the Officer of the Guard.

In June the Camp presented a public program on the Civil War for kids in the 8th grade and younger. It was part of the summer learning and reading program at the Loutit District (Grand Haven) and Spring Lake District Libraries. The program was presented at each library on the same day. The topics we included were the uniforms of Union soldiers from the middle of the war and rifles, bayonets and artillery used during the war. Also some of our Brothers presented Civil War experiences of their ancestors. Our programs ended with a short presentation on how Henry E. Plant earned and received his Medal of Honor. These presentations were well received.

There was an interesting event that occurred at the Loutit Library presentation when an older re-enactor attended in a Confederate uniform.

On the 1st of July the Tri-Cities Museum in Grand Haven held a grand opening of their new main building in downtown Grand Haven. This was after a two-year renovation of the previous retail building. Our Camp attended the Grand Opening in honor of Healey Cady Akeley, a Grand Haven lumber baron and Civil War veteran with the 2nd Michigan Cavalry who built the two-story retail building in 1871 and because our Camp holds its meetings at the museum. Also along with this new building the museum will continue using the original train depot building. While there TV station WOOD-TV 8 from Grand Rapids captured our Brothers John Bauldus and Richard Scott in Civil War uniform looking at the display on the area's

fire departments in the museum. Brother Bauldus is a retired fireman from the City of Grand Haven. The pictures were used as part of the station's teasers and story on the Grand Opening of the new museum on the local 6 P.M. news program. Also while departing after the ceremonies our Commander, Richard Scott and his son Jon, both in Civil War uniforms, had their picture taken in front of the museum with a manikin in a period dress by a photographer from the Grand Haven Tribune. The photo appeared on the front page of the newspaper with the article on the event. It was the only picture from the Grand Opening.

Later in July we participated in the headstone dedication service for Sgt. John N. Baker, Co. H, 10th Michigan Cavalry at Lakeside Cemetery in Muskegon conducted by the allied orders from Grand Rapids and the Muskegon County VFW Honor Guard.

Finally we ended our summer activities in August by going to Ludington and conducting an afternoon of grave registration work in the Lakeview Cemetery. Plans are in the works for researching the cemetery's records and spending more time at the cemetery at a later date.

## ROBERT FINCH CAMP 14 ~ TRAVERSE CITY

*Wm. E. Skillman, Senior Vice Commander*

The membership roll for Robert Finch Camp #14 shows a total of 41 Members, 10 are Associates. Our meetings are now held at the Elks Club on 625 Bay Street (at the intersection of Division/Grandview Parkway). Our next meeting is scheduled to start at noon, November 13th.

Our July meeting was a picnic held at PCC Al and Marge Pifer's home; 33 guests attended. SUVCW Commander in Chief Kent Armstrong (accompanied by wife Judy and daughter Nicole), Senior Vice Commander Steven and Danielle Michaels, and Michigan Dept. Commander Bruce Butgeriet and wife Marcia were honored guests. Commander-in-Chief Armstrong presented WW 2 Certificates to Brothers Ashman Stoddard and Chuck Heffer; Brothers Clarence Rabach and Bill Lakey (not in attendance) were honored later.

The highlight of the gathering was the formal installation of the Ladies Auxiliary, Frances Finch Camp # 9. New officers are

Marge Pifer (President), Marian Solem (Vice President), Mary Lautner (Treasurer), Alice Labar (Patriotic Instructor), Mary Rose (Secretary). Marcia Butgereit represented the Frances Finch Auxiliary at the ASUVCW Encampment in Cedar Rapids. CC Breagh received on behalf of the Camp a beautiful certificate from President Danielle Michaels "In grateful Appreciation of exceptional leadership and dedication in the organization of Frances Finch Auxiliary # 9"

We had a number of Brothers participate in the Independence Day ceremonies in Traverse City, Lake Ann and other locations. Brother Jeff Morse (one of the organizers of the Lake Ann Homecoming Days), Dutch Herringa, Jim Slis, Tyler Putman & Don Gray represented both Camp #14 and the 26th Michigan Infantry at the event.

Breagh and Skillman assisted author Ken Overmeyer during the Sleeping Bear Dune 'Port Oneida Festival'. They educated visitors about the local residents of Leelanau County who fought in the Civil War, and who returned to farm the lands that are now part of the National Park.

The Grand Traverse Area Civil War Soldier Restoration project continues to build momentum. Since May 25th we have raised \$28,000 towards our goal of \$80, 000. CC Breagh, Jim Slis, Chuck Lerchen and other volunteers have spoken before the Kiwanis, Downtown Development Authority, and have busy schedules through the Fall. Marcene Karadoulis will be coming to Traverse City on November 15 to dismantle the monument and transport it to her foundry in Cincinnati to begin restoration.

The September 11th meeting was a solemn occasion as Camp members recalled the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. three years ago. Due to the continuing growth of Camp 14 we had to move to our new location at the Elks Club. With the larger space we are finally able to set up the Camp as prescribed by regulations, the first opportunity we have had since the Camp moved to Traverse City.

On September 19th members of Camp 14 are invited to again participate in a candlelight ceremony honoring the POW/MIA's of America's wars at the small park at the junction of Front and Railroad streets. Members are encouraged to wear SUV attire (blue blazer and kepi). Brother's Tyler Putnam, Jim Ribby and Don Gray will be

representing the Camp at the Grand Traverse Heritage Festival to educate visiting children from the TC school district.

## **GENERAL PRITCHARD CAMP 20 ~ KALAMAZOO**

*Charles Worley, Secretary*

Greetings from Camp 20 in Kalamazoo! Farmers have told me that a dry year will starve you and a wet year will scare you. I know it has been very rainy this summer but there has been no time to be scared. Again this year our camp has hit the ground running and now I can write a few lines about what we've been up to.

We've been encouraged by Department Commander Gary Gibson's general order number 9 to increase our camp membership by five this year. The recruitment of new members to our order has been a subject of all our agendas and has gotten us at least thinking about where to meet and invite interested men to join us. We've put together a membership committee and are waiting to hear their ideas and report. In the meantime, The members of Camp 20 would like the Department to welcome Glenn and David Hall of Otsego. Glenn is on staff at Western Michigan University and his son David, whose interest in the Civil War first brought them to us, is a freshman in high school this year. Their Civil War ancestor was James L. Green of Company E of the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. We also would like to welcome Mark Anderson of Kalamazoo who applied through the National SUVCW website and was directed our way. Mark represents his 3rd Great Uncle, James R. Anderson of Company K, 66th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Mixed in between our Memorial Day events and the end of summer, we have had several very well attended headstone rededication ceremonies. Brother John Keith did the research and planning for the ceremonies of Corporal Dokey and Private William White in the Allegan County area. Brother Jeff Baker planned the tribute for his own Great Grandfather Private William Baker at the West Highland Cemetery on the east side of the state. In April, our camp also participated and presented the SUVCW burial service for our late brother Adelbert Farnsworth. All of these ceremonies were very touching and an honor to share with family, friends and brothers.

A monument to the 25th Michigan regiment in the city of Kalamazoo has had a hard time surviving the changes of its neighborhood over the years. It is a granite boulder with an inlaid plaque. The plaque has been stolen off the boulder twice in recent years. The monument came to our attention and a committee, headed by Brother Bill Goggin, has researched and chose the best way to restore the plaque and hopefully let the monument become a respected historical treasure. Camp 20 looks forward to a rededication ceremony early in 2005 as we remember this regiment of Michiganders.

As recent as Labor Day, the members of Camp 20 participated in another restored and rededicated monument. Last year our own Brother John Shoemaker, a member of the Plainwell VFW Post, played a part in restoring an iron GAR arch at the entrance to the Hillside Cemetery on the outskirts of Plainwell. The members of the VFW notice the iron was rusted through and took it upon themselves to save the arch. Brother Shoemaker asked his SUV brothers to do the ceremony and Brother John Keith brought together the speakers and a joint service with the members of the VFW. Afterwards, our families joined the families of the VFW for their annual Labor Day potluck picnic. Everyone had a great time making conversation with new friends. All together the day was a fitting tribute to an old iron arch and those veterans laid to rest behind it.

Before I wrap this news report up, I want to mention that Camp Commander Steve Rossio and the resources of the Portage branch of the Kalamazoo Library are putting together a Civil War Genealogy Day for Saturday October 23rd. Brother Bill Lowe of Camp 7 has accepted an invitation to help us that day. He is highly regarded by other camps in the Department for his knowledge. The event is being publicized in the Kalamazoo area. We hope that brothers within the Department of Michigan would refer any interested friends in Southwest Michigan to stop by if they are interested in a day of family research. For additional information about this event, I will be glad to help answer your questions. You may email me at worleyc@net-link.net. This about covers the highlights of Camp 20's summer, so I'm going to wrap up and send this out. I hope the autumn season is bright and colorful for all of my readers.

**UNION CITY  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL  
REDEDICATED**



The restored Union City Civil War monument was rededicated on July 3, 2004 by members of the Colgrove-Woodruff Camp 22 of Marshall. Also participating were representatives of the Daughters of Union Veterans, Woman's Relief Corps Department President Lucille Streeter, WRC Past National President Marion Morgan and the 3rd Battery, Michigan Light Artillery.

**HELP WANTED**

***NEEDED*** - One Newsletter Editor

Computer skills needed, newsletter experience helpful, but will arrange training for a willing applicant.

***NEEDED*** - Several Assistant Editors

Computer skills needed to provide assistance to the newsletter Editor. Assist in the preparation and updating of Recruiting Flyers, various Certificates and Forms.

A key aspect of the Assistant Editor position will be to prepare to be a "back-up" and/or potential replacement for the newsletter Editor.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

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