



*Michigan's*

# *Messenger*

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

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*John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus*



*Richard C. Danes, Editor*

*Department Orders #4*



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*1 March 2009*

1. I strongly encourage all Brothers of the Department of Michigan to attend the Department Encampment which is scheduled for April 25, 2009 at the Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing, MI. Details and pre-registration forms are available on the Department Website at: <http://www.suvcwmi.org/encampment.html> and in the Michigan Messenger.
2. Thank you to the Camp Commanders and Secretaries of the following Camps for submitting their Camp's Form 22, Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers on time: 1, 2, 3, 7, 14, 17, 20, 22, 43, 58, 85, 135, 139, 145, 160, 180, 255, 266 and 427. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
3. A reminder to all Camp Commanders and Secretaries that Form 27A, Camp Annual Report is due to the Department Secretary by April 30, 2009. Rather than waiting until the last minute, I would encourage all Camps to submit Form 27A as soon as possible.
4. All Camp reports are to be sent directly to the Department Secretary. Do not send any Camp reports to the Department Commander as it only delays processing.
5. The National Organization, SUVCW is once again updating Forms. Specifically, Form 3, Standard Membership Application Form and Instructions and Form 30, Camp Status Report. The latest versions of these forms are available on the National Website at: <http://suvcw.org/ftp.htm>.
6. The Department Nominating Committee is appointed as follows: Rick Greene, PDC as Chairman, Rick Danes, John R. Keith, Bruce Gosling and Greg Hayes, PDC. Anyone wishing to run for an elected Department Office should contact the committee chairman, Rick Greene, PDC at: [rgreene@btwireless.net](mailto:rgreene@btwireless.net).
7. Credential Cards will be required in order to register at the Department Encampment. Brothers planning to attend the encampment will need to obtain a Credentials Card from their Camp Secretary. The Department Secretary will issue Credential Cards to all current elected and appointed Department Officers, Past Department Commanders and Past Commanders-in-Chief.
8. All Camps are requested to bring their Camp Flag and suitable stand to the Department Encampment.

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9. It is my sad duty to report that Brother Ray Shedd passed away on January 20, 2009. Brother Shedd was a Charter Member of the General Israel B. Richardson Camp No. 2 and a World War II veteran.
10. On January 25, 2009 the Brothers of the Archibald Stewart Camp No. 259 located in Litchfield, MI voted unanimously to surrender the Camp Charter and disband the Camp.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
/s/  
Dennis C. Derr II  
Commander  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:  
/s/  
Kevin J. Lindsey  
Secretary  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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*4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Reorg. Infantry*

*2009 Department Encampment*

### ***Senior Vice Commander Report***

*Submitted by DSVC Chuck Worley*

It was three years ago that an appointed subcommittee submitted a report for the Future Strategic Direction for the approval of our Department. This report was adopted as a guide to encourage the membership and leadership to think and grow our way into the future. When I review those words, I read of no insurance policy or guarantee that our organization will be here for a future generation that discovers their grandfathers' service preserved our national unity in an age so unlike their own. What I do read is that with some Yankee ingenuity and vision, our order can be available for a long time to come for communities that need a reminder of the sacrifices that a distant generation made. It would be a shame for the former to happen, and a collective accomplishment for the latter.

Since we met last April in Lansing, the By-Laws Committee has worded a proposed change to our Department By-Laws for the establishment of a Department Permanent Fund. This is the second initiative to result from the Strategic Direction Report. The first initiative, *Bayonets Charge!*, was introduced in Department Orders #3, December 2007 by Department Commander Derr. To establish this permanent fund will require a vote of the delegates of our annual encampment in April. To allow time for each camp to review the proposal, a copy was emailed to every camp in the Department.

I want to encourage an open debate of the merits of a Permanent Fund. If it is managed well, it will be a nice resource in future years. There have been several years in the recent past that were lean. Permanent Fund income may provide the opportunity for a camp to preserve a monument, or restore a GAR cemetery. If poorly managed, the Fund certainly would draw the attention of scrutinizing brothers, if not charitable corporations and interested Federal agencies. Regardless of the outcome of our decision, the Department leadership will have a good indication of the next step to take. I have come to appreciate the fact that the brothers of this Department are good problem solvers.

The delegates of our Department's annual encampment will also vote to amend the By-Laws to include two new classes of membership. The Junior and Junior Associate classes have been approved by the National delegates to be included in the Constitution and Regulations. It is now the individual Departments opportunity to incorporate these classes into their By-Laws. Should these membership classes be approved, it would then become an individual Camp's choice to include appropriate wording into their Camp By-Laws. Again, I encourage an open discussion at your Camp meetings so your delegates will know how to vote in April.

I am looking forward to introduction of these two Proposals at our Department Encampment and the discussion that follows. Then most of all, I'm looking forward to reuniting with Brothers from all around the department and joining in the work of the Sons.

*Memorials and Monuments Committee Report*  
*Submitted by Douglas Armstrong, Chair*

There has, in recent weeks, been some public interest with a certain cannon in Southwest Michigan. I would like to thank those Brothers who have brought this to my attention and have proactively taken on the responsibility of educating the local authorities of the important significance of these pieces of history to their community. I have spoken with the city myself and am encouraged and pleased by their response to preserve the cannon's purpose in a place of honor as part of a veterans' park. Thanks again to those Brothers for their immediate action with this news.

With these recent events, I would therefore like to again strongly encourage and revive each Camp's participation with the locating and assessing the condition of monuments and memorials in their areas. Due to variously changing circumstances such as weather, vandalism and neglect the Department's Civil War Memorials Assessment Program has always been intended to be an ongoing project.

As springtime nears we will again be venturing into local cemeteries and recording the graves of the men we honor. I'd like to encourage each Brother as we do this to also notice the several monuments and memorials erected in honor of those men. These memorials rest in nearly every community in Michigan. As the rest of the world hurries by without a glance at these pieces of our heritage, let us remember the purpose of our Order. We can better perpetuate the memory of the G.A.R. and of the men who served to save the Union by promoting the preservation of these memorials. By observing their proper care and upkeep, we are educating the public of their historical importance.

In the past several years, I have been proud to attend several rededication ceremonies of monuments and memorials across Michigan. I commend those Camps for their dedication and devotion to seeing to the restoration of these memorials. I would like to preserve your hard work by including in the Department Record these extraordinary projects. Therefore, I am requesting that any Camp that has completed such a project or is the process or planning stages of a project, please send a detailed account of that project to me for inclusion in the Department's database and possibly on its web site. These projects should be shared with the rest of the membership as well as the public.

For those new members or Camps, I would like to share some information about the assessment program. The intent of the program is to locate and assess the condition of all Civil War Memorials, from the grandest and ornate sculpture to a small bronze plaque. Each has historical significance and deserves proper respect and honor. The information is recorded on a form and once submitted to the department, is maintained in a database. If a memorial is in urgent need of treatment, the care of that memorial can then be brought to the attention of the community government where the memorial is located.

I thank those Camps that have a program already in place and have continued to submit assessments. For those Camps that have not yet initiated a program, I encourage your participation. I request that each newly elected Camp Commander appoint a Camp Civil War Memorials Officer and have that Officer contact me to ensure that the proper materials and information have been provided to them, so there is no duplication of effort by those Brothers. Please contact me if any Camp or Brother requires any further information or necessary forms. Please send any completed forms along with photos to me at the following address: 3481 Parkwood Dr., DeWitt, Michigan 48820. I may also be reached by telephone or email at the following: (517)669-1947 or doug24mich@comcast.net. With the assistance of each Camp by their participation with the program we are ensuring the education and appreciation of future generations.

**Following is language for two proposed changes in Department By Laws that will be considered at the Department Encampment**

Commanders and Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

In an effort to look to our future, the 2006 Department of Michigan Annual Encampment adopted a statement of Strategic Direction. The statement, found on the Department's web pages, [http://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/strategic\\_direction2006.pdf](http://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/strategic_direction2006.pdf), offers our Order guidelines to ensure our future growth and involvement within our communities.

The Department By-Laws Committee is pleased to present a proposal for the consideration of the delegates of 2009 Department of Michigan Encampment to be held on April 25, 2009. We ask that every Camp give careful consideration and directions to their delegates for the establishment of a "Department of Michigan Permanent Fund". From the Department Bylaws: **Section 2.** *Any proposed amendment, alteration, or addition to these By-laws shall be printed and mailed or sent electronically to the Commander of each Camp for review, at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Department Encampment. All Camps shall take action on same and instruct their delegates accordingly. Motions to alter or modify any printed proposed amendment may be heard on the floor of the Department Encampment.*

With Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, The Department of Michigan By-Laws Committee James Pahl, PC-in-C Donald Shaw, DJVC Chuck Worley, DSVC

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN PERMANENT FUND  
Proposed BYLAW**

**ARTICLE 1.** A "Restricted Account" shall be established and managed for the purposes of the Department of Michigan. This restricted account shall be known as the "Department of Michigan Permanent Fund".

**ARTICLE 2.** The purpose of this Fund is to preserve the principle and encourage Brothers of the Department and interested patrons to increase the principle through the generosity of their gifts. The Department Permanent Fund must be administered per the requirements of a tax exempt nonprofit corporation, per the Internal Revenue Code, as amended. The use of the fund must be in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**ARTICLE 3.** The Department Council is charged to invest the principle of the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund in order to achieve an income yield. The Department Treasurer will administer the account. Reports to the annual Department Encampment will include decisions made and a balance sheet of the account's state.

**ARTICLE 4.** The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Michigan Officer signatories of the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund shall be the Department Treasurer and such Assistant Treasurers that shall be designated for such purpose by a Department Encampment.

**ARTICLE 5.** Any funds donated to and received for the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund shall be deposited directly into this restricted account by the Treasurer. An acknowledgement of the gift to the donor will be sent conforming to applicable IRS regulations. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in one or more institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States or in the securities of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange or NASDAQ, as directed by the Department Council. No investment shall be made in the securities of any corporation or trust which has not paid regular dividends on its common stock or on its capital stock if it has only one class, for at least three years prior to such investment.

**ARTICLE 6.** Subject to the restrictions governing any such funds, the income of the permanent fund, or any portion thereof, as determined by affirmative vote of a Department Encampment, may be transferred to the General Fund and used for the expenses and purposes of the Order, but any income not so transferred shall be added to the principal.

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN JUNIOR and ASSOCIATE JUNIOR CLASSIFICATIONS  
Proposed BYLAW**

**Juniors**

- Section 1.** Camps may provide for Juniors as defined by the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.
- Section 2.** Juniors may not hold any elected office in any Camp or the Department, nor shall they be eligible to serve in any appointive office of the Department.
- Section 3.** Juniors shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates a Camp may have to a Department Encampment.
- Section 4.** The Department shall not impose the per capita tax on Juniors.
- Section 5.** Juniors shall not be counted toward the required number of Brothers to establish a new Camp. However, the names of Juniors may appear on the Camp Charter and be so designated as Charter Juniors of the Camp.
- Section 6.** Camps may impose further restrictions on Juniors and provide for their organization in accordance with the provisions in the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.
- Section 7.** Camps may adopt amendments to their ByLaws which prohibit the establishment of Juniors within their Camp.
- Section 8.** The Department Membership at Large Coordinator is hereby authorized to establish Juniors within the Department Membership at Large.

**Junior Associates**

- Section 1.** Camps may provide for Junior Associates as defined by the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.
- Section 2.** Junior Associates may not hold any elected office in any Camp or the Department, nor shall they be eligible to serve in any appointive office of the Department.
- Section 3.** Junior Associates shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates a Camp may have to the Department Encampment.
- Section 4.** The Department shall not impose the per capita tax on Junior Associates.
- Section 5.** Junior Associates shall not be counted toward the required number of Brothers to establish a new Camp. The names of Junior Associates may not appear on the Camp Charter nor be designated as Charter members of the Camp.
- Section 6.** Camps may impose further restrictions on Junior Associates and provide for their organization in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.

*Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:*

*In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.*

*The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.*

*As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.*

***I believe that the Camps have some responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.***

*I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I 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.*

## General John A. Logan Camp No. 1

Bruce B. Butgereit, Secretary

In January, the Camp installed the following officers for 2009:

Bill Truss – Commander

John Uplinger - JVC

Tim Kolean - SVC, Patriotic Instructor and Grave Registration Officer

Bruce B. Butgereit - Secretary, Treasurer, Memorials Officer, Signals Officer, and Historian

Harold Becker, John Sullivan, and Bruce Butgereit, II – Council

Colin Butgereit – Guard/Guide

Michael Page – Color Guard

Comer Skinner – Chaplain

Several Brothers of Camp 1 braved frigid temperatures and a strong wind in Grand Rapids to participate in the February 12 ceremony that commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. Sponsored by the Commandery of the State of Michigan, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), participants included Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and Dr. Bernard Taylor, Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Brother Colin Butgereit served as the Guard of Honor and Brother Michael Page placed a wreath on behalf of Camp 1 and the Michigan Commandery. Members of the Eva Gray Tent No. 2, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) and Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), participated in delivering the prayer and benediction respectively. The Henry Jenks Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the Union (NSDU) presented a wreath as did Tent No. 2. Michigan WRC Department President Gracanne Smith was also in attendance.

The program mirrored that of the one conducted in Grand Rapids one-hundred years earlier except ours was held outdoors at the bronze bust of Lincoln (sculpted by A. Weinman, 1913) at Lincoln Place. As with all ceremonies we conduct, extensive research is made to establish a connection to the past and this ceremony was indeed no different.

In 1909, the Schubert Male Chorus sang at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Club banquet in Grand Rapids and in 2009, they once again were present as they delivered a rousing rendition of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* with Camp Commander Bill Truss lending his voice as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Tenor. Mayor Heartwell delivered a proclamation as did his predecessor in 1909 and Grand Rapids-area schools were once again represented when the Central High School Junior ROTC provided a color guard unit. The image on the cover of the printed program was that of President Lincoln reading to his son Tad; the same image used on the 1909 program cover.



Left to right –  
Bill Truss, Camp Commander  
Colin Butgereit, Guard  
Michael Page, Color Guard



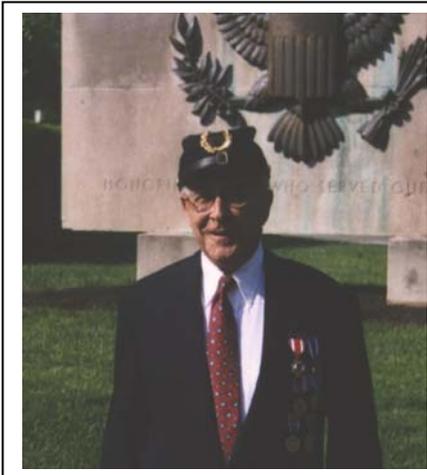
Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell addressing  
the audience

*On February 12 Members of Camp 1, MOLLUS, DUVCW, NSDU, WRC, Boy Scouts of America, and local dignitaries celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Shown on the left is CC Bill Truss, Guard Colin Butgereit, and Color Guard Michael Page, on the right Grand Rapids Mayor George Hartwell addresses the attendees.*

Plans for two new historic restoration projects were introduced during the ceremony. Two Boy Scouts, Corey Alberda and Travis Lepsch, have volunteered to restore the Lincoln bust and the nearby Calkins Law Office – the oldest frame building in the Grand River Valley (built in 1836) as part of their Eagle Scout projects. While our reason for restoring the Lincoln bust is an easy one, the Calkins Law Office is within a few feet of the bust and in serious need of repair. The son of the attorney Calkins, Charles W. Calkins, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. These projects are also opening doors for a working relationship with the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

## TAPS

### **Ray E. Shedd**



With great sadness, Camp 2 reports the passing of one of its charter members, **Ray E. Shedd**. He was the senior member of the Camp and passed away in his sleep at the age of 88. The Camp performed the Burial Service per the Rituals and Ceremonies guidelines at the funeral home.

Ray was born in Michigan and was graduated from Michigan State College in 1942. In that year, he joined the U. S. Army and served 42 months in the European theatre. He was married for 50 years and is survived by two married children and a grandson. Ray spent his professional career in the financial services field and was a member of many organizations, including the American Institute of Banking and the Charge Card Association.

Ray Shedd's great grandfather was Private Edward H. Foster, Company I, 21<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

### **James T. Lyons**

On March 11, one of our Department stalwarts passed to his final reward. **PCC James T. Lyons**, a Member of Camp 17 was born in 1931 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a U. S. Army Veteran, serving with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – Tropic Lightning Signal Corps during the Korean War. Jim was also a member of several other hereditary organizations including the Michigan Society of the Sons of the Revolution. He was a historian and a genealogist. He leaves Catherine his wife of 51 years, daughters Elizabeth Hilts, Susan Brunell, and Jennifer Snover, four grandchildren, and sister Pat Krueger. Jim will long be remembered for his knowledge and dedication to all that he attempted.

#### ***A Public Act Stalled***

***In 2005, I made PCinC James Pahl aware of a 7 year long struggle by locals in Monroe County to gain access to 146 year old Potter Cemetery (previously known as Swan Creek Cemetery). The cemetery holds the remains of over 100 persons including at least 6 Civil War heroes. The access to this cemetery had been platted to the homeowners of a subdivision as part of their land, and they have denied any access.***

***House Bill # 5589 was introduced on December 13, 2007 by Representative Kate Ebli, 56<sup>th</sup> District to amend 1967 PA 288 "...The governing body shall reject a plat...(that) isolates a cemetery so that it is not accessible". That effort was passed in March, 2008 in the Michigan House by a large margin and sent to the Senate. In the Senate Committee on Local, Urban, and State Affairs the Bill was stalled by the Michigan Realtor's Association for language, and did not get back to the floor for a vote by the end of the session. In 2009 Representative Ebli reintroduced the legislation as House Bill 4223.***

***The Friends and Trustees of Potter Cemetery are currently in litigation with the Township and surrounding homeowners to either gain access or to have the residents of the cemetery removed and re-interred at the township expense.***

***Although this bill will not help the Potter Cemetery folks, it will prevent the "land-locking" of cemeteries in the future by greedy developers. We ask that you contact your Representative and Senator to get support for this Bill.***

***If you know of other Michigan cemeteries that have been isolated by development, let me know, so that I can share that information.***

***In advance, thank you for your help.***

***Rick Danes***

## LeValleyHeusted Camp #255

Submitted by Rick Greene, Secretary

The LeValleyHeusted Camp #255 has completed an exciting year in 2008, and is preparing for another in 2009. In the spring of 2008 the Camp put the finishing touches on the refurbishment of a long neglected GAR Monument, located in Caro, MI. The project included replacement of multiple stacks of cannon balls and installation of a brass plaque. On May 3, 2008 the Caro community came together to help us rededicate this memorial to the Whiteside Post #143, home of Comrade Orlando LeValley and Michigan's last Post.



Michigan State Rep., Terry Brown and  
Camp Commander, Mark Keller



2nd Michigan  
Hudson Artillery



Rededicated Monument to  
Whiteside Post #143, GAR

On May 30 the Camp conducted a very moving Decoration Day ceremony at the GAR Memorial to the Lonson Post #255 in Fremont Cemetery near Mayville, MI. Later, we traveled to Caro where we observed Memorial Day with the American Legion Post #7 and VFW Post #4164, both of Caro.

Throughout the spring and summer of last year the Camp was engaged in the Graves Registration Program, surveying several local cemeteries for final resting places of "The Boys In Blue". In these surveys we noticed several gravestones in need of resetting or replacement. Additionally we were able to identify several unmarked gravesites. We have ordered government gravestones for several Tuscola County veterans and part of our 2009 campaign will include the installation and dedication of these stones. We also plan to reset a number of Civil War government stones to their proper depth and attitude.

In November we elected Camp Officers for the year 2009. They are:

Mark O. Keller	Camp Commander	Mark O. Keller	Graves Registration Officer
Larry Clark	Senior Vice Commander	Richard Greene	Monuments & Memorials Officer
David M. Neese	Junior Vice Commander	Mark Culbert	Color Bearer
Dennis C. Derr I	Camp Council Member	Richard Greene	Chaplain
Mark Culbert	Camp Council Member	Dennis C. Derr I	Guide
Leo J. Marr	Camp Council Member	Richard Greene	Patriotic Instructor
Michael Seaman	Treasurer	Mark O. Keller	Historian
Richard Greene	Secretary		

Recently, we were fortunate to receive photo copies of an (approximately) 1892 roster of the Harper Post #102, Tuscola County's first Post, which operated from 1883-1896. This roster may represent the only surviving record of the Post. When the roster has been transcribed, copies and transcription will be forwarded to the Department GAR Records Committee.

In addition to the aforementioned gravestone restoration work, the Camp plans a comprehensive Monuments & Memorials survey to locate and assess all GAR Monuments in Tuscola County. We are confident that this survey will offer several more opportunities for clean up and/or refurbishment of these memorials to the "Boys In Blue".

You are cordially invited to visit our newly launched Camp website. You can find us at: <http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp255/> or link to our site from the Camps and Membership page of the Department of Michigan site.

***"A Day With Lincoln"****Submitted by Chaplain Bill Nash**General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2*

Camp 2 Chaplain Bill Nash and  
"The Lincoln Chair"

The newest exhibit at The Henry Ford - "And Liberty and Justice for All" traces the history of freedom in the United States from its founding until now. Our man Lincoln is a prominent feature. Today I spent a lot of time at that chair. Actually the chair is a rocker. President Lincoln had used the chair previously at Ford's theatre (in 1863). When the theatre treasurer, Harry Ford, received the news that Mr. Lincoln would be attending the theatre the evening of April 14th, he had the chair brought to Box # 7. The chair was delivered by theater employee Joe Simms. Although Lincoln was difficult to see by the theatre patrons that evening, he was seen by many in the chair. Mary Lincoln was holding his hand. After he was shot, he remained in the chair with his head slumped. The bloodstains from Mr. Lincoln are still visible in the cloth fabric of the chair. After the murder, the chair was held as evidence by the War Department for the trial of the conspirators. It then was housed in the Smithsonian Institution. Harry Ford's widow eventually petitioned the United States government for its return (which was granted). She auctioned it off in New York for \$2,400.00 to none other than Mr. Henry Ford. He was no relation, by the way, to the Ford family of Ford's Theatre. Henry Ford had the chair restored as much as possible and placed in an environmentally controlled exhibit display where it is today. As I gaze in wonder at the chair, I can't think but how happy President Lincoln was that day. Mary Lincoln has said it was the happiest day of his life. He had remarked that he knew the war was over. He had said that he was looking forward to going back to Springfield when his term was over to resume practicing law. He talked about taking a vacation, possibly to California. Upon his arrival to the theatre that night he was greeted by the 1600 patrons as the hero of the hour. The band struck up "Hail To The Chief." The play, which was already in progress when the Lincolns arrived at the theatre, stopped to acknowledge his arrival. He, with his wife and guests, made their way into the box specially set up for them. He bowed before the adoring audience and sat down. He loved the theatre so. It was one of the few ways he found to have relaxation. Although, he really didn't want to go to the theatre that particular night, he felt that it would be a "let down" to the public if he didn't. The papers had printed his expected attendance at the play that evening. I suppose he decided he would just go and "have a goodtime" since he knew the play was a comedy. So there he sat. It appears to have been a very comfortable rocking chair. It is well padded and inviting. Then came the terrible moment when the killer struck (at 10:22pm). At point blank range, the derringer discharged its load. From that chair Abraham Lincoln saw his last sight, heard his last sound (which was laughter from the crowd), and spoke his last words. Smoke, gun powder residue, and Mr. Lincoln's blood made contact with the chair and its upholstery. Lincoln lost consciousness and never regained it. He died the next day at 7:22am. As I think about Lincoln and this chair, I'm reminded of Lincoln and another chair. I'm reminded of the statue of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.. He is posed as sitting in that chair. In that chair he is seated as the victorious Lincoln. He is the one who saved the Union and freed millions. He is seated as the one who overcame all the hatred and strife that so marked his time. He is seated as the one who is considered our greatest President. The Ford's theatre chair marks Lincoln as the martyr, the Lincoln Memorial chair celebrates him as the forever remembered victor. May we, as Sons of Union Veterans, always celebrate this man. Our Union ancestors served under him faithfully. May we serve his memory fervently.

## **Department Graves Registration Committee**

*by Rick Danes, Chairman*

Greetings, Brothers.

As we discussed at our March, 2009 Committee Meeting, the economic times may rob us of one of our primary research facilities, and in fact, the whole History and Library Department of Michigan. We don't know what this will include, but the talk is that perhaps the collections and archives might be donated to a local college, and the Library, Museum, and Archives closed. Perhaps we should let our legislators know how we feel about that idea! I reported that the Department Database now holds over 57,200 records.

We also talked about how some Camps seem to replace a lot of headstones (accolades and many thanks for that effort), but have seldom or never turned in a report of Veteran gravesites to the Department. As I said last time.....what will it take to get your Camp motivated enough to record the graves that you have to walk around to perform these wonderful ceremonies??

Gus Sherwin and Jerry Jacobs, co-GROs from Camp 427 wanted to announce that we will begin surveying the Detroit Elmwood Cemetery on May 2 and 16 from 10 AM – 4 PM each day. They would like to invite all who are interested to join us in this task. Call Jerry at 1-248-420-7515 if you are interested.

◆◆◆◆◆

## **A Save The Flags Project Completed**

Submitted by Butch Miller

PCC Blissfield Camp 43

By David Frownfelde  
Daily Telegram  
Sun Feb 15, 2009, 03:00 PM EST

BLISSFIELD, Mich. –

A Blissfield High School senior has followed her father's passion for the Civil War and will be honored today along with three of her friends for their efforts in preserving a battle flag from that era.

Emily Miller, 18, Grace Rewand, 17, Nicholas Martinez, 18, and Aaron Butts, 17, will receive recognition from State Rep. Dudley Spade, D-Tipton, Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Twp., and other state officials for the work they have done in helping to preserve battle flags of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

"Emily's got displays that she takes to festivals and such," said Butch Miller of Blissfield, a member of several Civil War groups. "They all worked to raise money to pay for the restoration of the flag."

The four collected donations from people at festivals, spoke to civic and other groups asking for donations, or sold items such as suckers. In her case, Emily Miller sometimes sold Civil War bullets she has collected.

A Maryland woman, Vonda Thompson, has developed a process of restoring and preserving deteriorating flags that does not involve stitching, Miller said. The banner, or its remnants, are laid flat and sprayed with a sealant before being shipped to its origin.

He said the process costs about \$1,000 per banner. The students got interested in the preservation effort after learning about the condition of battle flags in the state museum in Lansing.

"About 160 flags were in the main rotunda of the Capitol in glass cases. Some had been in battle and some were in use at the end of the war," Miller said. "But when people got a close look at them, they saw they were deteriorating badly around the edges, so they were removed and put in a climate-controlled and temperature-controlled room."

Miller said many of the banners were in different stages of deterioration. A banner from the 1st Michigan was in especially bad condition, as it had been taken into battle, Miller explained, because the engineers and mechanics did more than just build bridges.

"They were in pretty bad shape," he said.

The students have raised the needed funds to preserve the flag. Once the preservation is completed, the flag will be shipped back to the museum for display.

The students will be honored at 2 p.m. today at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church on North Blissfield Highway. Butts is a junior at Blissfield High School and the other three are seniors.

## An Opportunity for Michigan Students to Celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By Bruce B. Butgereit

On Monday, March 2, 2009, the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion kicked off a statewide essay contest for Michigan students in grades 5 thru 12. In a partnership with the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries and the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, this contest is open to grades 5-6, 7-8 and high school.

### The theme –

Grades 5-6: Lincoln's Leadership - Then and Now (What President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Mean to Me)

Grades 7-8 & 9-12: Lincoln's Leadership - Then and Now (How President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Inspire Me Today)

The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the State of Michigan's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee will award a first-, second-, and third-place winning essay from each of the three competition levels. All winners will receive a color certificate that includes Governor Jennifer Granholm's signature, and a "portrait" of Abraham Lincoln in the form of a new \$5 bill. Each winner will also receive a figurine or a framed print of Abraham Lincoln.

If you have children or grandchildren in these grades, we encourage you to support them in this effort to commemorate the legacy of our 16<sup>th</sup> President.

For more information, please visit the following website: <http://suvchw.org/mollus/mi/mollus.html>

### What is the MOLLUS?

On April 15, 1865, as word of President Abraham Lincoln's death spread throughout the country, three Union Army officer friends met in Philadelphia to discuss the tragic news. Rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders prompted the three officers to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.

A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. The Philadelphia officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.

Since its inception, the MOLLUS membership has included nearly 12,000 Civil War officers. At its zenith, the MOLLUS counted practically every prominent officer among its ranks. Among them were Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman; Lt. Generals Philip H. Sheridan, Nelson A. Miles and John M. Schofield; Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, George B. McClellan, Rutherford B. Hayes, George Armstrong Custer, David McMurtree Gregg and Grenville M. Dodge; Admiral David G. Farragut; Rear Admirals Bancroft Gherardi and George W. Melville. In addition to Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes, Original Companions Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley served as Presidents of the United States.

With the eventual aging of the Original Companions, membership within the MOLLUS was changed to provide for Hereditary Companions; descendants of eligible officers. There are currently four categories of membership: Hereditary, Junior, Associate and Honorary. Many Original Companions of MOLLUS were also members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Similarly, many Hereditary Companions of MOLLUS are currently also members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the legal heir to the GAR.

The Commandery of the State of Michigan has provided one Commander-in-Chief, James Vernor, II. His father was Lt. James Vernor of the 4th Michigan Cavalry (the unit that captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis) and inventor of Vernor's Ginger Ale soda. Michigan is set to provide a second Commander-in-Chief, Keith G. Harrison (Past Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW), at the 2009 National MOLLUS Congress in Kentucky.

**Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427***By Rick Danes, CC*

At the Camp 427 Annual Dinner, 2009 Officers were elected as follows: Rick Danes - Commander, Treasurer, and co- Eagle Award Officer; Jon Reed – Senior Vice Commander; Howard Fite – Junior Vice Commander; Jerry Jacobs – Recording Secretary, co - Graves Registration, and Signals Officer; Ed Binkley – Chaplain; George Boller – Patriotic Instructor; Aaron Schrader – Guard and Color Bearer; Allan Treppa – Historian and Monuments Officer; Jerry Olson – Committee Chairman and co – Eagle Awards; and Dennis Fyke and Keith Kushnir – Committee Members. In January the Camp installed officers, made a presentation to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, and celebrated a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House, at which we were honored by visits from Camps 2, 17, 22, 120, and 180. Thank you guys. We have a full schedule planned for the year (see our Camp Calendar) but notably, the next task that we will undertake will be the survey of Detroit Elmwood cemetery starting in May. Also, for those interested, we will dedicate a new headstone for Brevet Colonel Albert M. Edwards, 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Detroit Woodmere Cemetery.



Over 50 Camp 427 members, their family, and friends attended the camp Annual Holiday Dinner in December

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

**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](mailto:mimessrd@aol.com) or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn,  
Michigan 48124-3204**

**ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME**

**NOTE: PLEASE CHANGE THE EDITOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS AS SHOWN ABOVE**

**Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support! RD**

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

*The term deadline arose during the Civil War. It described a small fence within a prison stockade that was not to be crossed by the prisoners. If a prisoner did cross the line, he was shot.*

*My sources put the use as defined by the Infamous "Andersonville Prison" at least it fits Capt. Henry Wirz.*

**Submitted by Phil Parks PCC Albert and James Lyons Camp 266**

## 4th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry

By Jim Pahl, PCinC, PDC, PCC

This is the sixth installment of the Michigan Regimental history series for the Michigan Messenger. As we have seen, Michigan did not assign a new number each time a regiment was raised; rather, they “reconstituted” disbanded regiments. We will find this is true with the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry – there are two different regiments to bear this designation. So while many believe Michigan only contributed 31 regiments of infantry during the Civil War, we will see there were actually several more.

The materials for this series are being drawn from Michigan in the War, an official publication of the state of Michigan, compiled by John Robertson, the Adjutant General.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry was recruited from a line of counties running from Monroe County on the east, to St. Joseph County on the west. The regiment was ordered on May 16, 1861 to rendezvous at Adrian as soon as quarters were ready. Michigan had received communication from Simon Cameron, the United States Secretary of War on May 11, 1861, calling for Michigan to provide four regiments of infantry, one three month regiment and three regiments to serve for three years. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment was part of this initial call. The regiment was commanded by Col. Dwight A. Woodbury, who had held a commission as colonel of militia and had been a prominent part of the military of the state.

Per General Order 24, the following companies were formed and assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment: the Smith Guard of Monroe (company A), the Adrian Volunteers (company B), the Peninsula Guard of Sturgis (company C), the Barry Guard of Ann Arbor (company D), the Hillsdale Volunteers (company E), the Hudson Volunteers (company F), the Tecumseh Volunteers (company G), the Grosvenor Union Guard of Jonesville (company H), the Trenton Volunteers (company I), the Dexter Union Guard (company K).

The regiment, numbering 1,025 left Adrian for Washington DC on June 25, 1861. The fine appearance of the 4<sup>th</sup> while passing through Cleveland, prompted an unnamed “leader” of that city to state: “When we see the splendidly armed and equipped regiments from Michigan pass through here on their way to the seat of war and compare their appearance with that of the regiments which recently left Camp Cleveland, it makes us almost ashamed of Ohio and inclines us to inquire in the mildest and most collected manner, why it is that Michigan in the same length of time, sends its regiments to the field prepared for service, while Ohio, who boasts of her enterprise and patriotism, sends from her camps as regiments mere mobs of men, half uniformed, unarmed and wholly without drill?”

Arriving at Harrisburg, one newspaper noted that another equipped regiment from Michigan had arrived and declared that “if Pennsylvania would only clothe her men like that, she would not have a single citizen left at home.”

The 4<sup>th</sup> did not participate in the battle at 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run, but was engaged in the construction of the defenses around Washington. Their first action was in the advance of McClellan’s army on the Chickahominy at Newbridge on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> waded a stream under heavy fire and gallantly assailed and drove off a superior force, being the Louisiana Tigers. They earned mention in Gen. McClellan’s report. They lost only eight men, but captured 37 prisoners. One prisoner remarked to Col. Woodbury that “I might have shot you a half dozen times”. Why didn’t you ask the colonel? “I took you for some d—d orderly!” was the reply.

The 4<sup>th</sup> was then at Hanover Court House, Mechanicsville and Gaines Mills. After which, the regiment was also engaged at Savage Station, Turkey Bend, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill.

The regiment was heavily engaged at Malvern Hill, where they lost Col. Woodbury.

After the Peninsula campaign, the regiment became part of the “Pope Campaign”. They were engaged at Gainesville, Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and then Gettysburg as part of the fifth corps.

After Gettysburg, the regiment maneuvered with the fifth corps, acting as flankers during the action at Brandy Station. They moved many times during the winter of 1863-64 with various duties. With the opening of the spring campaign in 1864, the regiment started from Culpepper, crossing the Rapidan at Germania Ford, then participating in the battle of the Wilderness, then on to Spotsylvania Court House. During the time between November 1, 1863 and June 19, 1864, the regiment lost three officers, 37 men killed or died of wounds, with six missing in action. While the loss seems small, it was about 15% of their whole strength at this time.

*Continued on Page 14*

*Continued from Page 13*

The term of service of the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment expired on June 19, 1864. The regiment was relieved and on the 20<sup>th</sup>, boarded transports at City Point, bound for Washington. They arrived in Detroit on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the companies were mustered out of service on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

One new company had been raised in Hillsdale and joined the regiment in May of 1864; this company remained and was reassigned to the reconstituted fourth regiment. Those whose terms of service had not yet expired were assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> regiment.

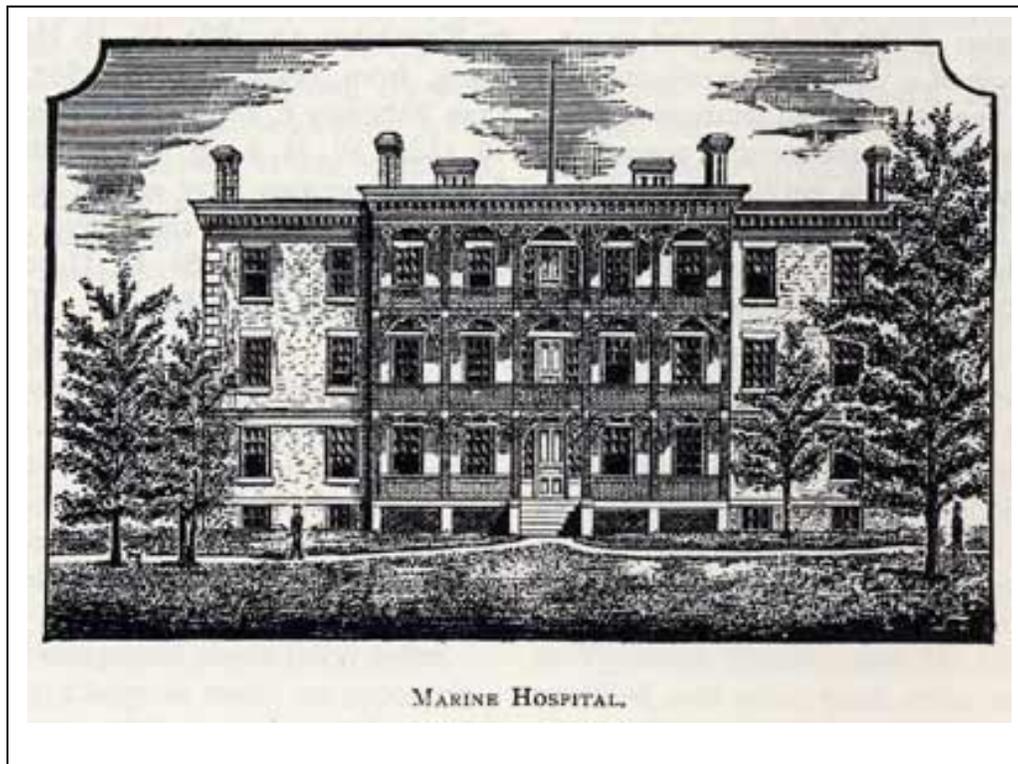
Total membership in the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment was 1,325. The regiment lost eight officers and 115 men killed in action, four officers and 50 men died of wounds and one officer and 95 men died of disease. When the regiment mustered out, one officer and 32 men were prisoners of war.

◆◆◆◆◆

### **Did You Know?**

By Rick Danes

In 1829, the Legislative Council of Michigan Territory petitioned Congress for a township of land to sell so that funds could be raised to build a "hospital for seamen". In 1854, Congress provided for the establishment of a Marine Hospital at Detroit. Eight Acres on the corner of Jefferson and Mount Elliott Streets were appropriated, and a building with a frontage of 270 feet was built. In November 1857, the hospital opened.



The hospital was funded in part by a monthly tax of forty cents levied on every person employed on board any registered vessel, the sum collected by the captain from the wages of the employees. A record of all sailors was kept both at the customs house, and at the hospital. Any sailor needing medical treatment, and who has been sailing during the three month preceding his application for admission, was entitled to hospital and board without cost. The hospital could accommodate 75 patients at a time, and none but sailors were admitted. Both a pharmacy and an out-patient surgery were available to those who didn't want to enter the hospital. During the year of 1884, 383 persons were treated in the hospital, with 1112 treated as out patients. The total disbursements for that service in 1884 was \$14,602.85.

# 2009 Department of Michigan Allied Orders Encampments / Conventions

Saturday, April 24-25, 2009, Lansing, Michigan Hosted by the Michigan Auxiliary of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



## Encampment Location:



Great Lakes Christian College  
6211 W. Willow Hwy. Lansing, MI  
48917

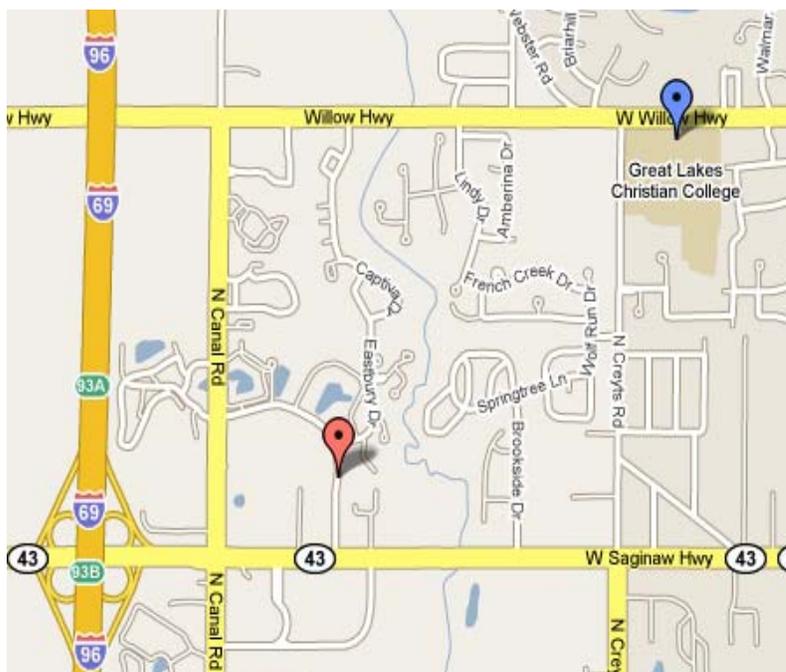
## Accommodations:



Quality Suites Inn 901 Delta  
Commerce Drive Lansing, MI  
48917 Phone: (517) 886-0600

Allied Orders room rate \$82.00 per night, plus tax. Reservations deadline April 15, 2009 to get the group rate. Regular cost per night is \$116.00

When making reservations, be sure to tell them you are with the Michigan Department of Allied Orders and which Order you are with.



## Meal Information:

### **Saturday Luncheon — Noontime — Brunch Buffet — \$7**

Full salad bar, scrambled eggs, cheesy scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browned potatoes, French toast sticks, biscuits and gravy, beverages.

### **GAR Memorial Banquet — 6:00 pm Saturday Evening — Dinner Buffet — \$17.50**

Beef burgundy, chicken in classic mushroom sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, long-grain wild rice, California steamed veggies, garden salad, rolls and butter, cheesecake, beverages.

## Schedule:

Friday, April 24th 7:30-9:30 PM: Hospitality Night hosted by the Auxiliary in the Hotel Hospitality room located in the basement. Coffee, soft drinks, finger food will be provided, variety of games .25 each.

### Saturday, April 25th

- 8:00 AM: SUVCW Registration opens
- 9:00 AM: Encampment Begins
- 12:00 Noon: Brunch
- 6:00 PM: GAR Memorial Banquet

**2009 Department of Michigan Allied Orders  
Encampments / Conventions  
Registration Forms**

*Tear off sections are color coded - cut out as needed*

**Encampment Location:**  
Great Lakes Christian College  
6211 W. Willow Hwy.  
Lansing, MI 48917

**Accommodations:**  
Quality Suites Inn  
901 Delta Commerce Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Phone: (517) 886-0600

***Meal Reservation Form for the 2009 Department Encampments / Conventions***

*Please indicate quantity for each meal. Meal Reservations must be received by **April 15, 2009**. No refunds after this date.*

***Saturday Luncheon — Noontime — Brunch Buffet Full salad bar, scrambled eggs, cheesy scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browned potatoes, french toast sticks, biscuits and gravy, beverages.***

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 per person = Total for Luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***GAR Memorial Banquet — 6:00 pm Saturday Evening — Dinner Buffet Beef Burgundy, Chicken in Classic Mushroom Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Long-grain Wild Rice, California Steamed Veggies, Garden Salad, Rolls and Butter, Cheesecake, Beverages.***

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$17.50 per person = Total for Dinner Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Check Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to:  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept. of MI – ASUVCW**

Vicki Weiss City, State, ZIP:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer, Dept. of Mich., ASUVCW 1420 Gerry Drive

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson, MI 49202  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 517-784-2504 Email:  
lonereb@hotmail.com

Please indicate which organization you are with:  SUVCW  DUVCW  WRC  ASUVCW

***SUVCW Department Encampment Pre-Registration Form  
(Check only one!)***

- |                                                  |                                              |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Delegate           | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Commander      | <input type="checkbox"/> Department Commander      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Camp Delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Camp Commander | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Department Commander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past Commander-in-Chief |                                              |                                                    |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SUVCW Pre-Registration Fee is \$5.00 (\$10.00 at Door) — Make Check Payable To: **Dept. of Mich. – SUVCW**  
**Mail by April 18, 2009 to:** Matthew L. Adair, Chairman, Dept. Credentials Comm., 409 Bent Oak St, Fenton,  
MI 48430

This form only covers the pre-registration fee. You will still be required to present at the door, a current Membership Card and Credentials Card issued by your Camp Secretary in order to register at the Encampment.