



Michigan's Messenger

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

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Fall 2006

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Commander's Musings DC Richard Greene

It's Reporting Time Again!

Brothers, when I first came to Command of our Department two years ago I wouldn't have guessed that the most prevalent issue of the administration would be annual reporting! This, however, seems to have become the case. Back in 2005 while the vast majority of our Camps took the duty in stride and consistently filed outstanding annual reports in a timely manner, there was a significant minority who had become pretty lackadaisical. This was also at a time when the National Organization was taking a much more stringent stance in its requirements for accuracy and timeliness.

The first year saw Department Secretary, Dennis Derr II and I making a LOT of phone calls to coax some Camps into compliant reporting. This, along with a bit of slack from the National Organization saw us through and we were in good standing for the 124th Annual National Encampment.

Though last spring saw some improvement, there was still a number of Camps that, for one reason or another, came right down to the wire with a few going past it. Regrettably, it was necessary to suspend two of our Camps in order to file our Department report to National on time and preserve our good standing for the 125th Annual National Encampment. Sadly, while one of the two still struggles to master the annual report neither of the two suspended Camps has successfully reported and been restored to good standing.

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Frankly, this level of difficulty surprises me. Though they may require a level of attention to detail, these two reports are pretty straight forward. The first (and maybe the most common element that brings difficulty) is the absolute need to use ONLY the most current version of the required form. If I could make only one recommendation to Camp Secretaries it would be to throw away ALL old forms in your desk, that the former Camp Secretary passed on to you or that you otherwise acquired. Guys, you just can't slide them through anymore. They would be rejected at National level even if the Department Secretary did accept them. Download the latest and greatest of the two required reports- Form #22 and Form #27 from the National Website. Alternately, e-mail Department Secretary Derr (dderr@chartermi.net) or me (rgreene@tds.net) and we'll forward the files to you to print out and use. Remember, though we are glad to send you the printable files, the onus to have the correct forms is upon the Camp.

Continued from Page 1

Next, be sure to have your Camp's last year's report at hand. Think about it. With the report asking such questions as last year's enrollment and last year's treasury levels how can you possibly begin without the previous report to use as a base line? Don't have it handy? Go find it! You will NEED it! Somewhat akin to preparing your income tax forms, it usually works best to begin at the start of the form and base your next answer upon the last one. Fill in EVERY space. If the answer is none, say none or 0, if appropriate. If you feel that the question does not apply to your Camp say N/A. That at least acknowledges that you saw and considered the question.

Signatures! ALL signatures must be there. Though we may understand your predicament, it's pretty hard to sell "can't catch up with the Treasurer" or "one of the Camp Council members is in Florida" to the National Executive Director. You might consider mailing the form to the missing Brother for his endorsement or meeting at a mutually halfway point to collect his signature. Be sure and get your Installing Officer's signature on the Form #22 while he is present to do the installation.

Start early! Allow yourself time to go at a leisurely and careful pace—and to make corrections, should they be necessary. Most of the trouble that we see comes when time is down to the wire, and everyone's back is to the wall. Then there simply isn't enough time to pass things back and forth to get it right.

If you're having trouble or uncertain of something ASK FOR HELP!! There is plenty of help to be had if you need it. I'm sure that Dennis would agree that he would rather answer a hundred questions as you are doing the report than have to get into another red pencil session and return somebody's report.

Department Secretary Derr's contact info is as follows:

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4033 Horizon Drive
Davison, MI 48423
(810) 653-0859
dderr@chartermi.net

Mine is:
Richard Greene, P.C.C.
9245 Willits Road
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Please remember Brothers—We're on your side. We want to help. We want never to have to suspend another Camp for faulty reporting. If you find something that you feel is unduly difficult or harsh, in the forms tell us. We'll pass your ideas along to the powers that be for consideration.

Finally, there are some new deadlines this year. While the Camp Annual Report (Form #27) is still due on April 30, 2007 the Report of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (Form 22) is due on February 15, 2007. These deadlines must be regarded as finite and not baselines for a negotiated submission date. Please do all in you power to keep your Camp out of potential difficulty by filing early.

Away from the reporting process for a moment, I remind all Camps that the National Constitution and Regulations specify that Camp Officers be elected at the first meeting between the first meeting in October and the first meeting in December, inclusive. Same officers are to be installed between the first meeting in November and the first meeting in the following January, inclusive. And finally, what would seem to be an obvious basic tenet, the Commander, Secretary and/or Treasurer may NOT be simultaneously on the Camp Council.

Again, the majority of our Camps are to be commended for the outstanding job that they do in electing and installing their officers and filing the annual reports and I praise them to the Heavens for their efforts. Working together, I know that all Camps can master this task and issues of annual reporting will be a thing of the past. God Bless!

Rick

Department Orders #3*Series 2005- 2006*

Headquarters Mayville, Michigan

1. *Thanks to almost thirty Michigan men and women who traveled Gettysburg, PA to observe Remembrance Day. SUVCW Brothers, SVR members, members of Allied Orders, and independent re-enactors came together to represent Michigan and to form an Honor Guard for Michigan's own James B. Pahl, Commander-In-Chief of the SUVCW. We were honored to be joined by a host of re-enactors of the 102nd Colored Troops who are members of Commander-In-Chief Pahl's re-enactment command.*
2. *On behalf of the Department of Michigan I wish to thank the ladies of Corp #41 of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW for their efforts in repairing our flags. With many hours of labor the ladies have reattached, relabeled, and otherwise refurbished the entire collection of State of Michigan flags that annually mark the graves of Michigan's fallen at the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA. Additionally, Mrs. Marcia Butgereit, of the Auxiliary, traveled to Gettysburg to share histories and pictures of some of the Boys In Blue, who are interred there. Ladies, again, thank you so much.*
3. *I am pleased to report the settlement of litigation of the matter of the GAR Hall in Detroit between Camp #101 of the SUVCW along with Tent #3 of the DUVCW vs. the City of Detroit. In this consent judgment the City of Detroit agreed to sell the property, forthwith to a private party. Any such sale will include the proviso that the Allied Orders be provided space and opportunity to maintain a perpetual display to honor the Grand Army. Certain physical attributes of the building such as the ceramic tile representation of the GAR badge in the main lobby must be preserved by any new buyer. Additionally, the Allied Orders have been granted access to certain documents and other artifacts of the Grand Army and held by various City agencies. As of this writing Detroit papers are reporting that a sale has been affected with the Illich family being the successful bidder.*
4. *Camp Commanders and Camp Secretaries should note that, effective this reporting year, Form #22 (Report of Election and Installation of Camp Officers) is now due to the Department Secretary no later than February 15, 2007. Form #27 (Camp Annual Report) is still due on April 30, 2007. Officers and Delegates of Camps not in compliance with these requirements may not be seated at the 118th Annual Department Encampment*
5. *Camp Commanders and Camp Secretaries should note that the required Form #27 (Camp Annual Report) has been changed. The new form is available by download from the National web site or by e-mail from the Department Secretary (dderr@chartermi.net). Please note that NO previous version of this report will be accepted by the National Organization and will be rejected by the Department Secretary.*
6. *In General Orders #4, Series 2005-2006 the Commander-In-Chief called upon every Camp in the Order to write a history of the Camp to provide to the Department who will collect and preserve them for our posterity. At the same time the Department will compile the collected Camp histories into a Department history to be forwarded to the National Historian. Twice, since this General Order, I have called upon our Camps for their offering. To date, only two Camps have sent forth Camp histories. Camp Commanders should detail someone, forthwith, to generate an appropriate composition to be forwarded to Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC (Glgsvvcw@aol.com). When he has received the history of all of our Camps, Brother Gibson will make the afore mentioned compilation to be sent to the National Organization. Pictures of the past, rosters of Camp officers from through the years, personal recollections of various Camp Brothers and accounts of Camp projects are but a few suggestions for inclusion in your Camp's story. This is pretty much a free form project but it should be seen to very soon.*

Continued from Page 3

- 7. *At the 117th Annual Encampment there was brief mention of establishing a Bequeath Program with a view toward facilitating the intention of any Brother to remember the Department in his last will and testament. I am looking for two or three Brothers to serve on an exploratory committee to look into this matter and report their findings to the Department Encampment in April. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact me.*
- 8. *I regret to report the loss of Brother Merle J. "Sie" Hagerman of Camp #20. A World War II veteran and a Brother of Camp #20 for a number of years, Brother Hagerman had worked for the railroad for most of his career. He went to his final review on December 2, 2006 at the age of 85. All Charters will be draped for a period of thirty days in Brother Hagerman's memory.*
- 9. *I regret to report that Brother Charles Worley of Camp #20 was involved in a serious automobile accident on November 23, 2006. Hospitalized for several days afterward, Chuck was released to his home to recuperate. He will, later, require reconstructive surgery to his ankle and recuperative time to mend his shoulder and several broken ribs. Please keep Chuck in your thoughts and prayers*
- 10. *I regret to report that Mrs. Anne Shumway, wife of Department Treasurer Brian Shumway, of Camp #17 has undergone cancer surgery in Chicago, Illinois. She is presently recuperating at home. Please keep the Shumways in your prayers.*
- 11. *The Communications and Technology Committee is at work developing a plan and policy to assure proper periodic back up of digital data of the Department. The current challenge is to find a suitable procedure that allows implementation by users of all levels of "computer" expertise while keeping cost to a minimum. Ongoing tests are encouraging and a plan to back up Graves Registration, GAR Records and Monuments & Memorials programs should be rolled out in the near future.*
- 12. *I extend to each of you and your families fondest and sincerest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.*

*Submitted in F, C, & L,
December 1, 2006*

/s/

*Richard Greene, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW*

Attest: /s/

*Dennis C, Derr II
Department Secretary*

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

TAPS
In Memory of Brother Merle Hagerman
Please see page 8

**Please remember those and their families who
 need our prayers because of illness, and please
 remember those who are in harm's way
 protecting us.**

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**Wm. B. McAfee, Chaplain****2006-2007
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Graves Registration

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GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

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Douglas R. Armstrong,
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Eagle Scout Coordinator

Charles Worley

Camp At Large

Coordinator
Robert Mitchell

Michigan was spared the worst horrors of the Civil War. There were no engagements between Union and Confederate forces. It had no prison camps to hold captured enemy troops. That is something about which we should be truly grateful, especially the latter. We are blessed that we do not have Civil War memorials to "man's inhumanity to man" to maintain in Michigan. We have heard so much about the appalling conditions at the infamous Camp Sumter (Andersonville), GA, that we fail to realize that the conditions may have been just as bad, if not worse, in Union prisons at Johnson's Island (OH), Elmira (NY) or any of the other northern prisons that detained Confederates. In other words, "we" were just as bad, or worse, than "they" were.

In Portals to Hell; Military Prisons of the Civil War, Lonnie R. Speer writes, It was often said, as new arrivals entered Andersonville, they vomited at the sight of the other prisoners and the odor of the compound. The same, however, was true at Elmira and many other locations...where the stench of dirty, ragged, sweating men filled the air....The (walls) were...covered with smashed bugs, dried mucus and spittle. Floors and walls were 'so covered with slime and filth that we could neither sit nor lie down without getting besmeared', reported one prisoner.

In one television "docu-drama" about the court-martial of C.S.A. Captain Henry Wirz, George C. Scott portrayed him as a man who, in order to treat the prisoners under his control at Andersonville as he did, mentally reduced them from human beings to the equivalent level of rats.

There must be a special place in heaven for those soldiers who suffered the hells of Civil War prisons. Now, 141 years after Appomattox, we must continue to do all we can to keep their lights burning brightly in memoriam.

In the meantime, God bless and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, thanking God that we're not confined in a Civil War prison.

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Memorial Ribbons Available

Brother Bruce Butgereit, PDC has offered to supply any Camp with printed Memorial Ribbons similar to those that he had made a few years ago.

The

ribbons are black with a gold imprint stating:

"IN MEMORIAM"

"THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR"

"DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN",

And are designed for use with a membership badge.

Brother Butgereit offers these ribbons at no cost to the Camp.

For further information, or to contact him, go to

Civil-war@comcast.net

G.A.R. Records Committee
James T. Lyons, PDC

Many letters arrive at this office on a regular basis. Most are from folks seeking assistance in researching a Civil War ancestor. Some offer to share information or materials they have found. Others find things that need some explanation. We present here a sample of the second type of contact.

HONORARY MEMBER

Last May in an E-mail Mrs. Carrie Corsby of Tucson, AZ indicated that she was a "genealogy search angel". She said she had found some articles in her local newspapers concerning a member of the G.A.R. in Michigan. She offered to send photocopies, if we wanted this information. I responded in the affirmative, without hesitation. The story as told in seven articles from the Arizona Daily Star or Tucson Citizen presented the life of a remarkable women.

The death of Miss Katherine Margaret Van Buskirk was reported in the March 4, 1958 edition of the Arizona Daily Star. She had spent fifty years as an educator, retired in 1949 and her death occurred within a "few days of her being 79 years old".

She had moved to Arizona, from Manistee, Michigan in 1920. Things were rather primitive and "extremely wild west" at Vail when she went there to teach. The railroad remodeled an old dull red boxcar creating a classroom and an eight-foot-square area in one end was converted into a room for Miss Van Buskirk to live. She came to be with her brother John Van Buskirk, a Tucson attorney.

The April 23, 1949 article on her retirement at age 70 goes on to state; "She also came because she got thoroughly tired of freezing in Manistee, Mich., where she had completed a year of Manistee City Normal college and went on to become principle of the Manistee elementary school."

"In the winter of 1919-1920 her face froze in the 30-below Manistee weather and she then and there resolved to come to Arizona when school was out for the summer. Fortunately there were no ill effects, "thanks to snow I used to thaw my face."

"To her credit she earned a list of honors at the University of Arizona. Remarkable is the fact that she was named to Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Lambda Theta and Delta Kappa Gamma, all college honorary organizations. She gained these kudos while earning her B. A. Degree – by correspondence."

The May 31, 1926 edition of the Arizona Daily Star reports "Miss Van Buskirk Member of G.A.R."

"Miss Katherine Van Buskirk, 129 North Park avenue, sister of Attorney John H. Van Buskirk, today will have the honor of being the only woman in the United States to participate with the G. A. R. in the Memorial Day exercises as a member of that organization.

Miss Van Buskirk was made an honorary member of the James S. [sic – F.] McGinney post of the G. A. R. at Manistee, Mich. About 12 years ago as a result of her work with the school children of that city in preparing them for Memorial Day programs. She is also the niece of James S. McGinney for whom the post was named. He is generally credited with being the first man from northern Michigan to enlist in the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil War and he is said to have walked 100 miles to the nearest recruiting officer to enlist." (James F. McGinney served in Company I, 3rd Michigan Infantry) Note added.

The retirement story states, "Another highly prized possession is the colonel's medal presented to her by the G. A. R. in 1917, in recognition of the work she did for the old veterans of the war between the states. She is the only woman ever made an honorary GAR member."

The December 28, 1941 Arizona Daily Star reports that Miss Kate Van Buskirk, principle of Davis School had three of her poems published in an anthology titled "The Book of Modern Poetry", published in 1941 by Avon House, New York City.

The May 5, 1958 edition of the Tucson Daily Citizen carried the story that an elementary school at 725 E. Fair street would be officially named and dedicated to Miss Kate Van Buskirk. "Her philosophy of teaching was 'to teach them so they won't have to be taught again.'"

Department Secretary's Report
Dennis C. Derr, II

Brothers, the end of the year almost here, Camp Officer Elections should now be completed and preparations for Camp Officer Installations should be in the works and must be completed by January 30, 2007. With that in mind Camp Secretaries need to be thinking about the filing of the Form 22: Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers and Form 27, Camp Annual Report.

When filing Form 22: Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers, Camp Secretaries must use the current version which is available on the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/ftp.htm>. Previous versions of the Form 22 are no longer valid and will not be accepted. Forms must be completely filled out including all of the required signatures and **2 copies** must be submitted to the Department Secretary along with **2 copies** of a current and up-to-date Camp Roster. Forms other than the current version, forms that are incomplete and/or lacking the required signatures will be returned. Per Commander-in-Chief Pahl's General Orders No. 1 and recent action taken by the Council of Administration, Form 22: Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers is now due to the Department Secretary on or before **February 15** of each year.

The National Organization, SUVCW has issued a **new** version of the Form 27, Camp Annual Report which is now available at the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/ftp.htm>. The new version of the Form 27 now includes instructions to assist Camp Secretaries in filing out the form. Previous versions of the Form 27 are no longer valid and will not be accepted. When submitting the Form 27, please be sure that it is completely filled out including all of the required signatures. Forms other than the current version, forms that are incomplete and/or lacking the required signatures will be returned. Form 27: The Camp Annual Report is due to the Department Secretary on or before **April 30** of each year.

Please note the following:

- Annual Department Per Capita Tax is \$8.00 per Brother.
- Annual National Per Capita Tax is \$18.00 per Brother.
- Life Members and Real Sons do not pay Per Capita Tax.
- Juniors pay only \$5.00 application fee.
- Make checks payable to Department of Michigan – SUVCW.

Please submit all forms to me at:
Dennis C. Derr II
Secretary
Department of Michigan – SUVCW
4033 Horizon Drive
Davison, MI 48423-8445

Please do **not** send reports to the Department Commander because it will only delay processing.

When submitting reports, please do not leave anything blank, fill out every section of both forms. For example, on Form 27, if a Camp does not have any Juniors, then a zero should be placed in the space provided, if a Camp is not reporting any Brother's change of address, then simply put "none" in the space provided. By filling in every space I will know that you have not forgotten to fill out a section.

In closing, I once again remind all Camps that it is imperative that reports be submitted on time. National has raised the bar for on time reporting and so has the Department of Michigan. Please make note of the reporting deadlines above because failure to submit these reports on time could, at the discretion of the Department Commander result in a Camp being suspended.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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

TAPS

From Page 4

Merle J. "Sie" Hagerman

Mr. Hagerman passed away Saturday December 2, 2006 at his home. He was born September 20, 1921 in Kalamazoo, one of nine children to the late Leon and Mabel (Hinkel) Hagerman. In 1940, Sie graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. A grandson of Civil War Veteran Charles F. Hagerman, Co M 1st Michigan Cavalry, and a member of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, he joined the United States Army and served during World War II. He was worked as an engineer and road foreman for the railroad for 47 years until his retirement from Amtrak in 1988. Mr. Hagerman was a member of St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church, and a life member of F. & A.M. Kalamazoo-Anchor Lodge #22, where he was a 32 Degree Mason. In his spare time, Sie enjoyed playing golf and traveling the United States by rail and motor home. On March 7, 1945, he was united in marriage to Winifred "Winnie" Weeks in Filton, England. She preceded him in death on December 1, 2001. Also preceding him in death are a daughter, Brenda Hagerman; his parents; five brothers, Don, Art, Glen, Harold "Moe", and Charles; and three sisters, Erma, Virginia, and Marian. Surviving are four children, Pamela Hagerman of Charlottesville, VA, Phillip Hagerman of Elkhart, IN, Lori (Art) Visser of Cedar Springs, and Jeff (Pam) Hagerman of Chicago, IL; six grandchildren, Beth (Jeff) Jones, Bryan (Jane Eaton) Hagerman, Brad Hagerman, Audrey and Judith Visser, and Kelly (Dave) Ondersma; four great-grandchildren, Skyler and Logan Jones, and Ashton and Eva Ondersma; many nieces and nephews, and cousins by the dozens. Funeral services for Mr. Hagerman will be at 10:30 AM on Wednesday at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church, 2010 Nichols Road, with Mother Mary Perrin officiating. Interment with military honors will follow in Grand Prairie Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family from 2-4 and 6-8 PM on Tuesday at **Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick Street**, with Masonic services at 7:30 PM. As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be directed to Masonic Youth Foundation, West Michigan Cancer Center, St. Teresa's Woman's Guild at St. Martin of Tours Church, or a charity of one's choice. www.langelands.com 343-1508

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

*Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication
Summer - June 1 for a June 15 Publication
Fall - September 1 for a September 15 Publication
Winter - December 1 for a December 15 Publication*

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

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON TIME

Department Historian's Report

John R. Keith

Brothers:

In the last Messenger, I reported on receiving and placing a iron G.A.R. flag holder on the grave of Captain Henry Stark who served in Company G 6th Michigan Inf. / H.A.

I received an email from Bro. Jon Reed, Patriotic Instructor of the Sergeant John S. Cosby Camp 427 in Dearborn. He pointed out some misleading statements in the 1933 article about Henry Stark I quoted, concern the raising of Company G 6th Michigan Infantry. I thought it was important to quote the article as written in 1933 and I'm sorry if some of the statements in it weren't recognized as historical facts!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

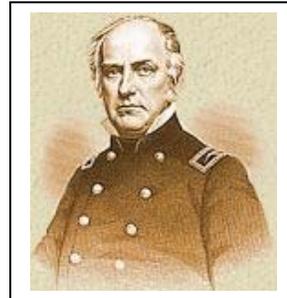
When Colonel Edward Baker, of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, a very close friend of President Lincoln, was killed in the battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21st, 1861, the entire Lincoln family mourned him. President Lincoln later told journalist Noah Brooks "the death of his beloved Baker smote upon him like a whirlwind from a desert." The day before Baker was killed the two old friends talked together on the White House grounds. A passing officer recalled the scene: "Mr. Lincoln sat on the ground leaning against a tree; Colonel Baker was lying prone on the ground his head supported by his clasped hands." Not far away Willie "was tossing the fallen leaves about in childish grace and abandon." When the time came for Baker to take his leave, he shook Lincoln's hand and then took Willie into his arms and kissed him."

Mary was just as distressed as the President. She had honored Colonel Baker by naming her second son, Edward after him. Now both her child and his namesake were dead!

Willie and Tad, who likewise adored Baker, were heartbroken. For Willie, much like his father, writing provided some comfort. He composed a small poem, "On the Death of Colonel Baker," which was actually published in the National Republican. After two stanzas remembering Baker's patriotic life and speaking skills he wrote:

*No squeamish notions filled his breast,
The Union was his theme.
"No surrender and no compromise,"
His day thought and night's dream.*

*His country has her part to play,
To'rds those he has left behind,
His widow and his children all,
She must always keep in mind.*



COL. EDWARD BAKER

This child's tribute to a family friend reflected a depressingly common circumstance as the war left enormous casualties in its path. Ten-year-old Willie's words would be echoed in his father's memorable plea on March 4th, 1865 in his Second Inaugural Address, the last paragraph states-

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND HIS ORPHAN, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

In just 42 days after giving this address, President Lincoln was silenced by an assassin's bullet, but these words and thoughts live on!

It seems we could trace in part the mission of the Grand Army of the Republic and our SUVCW back to the thoughts of a ten-year-old boy in 1861!

The Edward D. Baker Camp 6, Department of Oregon, SUVCW is named after Colonel Baker!

Please send items for the Department of Michigan Historian to-

Bro. John R. Keith
950 106th avenue
Plainwell, MI 49080



Sons of Veteran's Reserve in Michigan
By L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. and Bill Morris

After some time of low key activity, the Sons of Veterans Reserve in Michigan is off and running. The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the SUVCW's National uniformed ceremonial element. Not a Camp Guard nor a re-enactor organization, the SVR reports to the Son's National Military Department and conducts uniformed activity focused on "keeping green the memory" of those that fought and fell to preserve our country. The National Military Department is divided by multi-state Districts. Michigan joins the Sons of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio to form the 3rd Military District composed of many separate units, each being filled with SUVCW Members, Juniors and Associates in good standing. Among those that now appear on the Company's roll is Michigan's own James Pahl, Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Most recently, Lloyd "Dean" Lamphere Jr. was selected to lead the SVR in Michigan and was appointed 1st Sergeant of Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Dean comes to his position after a long history of participation in the Civil War re-enacting hobby, member of a Camp Guard and the Sons of Veterans Reserve. Like his predecessors, Dean feels that while the Company may from time to time entertain invitations from a Department or Camp, he envisions the SVR in Michigan as participating in only selected SVR related functions. Most recently the Company participated in the Sons of Veterans Reserve's parade and ceremonies during Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, PA. Under consideration for the future is the Company's participation in training functions, a ceremony at Lincoln's Tomb, the Camp Fire program at the upcoming National Encampment and a return to Gettysburg next November.

The uniforms worn by the 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR represent the Federal Infantry Uniforms used during the Civil War (1861 to 1865). Currently members in the unit wear either a four button sack coat or a frock coat with light blue foot soldier trousers. Membership in this and all SVR organizations is limited to Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in good standing, be they Members, Juniors or Associates. For additional information on joining the Sons of Veterans Reserve, please contact Dean by email at artiebuddy@sbcglobal.net or by telephone at 630-692-7807.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Graves Registration Committee Report

Rick Danes, CC, Department Officer

Greetings, Brothers. Your Graves Registration Committee has just completed the fourth meeting of 2006, and I am happy to report that our Department Database has just over 56,650 records, and the National Database just over 38,330. We were honored this meeting by the attendance of C-in-C Jim Pahl and DC Rick Greene. Part of our ongoing efforts will come from the completion of the Upper Peninsula, new Camps in Tuscola, St. Joseph, and Montcalm Counties, the return of Brother Dick Williams as GRO in Ionia County, and a revisit of cemeteries in many other counties.

Other items of note:

- If you submit records to the national database, be sure to send me a copy. The maintenance of our Department record is very important;*
- Brother Bill Lowe found that the Federal Government has begun to issue a "historical headstone", which is reminiscent of the Civil War era military stone. Go to the VA.com site for more information;*
- Brother Bob Lowe (no relation to Bill), National Graves Registration Officer has asked that each of us look at the National (and Department) website and make sure that our own ancestor is recorded. If they are not, a simple e-mail to me can get them honored and recognized!*

Irma and I wish all of you and yours the best Christmas and New Year ever, and stay well.

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

CC John Keith

At our November camp meeting the following officers were elected to serve in the year 2007.

ELECTED CAMP OFFICERS FOR 2007

COMMANDER JOHN R. KEITH

SR. VICE COMMANDER BRUCE GOSLING

JR. VICE COMMANDER JOHN C. KEITH

CAMP SECRETARY JEFF BAKER

CAMP TREASURER JOESPH ORBECK

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

RON BELLENGER, BILL COSTELLO AND STEVE REDINGER

We are planning to initiate these Brothers at the Blackhawk Bar & Grill, Richland, Michigan on January 27th, 2007 at 6:30 pm. The Blackhawk Bar & Grill is located at 8940 North 32nd Street, Richland, MI.

Our four Camp 20 members who live in St. Joseph County are organizing a new Son's Camp in Centerville, St. Joseph County.

The name of this camp is the "MARCH TO THE SEA Camp 135."

For more information on this camp, please contact either Bro. Chuck Worley (Sturgis), Bro. Mike McLaughlin (Sturgis), Bro. Bruce Gosling (White Pigeon) or Bro. David Gosling (Three Rivers).

On Saturday November 11th 2006, members of Camp 20 met at the Blackhawk Bar & Grill in Richland for dinner and to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the SUVCW.

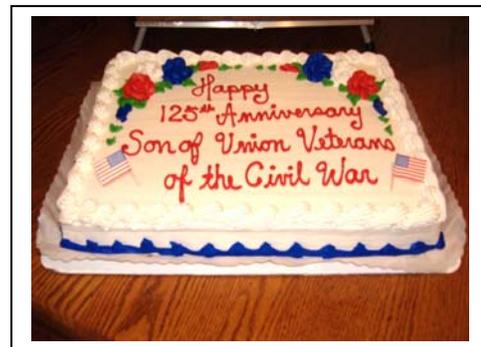
We were honored by the attendance of Commander-in-Chief James Pahl and his wife, Carol. Other guests were Bob and Elaine Gaudio of Paw Paw; Bob is a member of the Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable and the Otsego Historical Society. Brother Blaine Valentine of Camp 22 was also in attendance.

Bro. Gary Gibson PDC gave a presentation on the history of the SUVCW. A birthday cake was brought in and enjoyed by all.

This was a family event and several Camp 20 family members were in attendance and all had a great time.

Camp 20 members also took part in the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Rose Park Veteran's Memorial in Kalamazoo. Other members attended the ceremonies in their hometown.

We at Camp 20 are looking forward to another great year in 2007!



ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

The image of Santa Claus and gift giving was changed forever by an illustrator of Harper's Weekly in 1862. A description of the magazine cover follows: "Santa Claus, dressed in a patriotic suit of Stars and Stripes is visiting soldiers in camp and distributing gifts from his sleigh. "A flurry of activity surrounds Santa. A soldier opens his Christmas box to find a fully loaded stocking, while a comrade behind him gets a Meerschaum pipe. In the foreground, a sprung jack-in-the-box surprises two drummer boys. In the background, soldiers chase a greased pig while others climb a greased pole to reach a cash purse nailed to the top. Some play football; others prepare Christmas dinners. The fort on the hilltop pays tribute to Santa's arrival with an artillery salute. An accompanying article described celebrations on Christmas Eve, and advised "children, you mustn't think that Santa Claus comes to you alone". This article was intended to assure the public that all was well in the field.

Nash-Hodges Camp 43
REDEDICATION OF THE FRANKLIN CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

Michael Christiaens & Harold Miller

In a group effort that included members of Nash-Hodges #43 Camp of Blissfield, MI, the Civil War era monument at the Franklin Twp Cemetery at Tipton, MI was restored to its former glory during the spring and early summer of 2006.

The monument was originally commissioned as a memorial to the 33 soldiers noted on its sandstone tablets, as well as the many other soldiers who served from Lenawee County. The 33 names were of those who had either given their lives in service during the Civil War, or who had died after the war. It seems that there were more than twice that number who served from Lenawee County.

The 33 foot tall monument was first dedicated on July 4, 1866. In the ensuing 140 years, the elements had taken their toll on this monument causing serious erosion of the inscriptions on all sides of it. As a result, in the summer of 2005, the monument was taken apart and portions of it were sent to Lansing, MI for re-engraving where necessary. By Memorial Day, 2006 the monument was back in position with new engraving, including a stone spike at the very top. This spike had been lost in a tornado, which struck in 1965. Thanks to existing photographs, the spike was remade just in time for the rebuilding of the monument. Several members of Camp #43 along with the 4th Michigan Co. G reenactors and other concerned citizens joined in the effort by hand sanding pieces of the monument with small pieces of grinding stones to bring back some of the intricate detailing of the monument. Once finished all pieces were scrubbed with an industrial bleach to kill off any mold or just to clean hard to reach areas. We can only assume that once we were done and it was all back together that it looked just like it did 140 years ago. It was breath taking.

At this point, a concerted effort was put forth to stage the rededication on the 140th anniversary of its original dedication on July 4, 2006. A local entrepreneur of the Tipton area of Michigan funded the significant cost of this reconstruction. Many other volunteers assisted in making arrangements for the rededication ceremony, including members of the 4th Michigan Re-enactors, and other similar units.

July 4, 2006 dawned with the promise of perfect weather for the rededication. The hundreds of re-enactors turned out in period uniforms to assist with the ceremony. Several speakers from the area's representation in the Michigan State Legislature appeared to give praise to the re-dedication effort. A tribute was presented to the Greg Hardy family signed by the Governor telling of all of the work and process that had been done.

To make the presentation complete, President Lincoln [Bill Ames of Washtenaw County] gave a stirring rendition of the Gettysburg Address. Also in attendance was General Ulysses S Grant, played by another re-enactor. A brass ensemble played music fitting to the occasion on vintage instruments, some of which were from the Civil War era. There was also singing of patriotic songs.

An effort was made to contact any living descendants of relatives of the 33 soldiers noted on the monument. We were blessed in having present the grandson of one the soldiers, who lives nearby. There were quite a few cousins of the soldiers, who attended as well.

As the program came to an end the local minister read off the names of the 33 men while ladies in period attire placed flags by the side of the monument containing the name. If a family member was present they were escorted with the flag so they could place it in honor of their ancestor. For each name read the bell at the nearby church was tolled also as a tribute. All of this was followed by a full 21 Gun Salute and Taps, with an echo, finalized the ceremony.

Although the day was fairly warm, those who dressed in authentic wool costumes, were proud to have helped in the effort, and did not mind the slight discomfort. Also in attendance were several other SUVCW camps along with local military groups such as the VFW and the Marines.

The monument is located on Tipton Hwy, just north of M-50, in the center of the Franklin Township Cemetery in Tipton Michigan, about 5 miles west of Tecumseh, Michigan.

Robert Finch Camp #14
W. E. Skillman, Camp Commander

The Camp #14 roster shows 39 Members, 1 Junior Member and 10 Associates. Visiting Brothers are invited to join us for the January 13, 2007 meeting at the Elks Club 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division). The installation of 2007 Camp officers will be the highlight of the proceedings.

Brothers Jim Ribby and Don Gray described and demonstrated Civil War soldier life to over 1400 school children during the Grand Traverse County Heritage Festival on September 14-15th. Brothers Breough, Ribby, Aurand, Winnie and Frances Finch President Emily Breough (and PP Marge Pifer) participated in the annual POW/MIA ceremony with the Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition on the evening September 15th.

On September 16th, Camp 14 and Frances Finch Auxiliary members rededicated the graves of Civil War veterans Roswell W. Donaldson, (Co I., 3rd Wisconsin Cav) and Samuel Leshar (Co. H., 11th MI Inf) buried at the old Mancelona Cemetery. Special guests for the occasion were Dept Commander Richard Greene; Robert Grove Jr. (JVC), Dennis Derr (Sec); Bruce Butgeriet (PDC). We also recognized Mr. George Ouvry, who single-handedly researched and identified veteran graves, then arranged for 25 new Civil War (and WWI Pvt. Plunkett-KIA in France) headstones to replace those that were missing, deteriorated or unidentified. Commander Greene presented Mr. Ouvry a letter of congratulations for his work on behalf of the Department. The large contingent of descendents in attendance unanimously expressed their appreciation to all of the Sons for the stirring tribute to their ancestors.



Picture: CC Skillman presents George Ouvry with a certificate of appreciation from Camp 14. Pictured from left to right: Dale Aurand, Bruce Butgeriet, Skillman, Ouvry, Commander Rick Greene, Bill Watson, Dennis Derr and Don Gray. The Symbols of the Soldier decorate the new headstone of CW veteran Roswell Donaldson. Second: CC Skillman presents a floral tribute to the descendents of Samuel Leshar

During the November 11th meeting, Camp elections were held. Camp 14's new officers and staff for 2007 are as follows:

Robert Finch Clark	Commander	(Bob's descendent is Robert Finch, 1 st Michigan)
	Sharpshooters, for whom Camp 14 is named)	
	Jeff Morse	Senior VC
	Dale Aurand	Junior VC
	Neal Breough	Sec/Treasurer
	Ted Mattis	Chaplain
	Fred Knoodle	War Memorials Officer
	Jim Slis	Graves Registration Officer
	Chuck Labar	Graves Registration Officer
	Bill Skillman	Patriotic Instructor/Signals Officer
	Chuck Heffer	Guard
	Geo. Goodrich	Historian
	Wm. Skillman,	Camp Counsel
	Jan White	Camp Counsel
	Dan Bennet	Camp Counsel

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That evening Brothers participated in Veterans Day observance at Veterans Park, and subsequent ceremonies with the Grand Traverse Veteran Coalition at the Elks Club in Traverse City.

On November 20th, Camp 14 was informed by the Petoskey/Harbor Springs Foundation that they have awarded us a \$2000 grant for the Augusta Arsenal/Petoskey Cannon Project. This grant bolsters the Project balance to \$8,500. Brother Breauqh contacted Marcene Karkadoulous to inform her that we would be transporting the cannon to the Bronze Arts foundry to begin restoration. We have reached 1/3 towards our final goal of \$25,000 (\$16,500 is for cannon restoration and purchase/mounting on a reproduction field carriage; the remainder will be used to establish a permanent maintenance fund). Brother Chuck LaBarr discovered new information through his research at the Cadillac library that showed that 'our cannon' was shared by a number of GAR camps throughout the region, to fire salutes for patriotic and National celebrations. One 1890 account cited a minor railroad accident of the northbound train traveling from Cadillac: "the cannon was being returned to Petoskey after being used here to celebrate the late Holiday". We may have discovered a picture of 'our cannon' at the bottom of the Michigan Department SUVCW website (Ceremonies). The unusual configuration of the cannon pictured below matches that of our Augusta Arsenal-cast Napoleon. These CSA Napoleon smoothbore guns had the same swelled breech band as rifled Parrott cannon. The Tredegar Iron Works of Richmond, VA cast nearly 125 of these cannon between 1864-5; but over 10% were returned after metal fatigue led to the muzzle blowing off. It is interesting to note that 'our cannon' suffered the same fate, which led to it being buried behind the Perry Stafford Hotel.



Brother Bill Watson informed me that Honorary Bro. Ouvry has not been content to rest upon his laurels. Geo. informed Bill that he is widening his search to the greater Antrim County cemeteries to locate additional CW veteran graves. So far, he has conducted surveys of the Alba, Almira, and Bellaire cemetery's and has arranged to ship 23 new headstones to replace ones that were damaged, missing or previously unidentified.

Brother Don Gray (with the Camp 14 colors) traveled to Gettysburg to participate in the Remembrance Day observance. It was Don's first time to visit Gettysburg for this event and he was very impressed with the large Michigan contingent marching with Commander-in-Chief Jim Pahl.

On behalf of the Officers and Brothers of Robert Finch Camp 14, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our fraternal Brothers and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you in 2007!

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

"Christmas day and I didn't hang up my stocking. No matter, it wouldn't have held anything. Last Christmas we spent on Belle Island, little thinking long imprisonment awaiting us. Us escaped men are to ride in a forage wagon. I saw some cavalry coming from the front. Soon recognized Col. Acker at the head of the 9th Michigan Cavalry..."

John Ransom 9th MI Cavalry after his escape from captivity at Andersonville, December, 1864 - from his diary

Department Patriotic Instructor

By Kevin Lindsey

The following poem, written by a soldier in 1862, reflects his own thoughts at Christmas during the Civil War.

Christmas Night of '62

By

**William Gordon McCabe
(1841-1920)**

The wintry blast goes wailing by,
The snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,
And distant watch-fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;
The soldiers cluster round the blaze
To talk of other Christmas days,
And softly speak of home and home.

My saber swinging overhead
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,
While fiercely drives the blinding snow,
And memory leads me to the dead.

My thoughts go wandering to and fro,
Vibrating 'twixt the Now and Then;
I see the low-browed home again,
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.

And sweetly from the far-off years
Comes borne the laughter faint and low,
The voices of the Long Ago!
My eyes are wet with tender tears.

I feel again the mother-kiss,
I see again the glad surprise
That lightened up the tranquil eyes
And brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss.

As, rushing from the old hall-door,
She fondly clasped her wayward boy-
Her face all radiant with the joy
She felt to see him home once more.

My saber swinging overhead
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,
While fiercely drives the blinding snow,
Aslant upon my saddened brow.

Those cherished faces all are gone!
Asleep within the quiet graves
Where lies the snow in drifting waves,-
And I am sitting here alone.

There's not a comrade here to-night
But knows that loved ones far away
On bended knees this night will pray:
"God bring our darling from the fight."

But there are none to wish me back,
For me no yearning prayers arise.
The lips are mute and closed the eyes-
My home is in the bivouac.