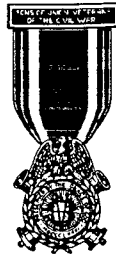


MICHIGAN'S

VOL 1 NO 3

Lansing

Official organ of the



MESSENGER

Michigan

May 1993

Michigan Department SUVCW

Welcome to the third issue of our Department Newsletter. I have discovered the original newsletter was actually titled: "MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER", so, I have changed our name accordingly. I hope this issue finds each one of you in good health and looking forward to what promises to be a great year for the Department of Michigan.

I am not sure how many of you realize this, but I only edit this newsletter. It is published by our Department Secretary-Treasurer, Dick Williams. He has taken the liberty of altering my text from time to time, so as to not offend. He also adds appropriate information that was not available to me. So if you have any comment about the content of the newsletter or articles, or any complaint about how it was printed and mailed, contact Dick - its all his fault. If you did not receive this issue, please call as soon as possible. Thanks Dick for all of your hard work on behalf of our Order.

There are a few corrections from the second newsletter, but this points out a basic problem. Please do not wait to read about it here and then tell me how I got it wrong, but please drop me a line so that it can be right the first time. Corrections are overlooked and many may act upon the information provided here before they learn of the error. Remember, this effort will only be as good as what you contribute.

Major Keith Harrison who commands the newly formed Michigan Department SUVCW Color Guard, SVR (30th Michigan Provisional Volunteers), informs me that leading the Lansing Memorial Day parade is a project of the SVR, not the Curtenius Guard. It is hoped this effort will be supported by the various Camp Color Guards (or other Camp military unit), the Department general membership and Civil War Reenactment Units. If you are not a member of the SVR or of a Camp Color Guard, you are most certainly entitled to march in the parade. Just please dress appropriately - and see the Department uniform policy in this issue.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEPARTMENT RECORDS: I still have not had the opportunity to check out the Burton Historical Collection as of yet. Can anyone in the Grant #101 Camp help out here?

UNIFORM: After consultation received from the various Camps at the 1st Mid Winter meeting, I have adopted a recommended dress code for members to wear at the various functions attended by our membership. This standard is part of my Department Orders later in this newsletter.

DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING: This was held on March 13, 1993 at the Midway Motor Lodge on West Saginaw in Lansing. Most Camp Commanders were present and

most all of the Camps were represented. This was highly successful effort and I thank brother Jim Lyons for passing this suggestion to me.

FRUITPORT: Several meeting through the winter have been held at Fruitport and a Camp charter application has been signed. We anticipate the Camp charter will be presented to the Camp at the Department Encampment in June.

BLISSFIELD: An initial organizational meeting was held with the goal of organizing a Camp in Blissfield. The organization of this Camp has progressed fast. A Camp charter application has been signed and it is anticipated the Camp charter will be presented to the Camp at the Department Encampment in June.

DEPARTMENT BYLAWS: As many of your are aware, our National Regulations were recently updated and placed on computer disk. Copies can be ordered from National Supply Service through your Camp. As the C&R is updated, then supplement pages will be made available. Each person who attended our Mid Winter encampment received an updated copy. (Copies of a data disk can be obtained from Dick Williams. Just send him a blank disk and a note as to what format you need the copy in - such as word perfect 5.1 or whatever and he will send you a copy for your computer.) Even this is not complete, but is as close as can be achieved at this time. Each Department Commander and Department Secretary will receive the update pages automatically. What does this have to do with the Department Bylaws you may be asking yourself? I intend to do the same with our Department Bylaws. There have been a few changes, so everyone's copy needs to be updated. Then, as any changes occur in the bylaws, supplement pages can be produced and each Camp Commander can receive a copy, with additional copies available from the Department Secretary. Updated copies should be available at the 104th Department Encampment.

PERSONAL NOTE: It has been a previous practice of Department Commanders to hold office for two or three years. This was for several reasons, which were all valid in their day. I do believe things have changed and there is rising up within our Department several who are qualified to aspire to Department elected office. To allow this and also increase our voice at National (as all Department Commanders and past Commanders have automatic credentials at National), and for several other reasons, I will not be running for reelection as Department Commander at the 104th Department encampment.

Recruiting Brochures, Application forms and Graves registration forms: John Mann has been working on several items to better serve and present the organization to the public and members. The Camp Commanders will be receiving a package soon that will have recruiting brochures, an original individualized Camp application form (an original to be used to make copies) and a new graves registration form (also an original to be used to make copies). Please contact John directly for any changes to those items. He is keeping the information on his computer and will make the changes for your Camp.

104th DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT: Once again, our annual encampment is just around the corner. Our Commander-in-Chief has confirmed that he will attend with his bride. Rumor has it

that the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the National Secretary, National Membership at large coordinator and National membership list coordinator, and with luck, the editor of the Banner, will all also be present. The Department will maintain a Headquarters room, room number will be available at Registration. Details as follows:

Date: June 12, 1993.

Location: Holiday Inn, 7501 West Saginaw, Lansing, MI.
Reservations by calling (517) 627-3211.
Room rate is \$54.00, mention G.A.R. conference to get room rate.

Schedule: 8:00am Registration
9:00am Morning Session
12:00am Lunch (pool side with WRC & Daughters at
\$6.00 per person
1:00pm Afternoon Session
6:30pm Allied Orders Banquet -
program by Kerry Chartkoff and Dave Finney

After Banquet - Department Headquarters will be open to meet with the
Commander-in-Chief.

Banquet: Choice of Roast Pork Loin at \$14.00 per person or
Chicken Kiev at \$17.00 per person.

Breakfast: Saturday and Sunday morning breakfast buffet available at \$5.25 per person.

Advance Reservations for Luncheon and Banquet may be made with Department
Secretary/Treasurer Dick Williams. Tickets will be available at Registration.

DELEGATION STRENGTH: will be based on Camp membership as reported for the
quarter ending March 31, 1993. Sitting Camp Commanders, Past Department Commanders in
good standing, Past Department Commanders in good standing and sitting Department officers
have standing credentials and will not be counted in your Camp Delegate allocation. All members
of the Department are welcome to attend, but only delegates and those with standing credentials
will be allowed to vote on Encampment matters.

Our Department is this years host for the Michigan Allied Orders annual meetings. Many
thanks to Jim Lyons for chairing this effort.

CAMP NEWS

AUSTIN BLAIR CAMP #7, Jackson: Several things are happening in Jackson that other
Camps in our Department should take note of. They are working with other organizations to
present jointly sponsored programs that will promote the Sons.

BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP #20, Kalamazoo: No report.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF CAMP #22, Marshall: The Camp membership will be attending the 100th birthday party of the local Women's Relief Corp unit.

CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP #17, Lansing/Sunfield: Efforts continue to restore the G.A.R. hall building in Sunfield. Of the three trees planted by the G.A.R. in memory of the great Union Generals, it was necessary to cut down the Grant tree. Plans call for the replanting of a new tree. Some of the wood from the old one may be available to the Camp for ornamental items. There are also discussions to preserve various items from within the building.

GEORGE W. HOWE CAMP #9, Port Huron: No Report

ROBERT FINCH CAMP #14, Traverse City: No Report

WA-BA-NO CAMP #53, Mt. Pleasant: The Camp has begun publication of a newsletter, THE GUIDON. The first issue is very well written and a result of a group effort. Each issue hopes to focus upon an ancestor of a Camp member. I really enjoyed reading this newsletter and look forward to the next issue. Newest members of the Camp are Wayne Barrett and Bernard Webster, along with John Walker and Ryon Williams transferring membership from other Camps. These four have allowed the membership of the Camp to more than DOUBLE in the past year!!

ULYSSES S. GRANT CAMP #101, Detroit: No report.

GOV. CRAPO CAMP #145, Flint: Members have represented the Order in speaking engagements before several genealogical societies, distributing several applications. Several members also attended the rededication of the Lt. Col. John Giluley tombstone at Brighton in December. They have also organized a Camp Guard under First Lieutenant Terrance L. McKinch. A true son was also initiated into the Camp and Order on Saturday, March 20 at 1:00pm at the Flint Public Library. I was honored with an invitation to attend this by Commander Wallace who also invited me to participate in the long form initiation.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1993

Don't forget, as hosted by the Curtenius Guard Camp of Lansing is the special celebration on the grounds of the Michigan State Capital Building for Memorial Day, 1993. This is in honor of the 125th Anniversary of the issuing of General Order #11 by G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief, Gen. John Logan. I am supporting this event as Department Commander and adopting it as the Department event for Memorial Day. It is my hope that every Camp of the Department will lay aside their regular Memorial Day ceremonies (or arrange other times) and come together as a Department at our State Capitol for this special ceremony. Unfortunately, family business will require me to be in Virginia that weekend, so Senior Vice Department Commander Doug Park will lead the Department in this effort.

Also, as stated above, the Michigan Department SUVCW Color Guard, SVR will be the first color unit in Lansing's 1993 Memorial Day parade. I also call upon each of the Camps in our Department to furnish their own Camp Color Guards (or other similar group) to come together under the Department Chief of Staff for this parade and support our Department's SVR unit. All brothers of the Order are also welcome to march behind the military units in the parade.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

1. The Department Commander hereby most highly commends PDC Keith Harrison upon his commission as Major in the Sons of Veterans Reserve and the formation of the Michigan Department SUVCW Color Guard, SVR. This unit consists of members of several Camps within the Department. This effort, more than any other, will serve to unite our Camps across this State and make more visible our efforts to honor the Grand Army of the Republic.

2. The Department Commander hereby highly commends Junior Vice Department Commander William Brennan in his performance in office. Brother Bill promptly acts upon information he receives from the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief as to prospective new members and a good follow up program was developed at our first Mid-Winter Encampment to ensure the prospect will receive at least three responses to their inquiry about membership from our advertisements in national magazines.

3. The following is adopted as the protocol to be followed within this Department as to prospective members referred to the Department by the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. The JVCinC reports he writes a response letter to the prospect and forwards the information to the Junior Vice Department Commander. The JVDC then writes a letter to the prospect, including a referral to a specific Camp, providing the name and address of the Camp Junior Vice Commander. The JVDC will also notify the appropriate Camp Junior Vice Commander of the referral. (Any Camp desiring a different contact person should communicate with the Junior Vice Department Commander.) The Junior Vice Commander should then also directly contact the prospect by letter. A follow up telephone call could also be made. The letter should invite the prospect to the next meeting of the Camp and provide directions and/or a map as to the meeting location. It should also include an application form and the Camp's dues structure. In this way, we have the greatest chance of bringing the person into our Order. Remember, this person initiated the contact. He needs to see a coordinated effort in response to his inquiry. Any one with any questions as to this protocol should contact Junior Vice Department Commander Brennan.

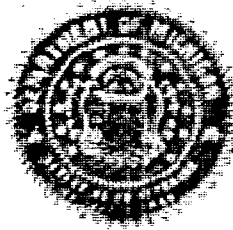
4. I hereby adopt the following as the recommended dress code for members of our Department when attending various functions on behalf of the Sons. The member should wear a dark color suit or sport coat, light color or white shirt and a dark color, conservative tie. A Son's tie is available from National Supply Service. The membership badge of the Order should be worn on the left breast. Other badges of the Order, such as the war badge, Past Camp Commander Badge, etc., should be worn to the left of the membership badge. It is highly recommended that the member wear a Union kepi. The kepi should have the Department "Corp" badge in red felt or a gold color metal on the crown. The Department Corp badge is a star under

a crescent moon. Members may also obtain a gold color SUV hat badge, consisting of a gold wreath and within the wreath, the letters: "SUV".

I hereby designate brother John Mann of the Jackson Camp as the coordinator of the purchase of the hat badge for members of the Department. Your Camp Commander should have a communication from John as to this subject. All such orders are to be placed through your Camp.

I shall also request of any Michigan SVR unit to adorn their hats to comply with this recommendation so that all Michigan members of our Order will have similar head gear and be recognized as belonging to the Sons together.

By order of:



James B. Pahl
Department Commander
JBP/dw

NATIONAL NEWS

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

This space will be reserved in each issue for news of our own Michigan Department SUVCW Color Guard, SVR. To accommodate National and for record keeping purposes only, the unit is also known as the 30th Michigan Provisional Volunteers. I hope the adjutant of our SVR unit will submit articles in a timely manner to keep everyone informed as to the activities of the SVR. There is no pressure here or anything Gary.

THE BANNER: CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!! The first and second issues of the Banner under the able hand of Russ Gregory is out and WOW! I sat down to skim through each issue and found myself reading every word of this skillfully written and fascinating newsletter. The personal touch Russ has added is just the ticket for an renowned publication. With regular editions and mailing as planned, the BANNER will be the regular and welcome visitor to our mailbox, as it is intended to be.

ANCESTOR VETERAN RECORDS RESEARCH

The National Archives have pension application files and military service records. To see what is on file for your ancestor, write to:

General Reference Branch (NNRG-P)
National Archives and Records Administration
7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Ask for: NATF Form 80 - "Order for Copies of Veterans Records". When the form arrives, fill in the blanks as per directions and send it back in. The Archives can provide information on your ancestor from his pension application file and his military service records. Special medical records may also be on file. To obtain this information, make a special "Send Medical Records" note in the margin.

Some files are very large and so the archives will only copy what they believe to be the most pertinent (for the \$10.00 minimum fee). If you are willing to pay extra for ALL that's on file, print "Copy Entire File" in the margin and indicate you're willing to pay more. The charges will be figured accordingly. The archives prefers that you ask for one file at a time and recommends you start with pension records. If your ancestor did not file for a pension, his wife or children might have.

You may pay by credit card (VISA/M.C.) and have any copies shipped immediately (provided the file you requested is found) or you may be billed. If you choose to be billed, a search will be made and if found, copies will be made and you will be told what is due. The copies will be held for you for only 45 days from the date they were completed. This date will be stamped on the reply.

If your first inquiry comes back negative, experts suggest you resubmit the same request again, at a later date. Chances are, a different file researcher may be assigned to your request and find something unnoticed in the first attempt.

In addition, records for the 108,000 Michigan veterans of the Civil War were compiled in the 1890's and are available for inspection at the State Archives. These include extensive documents from the Michigan Grand Army of the Republic, Civil War graves registration projects and the Grand Rapids Soldier's Home. Archives are open weekdays, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Information supplied by Kent Armstrong of Austin Blair Camp #7.

THE END: I hope you can read between the lines and figure out that I am very proud of the accomplishments of our Department's members in preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic. I am also ecstatic as to the contributions made by the various members of our Department to the National Organization. Finally, I am very honored to serve you as Department Commander.

Well, I believe this wraps up the third issue of the MESSENGER. Remember, this is your newsletter. It can be only as good as what YOU submit.