



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

Commander's Comments

By Donald Shaw

In these Messenger articles, I have been reporting on the progress we have been making on the goals we set out with at the beginning of the term. I will be doing the same thing in this article but with an emphasis on one goal in particular which we have now brought to fruition. Specifically that would be our goal of holding some department level mid term event that would promote our brothers being able to get together and participate in an activity at some mid point between encampments. In the last newsletter article, that was identified as the Detroit Veteran's Day Parade and the associated stay at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. That activity was set for November 6, 2010, and is now complete.

First, let me say that with the other seven goals the department set, we have been making steady progress on all. I am satisfied that our efforts to keep on top of our administrative responsibilities, deal with our archival problems, promote proper use of our Ceremonies and Rituals, promote communications between our various camps, assist our incoming camp secretaries, keep our web sites up to date and to support the Canadian Union Veteran's Monument are all progressing. The brothers doing work on these programs are to be commended. No earth shattering event has happened in any of those areas, but progress in achieving those goals has been steady. I am confident of their full completion by the time of our Department Encampment in May.

The remaining goal had to do with promoting an activity on the department level, mid way between encampments, that would be of statewide significance and allow the brothers of this state to come together to pursue one of the objects of our Order. According to our Charter, rendering the respect due veterans of all of our wars is one of those objects. The participation therefore in Michigan's largest city, in the parade meant to render that honor, was a natural fit for our organization. I am proud to say that response to that call came from all over the state. We had representatives in attendance from the northern portions of the state, from Alpena and Traverse City. We had representatives from the western reaches of the state. From Marshall, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Centerville as well as others from our several camps there. The eastern portion of the state, from the Detroit metropolitan area, Dearborn, Oakland County, Flint, Bay City and Ann Arbor, was well represented. So was the heartland of the state, Lansing-Sunfield, Jackson and DeWitt, just to mention a few. Eleven of our camps brought their flags to march with the U. S. National Colors as well as our Department Colors.

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All in all, it was an impressive sight to see marching down Woodward Avenue. The fifty or so Sons who participated in this event did the Department proud and are to be commended for the effort shown and the presentation that they made. Our object in the parade participation was to remember our veterans, and these brothers, as representatives of the successor organization to the GAR, promoted keeping green the memory of the soldiers and sailors of America's most costly war. That is as it should be.

As a part of the weekend, we had also arranged for the use of the barracks at Fort Wayne to act as a staging area for those of our brothers who wanted to meet and park there and more especially for those who wanted to spend the night so as to not have to make an extremely long drive on the morning of the parade. The evening together provided opportunities for camaraderie that we seldom have the chance to experience. Further, the late night lantern tour into the deep recesses of the Fort, led by persons so knowledgeable about the Fort and its history, added immeasurably to that experience. A good time in this regard was had by all who participated.



As to this activity, I finally want to extend the thanks of the Department for jobs well done. To Keith Harrison, who in many aspects led the charge on this project. Keith, we couldn't have done it without you. To the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, of which this Department is a proud member, for providing use of the barracks and staging facilities, thank you for your hospitality. To the Metro Detroit Veteran's Coalition, the parade sponsor, thank you for allowing us to honor our Civil War Veterans along side of the veterans of America's other conflicts. Finally, to the men of the Department of Michigan, who responded to the call and honored not only the memory of their Civil War ancestors, but did honor to their pledge to "keep green the memory," my thanks and congratulations on a job well done.

BROTHERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

On behalf of myself and the Department, please accept my best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**Don Shaw
Department Commander**



Department Orders #3

Series 2010 – 2011

Donald Shaw, Commander

Headquarters, Flint, MI

15 November 2010

1. On behalf of the Department I offer thanks to all of the brothers of this Department who made the effort to honor our Veterans on Veterans Day by participating in the several Veterans Day parades and activities around the state. I particularly want to thank those who answered the Department's call, and made the effort to participate in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade. Brothers drove from all over the state for this event, in some cases, hundreds of miles, to participate with their fellows from across the state. Such dedication to the Order and our ideals led to an impressive display by the SUVCW in honor of the men and women who have served this country in our armed forces.
2. I commend the work of our brothers on the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. They have labored long and hard and their activities are now bearing fruit as we enter into this important period of remembering the sacrifices made on our behalf 150 years ago. Please support the projects they present to the best of your ability. They, and we, can use this important anniversary to better "Keep Green The Memory" of the soldiers and sailors of 1861 to 1865.
3. I commend the camps that have updated their web sites. In many cases we are now complete and up to date. If any camp becomes aware of a problem with the information contained in its web site, the signals officer or Camp Commander should immediately contact me or our Department Signals Officer to correct the problem.
4. Camps officers are reminded that officer installations need to be completed by January 31, 2011. To the several camps that have scheduled installations and to those that have already held them, thank you for getting your requests in to allow us to do planning. To those camps that still need to arrange for officer installation, get your requests in to the Department Commander as soon as possible. I will make every effort to perform this service for you but I do get double booked in which case DSVC Arnold has graciously offered to cover the installations if he is able. We need to know your dates however to allow all of this to happen. As in past years, any Camp requesting a special officer from the Department, other than the Commander, to do the installation for them, will be accommodated if possible. Such requests still need to be made through the Department Commander however.
5. All camps are reminded that form 22, Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers should be ready at the time of installation of officers so the installing officer may sign the same. The two completed copies must be mailed to the Department Secretary, Paul Davis, and are due to him no later than February 15, 2011. Any camp needing copies of the form is urged to visit the National Web Site at <http://Suvcw.org/ftp/form22fi.pdf>. For your convenience, the mailing address to send the forms to is as follows:

*Paul Davis, Secretary
Department of Michigan, SUVCW
535 Mayflower Dr.
Saginaw, Michigan 48638*

6. To all of my brothers going to Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, have a safe trip and I will see you out there.
7. I wish all of my brothers in the Department, and their families, a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous and Happy New Year. Thank you for all you have done in 2010 to keep green the memory of the men who saved the union 150 years ago.
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*/s/
Donald W. Shaw
Department Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*Attest: /s/
Paul Davis
Department Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

Senior Vice Commander's Quips

By Paul David Arnold, PCC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those brothers that were able to attend the Civil War Sesquicentennial Conference that took place on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

The conference was a unique opportunity to pool the state wide resources of the SUVCW, MOLLUS, the Reenacting Community, Genealogy Societies, Historical Societies as well as various Civil War Round Tables. All focused on the common goal of making Michigan's Civil War Sesquicentennial celebration the best it can be.

The State of Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission unveiled the official Civil War Sesquicentennial logo, as well as the official interactive website that will be used for the next four years.

That website address is www.micivilwar.org

The website is an interactive one and will allow your camps to list your special events directly on the State of Michigan website. It will also allow you to post pictures of your Civil War Ancestors, as well as pertinent Civil War event videos.

Some examples of camp events that could be listed range from headstone ceremonies, memorial day & veteran day events, civil war history seminars, educational events as well as living history displays.

The Department of Michigan Graves Registration data base is a permanent link of the State of Michigan website.

Having said that, it is imperative that during the four years of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, that *all* Camps maintain an updated Camp Website.

For those Camps that have their website maintained by the Department Web master, you need to keep him informed of all changes (when they occur) of your officers or other contact information. This includes officer email changes, officer position changes occurring in mid year, as well as changes in meeting times or the location of your camp meetings.

*It is important to list the **Who** to contact, **When** your meetings are held & **Where** they are held for the general public visiting your site.*

For those Camps that maintain their own websites, the same level of attention to detail is needed.

In addition to being able to post special events on the state's new Civil War website, all Camps are being encouraged to ratchet up their efforts in providing a list of *all* their events that will be taking place during the Sesquicentennial years, on the Department's website event listing page <http://www.suvcwmi.org/calendar.php>

We (and the public who look at our site) want to know about your school programs, the headstone re-dedications, and special events. These are all important programs and even more important because they are happening during the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Given the tremendous interest in the Civil War that will be generated throughout the nation over the next four years, the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will have an incredible opportunity to bolster our membership like never before. Therefore it will be important to maintain accurate Camp website information.

I would invite you to take the opportunity to visit the State of Michigan website www.micivilwar.org and list your events. Keep in mind that the site is in its infancy and will continue to grow and improve over the next four years.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty & Warmest Holiday Wishes.

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

Abraham Lincoln

From the Junior Vice Commander

By Kevin Lindsey, PCC

With the start of the New Year coming up, many new officers will be installed into their positions of responsibility. Let me congratulate you all. I thought that this might be a good time to let the new Junior Vice Commanders know what is expected of them.

The Constitution and Regulations state simply in Article VI, Section 2 that " the Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander shall assist the Commander and shall perform such duties as pertain to their office."

This is further clarified however in the Job Descriptions also found on the National Website, <http://www.suvcw.org/ed-jobs/jobs2.htm>, from which I will quote:

Purpose

The purpose of the office of Junior Vice Commander is to assist with the recruitment and retention of Brothers (Members, Associates, and Juniors).

Activities

Camp Junior Vice Commander. The activities of the Camp Junior Vice Commander should include: 1) Contacting prospective Brothers whose names are supplied to the Camp by the Department Junior Vice Commander; 2) Supplying prospective Brothers with membership materials including two membership applications, a copy of a SUVCW organization descriptive leaflet, and an invitation to the next Camp meeting; 3) keeping track of applicants progress in completing membership applications; 4) encouraging delinquent Brothers to remain in the Order; 5) presiding at Camp meetings in the absence of both the Camp Commander and Camp Senior Vice Commander; and 6) Carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Camp By Laws, Camp, and Camp Commander.

I hope that you may find this helpful. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to contact me at klindsey@comcast.net.



Chaplain's Corner

By Bill McAfee, PCC and Department Chaplain

I didn't realize it has been five years since I have submitted a column for *The Messenger*". It's not that the Spirit left me; He just hasn't moved me. This is, however, my way of getting something out to the Camp Chaplains and the Camp Commanders who sometimes fill in for the former.

I'm not sure if even I can find a job description for "Camp Chaplain". I guess I've been one for so long, I just take for granted what my duties should be. For those of you who are new to the position or who have been in it so long, you have forgotten, I'd like to address one of those duties.

One of our most unpleasant duties is to deal with the death of a brother. It comes with the job. Although it is inevitable, it is one which we all pray doesn't come up often. However, when it does, we should be ready to react. After the family has been contacted and any aid given regarding services, notifications need to be made. Several years ago, Brother Dave Wallace, PDC, helped me prepare a "Death Notice" form. It is available on the Department Website, under "The Bugle Call". Or you can contact me via my listing as a Department HQ officer. When you fill out that form and submit it, it has all I need to prepare an obituary and send it to the Department and National officers whose responsibilities include keeping track of such things and having it put in the *Messenger* and the *Banner*.

What brings this up now? In the latest issue of *The Banner* two Michigan names were listed, without camp affiliation. I cannot include them in my annual "Necrology Report" to the Department Encampment in May. They don't appear properly in the "Bugle Call", *Messenger*" or *Banner*. They do not get their deserved recognition because a report wasn't filled out. What a shame for them and their loved ones who never received a note of condolence from the Department. They are Irving M. Hackeman and Bernie Stanaway. It's not too late. Whoever is responsible can still send me their Death Notice and we can fix this...no recriminations. Let's just get it corrected and be aware of it for the future.

God Bless the USA!

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

From the GAR Records Officer*By Gary Gibson, PDC*

The GAR Records Committee continues its search for records of Posts of the Department of Michigan. We have recently received copies of miscellaneous records for Posts in Charlevoix, Grand Traverse and Alcona counties. These acquisitions were due to brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders contacting this office, and sending copies. We have also been contacted by persons not associated with our organizations, willing to share information. Once again, the Department website proves its worth.

One feature of the GAR Records Committee web pages is photos of currently existing GAR Halls within the state of Michigan. I would like to expand this to include photos of halls that are no longer in existence. If you have a photo, or have access to a photo, of a GAR Hall in Michigan that no longer stands, or an existing hall not on the website, please forward a copy or a scan, including the location and any information about the building, to this office, either by US Mail or email

Department Patriotic Instructor*By LTC Max Riekse (RET), PCC*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!!

2011 - it will be 150 years ago that the American Civil War began in 1861 in South Carolina. 1861 also saw the first major battle of the Civil War - First Bull Run or First Manassas - the Third Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment and three of my five Civil War (Union) ancestors were at that battle - the beginning of a long war in which many brave men (North and South) would not live to see its end. God Bless them all.

All SUVCW camps should give some serious thought about seeing to it that all those who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) from Michigan are recognized with a Bronze plaque or some kind of public memorial. We have 83 counties in Michigan: if one or more of those counties has a person who was awarded the Medal of Honor and is covered by a (your) SUVCW camp, it would be a great SUVCW community service project to have these men honored. Muskegon County, where I live, has two men who were awarded the Medal of Honor; one from the Civil War and one from the Korean War; I'm working on raising money for several (97%) bronze plaques honoring these brave men who fought for freedom - especially our Civil War ancestors who fought to preserve the Union - our Republic. Each plaque will have an Army Civil War medal and a Navy Medal of Honor; the Korean War MOH person was in the Marines and he received the Navy MOH.

My 'vision' is to have several made and erected throughout Muskegon County.

In Ottawa County just below Muskegon County, there were several men who were awarded the MOH and there is already a bronze plaque honoring them - except for the Civil War individual who was "forgotten". I would like to see all those men from Ottawa Counties who were awarded the MOH memorized on a plaque in the Grand Haven Central Park across from the County Seat.

I'm sharing this with you in case you or your camp decides take on a MOH plaque project in your area. If you do, make sure you invite the Daughters of Union Veterans, the other allied orders, including the SUVCW Veteran Reserve; the Loyal Legion; the VFW; American Legion: DAV; Marine Corps League; Catholic War Veterans, DAR, etc. and have them all bring their flags to a ceremony, and don't forget the reactors who are interested. A cannon at the MOH dedication would also be a nice touch.

To see if 'your' county(s) have someone who was awarded the MOH, obtain a copy of the book: Michigan's Own - The Medal of Honor; Civil War to Vietnam War; by Stanley J. Bozich; ISBN 0-9615411-1-3. If your local library does not have it, they can obtain it through inter-library loan.

One last note: Don't forget to send me your year end camp PI reports utilizing the officially approved SUVCW PI forms; please send them to me by the end of January, 2011 by US Mail, two copies: at: Max Riekse, P.O. Box 82, Fruitport, Michigan. 49415. Last year was a big improvement over the year before; let's make this year 100%. Happy New Year.

Department Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, CC

This month we will have the fourth Department Graves Registration Committee Meeting of the year, and the _____ consecutive meeting of the Committee. Although these meetings are not everything to everybody, it gives the members a chance to talk about their discoveries, their problems, and their methods, things that they think about as they are looking for a particular headstone in a field of many.

“Just as we thought it was safe” we are told that the Library will not be open on weekends after January 1st, 2011 although this will impact our work and meeting place, I assure you that the work to find and honor our heroes of the Southern Insurrection will continue.

When you access the Department Website and Graves Registration Database after the GRO meeting, you will see a change that the Committee has been requesting for some time now. The information now has been split into two files – the first has only Civil War records, the second has only “Other Wars” records – those of soldiers who served in Wars from the Revolution until Span Am. The other thing that you will find is that we are deleting records that do not show a Regiment for the soldier – if we can't prove he is a soldier, he shouldn't be in our database.

We would also like to welcome the newest members of our Committee – Commander Jim Jackson of Camp 22, and Brother Gary Copenhaver of Camp 17...welcome.

As we “hunker down” the winter, remember, we cannot complete this task alone, so if you have a few hours to spare, ask your Graves Registration Officer if you can help him – we have much to do, and not just walking the cemetery.

Get Involved, and have a quality holiday season!

A Hero “Found”

Submitted by Rick Danes, CC

Occasionally the members of the Graves Registration Committee are presented with information that is just too interesting not to share. The following information came from Lora Diane Peppers of the Genealogy/Special Collections Dept. at the Ouachita Parish Public Library in Monroe, Louisiana.

She started her note with ; “I noticed that the SUV is compiling a database of the graves of Union Veterans from Michigan. Thought you would like to know of one more, buried in Winn Parish, LA.

Simeon G. Butts enlisted as a private on August 15, 1862 in Company D, 11th Infantry Regiment, MI. He was from Branch County, MI. He transferred out of the company and into the U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps on June 30, 1863 in Quincy, IL. After the war, he came to Louisiana with the Freedmen's Bureau. By then he was a 2nd Lieut. While taking army payroll money through Winn Parish in 1866, he was brutally murdered by the Nightrider Gang when he stopped for a drink from a local spring. The Nightrider Gang (Sometimes called the West/Kimbrell Gang) is INFAMOUS in Winn Parish. I've heard people say they were worse than the James gang. Simeon is now part of the local legend there. The spring where he was killed was named Yankee Springs after him. His grave is now lost, but the general area he was buried in is known. A church sprang up near where he was killed (Called Yankee Springs Baptist Church) and Simeon is supposed to be buried across the street from it. Simeon left behind a wife, Lettisa and four kids: Anna M., Adelaide, Frederick and Virginia. I'm sure someone that joins the SUV eventually connects to him and I would like the information to be easily found as to what happened to him and where he was buried!

Ms. Peppers has created a page on “Find A Grave” for Butts which contains newspaper articles about his death and the final demise of the Nightrider Gang. It can be found at:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=61031065> .

Detroit Veterans Day Parade

Submitted by Keith G. Harrison , PCinC and Chair, Special Committee on the Civil War Sesquicentennial

As part of the state's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, the SUVCW Michigan Department participated in the Detroit Veterans Day parade on November 6, 2010, the 150th anniversary of the election of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. We had two marching units, the SUVCW and the Civil War re-enactors (Marching Units #13 and #14, respectively, in the parade). Between the two units, we had 11 Camp flags, and 60 participants - 50 of whom were SUVCW members (there is a large overlap of with some SUVCW members marching with the re-enactors and several re-enactors who are also SUVCW members marching with the SUVCW).

The parade was organized with the Michigan Department's Banner leading our unit followed by the SUVCW's 14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve (serving as honor guard), the Department's Color Guard, our Department's Commander (Donald Shaw), the 11 Camp Flags, and then Brothers of the Order. Immediately behind our unit was the fife and drum unit provided by the 9th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (Confederate re-enactors dressed as Union) and then the combined Civil War re-enactors unit.

Based on information provided to us prior to the parade in terms of planned participation and our cursory examination of the 50 SUVCW participants (i.e., Brothers wearing their membership medal) at the parade, we believe the SUVCW Camps that were represented (with and without Camp Flags) included:

General John Logan Camp #1 - Grand Rapids
 General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2 - Oakland County
 Henry Plant Camp #3 - Grand Haven
 Austin Blair Camp #7 - Jackson
 Robert Finch Camp #14 - Traverse City
 Curtenius Guard Camp #17 - Lansing/Sunfield
 General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 - Kalamazoo
 Colegrove-Woodruff Camp #22 - Marshall
 Alexander French Camp #28 - Big Rapids
 Nash-Hodges Camp #43 - Blissfield
 George W. Anderson Camp #58 - DeWitt
 US Grant Camp #67 - Saginaw/Bay City/Midland
 Frederick H. Hackeman Camp #85 - Bridgman
 Gilluly-Kingsley Camp #120 - Howell
 March to the Sea Camp #135 – Centreville
 Lockwood Camp #139 - Alpena
 Gov. Henry Crapo Camp #145 - Flint
 Henry Wallace Camp #160 - Corunna
 Carpenter-Welch Camp #180 Ann Arbor - Ypsilanti
 Wa-Bu-No Camp #250 - Shepherd/Mt. Pleasant
 LeValley-Heusted Camp #255 - Mayville
 Albert and James Lyon Camp #266 - Upper Peninsula (not verified)
 Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427 – Wayne and Monroe Counties



Again, based on information provided to us prior to the parade in terms of planned participation and our cursory examination of the participants, the Civil War reenactment units represented in the parade included:

4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry	5th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry	8th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry	16th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry	United States Sharp Shooters
USSS Michigan Marine Guard	Historic Fort Wayne Sally Port Mess
9th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (CS) as Union	

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All Veteran's Day Parade Photos by Wigwam Jones

Upon reaching the Hart Plaza where the Veterans' program was held, both units were strategically placed flanking both sides of the speaker/dignitary platform and remained there during the duration of the program. At the end of the program, the combined reenactor unit was asked to fire one of the volley's honoring the veterans.

As a special Michigan Department-sponsored program, we are looking to participate in this parade each year during the Civil War Sesquicentennial (our goal is to get up to 100-plus Brothers in the parade) in order to help ensure that our Civil War veterans are not forgotten.

XXXXXXXX

Cemetery For Confederate Soldiers Discovered ... In Ohio!

Submitted by Chris Czopek, Camp 17

For many years, the Department of Michigan has heard rumors of a Confederate Soldiers Cemetery somewhere in Ohio. In October, I decided to investigate the story. I traveled to Ohio with my father, Edmund A. Czopek, who had just turned 88. Their search took us to Sandusky, a city on the shore of Lake Erie famous for the Cedar Point Amusement Park. Local people knew about the rumored cemetery, and pointed the way to Johnson Island. During the Civil War, Johnson Island was a Prison Camp for captured soldiers of the Confederate Army. An estimated 15,000 prisoners spent time there. About two hundred of them died from disease and were buried on the island. When the war ended, the camp buildings disappeared - but the cemetery remained. Over the years, the Daughters of the Confederacy have quietly looked over the burial site. Under their care, the wood boards that marked the original graves were replaced with marble stones. An iron fence was put around the cemetery, and in 1910 a large statue of a Confederate Soldier, named "The Sentinel", was erected to honor the men buried there. While I walked along the rows of gravestones, reading names and making notes, my father noticed "The Sentinel" seemed to be looking at something in the distance. Curiosity got the better of him, and he followed the gaze of the statue. By chance, the statue is looking across the water straight at the Roller Coaster tracks towering above the trees at Cedar Point. One hand is raised to shield his eyes from the sun, and there is a puzzled look on his face.

This is a beautiful destination for a road trip along the shore of Lake Erie. The nearby town of Marblehead has restaurants, shops, and a historic lighthouse. Nowadays you can drive to the island in your car, thanks to a causeway built by the Island's residents. Be advised, there is an automated toll gate. So either bring cash, or bring your father and ask "Dad, can I have two dollars?"



"Curiosity got the better of him, and he followed the gaze of the statue. By chance, the statue is looking across the water straight at the roller coaster tracks towering above the trees at Cedar Point (also towards the South). One hand is raised to shield his eyes from the sun, and there is a puzzled look on his face. "



Henry E. Plant Camp #3

By Daniel Grable, Secretary/Treasurer

The Brothers of the Henry E. Plant Camp #3 of Grand Haven wish all the other camps and brothers in the Michigan Department a very Merry Christmas.

On Veteran's Day this year we participated in the 8th grade assembly at Harbor Lights Middle School in the West Ottawa School District in Holland. The assembly began with an introduction of our camp by a Harbor Lights Middle School official. Brother Cliff Owen gave a brief biography of Henry E. Plant and his heroic actions during the Battle of Bentonville, N. C. for which Plant earned his Medal of Honor.

The Camp marched in to the auditorium with our American and Camp Flags. The Honor Guard was commanded by Richard Scott with Jonathan Scott as Sergeant of the Flag line. Ronald Bellenger carried the American flag and Daniel Grable carried the Camp flag with Donald Ogden (Camp) and Jonathan Scott (American) as flag guards. Assistant Camp Chaplain John Baldus marched in with Honor Guard Captain Richard Scott.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted just before the posting of the colors.

The brothers of the Camp and the speaker of the day were presented. The Regiments of their ancestors were present by brother Clifford Owen.

A short video was shown about the military oath of our U. S. A. Military Veterans.

Then Elmer McGennen, Holland Museum employee, former Mayor of Holland and City Councilman and 8th Grade teacher gave a talk on Veterans Day history, who the veterans were, how many of the students have current and former veterans in their families, and the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Meanwhile Brothers Max Rieskie had a ceremony with the Fruitport V.F.W Polar Bear Post and Kenneth Kelly had a ceremony to attend with the Grand Haven American Legion Post.

We used our new color carriers at the assembly. The carriers were donated to us from the Spring Lake AMVETS Post #1994 when they disbanded the post.

Besides Veterans Day, the camp has been actively working on future events that included a spring school Civil War presentation at Harbor Lights Middle School and our annual presentation during the Spring Lake Heritage Festival in June.

The camp has decided to donate an engraved brick to be placed at the base of the Fallen Veterans Monument in Grand Haven's Central Park. The Fallen Veterans Monument covers fallen veterans from the area north of the Grand River/M-45 in northern Ottawa County since World War II. Two brothers of our camp Ken Kelly and Max Rieskie chair the monument committee, with our Camp Commander Richard Scott as a committee member.

We have started working on having the new highway bypass between Grand Haven and Holland to be named after Henry E. Plant since the bypass will take the land that Mr. Plant once owned as his farm.

This fall as we continued our camp's grave registration work we were informed that the Civil War Veteran's tombstones ordered for veterans in Cemeteries in Sullivan Township in Muskegon County are in and in their respective places. We are now getting ready to conduct rededication ceremonies next spring.

During our September meeting Brother Ronald Bellenger presented the camp with a gavel he had purchased at a flea market. The gavel was originally used by a judge and was engraved with the judge's name on the band but no one knew the judge or where he served. Brother Bellenger reversed the band and put the SUVCW Emblem and our Camp name on it. Now our Camp Commander has to learn how to use it during our camp meetings.

Remembrance Day - 2010

Submitted by Jim Pahl, PCinC



Reflections of the Michigan Department Trip to Gettysburg, PA for Remembrance Day, 2020. Part of the day's activities focused on the placement of flags by each marked Michigan man's grave, some camaraderie and site seeing, and final reflections on the meaning of the occasion.

Participating were Members of the Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and SVR, Allied Orders DUV, Auxiliary, and WRC, their families and friends.



Robert Finch Camp 14

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

Camp 14's roster as of November 13th shows 49 Brothers present. 40 are Members and 9 are Associates. Our first meeting of 2011 will be held on Saturday, January 8th at the Elks Lodge, 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division) in Traverse City. Dept. Commander Don Shaw will preside over the Installation of Camp Officers for 2011.

On September 18th, CC Aurand and an Honor Guard comprising of Brothers Ribby, Dyle and Skillman traveled to the 'sunrise side of the State' to join CC Don Londo and Brothers of Lockwood Camp 139 to commemorate a new headstone for Private John H. Waters, Co B, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters (a comrade of Robert Finch). The Rifle Squad ranks were bolstered by SVR members Bill Morris and Lloyd Lamphere. During lunch, John Dyle and his wife, Julie, entertained guests playing a selection of 'Top 10 Civil War Hits' on their hammer dulcimers. Former Harrisville High School history teacher and guest speaker, Ray Herek, entertained the crowd with anecdotes from his book These Men Have Seen Hard Service, the history of the First Michigan Sharpshooters.

During our September meeting, Camp 14 was honored by a visit by Dept. Commander Don Shaw and Chief of Staff Bill Morris. A portion of the meeting was devoted to the proceedings from National SUVCW Department Encampment; particularly the increase in dues. Commander Shaw complimented CC Aurand by the thoughtful deliberation and civility between the Brothers discussing this very difficult issue.

On Nov 6, CC Aurand, GRO Jenkins and Sec-Treas Breaugh joined with other SUVCW camps and Civil War reenactors to participate in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Detroit.



L to R: Chris Czopek, Neal Breaugh, Tom Jenkins. Photo by Abigail Jenkins

Some Camp 14 Brothers participated in a 'double-header' during the Veterans Day festivities. Commander Aurand, GRO Jenkins, Sec-Trea. Breaugh drove to Boyne City to attend that community's Veteran's Day observance. Sunny skies and mid-sixties temps brought nearly 100 citizens and veterans to the new waterfront Veterans Park. In the evening, Camp 14 joined the Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition and 350 citizens at the newly completed Veterans Park on 11th Street and Elmwood. The new park features a circular arrangement of stones listing the wars and names of local citizen-soldiers who lost their lives, with plenty of room for visitors to reflect, walk or picnic.

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Veterans Day ~ Boyne City Photo by Dean Kleinschrodt
L to R: T. Jenkins, B. Skillman, D. Aurand & N. Breough



Veterans Day ~ Traverse City Veterans Park photo by WES
L to R: Jan White, Jim Morse Jr. and Dale Aurand,

Our Camp meeting was held on November 13th, and officers for 2011 were elected. They are:

Commander: Dale Aurand
Senior Vice Commander: George Goodrich
Junior Vice Commander: Joe Conger
Camp Council: Jan White,
Bill Skillman, and Neal Breough
Secretary: Tom Jenkins
Treasurer: Bill Watson

Following the meeting, Camp 14 was honored to have favorite guest speaker, Brother Chris Czopek, return. Chris unveiled his new book: **Who was Who in Company 'K'** to a standing room only audience. Chris spent the past 15 years meticulously researching the pre-War, service and post War lives of the 139 Odawa, Chippewa and Pottawatomi soldiers who served in the First Regiment of Michigan Sharpshooters. Chris entertained his audience with anecdotes about the 'heroes' of Company 'K', whose deeds had been lost to history.

Chris described how he uncovered and corrected many errors that he found in the historical record. Three descendents of Company 'K' veterans were in attendance, who expressed their appreciation to Chris for his dedication in preserving the memory of their ancestors. Following his presentation, Chris traveled to Mt. Pleasant with Commander Aurand to participate in the Saginaw Chippewa Band's Ogitchedaw Warriors Feast, where Chris was guest of honor. CC Aurand reported: "On November 13th, I was honored to attend the Ogitchedaw Warriors Feast in Mt. Pleasant. Over 300 people enjoyed an evening of Native American traditions. A member of the Warriors shared his impressions of the traditional burial ceremony conducted by members of the Ogitchedaw for seven Co. K POW's at the Andersonville National Cemetery this past May. Also featured was the first 18 minutes of a documentary video entitled: "Co. K. Sharpshooters". The audience was enthusiastic about the production, which is in the process of raising funds to finally tell the story of these warrior-soldiers."

Michigan Sharpshooters Honored on Little Round Top

Submitted by Paul Davis, CC



During the Gettysburg Remembrance Weekend on November 20 and 21, ten members of U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 and Sons of Veterans Reserve members along with Michigan Brothers from Curtenius Guard Camp 17, Crapo Camp 145 and March to The Sea Camp 135 descended the rocky slope of Little Round Top to perform a Memorial Service for the Sharpshooters from Michigan who served in Companies C, I and K of Berdan's 1st Regiment of Sharpshooters and Company B, Berdan's 2nd USSS.

L to R: James Pahl, PCinC; Ed Dowd, Paul Davis, Camp Commander U.S. Grant; Bill Morris, Duaine Phillips, Len "Irish" McInerney, Jack Frost, Bob Boquette, Ron Shull, Don Shaw, Michigan Department Commander; Dean Lamphere, Commander 14th Michigan SVR; Lloyd Lamphere, Chuck Worley, PDC; Jonathan McInerney and Keith Harrison, PCinC, CinC MOLLUS.



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.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

By Rick Danes, CC



Fall Into Dearborn



Detroit Veteran's Day Parade

Camp 427 has had a very busy fall, participating in the following events: Dearborn Fall Into Dearborn Encampment, Detroit Veteran's Day Parade (fielding 7 Members), St. Paul's Cathedral Veteran's Day Service, Dearborn Veteran's Day Ceremony, we visited and made a donation to the John Dingell V. A. Hospital, we awarded two Eagle Scout Certificates, Supported the Dearborn Historical Museum in the Annual Victorian Tea. We had 3 Camp Meetings with guest speakers, and welcomed our 43rd Member, Dr. Weldon Pelz, a life member who was referred by Bruce Butgereit and Commander Shaw.

2011 shows 33 events already scheduled, including three headstone dedications (we helped order over a dozen headstones last year) – this does not include Eagle Awards Ceremonies and other “add-ons”.

Camp elections are complete, and I have been given the honor of serving as Commander and Treasurer during the beginning of the Sesquicentennial. Others elected to the team are Jon Reed – Senior Vice Commander; Howard Fite – Junior Vice Commander; Jerry Jacobs – Recording Secretary; and Jerry Olson, Keith Kushnir, and Gus Sherwin to the Camp Council.

The Members of Camp 427 and our families wish the very best to each and every one of you and yours during this holiday season and through the coming year.



John Dingell VA Hospital Visit



Eagle Scout Certificate Presentation

9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment

Submitted by James B. Pahl, PCinC

The 9th Michigan was organized at Fort Wayne near Detroit on September 16, 1861, being mustered into federal service on October 15. The 9th left for Kentucky on the 25th, numbering 913 officers and men. Before departure, the Rev. Dr. George Duffield presented the regiment a splendid silk banner. Inscribed on this flag was this motto: "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. In the name of God we will set up our banners." The regiment was commanded by Rev. Duffield's son, Col. W.W. Duffield. The official record of the regiment in the state Adjutant General's report, *Michigan in the War*, does not detail the names of the companies, nor the communities where they were from.

The regiment was engaged in the construction of extensive field works, repairing roads and bridges near Mouldrous Hill, Kentucky until January 4, 1862. The regiment was divided into battalions for various duties and movement towards Elizabethtown, KY, coming back together on March 9. There, the regiment became part of the 23rd brigade, Army of the Cumberland. The brigade moved by the steamer Jacob Strader for Nashville, TN and arrived there on the 23rd of March. The brigade took part in the pursuit of General Morgan, then raiding middle Tennessee. The 9th caught Morgan's force at Lebanon on May 5 and after heavy and well sustained fire, drove the confederates from the town.

The brigade then engaged in a number of small unit actions in the general area of Nashville, TN, culminating in an action against forces under the command of confederate General N.B. Forrest on July 13th, being prominent in the service of the regiment.

The regiment remained stationed around Nashville and entered into the campaign of General Rosecrans, then operating against the enemy near Murfreesboro. Before the battle of Stone River, the 9th Michigan was detailed to the headquarters of Major General Thomas as his special guard. During the battle of Stone River, the regiment was engaged in signal services for the headquarters, as well as helping to check the rout of the Union right flank, which collapsed in the face of an overwhelming force. The 9th assisted in checking large numbers of them at the point of the bayonet, compelling the retreating soldiers to return to their duty and hold their ground.

The regiment remained on provost duty for the 14th Corp and guard for Major General Thomas' headquarters and was engaged in such duties during the battle of Chickamauga. General Thomas noted in his report: "Col. Parkhurst, commanding the 9th Michigan Volunteers and Provost Marshal of the 14th Army Corp, at the head of his regiment, did most valuable service on the 20th in arresting stragglers and in reorganizing the troops who had been driven from the field."

The regiment remained in these duties until their reenlistment as a veteran organization in December. The 306 men of the 9th Michigan arrived in Coldwater, MI on January 5, 1864 and received a 30 day furlough. When they left for Tennessee again on February 20, 1864, new recruits had brought the regiment back up to some 500 officers and men. The 9th returned to Chattanooga and was again attached to the headquarters of the Army of the Cumberland.

They remained in this duty as the trusted body guard of General Thomas and provost guard of the Army of the Cumberland for basically the remainder of the war. In such duty, there were engaged in actions in Georgia at Rocky Face, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw, Chattahoochee River and the siege of Atlanta. They also participated in the action at Jonesboro, GA September 1, 1864.

Total membership in the 9th Michigan included 2,272 officers and men. They lost 292, of which 2 officers and 11 men killed in action, 7 men by wounds and the remainder lost due to disease. The following verse closes the record of the 9th Michigan in the official reports:

"On mountain sides
In ocean's tides,
Our slumbering heroes calmly wait,

Till years are run,
Time's work all done,
One Mighty Hand shall swing death's gate,
And bear them up beyond the sun."

For Your Information

Submitted by Jerry Radloff, Camp 427
From an article by Steve and Laura Dunfee

TIN WARE - *There has been considerable confusion concerning the exact periods of certain construction methods and technology in tin ware.*

A.] Crimped and unsoldered construction is definitively a post war technology. It should not be represented in collections or living history. However, the soldered and crimped method was a technology available during the war so it does not necessarily preclude an item if other post war characteristics are not present. They were made by larger manufacturers with the latest equipment and made generally with thinner gauge tin and thus the method was not in significant use for more durable goods such as cups, boilers, large vessels, etc.

B.] Drawn seamless bottom vessels were made during the war and documented in identified soldier's effects, such as plates, pie plates, some basins, and in a very few deeper vessels. The deeper the vessel the thicker the gauge metal was required, making most other items impractical for field use unless made with brass or softer materials. There is one documented drawn cup I know of and it is very rare. The load of drawn stainless cookware seen at re-enactments these days, fueled by the scare on non-stainless tin ware is an abomination.

C.] Stainless steel is a post war innovation. In authentic re-enacting it has no place save maybe the inside of a covered canteen. It is simply not necessary, if tin ware is maintained properly, with the advent of lead-free solder.

D.] The primary manufacturing method of Civil War era tin ware was a flat hammered over edge to the bottom soldered in place. Side seams can be folded or flat crimped over but must be soldered. The rims of period tinware, on the mouth or handle was either folded or rolled. Contrary to popular belief, the edges were not exclusively rolled over wire, although it is a desired feature. In fact, my experience is the wire is not present more often than it is found. Handles on lids were knobs of various materials, folded and rolled edge tin loops or pulls, and wire bail pulls. The bails on vessels were attached by riveted tab, soldered tab, holes in the vessel, sometimes re-enforced based on size or looped through the wire the edge was rolled on. Side handles were soldered or riveted and soldered and also wire looped. They could include cooling grip inserts soldered in place even in the pre-war period, especially for larger cooking vessels and coffee pots and soldered tube cool handles with caps and rings as seen in the Arabia collection.

A method of attaching the bottom where the bottom is flat and the edge is folded back completely over the bottom edge of the side which is folded out at a 90% angle and then soldered is documented to the Civil War and especially the pre-war period. As can be imagined this is usually seen on smaller vessels and items made of a thinner gauge tin than the mandrel pounded over method. Vessels of the period are also occasionally seen with the mandrel pounded over edge, inserted into the cylinder, and soldered on the bottom. Some of these include the bottom edge of the vessel being rolled. This configuration somewhat resembles the crimped type at first glance depending how far the base was inserted.

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ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

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Thanks for your support!**