

MICHIGAN

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MESSENGER

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Michigan Department SUVCW

When I made the commitment to become a candidate for the position of Michigan Department Commander, I tried to identify one area, that if I did nothing else, would be of greatest benefit to Michigan during my time as Department Commander. I decided at that time, communication between the Camps and from the Department to the membership to be that one area.

At the Department Encampment this past June, it was confirmed for me that others had also identified this area as one of the greatest needs of our Department.

Hence, the MICHIGAN MESSENGER. I am reviving the old Department Newsletter that was a standard feature of the Sons of Veterans for this Department several years ago. It is my goal that this newsletter will provide to each of you news as to upcoming events as hosted or to be attended by our other Camps, reports of what happened at those events, Department activities and news, National activities and news; along with anything else submitted, such as original cartoons and/or lampoons of our members.

This newsletter can only be as good as the information supplied to me. If your Camp is planning an activity, please let me know and it will appear here. In this issue are the addresses and telephone numbers of your Department Officers along with those Camp officers that I have. So lets here from you out there.

It is my goal to publish this newsletter quarterly, with the view of expanding it to bi-monthly. I also hope that once this effort is off the ground, a brother will step forward to publish this rag. It may seem to ramble about for the first few issues until I settle into a pattern, but please bear with me in this effort.

At this point, I do feel that I owe the membership of the Department an apology as to the late publication of this first issue of this Newsletter. It had been my intention to get this published around the first of August. I had started a new job in March and hoped to get moved into my new home before the first issue, so I could publish my new address. We are moved, but settling in came much slower than I had anticipated. My new address and the Michigan Department headquarters is: 445 W. Maple St., Mason, Michigan, 48854. My home telephone number is (517) 676-1471.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES FROM THE 103rd DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT RECORDS: We have recently learned that the Burton Historical Collection in Ann Arbor has Department records from 1880's to the 1930's(?) era. It is my goal for this year to see what is contained in these records and determine how we can gain access to them.

Also, brother J.R. Schroeder of Ulysses S. Grant Camp #101 has been appointed to explore records at Fort Wayne that were removed from the Detroit G.A.R. Hall.

UNIFORM: It was raised at the 103rd Department Encampment concerning some members of the order requesting a uniform be approved for the membership to wear and identify themselves as Sons. Of course, each Camp may form a Camp Guard and wear appropriate Civil War era uniforms. Anyone with questions as to proper uniform should contact the Chief of Staff, PDC Keith Harrison.

I am concerned that Camps may adopt a military type uniform. I object to this for two reasons. First, the cost may be prohibitive to some of your members. Secondly, the Sons is a civilian organization, not a military organization. As I said, for those desiring a military uniform, the Camp Guard is available, but what about the rest of the members?

We discussed this a lot at the encampment, but nothing was determined. Therefore, I am proposing the following as the general "uniform" of the membership of the Michigan Department. In coming up with this guideline, I began with the Ritual of the Order. I then looked to photographs of G.A.R. members and tried to keep in mind the civilian aspect of our Order. This is what I came up with. I will leave the matter open for comments through January 1, 1993. I will then consider the comments I have received and publish the Department uniform standard in my Department Orders.

PROPOSED: The member should wear a dark color suit, with the membership badge of the Order on the left pocket of the jacket (other allowed badges of the Order to be to the outside of the membership badge), along with a white or light color dress shirt and dark color, conservative tie. Available through the National Supply Service is a "Sons" tie, being dark blue and having the badge of the Order imprinted on it. This would be ideal, but not required. Each member to wear a civil war military kepi, dark blue. Affixed to the front of the kepi to be a wreath, with the initials "SUV" within. The Camp number to be worn over the wreath. The Department Corp badge to be on the crown. For dress occasions, white gloves should be worn.

At this time, I believe the proper Department Corp badge to be a white crescent moon over a five point white star. The points of the moon turned down towards the star. It seems that each Department within the G.A.R. adopted a Corp badge to identify the Department at Nationals. Michigan's Corp badge needs to be confirmed, however, based upon existing picture evidence, seems to be the Corp badge adopted by the Michigan Department of the G.A.R.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: From the 103rd Department Encampment was a proposal to amend our Department Bylaws. Action as to whether or not to adopt this amendment will be taken at the 104th Department Encampment. It has been proposed to amend Article XVIII of the Department Bylaws by adding section 5 to read:

"The Department may call upon the Camps to furnish their Camp Color Guards for appropriate Department functions. The participation of said Camp Guards shall be coordinated by the Department Chief of Staff."

This serves as the notice required by the C&R of the proposed Bylaw change at the 104th Department Encampment.

GAR GRAVE MARKERS: Curtenius Guard Camp 17 of Lansing/Sunfield has available bronze G.A.R. grave markers. The cost is \$20.00. Please contact brother Dick Williams to order these. 1917 Teel, Lansing, Michigan.

HOWE CAMP: I regret to announce that the George W. Howe Camp #9 is in arrears in per capita tax to the Department for one year. Hopefully this will be corrected quickly to return the Camp to good standing.

RECRUITING EFFORTS: The Department operated an informational tent at the Jackson/Cascades Civil War encampment. The tent was placed in the "hot" spot of the sutler row and always had a crowd around it. Several names were gathered to be passed on to the appropriate Camp or Department.

DEPARTMENT GOAL FOR 1992-1993: It has seemed to me in the past that the efforts of the Department were aimed at membership. Now don't get me wrong, expanding the membership is always a desired goal, but it is not our main goal. Promoting the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic is our charge; "LEST WE FORGET" must be our battle cry. I therefore call upon each member of the Department to take that bold step and speak out. Even the smallest of things go a long way towards promoting the Order and our cause.

I am sure that each of you belong to at least one other civic, fraternal or social organization. Please rise during one of their meetings and bring the greetings of our Order to that group. Or, you can do nothing more than wear the rosette of the Order. I wear mine several times each week. I am asked at least once each week what it is and what it stands for. This is a great opportunity to introduce our Order and briefly explain what we do. Everyone where I work now knows about the Sons.

Then, when you do something, even if it is nothing more than answering a question about the rosette, report it to your Camp Patriotic Instructor. He can then compile a list of activities the membership takes part in promoting the Order and report it to the Camp.

Promoting the Sacred Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic in this manner is what it is all about. When we focus on this, we can't help but grow. This is my challenge to each of you as members of the Sons and of the Michigan Department.

To the Camp Officers: My challenge to you is greater. You have been elected or appointed to fulfill an important role in your Camp. Great trust has been placed in you. You have a duty to yourself, your Camp and to the Order, to carry out the duties of your office. Camp Commander, don't take everything on your shoulders. You should only have to coordinate the efforts of your staff. Camp Senior Vice Commander, promote the Order in your area -Get your news into your local newspaper. Camp Junior Vice Commander, you are in charge of recruiting - be sure your membership has the materials it needs. Camp Patriotic Instructor, what is your Camp doing to promote the Order and what program have you planned for the next meeting of your Camp? Camp Chaplain, see to the welfare of your members and take great pride in planning your Memorial Day observance. The Guard, Guide, Secretary, Treasurer, Camp Council and other officers have equally important duties.

CAMP NEWS:

The Austin Blair Camp #7 of Jackson puts out one fantastic newsletter. Your Camp Commander should be receiving a copy - ask him to see it. You will really be impressed. My hat is off to Camp Commander Neely and to the newsletter editor, Jack Patch. They are also working on graves registration with a new form designed by bro. Pangborn and also the location of Camp Jackson. I look forward to an article from them as to what Camp Jackson was, their efforts to locate it and their plans once the location is established. The Camp meets next on September 14 at 7:00pm at the Richard Smith Post, American Legion Hall, 3200 Lansing Road, Jackson, Michigan. Commander: James E. Neely, 10520 Antcliff Rd., Brooklyn, MI 49230. (517) 592-6451.

Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 of Kalamazoo. No news. Rumor has it they have been active with Memorial day ceremonies at the graveside of their name sake, along with preservation efforts at the GAR graveyard section of the Kalamazoo cemetery. Meets at 431 E. South St., Kalamazoo (American Legion Hall) on the 4th Tuesday of each month from September through May, 7:00pm. Commander: Michael Culp, 2315 Oakland Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008. No telephone number available.

The Colegrove-Woodruff Camp #22 of Marshall has issued their first newsletter (according to the Camp Blair Courier), but I did not receive a copy! They have begun a Camp project of opening and manning the GAR Hall museum on Michigan Ave in Marshall on Saturday afternoons. The GAR Hall in Marshall is owned by the Marshall Historical Society and is also the location of the Camp's meetings. They will also be manning the hall and operating an informational table as part of the Marshall Historic Home tour on the weekend of September 12. Stop by if you get a chance and get to know the brothers of our newest Camp. I am looking forward to an article from Marshall on their first summer's experience at the Hall. The Marshall camp meets at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Commander: Roger Graves, 509 Homer Rd., Marshall, Michigan 49068.

Curtenius Guard Camp #17 of Lansing/Sunfield is planning on further work on Sunfield's Samuel W. Grinnell Post #283 G.A.R. hall for 1993. This Hall is owned by Sunfield's Helen M. Edwins Tent #30, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Through efforts of the Camp, a Michigan historical marker was placed on Hall grounds and the building was recently nominated to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Brothers Jim Lyons and Doug Park have been running the restoration project, with assistance of several other Camp members. They are also continuing work on a graves registration project. The Camp meets at the Sunfield G.A.R. hall on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, July, September and November, along with a meeting and Memorial Day services each May 30. The services include a graveside memorial at the grave of the Hall's namesake, Samuel W. Grinnell. The Camp has also adopted a section of State Highway M-50 in the Michigan Adopt-a-highway clean up program. Commander: David Downing, 1820 N. Every Rd., Mason, MI 48854.

George W. Howe Camp #9 - No report.

Robert Finch Camp #14 of Traverse City. They meet quarterly at the Ember's on the Bay in Traverse City. Commander: Dan Bennett, PO Box 514, Bellaire, MI 49615.

Wa-Bu-No Camp #53 of Mt. Pleasant. No Report, but they are growing, having recently sent a delegation to the Curtenius Guard Camp meeting, where a new Wa-Bu-No member was initiated into the Order. They meet quarterly in various members homes, on the first Thursday of each quarter at 7:00pm. Commander: Donald Workman, 825 Gage Rd., PO Box 235, Sanford, Michigan. 48657. (517) 687-7751

It also appears that we may be soon receiving into the Department two new Camps. Brother Jim Lyons seems to be on top of this and hopefully, plans can be laid far enough in advance to let each of you know the date and location of the installation meeting.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1993. The Department will be staging a special Memorial Day celebration at the State Capital Building for May 30, 1993. Please place this on your calendar now. May 30 falls on the government recognized Memorial Day weekend and it is also the 125th anniversary of the issuance of General Order #11 by Major General John Logan. It is my hope that every Camp will be well represented at this special Memorial Day service. More details to follow, but rest assured - you will not want to miss it.

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT 1993. Plans have already been laid to again bring the Department to Lansing for the 104th Department Encampment. Contracts have already been signed with Holiday Inn West, for June 12, 1992. Is your Camp interested in hosting future Department Encampments in your city? The Sons host the encampment every third year, alternating with the Womens Relief Corp and the Daughters. Please contact the Department Commander if interested. Our new Commander-in-Chief has already accepted our invitation to attend.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS #1, SERIES 1992-1993

1. The 103rd Department Encampment was held June 13 at Lansing. The following officers were elected/appointed and installed per the ritual by Commander-in-Chief, Lowell Hammer:

Commander: James B. Pahl, Curtenius Guard #17
Sr. Vice Commander: J. Douglas Park, Curtenius Guard #17
Jr. Vice Commander: Bill Brennan, Benjamin Pritchard #20
Sec./Treas. Dick Williams, Curtenius Guard #17

Department Council: Don Everett, Curtenius Guard #17 (chair)
James Neely, Austin Blair #7
David Downing, Curtenius Guard #17

Chaplain: Rev. Henry Reinwald, Ulysses Grant #101
Historian: Paul Hodges, Curtenius Guard #17
Guard: Ronald Barridge, Colegrove-Woodruff #22
Guide: J.R. Schroeder, Ulysses Grant #101
Patriotic Instructor: James Neely, Austin Blair #7
Chief of Staff: Keith Harrison, Curtenius Guard #17
Counselor: Gary Gibson, Benjamin Pritchard #20
Color Bearer: Leo Cohoon, Wa-Bu-No #53
Graves Registration: James Lyons, Curtenius Guard #17

Camp Organizer was left vacant, with duties assigned to the Senior Vice Department Commander.

2. The following brothers are appointed to these committees:

Bylaws: J. Douglas Park, chair., James Neely, PDC Thayne
LaBanta, Michael Culp

Membership: Bill Brennan, chair., all Camp Junior Vice
Commanders.

Memorials: Paul Hodges, chair., J.R. Schroeder, Rev. Henry
Reinwald

Legislative: Jack Patch, chair., David Downing, Roger
Graves, Donald Workman

3. I extend greetings to the President of the Michigan Department, Daughters of Union Veterans, Dena Brown of Belleville and to the President of the Michigan Department, Woman's Relief Corps, Eleanor Newberry of Plaintwell, Taylor, Michigan.

4. I recognize and thank the following who contributed to the cost of the GAR Headquarters Memorial Plaque which was dedicated on June 12, 1992 during the 103rd Department Encampment:

| Contributor: | In Memory of: | Relationship: |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Jeffrey D. Adams | Robert McCune | gggg GF |
| Ervan L. Amidon | Ralph W. Amidon/ | g GF |
| | Chester M. Briggs | g GF |
| Ronald A. Berridge | Robert R. Bevier | gg GU |
| | Warren Mead | gg GF |
| Ryan A. Berridge | Levi Taylor | ggg GF |
| Rick Bury | | |
| Steven V. Church | William Meads | gg GF |
| Leo Cohoon | Benjamin A. Cohoon | GU |
| Herbert R. Gage | Charles W. Rawson | GF |
| Gary Gibson | Martin Horan | gg GF |
| | James Brew | gg GF |
| Paul D. Hodges | Herrick Hodges | GF |
| Thayne C. Labanta | Derick Dean Banta | Father |
| James T. Lyons | Erastus Ruthven Winter | g GF |
| John Mann | Jacob Presler | g GF |
| | Robert Mann | g GF |
| J. Douglas Park | Robert Wilson Park | g GU |
| Jack Patch | Willis William Crocker | g GF |
| Rev. Henry L. Reinwald | Adam S. Leukart | g GF |
| Leon C. Sawyer | Joseph B. Sawyer | g GF |
| Kalmin D. Smith | Wilbur T. Lanphierd | g GF |
| Richard A. Williams | | |
| Solon J. Yax | Oliver Yax | GF |

5. Department Headquarters will be at my residence: 445 West Maple Street, Mason, Michigan, 48854. Telephone Number: (517) 676-1471.

In fraternity, charity & loyalty and
By order of,

James B. Pahl
Department Commander

NATIONAL NEWS:

I have received preliminary reports as to the National Encampment recently held. Michigan was well represented and came home with an unexpected honor. Through a strange twist of events, Michigan Past Department Commander Keith Harrison was elected as National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. 1993 will be held in Maine, with 1994 hosted by the Michigan Department in Lansing!

Jim Lyons continues to serve his sentence as National Secretary, Doug Park is the National Membership-at-large coordinator, Gary Gibson is the National History Book coordinator and Dick Williams is the National Membership list coordinator. Hopefully a full report will be submitted from one of those who attended the National Encampment.

C&R: The Constitution and Regulations of the Order has been totally updated and now is on computer disk for easy access and updates. Copies can be ordered from National Supply Service.

NATIONAL SUPPLY SERVICE: Proper forms are required to place an order, see your Camp Secretary/Treasurer.

I do believe this may wrap up the first issue. Look for the next issue to reach you in mid December. Thereafter, I hope we can move to the bi-monthly format I talked about, but it will largely depend on you.