



Michigan's

Messenger

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John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Richard C. Danes, Editor

Commander's Comments

Chuck Worley

To the Brothers of the Department of Michigan:

The days are getting shorter and nights are longer as we settle into the winter season. I find satisfaction with every field harvested for the year and joy in looking up into a clear Michigan night sky. I hope every Brother had the opportunity to enjoy family and home over the Thanksgiving weekend. In a few short weeks we again celebrate another Christmas season. It is a special time of year of hope and joy and reflection. All of our families, communities and State now struggle with a burdening weak economy. In spite of that, I want to use my little space to encourage each of you to hold to your faith, use your wisdom and experience to encourage your families, and realize that our relationships are priceless in these times. Our Civil War ancestors were settling into their Winter Camps to endure sickness, shortages of rations and material, and being away from family. These were different hardships than today, but both yield the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. Continue to look after every brother and let's get by another Winter Camp.

I have been able to visit a number of Camps during the months of October and November. Every time I walk into a meeting hall, I have been excitedly received and introduced to the Brothers of the Camp. I have enjoyed meeting with you and hearing of your adventures during vacations, hunting trips, sports rivalries, Graves and Cemetery research, and good natured ribbing and humor that goes between friends in our Order. I have proudly presented Meritorious Service Awards to three recognized brothers within the Department of Michigan. I have officially installed the Officers-elect for Gilluly-Kingsley Camp 120 and Austin Blair Camp 7. I have several similar invitations from camps on my January calendar that I'm looking forward to attending. I still have some open days in my schedule to visit your Camp if you contact me.

Of special interest, the Officers and Camp Commanders took part in two teleconferences. We were able to more efficiently discuss our current projects and assess our progress. Conversations included the remembrance of Michigan in the Civil War and the upcoming Sesquicentennial 2011 to 2015. We also talked about the desire for a mid-term Department Encampment and what it would take to make that happen and be successful. The minutes of the teleconferences were sent to the Officers and Camp Commanders and are available for further discussion. Also in summary from the teleconference discussions, I want to remind the Camps that the "Michigan Messenger" needs to get to all brothers, whether by email or printed hard copy. That Patriotic Instruction material is now available monthly from the National SUVCW. Any Department property that is in "your" possession needs to be inventoried and reported to members of the Department Council. And please encourage your Camp appointed Graves Registration Officer to attend the next GRO meeting on December 12th at the State Library in Lansing.

*May God Bless and have a Merry Christmas,
Chuck Worley, Department Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW*

Junior Vice Commander's Musings

Paul "Dave" Arnold

Hello Brothers:

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Let me first start by wishing you and your families, Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

As 2010 approaches I feel that it is a great opportunity for each Camp within the Department to ask the question. ***"How Active is Our Camp, How Can We Make it Better, and Increase Our Membership"***.

Last spring during the Department Encampment there was discussion in regards to SUVCW membership and the state of Michigan's economy. Shortly after the encampment, new Department of Michigan Membership Initiative was developed for your review. It contained ideas on how we can address increasing our Camp & Department membership. Also ways of promoting the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War within the community as well as in the media. This base document was sent out to Camp Commanders for review, and to present to members of the camp. The goal was to share ideas that have worked well for you in the past as far as increasing your Camp membership, and to submit additional suggestions.

Over the summer I received responses from several Camps. Now that we are back in the swing of things after the busy summer season. I recently had Department Secretary Kevin Lindsey distribute the Membership Initiative once again for your review. I hope to receive more suggestions that can be incorporated into a final document which will be distributed at the Department Encampment in the spring

It is the hope that this Department Membership Initiative will act as a guideline to make it easier for "New Camps" to hit the ground running, in regards to increasing their camp membership base, as well as increasing awareness of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War throughout their community.

By putting together the ***"Best Ideas"*** from camps Department wide, we hope that existing camps can pick up a new idea or two as well.

I recently received an e mail from Brad Schall, National Junior Vice Commander for the SUVCW. Within his e mail, he challenged each camp to consider setting an informal goal of *adding at least one new member to your camp during the 2010 calendar year.*

I feel this informal goal is attainable, and one each camp should strive for in 2010.

He also provided statistics concerning "New Member Applications" submitted by Departments to the National Organization during the past year.

I am happy to announce that the Department of Michigan finished third nationally in regards to the number of new member applications submitted with (23). The only departments with more new member applications were the Department of Pennsylvania with (38) & the Department of Ohio with (29).

While always hoping to be number one, I feel our total is admirable, given Michigan's economic downturn during the past year.

In closing I would like to *Thank All of You* for the tremendous efforts each of your camps have put forth during the past year. It is dedicated Brothers & Camps within the Department that will continue to grow our order in the future, and keep green the memories of our ancestors who served the Union so many years ago.

From the Patriotic Instructor

LTC (ret) Max Riekse

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NOTE to Camp PIs and Camp Commanders: Every Camp needs to provide some type of Patriotic Instruction at every meeting, including their community at every opportunity. Also, at the direction of our National Patriotic Instructor, the **Annual PI Reports are due to me by February 1, 2010.** Please use the National PI Reporting Forms found in the Patriotic Instructor's Handbook on the Patriotic Instructor's page on the National Website (www.suvcw.org) Use pages 49 and 50.

There are volumes and thousands of books on Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War. Here's one more that camp PIs can use: "*Darwin and Lincoln: Born on the same day 200 years ago – they changed the world forever; their genius; their legacies; their humility*" Smithsonian Magazine; February 2009; www.Smithsonian.com.

On March 30, 2009 President Obama signed into law a House Bill which designates the 685 mile Washington – Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) as a National Historic Trail. It becomes the first National Historic Trail in the Northeast United States. The W3R honors the Americans and French Alliance during the American Revolutionary War, which ended with an American victory over the British at Yorktown in 1781. The trail extends from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia – a state that was the place of many Civil War battles and where our Union ancestors fought and died.

ARM YOURSELF: as a Life Member of the NRA for over 45 years, I have a certain interest in firearms, including those that my 5 Michigan Civil War ancestors might have used. They served in the 3rd and 8th Infantry, and 10th Cavalry Regiments. Following are some publications that you might find of interest in researching Michigan Civil War weapons that your ancestor might have used in preserving the Union: *Small Arms Used by Michigan Troops in the Civil War; Civil War Centennial Observance Commission; Lansing, Michigan; 1966; and Arming Michigan's Regiments, 1862 – 1864; a compilation and summary of small arms issued to Michigan troops during the Civil War – Extracted from the U. S. Quarterly Ordnance reports*; compiled by James G. Genco; 1982. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless America and the United States Constitution, and more especially It's (our) Bill of (Individual) Rights.

2009 National Encampment



*The Michigan Delegation
at Louisville, Kentucky -
Small But Mighty*

WHERE ARE DEPARTMENT MATERIALS LOCATED?

Department Council: Howard Streeter, Rick Greene, Neal Breaugh

At the Department Encampment last April, the Department Council was instructed to conduct a review of the location of all Department property. It is with that intention that this article is being written. As a Member of the Department Council, I have been appointed to begin this process. I need to hear as soon as possible from any Member or Associate who has or knows where any Department property is located.

What is Department Property? In most cases, Department property would be things that individual current and former Department Officers may possess. It could also be something that was given (loaned) to a Camp by the Department for the Camp to use—like a banner, gavel, podium, Bible, etc., and has not yet been returned. Some other examples of Department property include surrendered Camp Charters and records from now defunct Camps, current Department Records (in hard copy and/or electronic format – in particular databases that Department Officers maintain, and Michigan Grand Army of the Republic Post Records (copies and any originals). The Grave Registration CD's that contain our records that are given to Camp GRO would be considered a part of Department Property.

Everyone who has any such Department property needs to communicate this information to me as soon as possible. In most cases, this will be Department Officers, however, there may be some who were Department Officers and forgot or misplaced an item(s) and it did not get turned over to his successor. This should now be done and please notify me that it is being done.

To further clarify, the following would NOT be considered Department property. a Camp's normal operating items such as minutes, monies, treasurer's records, Camp Flag, Bible, Charter, photo albums, CD records—all of which would be turned over to the Department should the Camp disband, are NOT considered Department property at this time. When Camps turn over records or copies of records to the Department Historian, then what is turned over is then considered Department property. Most Camps will probably not have any Department property in their possession—but we need to check. We will really appreciate everyone's help in this matter as it is important that we have a complete update for the April 2010 Department Encampment. I look forward to hearing from all who have Department property and what it is—or if you think you might know of where some Department property is—let me know that and I will follow up.

Neal F. Breaugh, P.C.C.
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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 the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

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

Department Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Chairman



DC Chuck Worley presented PCC Dick Hutchins with an Award of meritorious Service with Gold Palm.

First and foremost, I would like to join the Committee in congratulating Brother Dick Hutchins on his award of Meritorious Service with Gold Palm. Dick was recognized for his work in the Graves Registration and headstone replacement efforts. It is great to see that once again, committee members are honored for their time and effort in our outstanding program.

During the past year I have been fortunate to be able to present a Power Point presentation about the Department of Michigan and National Graves Registration Programs. A successful presentation was made in January at the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County; in September at the Ford Motor Company Genealogical Society; and in November at the Michigan Genealogical Council. Looking forward to next year, I have scheduled the Midland Genealogical Society on February 17, and the Calhoun County Genealogical Society on June 22.

At a recent meeting of the Michigan Genealogical Council, Randy Riley updated the group on several issues concerning the old HAL organization. He said that it looks like both the Libraries (now under the Michigan Department of Education) and the Archives (now under the Department of Natural Resources) will continue in operation. The budgets and reorganization is still being developed, but certainly cuts are in the horizon. In 2009, Hal was given a 10% reduction, and another 10% was added later in the year. A 20% cut back might be in the new budget, resulting in a reduction of some services.

On the up side, the "Seeking Michigan" site continues to grow, with Michigan Death Records about 99.9% complete. The next project that will be started are the digitalization of State Census Records, including some held only by Detroit's Burton Collection.

Randy also suggests that if there are specific databases that you use on line (i.e. Heritage Quest, etc.) through "Seeking Michigan", that you let the Library know. This will help them if a decision needs to be made about deleting some of them from the website.

Following is a recent note sent to all GROs. Please help us to be part of the solution to this issue.

"To all Graves Registration Officers and Camp Contacts, Greetings.

Some of you might be aware that on July 1, 2009 the Federal Government changed their regulations concerning who can order and sign the application for headstones for "old wars" soldiers, including those of the Civil War.

Two of our long time members have now realized rejected applications.

We have been in contact with the National GRO, and several of us have contacted the VA Office direct. **We have been asked by the National GRO to not contact the VA until our National Officers can meet with them and devise a workable plan that we all can follow as an organization. He has been directed by the National Council of Administration to prepare a policy which will be discussed at the next C-of-A Meeting.**

Therefore, we are asking you to do two things until we get word from National concerning a plan: 1) **do not contact the VA directly**, in spite of who you know, or how familiar you are with the old process. The more people who contact them from our group sends the message that we are not unified in our effort and process; 2) **Do not submit any applications for headstones unless you have a next of kin's signature.** This seems to be the crux of the issue at this time.

The National GRO has received word from the far reaches of the country, and has promised that he will push to get us a workable solution to this problem. In the meantime, your Department Commander and GROs are working to develop a guidance document that you can use to complete the headstone application, and answer some FAQs as we continue to honor the soldier. Do you have any unique experiences that can be used to help other Brothers in the process? If so, send them to me and I will try and include them as part of our program. Committee Meetings and Updates."

Stay well, and prosper.

Henry E. Plant Camp #3

Submitted by Daniel Grable
Secretary/Treasurer

The Summer and Fall of 2009 was an active one for the Henry E. Camp #3 of Grand Haven. After our involvement in the Spring Lake Memorial Day ceremonies and camp picnic last May we conducted our annual Spring Lake Heritage Festival Presentation in June.

The presentation was held on Saturday June 20th at the Spring Lake Cemetery. First we had a talk on a typical campsite with a display that included a officer's tent, a original Civil War folding table and a typical chair set up in the cemetery. The Camp's presentation began with our Camp Commander Richard Scott presenting a talk on general facts about the Civil War. This was followed by brother John Baldus telling the battle history of his Great-Great-Grandfather Charles Baldus and his adventures at Gettysburg. Brother Donald Ogden then explained his Civil War camp antiques he had on display. He also explained the few Grand Army of the Republic antiques he brought along. The GAR antiques include a belt buckle and a Post Officer certificate. There was a good attendance of 35 adults and children.

Following the typical campsite presentation a cemetery walk was conducted by Brother Daniel Grable and Brother Jon Scott as the Civil War soldier guard. Brother Grable talked about the lives and community activities of several local Civil War veterans from the Spring Lake area who were buried in the Spring Lake Cemetery. The particular veterans Brother Grable included were Albert Ashley, Aloys Bilz, Edward Finch, Eugene Gardner, Lucius Lyman and George Quinton. Several of the veterans held the position of Spring Lake Village President and Aloys Bilz was also Spring Lake Township Supervisor and a Ottawa County Supervisor. Edward Finch was a relative of Camp #14 namesake Robert Finch. The walk itself took a hour and was attended by a small group.

During July the Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 of Kalamazoo conducted a dedication of a last Allegan County Civil War Veteran plaque dedication for Pvt. Ralph Towner where Brother Ronald Bellenger, former Commander of Camp #20, represented our camp.

Later in July our Brothers conducted the camp's annual Grave Registration work meeting at the small Ottawa Center Cemetery in Crockery Township. There we found 13 definite Civil War Veterans and an equal number of possible veterans due to their age. We are still working on the research of the veterans' military history.

The camp then was involved in the largest re-enactment in Western Michigan. The Holland Museum conducted a re-enactment of the battle of Utoy Creek, which took place on August 5-7, 1864 in Northern Georgia. During the actual battle the 25th Michigan Infantry lost two color bearers and the regimental colors were left on the field when the Union troops were driven back. Benjamin Van Raalte, during the night, crept through the Confederate lines, secured the colors, which he brought back to the regiment, and carried them until the close of the war. After the war VanRaalte was given part of the family farm that was later purchased by the City of Holland in 1983. This farm was the location of the re-enactment. The event was well attended by 150-200 re-enactors

The event took place on August 8-9th. On Saturday the 8th it rained hard in the morning but the event went on as scheduled Then midway through the morning the attendees were called to the protection of a barn on the property. Later it was decided by the Educational Director and re-enactor to cancel all of the events for the rest of the day except the Dinner for the re-enactors. They thought the land for the day's battle re-enactment would get damaged and not be safe for the re-enactors due to slipyness of the ground.

Sunday the event went on as scheduled along with a presentation by a Lincoln re-enactor and an Admiral Farragut re-enactor and a battle re-enactment. It was a well-attended event by local civilians.

During the event the camp conducted a recruitment tent. The camp pitched an officer's tent owned by Camp Commander Richard Scott from his days as a Union/Confederate Civil War re-enactor. While running the tent the camp met the battle expert for the re-enactment from Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia Major Perry Bennett USA. Major Bennett wrote his undergraduate Senior Research project and Masters thesis on the battle, which he became interested in as a child from the Atlanta area. Major Bennett has many Confederate Civil War Veteran ancestors and he has an interest and appreciation in the Union side and is an Associate member and chaplain of the General James B. McPherson Camp #1, Department of Georgia and South Carolina Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He also has training as an Army Historian and is historian for his current command. Major Bennett has four foreign deployments with two to Iraq.

Finishing off the Summer the Henry E. Plant Camp conducted a presentation on the Civil War as part of the Spring Lake District Library's month long Celebrating Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln Lecture series by experts on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War period honoring the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

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It was the opening lecture presented by the Library and the Tri-Cities Historical Museum.

Our presentation included some general Civil War facts along with some general facts on the Camp life of a typical soldier. We also had a presentation on the life of our name sake Henry Plant, the experiences of his Civil War unit the 14th Michigan Infantry and his actions that allowed Sgt. Plant to receive the Medal of Honor. We concluded the presentation with a Brother Donald Ogden sharing some of his actual Civil War and GAR artifacts. This was the largest presentation of the series with a full room attendance of 48.

This Fall we worked on updating our Camp's By-Laws and Guidelines adding the membership position of Junior Associate and a few other items.

At our October meeting Brother Cliff Owen presented the Camp with his personally donated Banner for the Camp. See the picture taken of the Banner and Brothers present following the meeting.

Our first public use of the banner took place at the school assembly held in honor of Veteran's Day for the 8th grader students of the Harbor Lights Middle School of the West Ottawa School District in the Holland area. It was here that 7 of our Brothers made up the Honor Guard for the event. The speaker for the assembly was Holland native U. S. Congressman Peter Hoakstra of the 2nd Michigan District who talked on the three faces of U. S. Veterans.

Then at our November meeting we had a presentation by Dr. Robert Mahaney on the work he conducted completing the major project started by the late Irene Reidsma of publishing a book for each Ottawa County cemetery with information on the cemetery and deceased there. Dr. Mahaney also talked about his production, in conjunction with the County Clerk's office, of a county map showing the location of all the known cemeteries in the county. Copies of the map were distributed to the Clerk's Office, and local libraries.

Also at the meeting the Camp elected their officers for 2010, which includes the following:

Commander	Richard L. Scott
Senior Vice Commander	Donald E. Ogden III
Junior Vice Commander	John C. Baldus
Secretary	Daniel H. Grable
Treasurer	Daniel H. Grable
Camp Council	John C. Baldus
	Paul M. MacDonald
	Jon W. Scott

The Camp was informed by Neal and Emily Breaugh of Camp #14 and Auxiliary #9 about the poor condition of the tombstones at the Norton Shores Cemetery, just north of the Muskegon Airport, where they have relatives buried. We have decided to take on this important project.

We the Henry E. Plant Camp wishes all the Brothers of the Michigan a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a very good 2010.

1862 - "Christmas morning about 2:00 we were aroused by the beating of the drums. We came out. They called the roll & gave us orders to have our breakfast at 3 o'clock & be ready to march at 5 o'clock. At 5 we started for Pohiak Church followed by three regiments of infantry, two batteries of artillery, and two companies of cavalry. The most of us made up our minds that we should have a merry Christmas, but we were disappointed. We went beyond the church & no enemy to be seen & so we stacked arms and rested about two hours & fired one gun off in the direction of them. Got no answer so we returned to camp hungry and tired. We had traveled about 30 miles."

Sergeant Major Charles H. Church, Co G 3rd Michigan Infantry from Camp Michigan, VA outside Washington D.C.

Robert Finch Camp 14

Submitted by Wm. E. Skillman, Patriotic Instructor ~Signals Officer

As of December 1st, Camp 14's roster shows 48 members present. 39 are Brothers and 9 are Associates. We would like to welcome new Brothers John Dyle of Pellston, Reverend James Friesner of Frankfort and Don Hinkley from Cadillac. We also welcome new Associate member A.J. Morse (son of CC Jeff Morse).

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9th at the Elks Club 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division) in Traverse City. Dept. Commander Chuck Worley will be our honored guest, and he will conduct the installation of the Camp officers for 2010.

September's guest speaker was 'History Detective' Chris Czopek. Chris opened his talk by addressing the Governor's decision to close Michigan's Historical Archives and Library (HAL). Chris informed listeners that he and other SUCVW researchers have created a plan that will allow them to track the collections to their new destinations. Chris foresees SUCVW's role in the future as the link between researchers, genealogists, and descendents and the collections. Chris then held aloft a red binder and announced it was his finished manuscript detailing the history of the 152 Native Americans who served in Co. 'K' of the First Michigan Sharpshooters. Because of Camp 14's assistance and support, Chris wanted us to be the first to share his accomplishment. The manuscript represents 15 years of research of soldier names (one warrior had 32 separate names throughout his lifetime), veteran and pension records and a wealth of other information. While not a 'battle history' of Company 'K', the book promises to be an invaluable tool for descendents, historians and genealogists alike. Before returning home, Chris announced he had a few 'loose ends' to tie up. After the meeting, Chris and a select group of friends retired to Sleder's Tavern; where he spent the evening recalling his many research challenges and triumphs.

Under sunny skies on October 17th, Camp 14 joined reenactors of Robinson's Battery 'C' 1st Michigan Light Artillery, to pay tribute to Sgt. John P. Sinclair, who had lain in an unmarked grave in the General McPherson GAR plot of Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery for the past 96 years. Deb Gosselin located Sgt. Sinclair's grave by researching his pension records and corresponding with descendents; she also arranged for a new headstone. GRO Tom Jenkins learned of Deb's work and contacted John Hughes (C.O. of the Battery) to offer Camp 14's services with the invitation to conduct a joint memorial service. Over 40 Brothers, Finch Auxiliary members, Robinson Battery reenactors and descendents participated in the occasion. Neal Breugh served as Master of Ceremony. The highlight of the event occurred when the Robinson Battery fired three salutes from their brass Napoleon field piece, followed by an impromptu 'fly over' by the Traverse City US Coast Guard Air Station's helicopter. Brother Jenkins has learned from family members that the story of Sgt. Sinclair's discovery and ceremony has appeared in newspapers around the country.



Photo: Joe Conger



Front rank (left to right): Jim Morse Jr., Jim Slis, Paul Timmerman, Don Gray, Geo. Goodrich, MC Neal Breugh, CC Jeff Morse, Jim Ribby, Tom Jenkins, Steve Mitchell (in tan jacket) direct descendent of Sgt. Sinclair, and Ted Mattis. Rear rank: Bill Skillman, SVC Dale Aurand, John Dyle, Joe Conger. Photo by Judy Jenkins.

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On October 24th, Brothers Breough, Aurand, Jenkins and Dyle traveled to Boyne City to attend the Charlevoix County Genealogical Society fair. Camp 14's table held a pair of computers showing slide presentations of the Sinclair and Petoskey cannon dedications. Large binders of photos detailing Camp 14's many successful projects over the past 5 years were also on display. The table was manned by Neal and Tom Jenkins. Brother Pat McCleary introduced the Brothers and Francis Finch Auxiliary members to fellow genealogists and attendees.



After lying in an unmarked grave for 92 years, Camp 14 places a wooden cross for Pvt. John Jacko; Company 'K' First Michigan Sharpshooters at the Maple Lawn Cemetery in Boyne City. (L to R) SVC Dale Aurand, GRO Tom Jenkins and John Dyle. Marker made by Joe Conger. Photo by Dean Kleinschrodt

During lunch, Brother's Aurand, Jenkins and Dyle traveled to Maple Lawn Cemetery to place wooden markers on the graves of Privates John Jacko and William Isaacs; two Company 'K' Indian veterans who had lain in unmarked graves since 1907. Dean Kleinschrodt, of American Legion Post 228, helped set the markers at their proper location. Chris Czopek had fixed the location of the graves during his September visit. Armed with his trusty red binder and obituaries from Charlevoix and Boyne City newspapers, Chris assisted City Hall clerks as they searched through the old cemetery records. Within an hour John Jacko's grave was discovered in the GAR section. William Isaacs' grave proved more elusive. After another hour of searching Chris finally deduced that Isaacs was the anonymous "Indian" buried in the potter's field. Chris has since discovered descendents of Isaacs among the Mt. Pleasant Getchedaw veterans group; one man had been searching for his ancestor's grave the past 20 years. Brother Skillman has likewise discovered a number of descendents of John Jacko living in Leelanau County. Camp 14 has extended an invitation to hold a joint rededication ceremony for both Company 'K' veterans next June with descendents and members of the Saginaw, Isabella and Grand Traverse bands of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Veterans Day found Camp 14 participating in community observances in Boyne City and Traverse City. Auxiliary member, Jane and her husband Bob, Prebble joined PCC Skillman in the former location as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars unveiled 4 new black granite markers honoring local citizens who served in America's conflicts from 1917 to present. That evening, Brothers Aurand, Breough, Jenkins and Jim Morse joined the Grand Traverse Coalition for the observance at Traverse City's Veteran's Park. The Camp election was held during our November meeting. Dale Aurand is our new Commander elect; George Goodrich our new SVC, and Joe Conger has been elected to the JVC spot. Congratulations, Brothers.

Dr. H.G. Smith was our guest speaker. His topic was entitled: "*Black Flag over the Western Front - Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Kansas*". Dr. Smith described the various Confederate commands (of varying legitimacy) that raided throughout Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas. Some units had no formal military structure and the slimmest of recognition by the Confederate high command. Many of their actions were more akin to terrorists or wanton murders. Some, like "Bloody Bill" Anderson, Jesse and Frank James, and Younger brothers, survived the War to become Wild West legends. Others proved to be as elusive to researchers like Dr. Smith today as they were to the Federal cavalry. Next, Dr. Smith discussed the Federal commanders assigned the unenviable missions of trying to hunt down the roving marauders and trying to isolate their civilian supporters. The various strategies they used met with mixed success. One 'county relocation' experiment (the same tactic used by US forces in South Vietnam) was so despised that the State of Kentucky switched allegiances to CSA *after the War*.

Camp 14 has learned the City of Petoskey has recovered an 1862 Hooper Foundry brass Napoleon cannon. The cannon had been missing since 1999 and was put up for sale on the internet. Coincidentally, Camp 14 became aware of the missing cannon while working on the Augusta Arsenal cannon discovered by DPW workers buried behind the Perry Stafford Hotel. Once Petoskey has resolved any legal issues surrounding the cannon it is Camp 14's plan to offer assistance to have the cannon mounted on a carriage and placed on permanent display in one of their parks.

Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Guard Camp 17

Submitted by Dennis Zank, Secretary

On November 10, 2009, at the Courthouse Square Association and Museum's Veteran's Day program in Charlotte, Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Michigan Department Junior Vice Commander Paul David Arnold presented Jeri Bohms (Director of the Courthouse Square Association and Museum) with a check for \$100 to help defray the cost of digitization of Post records from the Grand Army of the Republic's A. S. Williams Post #40 of Charlotte Michigan. The records consist of a memorial book, two books of maps, a photograph book, and a scrapbook. The records had been lost in storage at the American Legion Post #40 in Charlotte for years. Last spring Brother Dennis Zank of the SUVCW's Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Guard Camp #17 learned of these records. The records were donated to the Courthouse Square Association and Museum by the American Legion for safekeeping and digitization. Brother Zank sent a request to the SUVCW Michigan Department to help with the cost of digitization of the records. Upon completion of the digitization process, the SUVCW Michigan Department and Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Camp 17 will be receiving a copy of the Post records.



George Anderson Camp 58

Submitted by Craig Whitford, Commander



Forgotten Soldier Honored

On September 19, 2009, members from the George Anderson Camp #58, led by Commander Craig Whitford along with the Sunfield Camp #7 and Jackson Camp #17, gathered at Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing to honor a forgotten soldier, Harmon W. Paddelford, who served with Co A, 20th Michigan Infantry. Commander Whitford had located the diary of Harmon's sweetheart and discovered that there was no marker for the veteran, and made it his mission to have Paddelford's story told in a re-dedication after a new headstone was installed. Also attending were members of the Lansing Fire Department Honor Guard. Paddelford was one of the founding members and was elected Stewart of Torrent Engine Co. 1, the first organized volunteer company in Lansing.

March to the Sea Camp # 135
Submitted by Bruce Gosling, Commander

On October 4 March to the Sea Camp #135 rededicated a restored GAR monument in Sturgis, Michigan.

The monument, a mortar tube, was originally erected in 1875 in honor of local men who served in the War of the Rebellion in 1861-1865. Concerned that the weakness of the original mounting was an invitation to theft, the cemetery department removed the monument and stored it in one of the cemetery barns for several years.

In the spring of 2009 March to the Sea Camp #135 began working with local citizen, Lyman Brown and the Cemetery Department of the City of Sturgis to restore the monument to its original site in the GAR section of the cemetery. The base was prepared and the mortar was replaced in time for Memorial Day observances. The masonry work and the refinishing of the mortar were completed in the late summer.

A formal rededication was service conducted by the camp on damp October 4 with more than 20 local residents in attendance.

Brothers John Dudd, David Gosling, Rick Shaffer,
Chris Herrmann, Carl Holsinger and Camp
Commander Bruce Gosling perform the Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War monument rededication
service on October 4, 2009 at Oak Lawn Cemetery of
Sturgis, Michigan.



**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 MADE ON TIME

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

Lockwood Camp # 139

Submitted by Don Londo, Commander

On October 3 Lockwood Camp # 139 participated at the Jesse Besser Museum Annual Harvest Day. Bros. Bruce Beckeney and Don Londo distributed SUVCW brochures and discussed with attendees the mission and history of our group. Evelyn Londo and Lauren Beckeney, dressed in Civil War dresses, joined them and distributed brochures and information about the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Westlawn Cemetery in Harrisville was the site of the October 10 dedication of the headstones of two Harrisville Civil War soldiers- Owen Fox- Co. A 8th Maine Infantry and Seymour Spencer, Co. D 8th Michigan Cavalry. Two Harrisville ladies, Janet Higgins and Marcia were the initiators of the project. They found the gravesites and identified the veterans as having served in the Civil War. They contacted the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and obtained headstones.

While attending the 97th Regimental Band Concert, they saw our camp flag. This prompted them to contact our Departmental website. The Department contacted us and the work began.

Commander Don Londo of Lockwood Camp #139 conducted the ceremony at the gravesite of Owen Fox. Brothers Bruce Beckeney and Wayne McWilliams laid the symbols at the Owen Fox headstone and Bros. Mitch Minton and Bob Diamond laid the symbols at the Seymour Spencer grave.

Ken Martin of SVR 14TH Michigan Infantry served as Chaplain Dean Lamphere, Ken McInerney, Bill Morris, Duane Philips, Don Shaw and Paul Davis of the SVR Co A Michigan Infantry served as color guards.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Thunder Bay District of the of the Cub Scouts with flags led the VFW Post #139, DUVCW, and the spectators to the Seymour Spencer gravesite. There the Chaplain Ken Martin gave a benediction. George Redlawsk sounded taps and CO A 14th Michigan Infantry performed a gun salute. The ceremony concluded with George Redlawsk sounding the dispersal bugle call from the Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics.

Approximately 100 local citizens attended the ceremony. Also a number of cars stopped by the road to witness the event. WBKB TV, The Alpena News and Alcona County Review provided excellent coverage.

As a result of the media coverage some descendants of Seymour Spencer attended the ceremony- Leah Minyard, Wilber Garret and Michelle Schwartz. Their presence added significant meaning to the ceremony.

On Veterans Day Lockwood Camp 139 joined the others Alpena veteran's groups in honoring our nation's veterans. Brother Guy Decker and Daughter Evelyn Londo placed a wreath at the Civil War crosses in Little Flanders Field.

On November 7 Brother Don Londo gave the opening address for the Alpena Library's Lincoln exhibit. The exhibit is on loan from the Smithsonian Institute. It is number of large panels displaying the written word of Lincon's life and deeds.

Brother Londo discussed Alpena's history and the Civil War. He talked about military recruitment, an induction ceremony and Denton Sellick, Alpena's first recruit. Sellick moved his family to Detroit in August 1861 and fought until the end of the war.

The talk was well attended. At the conclusion the library staff served food prepared from authentic Civil War recipes.



L -R Mitch Minton- Lockwood Camp, Michelle Scharz, Wilbur Garret, and Leah Minyard -descendants of soldier Seymour Spencer, Don Londo Lockwood Camp

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



Members of the camp assisted Commander Mike Gillett and Camp 180 at the rededication of the grave of Pvt. Abner Delos Austin Co I 24th Michigan Infantry at Clarenceville Cemetery, Livonia Michigan on September 13. Attending from Camp 427 were: Keith Kushnir, Ed Binkley, Jerry Radloff, Aaron Schrader, George Boller, Howard Fite, and CC Rick Danes.
Photo by Elaine Radloff

PCC Jerry Olson holds class at Camp 427's mini-encampment at the Dearborn Fall Into Dearborn Event in October. Listening closely are Brothers Keith Kushnir and Ken Roberts.
Photo by Danes



Camp 427 Members Jerry Olson, Aaron Schrader, Ed Binkley, Keith Kushnir, Howard Fite, Rick Danes, Ian Kushnir, Ken Roberts, and Henry Heatley participated in the Cathedral of St. Paul (Detroit) Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 8.
Photo by Stella Heatley



The field work was completed at the 86 acre Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery in November. Shown is the Russell A., Alger Tomb.
Photo by Danes



Members of the Camp joined "Santa" (PCC Jerry Olson) at the Museum Guild of Dearborn Victorian Tea on December 5. Also pictured are Brothers Fred Rausch, Ken Roberts, Howard Fite, and Aaron Schrader.
Photo by Danes

5th Michigan Infantry Regiment

Submitted by James B. Pahl, PCinC

This is the eighth installment in my regimental history series. This regiment holds a very dear place in my family's heart, as my wife's great grandfather, Henry Sammis, fought with this regiment.

The Fifth was organized at Fort Wayne August 28, 1861, mustering some 900 officers and men. The following companies were assigned to the 5th: Sherlock Guard of Detroit, Co A; Mt. Clemens Rifle Guard, of Mt. Clemens, Co B; East Saginaw Volunteers of Saginaw, Co C; Pontiac Volunteers of Pontiac, Co D; Huron Rangers of Port Huron, Co E; Governor's Guard of Detroit, Co F; Washington Guard of St. Clair, Co G; Ingersoll Rifles Owosso, Co H; Livingston Volunteers of Brighton, Co I; Saginaw City Light Infantry, Co K.

Col. Henry D. Terry of Detroit was the first commander of the 5th. A fine National Color of silk was presented to the Regiment by Messrs F. Buhl, Newland & Co. The Hon. Henry T. Backus addressed the regiment with response from Col. Terry, who also accepted the colors. Under this flag, some 10 color bearers and members of the color guard fell, defending their flag. This flag was presented to the "regimental association" upon the regiments return to Michigan at the end of its service.

The 5th left Detroit for Virginia on September 10, 1861 and lay in camp near Alexandria during the winter, engaged in minor skirmishing. The regiment went with General McClellan to the Peninsula in March of 1862, placed in a brigade with the 2nd and 3rd Michigan and the 37th New York, assigned to Kearny's division of the 3rd Corp. It was hotly engaged in the battle of Williamsburg.

By the time of the 5th's engagement at Fair Oaks, it was already reduced in strength to 300, losing an additional 30 killed, 119 wounded and 5 missing in that engagement.

The 5th returned from the Peninsula, where it was then engaged at 2nd Bull Run, Groveton and Chantilly. On the 13th of November, the regiment was engaged at Fredericksburg, losing an additional 10 killed and 73 wounded, including their then commanding officer, Lt. Col. John Gilluly. Command was assumed by Lt. Col. Sherlock, who was killed along with 7 other members of the regiment, 43 wounded and 31 missing at Chancellorsville. On June 11th, the regiment started marching north with the army, arriving at Gettysburg about 4:00pm on July 2 after a ten mile march in three hours, going immediately into action and losing 105 men in a hour. The official record of the regiment does not mention what duties they were engaged in upon the 3rd of July, but that the regiment was on picket duty on the 4th.

The 5th was also engaged at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna River and Petersburg. On January 15, 1865, the regiment was armed with improved Sharp's breach loading rifles. Also, the Michigan based Co B, 2nd Regiment of US Sharpshooters, the Michigan survivors of the 1st Regiment of US Sharpshooters and the members of the 3rd Michigan were transferred to the 5th.

The fifth was part of the chase of the Army of Northern Virginia, engaged at Sailors Creek and then at Appomattox Courthouse. On April 13, the regiment began its march back to Washington, DC. where it participated in the Grand March on the 23rd.

The regiment then traveled to Louisville, KY, and then crossed to Jeffersonville, Ind., where the regiment was mustered out of service on July 5. The men returned to Detroit, arriving on the 8th, being paid off and disbanded on the 17th.

The 5th had borne on its rolls some 1,900 officers and men, losing 10 officers and 141 men killed in action, 6 officers and 75 men died of wounds and 3 officers and 163 men died of disease.